



Vol. 4 No. 10 Summer 1990

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When I took over the job of Editor, one of our members wrote to me with a list of subjects that he thought would be useful or interesting to be included in the Bulletin. One of his comments was, that to most members, Officers of the Society and Committee members are just names and he thought that a brief biographical sketch of each would put some 'flesh on the bones'.

Of course, what he really should do and what he would thoroughly enjoy once he made the effort, is to come to the annual Conference. He would then meet and speedily get to know, most, if not all members of Council and many very interesting and friendly 'ordinary'

members, none of whom is ordinary at all. However, on his behalf, I have persuaded our Chairman, Major General Turpin, to let me have some relevant details which I have attempted to turn into a mini-biography and if you (and Mr. Kingsford) find it interesting I will twist the arms of the other Council members to supply information for future editions.

The Heather Society once again has a Scottish Group and I am sure that with such an enthusiastic Chairman, as John Williamson obviously is, and with the added advantages of Norrie Robertson as a member and the facilities of Cherry Bank Gardens, it should do well.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Heather Society will be held during the Annual Conference at Sparsholt College, Hampshire on Sunday 9th September at 9.15 a.m. The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

20th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - SPARSHOLT COLLEGE, HAMPSHIRE 7-10th SEPTEMBER 1990

Full details of the programme were published in the Spring bulletin. The various prices per head for the weekend are detailed below:-

Residents Friday evening to Monday morning, including 2 coach trips £97.00
Friday evening to Sunday lunch, including 1 coach trip £71.00

Friday evening to Sunday lunch, including 2 coach trips £75.50
Non-residents Whole weekend, including 2 coach trips £52.50
Friday evening, including dinner £8.00
All Saturday, including 1 coach trip and dinner £23.00

All Sunday,
including 1 coach trip and dinner £21.50
Sunday morning,
including lunch £8.00

The residential prices assume a single bedroom with en-suite shower and toilet, however the more usual single study bedroom with shared facilities can be made available for £3.50 less per head per night. No double rooms are available. The prices include VAT, gratuities and entrance fees, drinks at the bar are at extra cost.

Places are still available, so if you have not already done so please send your £2 booking fee to Phil Joyner, 84 Kinross Road, Totton, Southampton, SO4 4BN,

indicating which type of accommodation you require. The final payment should be sent to Phil by 21 July 1990, (together with details of special diets etc.). Cheques to be made payable to 'The Heather Society Conference'.

For anyone wishing to holiday in the area around the conference weekend, the college will be pleased to take individual bookings (details will be enclosed with your advanced booking acknowledgement) and if you can be in the Salisbury/Devizes area on Monday morning there is an invitation to visit the garden of Des and Sybil Perry. Details of this visit will be available at the Conference.

R.H.S. SHOW - FEBRUARY 20th & 21st 1990.

Competition for Ornamental Plants from the Open.

Sadly, there were not as many entries as usual in the Heather Classes.

Results:-

Class 5. A Tree heath in bloom, one vase. No entries.

2nd. Mrs M Chapman. *Erica carnea* 'Loughrigg'.

Class 6. A Heath or heather in bloom, one plant. 1 Entry.
2nd Mr G Roberts.

3rd. Mrs M Chapman. *Erica erigena* 'W T Rackliff'.

Class 7. A Heath or Heather other than those eligible for class 5, in bloom, one vase/bowl. 4 entries.

1st. Mrs M Chapman. *Erica x darleyensis* 'J W Porter'.

Class 8. A Heath or Heather shown for foliage effect, one vase/bowl. One entry.

2nd Mrs M Chapman. *Erica erigena* 'Golden Lady'.

