

THE HEATHER SOCIETY BULLETIN

Vol. 4. No. 2.

AUTUMN 1987

Editor: Mrs Diane Jones, Otters' Court, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset. BA22 7QF.

Our thoughts are currently with those living in the areas worst affected by the recent storm now suffering damage, loss of power, and in some places severe flooding. Our Annual Conference this year was in Kent where some of the most severe damage has occurred. Kew Gardens, Wakehurst Place, and the Chelsea Physic Garden are badly affected — what a terrible tragedy to lose fine specimen trees of great maturity. It is hoped that replanting will be carried out so that future generations can have such gardens to visit and admire.

Since our last Bulletin was issued, two of our long standing members have died and an appreciation of them both is included in this issue. We do send our sincere sympathy to the families of both of them.

In 1988 our Society will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The Year Book will be a special issue, and at our Annual Conference in September we shall have a celebration. It would be especially fitting if this next Conference was attended by a record number of members. The venue is very lovely and the location reasonably central — day visitors are very welcome if you are unable to attend for the whole Conference. Do make a note of the dates in your new diary and book early if you would like accommodation. We shall hope to see you there.

Diane Jones.

DR. VIOLET GRAY

It is with great sorrow that we have to announce the death on the 10th September of Dr. Violet Gray. She became a member of the Heather Society in July 1963, soon after its foundation, joining her husband, Dr Ronald Gray, who was a founder member and one of the first Vice-Presidents. When he died three years later, in 1966, Violet Gray succeeded him as Vice-President.

She qualified in medicine in 1934, holding posts in anaesthetics and obstetrics, becoming residential medical officer at Haslemere Hospital. During the war she ran a single handed General Practice in Bedford until her marriage in 1947. The Grays' initial small heather garden provided the cuttings to start one of the first all-heather gardens in the country extending over an acre of ground at 'Southcote', Hindhead, in 1950.

Dr. Ronald Gray was an experienced and enthusiastic grower of Cape Heaths and after his death, Violet continued to care for his collection. She always welcomed members of the Heather Society who were interested in Cape Heaths or in the fine collection of hardy heathers. Her reminiscences on this 'Ageing Heather Garden' appeared in the 'Year Book' of 1981.

Whenever she could, Violet Gray competed in the R.H.S. Heather Competitions. Members will remember the exhibit of *E. multiflora* which came from a forty-year old plant which lived in the porch of her house.

Although she retired from full-time General Practice in 1972, she continued as a caring and sympathetic locum at Grayshott Surgery until shortly before her death. All who knew her will be very sad at her passing and we shall all miss her friendly personality.

Pat Turpin.

ROY TURNER 1903-87

Roy Turner was born in London and took up a career in the Midland Bank which was only interrupted by war service. In 1928 he and his fiancée discovered four acres of rough meadowland for sale at Burstow near Crawley, and decided to build a house there. They moved

into 'Filma Dene' after their marriage the following year and began to develop a small garden, which was gradually extended until two acres were under cultivation.

As a young man, Roy belonged to the Artists' Rifles, a unit of the Territorial Army, but in 1937, feeling that war was inevitable, he joined the RAFVR. He served until 1945, retiring with the rank of Squadron Leader. After the war he returned with the family to his beloved Burstow and entered enthusiastically into the life of the community. For many years he held office in a number of local civic, cultural, political, religious and charitable organisations.

He was a skilful gardener and particularly keen on propagation. In fact, until the 1970s it was difficult to find anything in the garden which had not been grown from seed or from cuttings. His daughter, Pamela Lee, encouraged him to join the Heather Society and two years later Constance MacLeod persuaded him to take on the office of Hon. Treasurer. During his tenure of office he worked hard to get the Society's finances onto a sound footing and set up the Covenant scheme, which remains beneficial. In the Autumn 1977 Bulletin the late Alfred Bowerman, our retiring Chairman, acknowledged the Society's indebtedness to Roy Turner for "all the tedious and time-consuming work which he has put in so loyally and conscientiously over the past six years."

Although he continued to support the Society as a member of Council, his retirement enabled him to devote more time to another of his great interests — local history — and he published "The Burstow Story". This had a wider than local appeal, for it included the biography of a past Rector of Burstow, John Flamsteed, our first Astronomer Royal.

