

## THE HEATHER SOCIETY BULLETIN

Vol. 4. No. 4.

SUMMER 1988

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

The late spring and early summer is a lovely time of the year when the trees are clothed with fresh new leaves and the flowering trees and shrubs are a welcome splash of colour. The winter and spring flowering heathers have now burst into new growth since the flowers faded with what appears to us to be the brightest golden foliage we have ever seen. Being almost totally restricted to heathers which flower between November and May because of our alkaline soil, we naturally are much more conscious of foliage colour when planning a new area of the garden. *E. carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* cultivars can provide us with plenty of gold/orange foliage, fresh lime-green, mid-green, and the dark bronze of 'Vivellii' or 'Adrienne Duncan'. But two foliage colours we do lack are grey and flame/red — these would be very welcome new introductions.

Diane Jones



### COMMEMORATIVE JUBILEE SALVER

To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Heather Society a special commemorative salver has been made of oxidised copper, with applique pewter decoration. The salver is seven inches in diameter and has the badge of the Heather Society in the centre with the dates 1963-1988, encircled by sprays of heather.

The price of the salver is £12.00 and will be available at the Conference. It may be ordered from the Administrator, Mrs. Anne Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creting St. Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP6 8PJ. To avoid disappointment, ensure that your order is placed in good time.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Heather Society will be held during the Annual Conference at Gregynog, near Newtown, Powys on Sunday 11th September at 9.15 a.m. The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

## 18th Annual Conference, 9th-12th September 1988 at Gregynog, Nr Newtown, Powys.

The details of this year's Conference were published in the Spring Bulletin. Daphne Everett, the Conference organiser, tells me that the weekend is now fully booked with 73 Society members attending — almost a record number.

The charges, now confirmed, are as follows :-

Residents: Friday evening to Monday morning incl. 2 coach trips	£76.50
Friday evening to Sunday lunch incl. 1 coach trip	53.25
Friday evening to Sunday lunch incl. 2 coach trips	56.50
Non-residents: Whole conference incl. 2 coach trips	34.50
Friday evening incl. dinner	£6.00
Whole day Saturday incl. coach trip and dinner	13.75
Whole day Sunday incl. coach trip and 'Celebration' dinner	15.75
Sunday morning incl. lunch	4.50

Please send the full fees due to Daphne Everett by July 16th with cheques made payable to "Heather Society Conference". Daphne's address is Greenacres Nursery, Bringsty, Worcester WR6 5TA.

One of the talks at the Conference will be given by David McClintock entitled "The Twelve Heathers introduced in the past 25 years which members like best". David is most anxious that all members (not just those attending Conference) should participate in this choice, so do please send your list (of 12 cultivars introduced in the past 25 years which you like best) to David McClintock not later than July 31st, **ON A POSTCARD** please, to :- Bracken Hill, Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 8JH.

And finally — One of our members who has recently moved to Welshpool from Carlisle, Mr. David Hope, will be pleased to advise members attending the Conference about "exploring this superb region". Do contact him in good time if you are able to add a few days to your stay at Gregynog. Mr. David Hope's address is "Ty Cornel", 11 Adelaide Drive, Red Bank, Welshpool, Powys. SY21 7RQ. Tel: Welshpool 5285.

### Royal Horticultural Society Award

At the R.H.S. Show on the 22nd March 1988 Major General and Mrs. Turpin submitted an exhibit of *Erica carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby' to Floral Committee "B". The Committee unanimously recommended an award of a First Class Certificate to the exhibit. This was subsequently endorsed by the Council.

### Royal Horticultural Society's Show, February 23rd & 24th 1988 Heather Competitions results

- Class 5. A Tree heath, in bloom, one vase. One entry.  
1st. Major General and Mrs. P.G. Turpin. *Erica lusitanica*.
- Class 6. A heath or heather, in bloom, one plant. No entries.
- Class 7. A heath or heather other than those eligible for Class 5, in bloom, one vase/bowl.  
Six entries.  
1st. Major General and Mrs. P.G. Turpin. *Erica carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby'.  
2nd. Major General and Mrs. P.G. Turpin. *Erica carnea* 'Springwood Pink'.  
3rd. Major General and Mrs. P.G. Turpin. *Erica x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze'.
- Class 8. A heath or heather shown for foliage effect, one plant. No entries.

### Heathers and Heathland.

A joint one-day meeting of the Linnean Society of London and the Botanical Society of the British Isles is to be held on Thursday 20th October 1988 at the rooms of The Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ.