A PROFILE OF OUR CHAIRMAN

Major General P G Turpin CB OBE

Patrick George Turpin was born at Torquay on 27th April 1911. When he was six years old, his father (who in the tradition of many clergymen from Kilvert to Keble Martin, had a great interest in Natural History) became Rector of the parish of Mamhead on the edge of Dartmoor. He taught his young son to recognise the different wild flowers on the moors (among which heathers naturally featured) and to collect and press them, thereby instilling into him a love of nature which has stayed with him throughout his life. Later, as a junior Officer stationed at Aldershot, he had ample opportunities to study *Calluna*, *Erica cinerea* and *Erica tetralix* in the wild.

He was educated at Haileybury College, and at Exeter College, Oxford. He joined the RASC as a University candidate and was commissioned in 1934. During the war he served in the Western Desert and in Sicily and Italy. He was twice mentioned in despatches, was awarded the OBE in 1943 and ended the war as a brigadier at the age of 34. After the war he became Director of Supplies and Transport at the War Office, (where he was awarded the CB) and Director of Movements at the Ministry of Defence. He retired from the army in 1966.

Among his many interests he lists

Tennis (he was Chairman and President of the Army Lawn Tennis Association and is a member of the International Club of Great Britain and the All England Lawn Tennis Club), Squash Rackets, Golf, Natural History, Horticulture and Photography. He is also an Author, as apart from the many articles he has written for various journals, he has written an illustrated history of the RASC 1919 - 1939, entitled 'The Turn of the Wheel'.

Major General Turpin and his wife Cherry joined the Heather Society in 1972. He was elected a member of Council in April 1976 and became Chairman in November 1977. Since then he and Cherry have given much of their time to the Society. For many years they set up and manned (with a few willing helpers) a Heather Society Stand at February and August RHS Shows and from personal experience I know what hard work that can be for two long days. However, their efforts have brought many new members into the Society over the years and I am sure that if anyone has the time and inclination to take over the task and man a stand at one or two of the RHS Shows they will receive the grateful thanks of our Chairman and his wife and will be doing a great service to the Heather Society.

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN HEATHER SOCIETY

Mr Walter Wornick, Secretary of the NAHS recently paid a visit to Britain. He managed to visit the gardens of some Heather Society members, including that of our President and was able to attend the Spring Show at Malvern and also the Chelsea Show, in the short time he was here.

BOOK REVIEW

Heathland Restoration: A Handbook of Techniques. Produced by the Environmental Advisory Unit, University of Liverpool. Published in 1988 by British Gas, Southampton.

With the hand of Man so widely diminishing our heathery places, this clear and practical production with its 160 large pages plus 18 colour plates, is pertinent and welcome. It describes the different types of heathland, their soils, germination and the sorts of disturbance they suffer. It then discusses the advantages and disadvantages of various

methods of restoration, turfing, topsoil, litter, seed, cuttings, transplants etc. and how and when to use companion plants, fertilisers, fencing and herbicides to encourage the establishment of heather. The book ends with a fine bibliography. Even if we are not directly concerned in such work the book makes good and useful reading. The job could not have been done better, I wish I had come across it sooner.

David McClintock.

GROUP NEWS

SCOTLAND

Following upon the appeal made to members in Scotland in the Spring Bulletin a meeting was arranged for Saturday, 5th May at Bell's Cherrybank Gardens on the outskirts of Perth and of course the home of Bell's National Heather Collection.

The first member arrived long before the scheduled time of the meeting so he was able to have a leisurely stroll around parts of the garden and the heather collection, a full tour requires 2 hours or more. As others arrived it was obvious that we had a gratifying geographical spread - something about which there had initially been some doubt. Eventually we had members from as far apart as Dyce in Aberdeenshire and Clarkston in Renfrewshire. Our oldest member present was none other than 'Mr St. Kilda Heathers' himself, Mr RJ (Rob) Brien of Pitcairngreen Heather Farm, Perth,

attired as always in kilt and accoutrements.

Even as we were meeting in the Reception area of the visitor Centre it was so very obvious that the friendliness and knowledge sharing, which it is so often said characterises Heather Society membership, was there in abundance and in all aspects of our mutual interest.