In 1979, a few weeks before their Golden Wedding, when the garden was opened to the public for three days, Roy's wife Mabel, suffered a severe stroke. He not only looked after her with great devotion at home until his death on June 28th this year, but also took an active part in local Stroke Club activities, often entertaining up to 50 patients and carers to tea parties in the house or garden, which he continued to maintain.

This brief account of Roy Turner's life has hinted at his sterling characteristics of dedication and service. To these must be added his unfailing friendliness, courtesy and consideration for others. I first met him in September 1973 when he and Mabel brought Constance MacLeod to our garden on their way to the Conference at Dartington Hall. Later that day when we, as comparatively new members of the Society, arrived at our first Conference, he quietly insisted on introducing us to everyone, ensuring that we enjoyed the occasion to the full. We thus owe many friends to him. Our last meeting was also at a Conference, this time in 1985. Roy and Mabel had been brought to the gardens at Nymans to meet some of their friends in the Society. I am pleased to remember my last meeting with this fine man on such a happy occasion.

Bert Jones.

A.G.M. HADLOW COLLEGE, KENT, 6th SEPTEMBER 1987

In the Chairman's opening statement he welcomed our overseas visitors Mrs Petterssen from Norway and Mrs Johanssen from Sweden, and recorded the sad loss of members Joyce Burfitt and Roy Turner during the year.

Since the increase in our membership subscription rate at the beginning of the year there had been fewer resignations than expected.

The Reference Collection at Windsor Great Park was making good progress, but to date there is still little progress at Wisley.

The President, Vice-Presidents and Officers of the Society were re-elected, and our Auditor Mr Alan Simms was re-appointed for a further year.

Three members of Council retiring by rotation under Rule 6 were re-elected, Mrs. D.H. Jones, Mrs. D. Everett, and Mrs. P.B. Lee.

The Hon. Secretary in her report said our membership is now 1350, the local Groups are flourishing, and the R.H.S Shows are well supported.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Society's Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1986. A brief summary is included in this report. If any member would like a full copy of the statement would they please write to the Hon. Treasurer with a SAE at: 17 Hayclose Crescent, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 7NT.

An appreciative vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Mr Maurice Everett.

Summary of the Accounts for the year 1986.

INCOME.	Subscriptions, Donations, Tax Rebates on Covenants.	£ 4637.01
	Profit from Sales of publications etc.	829.14
	Surplus on Conference Account.	72.90
	Interest from Investments & Deposits.	1634.22
	Registration Fees.	8.00
	Slide Library.	1.00
		<hr/>
		£ 7182.27
EXPENDITURE.	Year Book, Bulletins, Postage.	£ 2251.43
	Administration.	2417.77
		<hr/>
		£ 4669.20

The Balance Sheet shows that there was a credit balance on the year's transactions at 31st December of £2513.07.

18th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 9th-12th September 1988

It is fitting that in the Society's 25th Anniversary year, the venue for the Annual Conference should be something special, and the lovely country house known as Gregynog, set in its own 750 acre estate, certainly is something special. Although now owned by the University of Wales and used as a conference and residential educational centre, the original character of the house has been faithfully maintained. There is accommodation for 60 people in a mixture of single and double rooms. Gregynog is 5 miles north of Newtown, Powys, on the B4389.

Daphne Everett has kindly agreed to be the Conference organiser. The programme will be published in the Spring Bulletin and it will include a visit to Powis Castle/Gardens with its famous hanging terraces. Advance bookings may be sent to Mrs Daphne Everett (please enclose £2 per mailing) at Greenacres Nursery, Bringsty, Worcester. WR6 5TA. The booking charge is to cover administrative costs incurred by the organiser and is not a deposit on the Conference fee. Cheques should be made payable to "Heather Society Conference".

Royal Horticultural Society's Heather and Ornamental Plant Competition - August 11 and 12 1987.

Results.

Class 1. 3 distinct heathers, one vase/bowl of each. 4 entries.

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|------|------------------------|--|
| 1st. | Mr and Mrs W.H. Horner | <i>E.cinerea</i> 'Rosabella', <i>E.vagans</i> 'Mrs D.F. Maxwell', <i>E.vagans</i> 'Pallida'. |
| 2nd. | Dr W.J. Stevens | <i>E.cinerea</i> 'Foxhollow Mahogany', <i>E.cinerea</i> 'Velvet Night', <i>E.cinerea</i> 'Windlebrooke'. |
| 3rd. | Mrs M Chapman | Calluna (unnamed), Calluna (unnamed), <i>E.cinerea</i> 'Lavender Lady'. |

Class 2. *Erica vagans*, one vase/bowl. 12 entries.