The programme will include talks and discussions on all aspects of Heathland. All interested are welcome to attend.

Applications for further information should be sent to the Linnean Society at the above address, accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.

## GROUP NEWS

### Northeast (Newcastle)

The Committee are arranging an outing on Saturday June 4th to visit two lovely gardens in the Windermere area. The first is to Holehird, run by the Cumberland Horticultural Society, and in the afternoon to Stagshaw House near Ambleside. Both these gardens are prolific in massed displays of heathers, alpines, azaleas and rhododendrons, and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible together with their friends.

Once again, we have been invited by the Durham College of Horticulture at Houghall, to have a stand for the Heather Society at their "Open Day" on Sunday May 15th. Hopefully this will attract more new members as well as meeting old friends.

Our Annual heather Show will be again at the kind invitation of our members Mr. and Mrs. David Goodchild at 66 Darras Road, Ponteland, on Sunday September 18th. This is always an enjoyable day, and we hope that even more members will 'have a go' and enter the various classes. As usual, there will be a Bring and Buy plant stall together with refreshments. Members will be circulated nearer the time with full details. Dorothy Warner.

### Midlands (Birmingham)

The heather Competitions held at Winterbourne on Friday March 25th were once again a great success, with very good entries in each section. After such a mild winter and early spring I had been rather concerned in case all the flowers might have gone over but I need not have worried. The results in the 5 classes were :-

Class 1. Any *E. carnea* 1st. David Radley. 2nd. John Dearn.

Class 2. Any heather hybrid. 1st. Mary Hamnett. 2nd. Ron Bishop.

Class 3. Any heather to be judged for foliage effect.

1st. Mary Hamnett. 2nd. Ron Bishop.

Class 4. A Tree Heath in flower. 1st. Ray Warner. 2nd. Chris Heap.

Class 5. An arrangement of flowers in a basket.

1st. Mary Hamnett. 2nd Vera Hemming.

As overall winner, Mary Hamnett will be presented with our newly acquired Silver Cup at the Social Evening on Saturday May 21st.

To round off the evening, David Radley was persuaded to talk on the subject that most members always find fascinating, the propagation of heathers. This he did most ably, describing all the different methods of propagation ie. cuttings, seed, layering, burying the plant etc.

### Southern.

In the absence of another hurricane, in fact on a very pleasant day, 20 members met on 17th April at Strikers Nursery just south of Chiddingfold near the Surrey/Sussex border. Susan and Brian Thorp, who are Society members, welcomed us to their domain which thankfully had not been too badly damaged by that unforgettable October night last year. Brian is also a farm manager; therefore a lot of the heather and shrub production is undertaken by Susan. The care which she devotes to her interest is similar to that previously extended to her patients when she was a nurse. The Thorps had also kindly arranged for us to visit a nearby estate owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gunn where we found azaleas, rhododendrons and acers in an exquisite setting of 17 acres. Of particular interest was a large bank of heathers which had been planted in soil conditions not altogether conducive to rampant growth. It was very apparent which heathers felt more at home than others.

After lunch our Chairman projected slides of high quality and great interest.

Our next get-together is on Sunday 31st July at the Savile Gardens, Windsor Great Park. Mr. John Bond, Keeper of the gardens, has kindly agreed to give us a conducted tour. Members are asked to assemble at 10.45 a.m. in the Savile Gardens car park and after a cup of coffee to start the tour. A picnic lunch can then be eaten in the car park followed by a visit to the Valley gardens at 1.45 p.m. The entrance to the Savile Gardens car park is off Wick Road

### Group News Cont.

which is a turning off the A30 one mile south west of Egham. Those coming via the M25 should leave it at junction 13 and take the A30. Our members in Kent can now travel almost the whole distance by motorways.

Sadly our planned visit last autumn to the Winkworth Arboretum had to be cancelled because it was closed after the gales and subsequent damage. I have now arranged a Group visit for Sunday October 30th this year to see the autumn colour. Will members please assemble in the picnic area adjoining the shop at 2 p.m.? The main entrance and car park is situated on the east side of the Godalming-Hascombe road (B2130) 2 miles south east of Godalming. The Arboretum covers about 100 acres with hillside woodland, many rare trees and shrubs and also two lakes. It is a National Trust property, and non-members are asked to donate at least £1 towards the cost of the upkeep. The shop and tea room near the main entrance are open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Picnics are permitted on any open space and dogs are admitted if kept on a lead.