Accommodation for our meeting had been arranged by Mr Norrie Robertson, Messrs. Bell's Head Gardener, in very comfortable surroundings in the Company's Head Office Building. He welcomed all members and gave an account of the Collection's development to date, the vast expansion of heather planting going on at present and displayed and explained the plans designed by Hazel Huddleston. This engendered so much interest, discussion and interchange of experiences that anecdotes soon flowed freely, but eventually Mr Robertson

proposed that I be appointed Chairman. With the tour of the collection still on the programme we were by this time somewhat behind schedule but the atmosphere resulting from the freedom to chat had been really worthwhile and people had reached the stage of being on Christian name terms.

Business followed to the extent of forming a Steering Committee and suggesting that at our next meeting we invite a visiting speaker or speakers. Taking the geographical factors into consideration the question of the date and venue was discussed. One year or six months were considered but everyone appeared to favour meeting sooner. The agreed date was Saturday, 25th August 1990 at 2.30pm and in view of the nature and ready availability of the facilities at Cherry Bank it was agreed that the meeting should again be held there.

The question of office bearers was discussed but in view of the time factor it was decided that only the Secretary should be appointed, the remaining posts to be decided at the August meeting. With the submission deadline for the Bulletin articles being so near, I was asked to write as the local organiser, while taking, *pro tempore* at least, the current duties of Secretary in addition to Chairman.

The willingness of members to attempt to publicise the Group in their own home areas was very heartening.

Norrie Robertson led a conducted tour of the Heather Collection and answered many queries, our afternoon was rounded off with coffee and biscuits provided in the Visitor Centre. Thanks were expressed for all the facilities and hospitality provided by Messrs. Bell's Distillers

throughout the afternoon.

The experience of this first meeting has been that members have been willing to travel to meet and talk with fellow members and that first class facilities have been enjoyed and appreciated by all. However, suggestions for alternative venues will always be welcome in order to vary the travelling commitment of members. Now that a Scottish Group has been re-formed it is hoped that many more members will respond by swelling the initial nucleus. We will enjoy the pleasure of your company and you will experience a real welcome in the group. An open invitation is extended to all Society members to come and join our meetings.

I often wonder how many members will have noted the number of nurseries and garden centres whose press advertisements include the almost ubiquitous quotation 'Well worth a visit'? Be assured, that same quotation must surely apply to future meetings of your Scottish Group, so do come along and join us on Saturday 25th August. Just think of all those super *Callunas* in bloom!! Make a note in your diary, it is well worth a trip.

For anyone seeking further information about the Group, my address is 36 Smithfield Crescent, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 6UD. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope, at least 9 inches by 4 inches in size.

John A Williamson

MIDLANDS

The Midlands Group met at Winterbourne on the evening of March 9th for our annual Heather Competitions. There were 18 entries all looking very good in spite of the extremely early

flowering season this year.

Competition Results:

- Class 1. *Erica carnea* in flower:
1. Olwyn Warner
 2. John Dearn
 3. Phil Yates
- Class 2. *Erica* hybrid in flower:
1. Olwyn Warner
 2. Phil Yates
- Class 3. Heather for foliage effect:
1. Olwyn Warner
 2. Phil Yates
- Class 4. A Tree Heath in flower:
1. Olwyn Warner
- Class 5. An Arrangement in a basket:
1. Mary Hatton
 2. Olwyn Warner
 3. Rosemary Radley.

The overall winner was Olwyn Warner, who is holder of the Midlands Group Silver Cup for the second year running.

There was also a short slide show of the places visited at the 1989 Conference, including some of the outstanding heather gardens owned by members in the North East.