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|------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs A.H. Potter | 'Mrs D.F. Maxwell'. |
| 2nd. | Mr and Mrs D.J. Mayne | 'St Keverne'. |
| 3rd. | Mr and Mrs D.J. Mayne | 'White Lady'. |

- Class 3. *Calluna vulgaris*, a single flowered coloured cultivar, one vase/bowl. 4 entries.
- | | | |
|------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1st. | Mr and Mrs W.H. Horner | Unnamed. |
| 2nd. | Mr D. McClintock | Unnamed. |
| 3rd. | Mr and Mrs D.J. Mayne | 'Blazeaway'. |
- Class 4. *Calluna vulgaris*, a double flowered coloured cultivar, one vase/bowl. 4 entries
- | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1st. | Mr and Mrs D.J. Mayne | 'Tib'. |
| 2nd. | Mr D. McClintock | 'Mrs E. Wilson'. |
- Class 5. *Calluna vulgaris*, a single or double flowered white cultivar, one vase/bowl. 4 entries.
- | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st. | Mr D. McClintock | 'Isobel Hughes'. |
| 2nd. | Dr W.J. Stevens | 'Drum-Ra'. |
| 3rd. | Mr and Mrs W.H. Horner | Unnamed (single). |
- Class 6. *Erica cinerea*, any cultivar, one vase/bowl. 10 entries.
- | | | |
|------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st. | Dr W.J. Stevens | 'Hookstone White'. |
| 2nd. | Mr D. McClintock | Unnamed (71A Red-purple). |
| 3rd. | Mr and Mrs W.H. Horner | 'C.D. Eason'. |
| 4th. | Dr W.J. Stevens | 'Atrosanguinea' (Smith's Variety). |
- Class 7. *Daboecia*, any species, hybrid or cultivar, one vase/bowl. 3 entries.
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|------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st. | Mr and Mrs W.H. Horner | 'Charles Nelson'. |
| 2nd. | Mr D. McClintock | f.alba. |
| 3rd. | Mr D. McClintock | 'Waley's Red'. |
- Class 8. Any Heather species or hybrid, one plant. 3 entries.
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|------|-----------------|---|
| 1st. | Mrs T.N. Forbes | <i>E. vagans</i> 'Holden Pink'. |
| 2nd. | Mrs T.N. Forbes | <i>E. cinerea</i> 'Pentreith'. |
| 3rd. | Mrs T.N. Forbes | <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> 'Waley's Red'. |
- Class 9. Any Heather species or hybrid not specified above, one vase/bowl. 2 entries.
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|------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1st. | Mr D. McClintock | <i>E. terminalis</i> . |
|------|------------------|------------------------|
- Class 10. Any Heather judged for foliage effect, one vase / bowl. 14 entries.
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|------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs M. Chapman | <i>Calluna</i> 'Boskoop'. |
| 2nd. | Dr W.J. Stevens | <i>Calluna</i> 'Silver Queen'. |
| 3rd. | Dr W.J. Stevens | <i>Calluna</i> 'Multicolor'. |
| 4th. | Mr and Mrs D.J. Mayne | <i>E. carnea</i> 'Sunshine Rambler'. |
| H.C. | Mrs M. Chapman | <i>E. vagans</i> 'Valerie Proudley'. |
- Class 11. Any Heather judged for foliage effect, one plant. 3 entries.
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|------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs T.N. Forbes | <i>E. erigena</i> 'Golden Lady'. |
| 2nd. | Mrs T.N. Forbes | <i>Calluna</i> 'Winter Chocolate'. |
| 3rd. | Mrs T.N. Forbes | <i>Calluna</i> 'Guinea Gold'. |
- Class 12. Decorative — heathers to predominate.
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|------|-----------------------|
| 1st. | Dr W.J. Stevens |
| 2nd. | Mrs J.L. Merrin |
| 3rd. | Mr and Mrs D.J. Mayne |

GROUP NEWS

MIDLANDS (BIRMINGHAM)

On Saturday 22nd August, members of the Midlands Group (plus one from Staffordshire and one from Cheshire) met for a tour of Ness Gardens.