Jock Vickery.

### Southwest.

A cool but sunny day accompanied the Group's visit to Otters' Court Heathers at West Camel near Yeovil. on Saturday 26th March. This is the garden/nursery of Bert and Diane Jones and they specialise in the growing of lime-tolerant *Ericas*. As most of these species are winter/spring flowering, the garden was a magnificent display of colour. Several of the heather beds were well established but a recently created bed gave members the opportunity to see a heather garden in the making. As usual members were delighted to find plants for sale and took the opportunity to gather a few for their collections.

Diane kindly made available the top of the grand piano for the annual table show, and 8 members exhibited in the two classes. The results were :-

Class 1. A vase or bowl of heathers in bloom.

1st. Anne Pringle; 2nd. Val Davis; 3rd. Diane Jones; H.C. Joyce Arlow.

Class 2. A vase of bowl of heathers shown for foliage effect.

1st. Val Davis; 2nd. Anne Pringle; 3rd. Phil Joyner.

The Burfitt Bowl for the exhibitor with the most points overall was shared by Anne Pringle and Val Davis.

My thanks go to Bert and Diane for allowing members to meet in their garden, and to Diane and Mrs. Jones Snr. for providing endless cups of coffee and tea. Thank you also to John Turrell for judging the table show.

On Saturday 7th May members gathered together in the garden of North Leigh House in Colehill near Wimborne. The weather was warm and humid with an occasional threat of a light shower. The garden is in the main parkland with a lake, rhododendrons and assorted shrubs and trees. Adjacent to the house is a walled garden, and on that day this exhibited a colourful display of spring flowering plants. A great attraction was the massed planting of the Early Purple Orchid in the front lawn, a rare sight indeed. Mr. and Mrs. Walker who were our hosts provided refreshments in a tea room adjacent to the house providing an ideal setting for members to sit and chat. Two friends of Margaret Walker, Desmond and Marjorie Parish, joined us with copies of their publication "Flowers in the Wild" which added to an enjoyable afternoon. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Walker for their hospitality.

Future plans: On Saturday 9th July we will be visiting The Botanic Nursery (Rookery Nurseries) formerly Westfield Plants at Atworth near Melksham in Wiltshire. Atworth is on the A365 Melksham to Bath road and just past the clock tower turn left (south) towards Bradford-on-Avon. At the next crossroads turn right and the nursery is on the right. This nursery, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Baker, specialises in the rarer plants. Members are asked to meet at the nursery at 2 p.m. and tea will be provided at a small cost. Prior to this visit we are invited to eat our picnic lunches in Des and Sybil Perry's garden at 26 Park Road, Market Lavington, 4 miles south of Devizes from 12 noon onwards.

Our final visit for 1988 is on Saturday 13th August to Heatherwood Nurseries at Ashington,

## Southwest Cont.

near Wimborne. We last visited this nursery three years ago when Mr. and Mrs. Squires Snr. & Jnr. gave us a very warm welcome. The nursery is in Merley Park Road off the A349 one mile south of Wimborne, and our visit commences at 2 p.m. Members with picnic lunches are invited to John and Michelle Keenon's home at 14 De Havilland Close, Merley, just south of Wimborne off the A349, from 12 noon onwards.

FOR YOUR 1989 diary — Saturday 1st April, meeting at Lytchett Matravers village hall.  
Phil Joyner.

## North American Heather Society

In the March 1988 issue of "Heather News" (this Group's excellent news letter) several tributes were paid to Dorothy Metheny as retiring editor of 10 years' standing. Dorothy, who is a Vice-President of The Heather Society, was warmly thanked for her tireless dedication to NAHS and for sharing her love and knowledge of heathers with the members.

We wish to join with NAHS members in wishing Dorothy a happy "retirement" in her 86th year.  
Ed.

## SCRAP BOWL - Titbits of news from members

**A patchwork quilt of heather.** I was interested to read in the spring Bulletin Mr. Ackworth's article "The Charm of Heather Gardens". Unfortunately many of us do not enjoy the large area of garden that Mr. Ackworth was advising us on planting out with heathers etc.

My plot doesn't exceed 10 feet in width by 20 feet long on three sides of my mobile home, and therefore due to this restricted space I decided to adopt the "patchwork quilt" effect of planting heathers. This involved buying no more than one each initially of heathers chosen for the variety of colour of their foliage, ie. grey or silver, dark mid or light green, yellow, plus those whose foliage ranged from dark red to bright orange.

My selection ignored the very tall or shrubby heathers, but spaces were left for dwarf conifers, rhododendrons and azaleas, and other small plants suitable for growing with heathers.

The single selected heathers while still in their pots were placed on the beds where they were to be planted and moved about each other, each pot touching its neighbour, until a satisfactory blend of colours was achieved, and the patchwork quilt effect was pleasing to the eye.

Planting then took place, using no more than three each of the same cultivar, and depending on spread, sometimes only a single one was used.

Spacing was varied between plants according to their habit, and the bed was raised where necessary to accommodate the low growing varieties.

Because winter flowering plants are a must in any heather garden these were introduced as "dot" plants.

My soil is a heavy clay/loam with a pure clay subsoil, but fortunately it has a neutral pH of 7 and by applying gypsum to the subsoil to keep the clay open, and adding peat and lime free grit to the top soil, most of my heathers have survived the past 8 years.

As Mr. Ackworth's article says, they are charming, and I might add a most accommodating plant, and I have never regretted the time and effort spent on growing them.

F.H. Court, Zone 9.

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Kinlochruel'. Brigadier Ernest Montgomery and his wife Rosemary had a fine garden, specialising in heathers at their house 'Kinlochruel' near Colintrave in Argyll. But their fame in the world of heathers rests more on his noticing on a wall there a single white shoot in the midst of a bonny plant of 'County Wicklow'. I was fortunate to be visiting or staying with them (I forget which) in August 1969 just after he had made his momentous discovery, when, to my shame, I doubted if it would differ much from 'Alba Plena'. Nevertheless, I did my best to get it grown and shown — his neighbour at Dunoon. J.G. Abercrombie, in fact introduced it. When Ernest (1901-1972) died, there was an idea that this sport be called 'Ernest Montgomery'. But he had wanted 'Kinlochruel' and Rosemary too preferred that, and so it was, and is, one of the most successful heathers ever. Rosemary was born on 25th June 1903, the

### A patchwork quilt of heather Cont.

elder sister of Michael Noble (later Lord Glenkinglas), and died on 27th February 1988. She was a most kindly persons, keen on wild flowers too. I met them both first on the Irish visit in 1968. Their adopted daughter, called Libby, married Douglas Cotton and lives at Swiland not far from David and Ann Small.

David McClintock, Zone 11.

### Work on Kinder Wins Award — from 'Peak Park News', Winter 1987/8.

A major project by the National Trust to restore the eroded vegetation cover of Kinder Scout in the Peak National Park has won joint first prize in the "Conservation of the National Environment" section of this year's Ford European Conservation awards.

High Peak Estate head warden, David Wilson, accepted the trophy and cheque for £1,000 from Lord Belstead, then Minister of State for the Environment, and Professor David Bellamy at a presentation at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Many different techniques have been tried by the Trust and its partners for the re-vegetation of moorland on virtually bare peat.

A method pioneered by National Trust wardens on Kinder Scout, involving the airlift by helicopter of seed bearing heather stems from adjacent healthy moors, to be carefully "notched in" by hand, is already producing encouraging results, which hold out hopes for the successful regeneration of heather moorlands in the Peak District and elsewhere.

The National Trust owns and manages some 36,000 acres of the Peak National Park (about 10% of the total area) and has been active in support of the European Year of the Environment and the National Parks Awareness Campaign.

Albert Julian, Zone 4.

**An Exhibition of Mrs. Delany's Flower Collages**, kindly loaned by The British Museum is to be held at the Holburne Museum & Crafts Centre, Great Pulteney Street, Bath, from 29th October to 11th December 1988. This exhibition which will concentrate on the remarkable 'paper mosaics' of a well connected 18th Century lady (one of these will be a heather), will also include drawings and embroidery.

The exhibition will be open on Tuesdays — Saturdays 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. and on Sundays from 2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Guided tours by a member Ruth Hayden are on Thursdays at 2.30 p.m. or by special arrangement.

There are special rates for parties of 20 or more by appointment with the Museum.

### A Trip to Holland and Germany

Early in January David McClintock suggested a trip to see Kurt Kramer et al immediately after Easter. However, the winter was mild and wet, and *Erica carnea* cultivars bloomed early in Germany this year. So it was, that on the morning of 23rd March, David Small collected David McClintock and me from Bracken Hill and drove us to Sheerness, whence we crossed to Flushing. It was there that we stayed for the first night of the trip.