The weather was not ideal but the gardens were, as ever, full of interest; every year there seems to be something new to see at Ness. However, the famous heather bank was rather disappointing, having given many years of pleasure to thousands of people, it is now sadly past its best. There is some replanting being carried out but I do not think it will ever again be the inspiration that it was to me 25 years ago.

Our next meeting is on Friday November 27th at 8 p.m. at Winterbourne, when Mrs Ruth Hayden will give an illustrated talk on a most remarkable lady, Mary Delany 1700-1788. Many of Mary Delany's botanical collages (some of which are of heathers) are in the care of the British Museum and 110 of them are at present on exhibition in New York. See 'Scrap Bowl' H.S. Bulletin Autumn 1986.

After the success of the heather competitions held at Winterbourne in March of this year, it was agreed that we should repeat them in 1988. The date fixed for this meeting is Friday March 25th at 8 p.m. There will also be a talk on the ever popular subject of propagation by Mr David Radley. Details of the competition classes etc. will be in the Midlands Group newsletter which hopefully will go out in January. If anyone not yet on the mailing list would like a copy, please let me know.

Daphne Everett.

SOUTHERN.

Twenty members, including the Chairman, his good lady and their daughter Annabel, responded to the invitation to visit us on August 2nd. They were able to view the additions made to our heather collection in the shape of new beds, and some were seen to cast envious eyes at the vegetable section! Although not over-burdened with sunshine the weather did allow tea to be taken in the garden. One member came along with a trailer full of healthy young heather plants and went away with it nearly empty.

Our first gathering in 1988 will be on Sunday 17th April, just south of the Hampshire border in West Sussex. It will be in two parts. In the morning Mr & Mrs B.J. Thorpe of Strikers nursery, who are Society members, have extended an invitation to us. The nursery is situated about 2½ miles south of Chiddingfold off the A283 road (Milford to Petworth). Those travelling south should turn left into Plaistow Road (signposted Plaistow). The nursery is on the left barely ¼ mile from this junction. Members are asked to arrive by 11.30 a.m. Then commencing at 2 p.m., the Chairman has kindly agreed to project slides in the village hall at Northchapel. To reach this village members should return to the A283 and turn left towards Petworth for approximately 1 mile. Picnics can be taken on the Green opposite the village hall or lunch may be had in the Deep Well Inn some 100 yds distant.

Jock Vickery.

SOUTHWEST.

It was a hot and sunny day when we visited the Pygmy Pinetum on May 9th. The Pinetum is part of the Wansdyke Nursery at Devizes in Wiltshire and the nursery specialises in dwarf conifers. The collection of plants in the Pinetum has been extended since our last visit 5 years ago. Mr van Klaveren who owns the nursery kindly spent the afternoon showing us round and answering our many queries. Needless to say, members were busy selecting a range of conifers for their own gardens.

From Devizes, we then drove a few miles to Des and Sybil Perry's home at Market Lavington where we admired their fine collection of heathers with some of the winter varieties still showing colour. Sybil had prepared a magnificent tea for us thus bringing a very enjoyable day to a close.

Showers constantly threatened our visit on June 20th to Ivy Cottage in Ansty, close to the village of Milton Abbas in Dorset. This garden is owned by Mrs Anne Stevens who is interested in moisture-loving plants, and it has the national collection of Trollius. Mrs Stevens has some heathers growing in the drier areas of the garden with some success. Tea was much appreciated at the conclusion of an interesting afternoon.

The Southampton Show on July 3rd-5th was once again well supported in the horticultural section ably organised by Mr Neville Yeates. The Southwest Group represented the Society

with a display of heathers and gave membership details to interested visitors. Queries were answered and Heather Culture leaflet packs were sold. Derek and Gwen Price provided the plants for the display, whilst Group members managed the stand under John Bridgland's direction.

Our final gathering for 1987 on August 22nd was to visit two members' gardens in the Southampton area. We met at Bill and Joan Vicary's garden at Ashurst with our picnic lunch and spent time enjoying their garden which demonstrates their interest in Fuchsias as well as heathers. During the afternoon we then moved on to my garden in Totton where 28 members just managed to get in! Members were interested in my collection of Fuchsias and heathers whilst appreciating tea provided by my wife Lyn.