The following morning was overcast as we motored towards Steenwijkerwold to pick up Herman Blum. He and his family received us most hospitably. While Mrs. Blum prepared lunch, Herman showed us his meticulous and comprehensive records of heather cultivars. After we had eaten, and before the four of us set off for Edewecht-Suddorf, Herman took us to the site of the garden he had made, and where he had worked until July 1985. Unfortunately, I had only seen photographs of that garden, but they showed that it had been most impressive. The rain was falling steadily as we arrived, and that seemed appropriate to the scene of desolation that greeted us. The first part that we entered had been totally over-run by Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*). There was no vestige of the heathers which had once grown there. As we penetrated deeper into the wilderness, we found odd clumps of *E. carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* blooming on low mounds, and *E. ciliaris* 'David McClintock' was still present in one of the many wet patches. It was amazing how rapidly a fine garden had disappeared. There was nothing to keep us there, and we were all saddened as we resumed our journey.

We crossed from Holland into Germany, and reached Kurt Kramer's home and nursery at Edewecht-Suddorf late in the afternoon. We were to stay in that part of north Germany for less than 48 hours, but we were to cram a lot into that time.

That first afternoon Kurt provided each of us with Wellington boots, which were very necessary when we later went to see his plants. David McClintock wrote about "Kurt Kramer's New Carneas" in the 1985 *Year Book*, and I can add nothing to what he said then, save that the first sight of them was wonderful. The coloured-flowered plants had been reduced by selection to about 130. Many of the 'Snow Queen' x 'Springwood White' plants were also lined out in blocks on trial. All the plants were superb, and growing well despite the heavily waterlogged soil. When we compared notes later, I was very surprised that, from such a range of fine plants, David Small and I had chosen the same five as our individual favourites. It transpired that Kurt is negotiating with an English nurseryman to introduce some of our selection into Britain.

Kurt's recent work on hybridisation has yielded some most interesting results. He has repeated the crosses *E. andevalensis* x *E. tetralix*, *E. arborea* x *E. lusitanica*, *E. carnea* x *E. erigena*, *E. erigena* x *E. carnea*, *E. ciliaris* x *E. tetralix*, and made one that I have not heard of before, *E. arborea* x *E. carnea*. He has also produced, probably for the first time, what is at present the bigeneric hybrid *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia* x *E. carnea*. He is also working with Cape Heaths and has made the cross which he describes as *R. pupurea* x *E. formosa*. (This is probably *E. ovina* var. *purpurea*, though it may be *E. banksia* var. *purpurea*. My knowledge of Cape Heaths is so poor that I could not distinguish between the two species without help). He has also attempted to hybridise Cape and European Ericas, and has so far succeeded with *E. arborea* x *E. baccans* and *E. subdivaricata* x *E. carnea*. In addition to this impressive list, he has the possible hybrids *Bruckenthalia* x *Erica cinerea*, *Bruckenthalis* x *Erica bergiana*, *E. arborea* x *E. australis*, *E. arborea* x *E. curvirostris*, *E. australis* x *E. bauera* and *E. tetralix* x *E. cinerea*, all awaiting verification. I know of no other reports of hybrids between South African and European heathers, or of hybrids of *E. cinerea*.

That evening we dined in a Greek restaurant. David Small and I speak no Dutch or German, and Kurt lacks confidence in his English, but thanks to the linguistic skills of David McClintock and Herman Blum, it turned out to be an excellent evening of heather talk.

The next morning (Friday) Kurt collected us from our hotel and guided us to the State Teaching and Research Institute for Horticulture at Bad Zwischenahn. He had been joined by Hermann Westermann, who is a member of the Heather Society, and had driven the considerable distance from his former nursery on the Luneburger Heide. He had come to attend the 25th meeting of the Institute's Committee for "Erica und Calluna", which had been specially called to coincide our visit. Another Society member who had made a long journey to be at the meeting was Fritz Kircher.

Twelve members of the Committee, nine nurserymen and three members of the Institute staff including the Director Dr. Harig, were present. After the introductions had been completed we went to the *E. carnea* trials, where we were asked if we believed that any of the 62 cultivars that were being tested were not true to name. Most seemed to be correctly named, but my notes show that the group labelled 'Foxhollow' were probably 'Westwood Yellow', and that named 'Mrs. Reeves' was probably 'Carnea'. There was also some doubt about the Backhouse cultivars. Of the plants themselves, I noted that 'Tybesta Gold' had died out, and 'Sunshine Rambler' was doing very poorly there. I had not previously heard of *E. carnea* 'Walter Reiser', but was impressed by the plant.

Shortly after we returned to the Institute's Conference Room, Brita Johansson arrived after an overnight journey by boat and train from Sweden.

In the afternoon the Committee visited Kurt's nursery, and so we had another opportunity to examine his fine plants. Later our party returned to spend more time in the grounds of the Institute, where there were many conifers and 1800 different *Rhododendron*, inter-planted with groups of heathers.

From there we went on to call on Heino Wordtmann at Edeweht/Jeddeloh. He has recently planted a display garden on a site of approximately two acres. His nursery, which we did not visit, covers 22 acres, and produces a very wide range of heathers from 20,000 stock plants. Heathers sold in Germany are larger than those usually offered in Britain, and are often used as annuals.

We stopped for dinner on our way back to Kurt's, and, while we ate, were entertained by a male voice choir practising in an adjoining room. That evening Kurt showed us some of his vast collection of excellent slides. I also had the pleasure of discussing pollen microscopy with him.

The following morning we said au revoir to both Brita, who was to stay a little longer at Edwecht-Suddorf, and to Kurt. Before we left he generously gave us many plants and cuttings, and we were able to leave a few with him that were not already in his collection.

Returning to Holland, we drove to Barneveld to see van Hoef, who now has Rhinus Zwijnenburg's collection of heathers. He showed us his stocks of 370 cultivars of *Calluna*, 329 of *Erica* and 35 of *Daboecia*, all packed into a relatively small area. His generosity added further plants to the already embarrassingly large number in the car. At the end of this visit we parted from Herman Blum who was to return to Steenwijkerwold by train.

We made our way to Boskoop, where we called on Rhinus Zwijnenburg. He no longer grows heathers commercially. It seems that many of the Dutch growers have gone out of heathers into other plants after a succession of hard winters.

We stayed at Boskoop overnight, and on Sunday morning visited H.W. de Bruijn and his son, who had kindly rearranged their day to receive us. His long, narrow nursery was a bitterly cold place in the strong east wind, that late March morning. I can well imagine how inhospitable it must be in the depths of winter. Most of his plants were growing in the open ground, and were potted up immediately before they were sold. Prior to our visit he had potted up for us plants of *E. carnea* 'Challenger', 'Orient' and 'Viking'.

At lunch time we went to see Harry van de Laar, who took us on a tour of the newly opened premises into which the Boskoop Research Institute has now moved. We were shown the grounds, glass houses, workshops, and laboratory and office building, and spent some time examining heather sheets in the cultivar herbarium there. Harry then took us back to his home, and he and his wife entertained us to dinner. Later he telephoned ahead to Roosendaal, where a hotel was specially opened for us to spend the night before we returned to Flushing to catch the ferry back to England.

It had been a wonderful few days, during which I had met some very interesting heather folk. I should like to thank David McClintock for organising the trip, David Small for driving all the way, my travelling companions for their excellent company, and all those we met for their hospitality and generosity.

Bert Jones.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

Jul.	1st/3rd	Southwest. Heather Society stand at the Southampton Show.
Jul.	9th	Southwest. Visit to the Botanic Nursery, Melksham, Wilts. See Group News.
Jul.	31st	Southern. Visit to Windsor Great Park - See Group News.
Aug.	13th	Southwest. Visit to Heatherwood Nurseries, Wimborne. See Group News.
Aug.	16th	COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Halls, Westminster.
Aug.	16th/17th	RHS Show & Heather Competition, RHS Halls, Westminster.
Sep.	9th/12th	ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Gregynog, Newtown, Powys.
Sep.	11th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Gregynog, Newtown, Powys.
Sep.	17th	Midlands (B'ham) Visit to Pinfold Nursery, Burton Overy, 2 p.m. Tel: 0537 593242
Sep.	18th	Northeast (Newcastle) Annual Heather Show in Ponteland. See Group News.
Sep.	24th	CLOSING DATE for material for the Autumn Bulletin.
Oct.	30th	Southern. Visit to Winkworth Arboretum, 2 p.m. See Group News.
Oct.	31st	CLOSING DATE for material for the 1989 Year Book.
Nov.	4th	Midlands (B'ham) Talk at Winterborne by Ray Warner, 7.45 p.m. "The Birth of Barncroft Nursery.
Nov.	29th	COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Hall, Westminster.
Nov.	29th/30th	RHS Show and Heather Class, RHS Hall, Westminster.