I am grateful to those members who have entertained the Group during the year and to those who helped with the stand at the Southampton Show.

A date now for your 1988 diary. On Saturday March 26th we will be visiting the garden/nursery of Bert and Diane Jones at West Camel in Somerset. Otters' Court is in Back Street (the turning beside the village shop) in the middle of the village only ½ mile south of the A303 trunk road between Sparkford and Ilchester. Members are invited to bring picnic lunches at 12 noon (plus garden chairs if the sun shines!) A two-class Table Show will be held:-

1) A vase or bowl of heather in bloom.

2) A vase or bowl of heathers shown for foliage effect.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class, and there will be, for the overall winner with most points, the newly acquired Burfitt Bowl currently held by Val Davis. Every entry qualifies for one point even if it does not get a placing.

Phil Joyner.

***Erica x watsonii* DOROTHY METHENY**

On the 1st September 1979 members of the Heather Society attending the annual Conference at Weymouth visited Hartland Moor, near Wareham. In addition to a colony of white *E. ciliaris* a number of plants of the hybrid *E. x watsonii* were seen. One of the latter had a quite distinctive appearance. The flowers were almost white, with a pale pink flush. The tips of the corollas were tinged with pink. It appeared to be rather similar to the named cultivar 'F. White'.

Cuttings were taken of the plant and were given the code number "TC 39". They have been carefully tested over the last eight years and compared with plants of 'F.J. White'. It has proved to be a reliable plant and has been unaffected by the severe weather of recent winters. The main difference from 'F. White' is that the ciliate hairs are eglandular. The coloured tips to the foliage in spring are brighter than those of 'F. White'.

Mrs Dorothy Metheny, a Vice-President of the Heather Society was among the party visiting Hartland Moor when this heather was found. It therefore seemed appropriate to name it 'Dorothy Metheny' in honour of her visit from the U.S.A. and as a tribute to her great interest in heathers. The name was registered on the 12th September 1987.

Pat Turpin.

SCRAP BOWL. — Titbits of News from members.

Rabbits and Heather. In the summer Bulletin Mr A. Julian states that "rabbits do not eat heather foliage . . .". I beg to disagree. In one night rabbits 'manicured' *E. vagans* 'Valerie Proudley', took two years' growth from *E. carnea* 'Foxhollow' and so gorged themselves on *E. carnea* 'Aurea' that the whole lot had to be thrown away. It seems they go for gold!

L.F. Tunnicliffe, Zone 4.

***Erica x darleyensis* 'Margaret Porter'** As in the last eight years I have purchased at least six specimens of this cultivar, each one from a different nursery, there are obviously clever people

who know how to raise this plant successfully — which is more than I do. I should be grateful if they would share their expertise with me. It is not that all the plants have been planted out in the same soil or even in the same garden. Three different gardens in northern England have been involved and one here in Sidmouth in Devon where I am living at present. In each case 'Margaret Porter' has failed to flourish, generally dying within the first season of being planted out, occasionally lingering into a second year before expiring. As no other cultivar known to me (and I have grown at least four hundred different ones) appears to be characterised by so little vigour, I should welcome suggestions as to where I am failing.

R.C.D. Kingsford, Zone 13.

"Scotland's Oldest Brew" Fort Augustus District Councillor Jerry Johnston, who has been trying for years to find a way of making money from heather, recently hit the jackpot with a non-alcoholic drink, based on what he claims to be an ancient Pictish recipe.

Now Jerry tramps the hills around Fort Augustus collecting heather, thistles and spring water to which he adds honey, lemon and nutmeg to produce what he calls "Scotland's Oldest Brew". The drink, similar in colour to whiskey, and tasting like hot toddy without the alcohol, has tickled the palates of Mormon communities in the U.S.A., and an order of 200 cases has been sent to Salt Lake City in Utah.

This year Mr Johnston is planning to build a factory at Fort Augustus to bring much-needed employment to the area. Tradition has it that the Romans wanted to know the secrets of the drink's allegedly miraculous properties, but the Picts refused to pass on the recipe and the last of them to possess it committed suicide. Says Mr Johnston, "How I came by it is a secret, just like the source of the spring water so vital to the process. I get up at dawn to collect the ingredients, which I find within a 30 mile radius of home."

"Scotland's Oldest Brew" is available in selected Inverness shops, but there are plans for wider distribution once the operation becomes fully commercial.

(This item was sent to us by a H.S. member in Merseyside who had found it in the April '87 Edition of The Scots Magazine. It was concluded with the Editor's note "This is not the first time someone has claimed to have rediscovered the recipe for a heather drink. The late F. Marian McNeill was given one for heather ale in Moray which she quoted in The Scots Cellar. It was published in The Scots Magazine in 1956.")

Heathers in Newfoundland. I was very interested in the '87 Year Book article by Barrie Porteus on growing heathers in Ontario. I have successfully grown several of the cultivars he mentions in the article. Some have survived 15 years under Newfoundland condition.

Kenneth Proudfoot, Zone 14.

The Origin of "Lyng"? Lyng is the old Norse name for heather, still used in all my Scandinavian Floras, its origin unknown according to the Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology.

In "The nature of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight" 1986 p77 is written "The word Ling is derived from an old Anglo-Saxon word for fire. Who can corroborate this?"

David McClintock, Zone 11.

Heathers in Australia. We have a property with 40 acres of land at a place called Grantville on Western Port Bay. It has growing there an extensive area of spring flowering heather which was planted 10 years ago by a horticulturalist who then owned the land. The heather has sown itself until there are acres of it. At its tallest it is about 3-4 feet.

(Ed. It would be interesting to know which species this is!)

Margaret Petch, Zone 14.

E.cinerea var. rendlei. In the 1985 Year Book I wrote about some recent finds of *E.cinerea* var. *rendlei*. On the 4th October of this year David Edge gave me a specimen from yet another plant that he found a week earlier in the Moyles Court area of the New Forest. It carried large

groups of well-coloured wheatears, each about 5mm long, but no flowers. Each wheatear contained a capsule with a divided style hidden by the bracts.

Bert Jones, Zone 12.

Caterpillars feeding on Heathers. In past numbers of the Bulletin there have been references to butterflies and moths feeding on heather flowers.

David McClintock has recently drawn my attention to a list of some of the moths, whose caterpillars feed mainly on heathers, published in David Carter's excellent "Field Guide to Caterpillars of Butterflies and Moths of Britain and Europe" (Collins, 1986, £9.95). In this book two dozen such caterpillars of moths are described and illustrated, some of which will be familiar to our members, such as the Magpie Moth, the Fox Moth, the Emperor Moth, the Lesser Yellow Underwing and the True Lover's Knot. The others are less well known.

The larvae of these moths are mostly small and do little damage to the plants on which they feed. But the caterpillars of the Emperor Moth and the Fox Moth are voracious feeders and should not be allowed the freedom of our choicest heathers.

Pat Turpin, Zone 11.

The Wild Boglands. Various heathers are an integral part of Irish bogs, so members may well like to read "The Wild Boglands, Bellamy's Ireland" (Croom Helm, £9.95), the subject on which he got his doctorate a quarter of a century ago. It is a masterly account of how they develop, what they contain, underneath too, bog flows and all. Beside a superb photo of Ling by Heather Angel is a note that one square metre of heather can produce 16,000 million grains of pollen, just one square metre! Who counted them?

David McClintock, Zone 11.

DAIRY OF EVENTS

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|--------------|--|
| Nov. 24th | COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Halls, Westminster. |
| Nov. 24/25th | RHS Show, Competitions include a class for heathers. RHS Halls, Westminster. |
| Nov. 27th | Midlands Group (Birmingham) — Meeting at Winterbourne. See Group News. |
| Jan. 9th | CLOSING DATE — Material for the Spring Bulletin. |
| Feb. 23rd. | COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Halls, Westminster. |
| Feb. 23/24th | RHS Show inc. Heather Competitions, RHS Halls, Westminster. |
| Mar. 25th | Midlands Group (Birmingham) — Meeting at Winterbourne. See Group News. |
| Mar. 26th | Southwest Group — Visit to Otters' Court. See Group News. |
| Apr. 17th | Southern Group — Nursery visit plus slide show. See Group News. |
| Sep. 9/12th | ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Gregynog, University of Wales, Newtown. |



GREGYNOG

Five miles north of Newtown, Powys, near the village of Tregynon on the B4389. A Victorian mansion, now owned by the University of Wales, in wooded parkland and with extensive gardens, including one of the most striking displays of rhododendrons in Wales.