Our next meeting is fixed for Saturday 18th August, when I had hoped to arrange a visit to Mr & Mrs Ruane's spectacular heather garden near Oswestry. However, Mr Ruane tells me that several very dry summers have decimated his heathers to such an extent that they are not now worth seeing. I have therefore arranged a visit to 'The Dairy House', Ludstone, near Claverley. This is a 3 acre garden, 7 miles West of Wolverhampton and South of the A454. I hope to persuade the owner, Miss Wood, to tell us a little about the establishment of the garden on the day, but at the moment she is unwell. We meet

at 'The Dairy House' at 2.30pm, Saturday 18th August. Tea cannot be provided I am afraid.

Daphne Everett

SOUTHERN

From 2pm on Sunday 29th July, Mr and Mrs Turrell will be pleased to see Society members at 'Willowtree', 44 Headland Avenue, Seaford, Sussex.

Thanks to the presence of a small polythene tunnel in his garden, John has been busy taking cuttings and these he has kindly offered to sell to those present, with the proceeds going to the Society's funds.

As the Turrells are providing tea at the conclusion of the visit, would members who intend to be there please ring 0323 893257 at least three days in advance to assist with the catering arrangements. Should you wish to be assisted in reaching the venue, John will send a small directional plan on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Those wishing to make a morning visit could call in at Sheffield Park, which is on the A275, about seven miles south of Wych Cross. There is a picnic site near the carpark in this interesting National Trust property. Alternatively, those who still have a yearning for steam locomotives could satisfy their craving by visiting and even travelling on the Bluebell Railway, the southern terminus of which is less than a mile south of the entrance to Sheffield Park.

For either of these locations the journey time to Seaford, via Lewes, is about 45 minutes.

In view of the several options available to members, which could even include a picnic by the sea, no predetermined

assembly point is planned for the morning, instead may we foregather (in large numbers) at the Turrell residence after 2pm.

Jock Vickery

SOUTH WEST

The first meeting of 1990 was the annual indoor meeting at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall in Dorset, on the afternoon of Saturday, 24th March. Thirty members gathered together to hear a talk by Andrew Byfield of the Nature Conservancy Council. The talk, accompanied by slides, referred to heathlands in several locations in this country and discussed the ecology, management and conservation of these heathlands. Andrew also mentioned the peat extraction from raised bogs and the problems associated with the rapid disappearance of these areas. Altogether the talk was of great interest to the members and prompted many questions.

The talk was followed by refreshment and the judging of the Table Show, the results of which are detailed below:

- Class 1. A vase or bowl of heathers in bloom.
 1st. Joyce Allen,
 2nd. Val Davis,
 3rd. Phil Joyner,
 H.C. Mike Kinshott.
- Class 2. A vase or bowl of flowers shown for foliage effect.
 1st. Bob Allen,
 2nd. Joyce Allen,
 3rd. Phil Joyner,
 H.C. Val Davis.

The winner of the Burfitt Bowl for the most points overall was Joyce Allen and 10 members staged exhibits. My thanks go to

Andrew Byfield for the talk and to the ladies who provided and helped with the refreshments.

The Southampton Balloon and flower Festival takes place from Friday July 6th to July 8th on Southampton Common. Once again the horticultural marquees have an abundance of interest, with the local group flying the flag of the Heather Society. Any volunteers to man the stand?

Saturday, 28th July at 2.00pm will be the occasion of our annual nursery visit and this will take place at David Edge's nursery at Woodlands, near Verwood, Dorset. This is a nursery well worth seeing and, being wholesale, it supplies many of the local horticultural sales outlets with their heathers. Take the B3081 from Verwood to Cranborne and 1 1/2 miles from Verwood turn left for Woodlands. About 1/4 mile further on, on the left, is a gravel track and the nursery is along this track.

Friday 7th to Monday 10th September is the weekend of the Heather Society Conference (details elsewhere in this bulletin). Those members not wishing to take part as residential or day visitors are welcome to join us at the Hillier Arboretum on the Sunday afternoon.

Finally, would members please remember that if they require further details of the visits they should send me a SAE.

Phil Joyner

NORTH EAST

Like everyone else, we too have had a very mild winter again and the heathers just revelled in it. Masses of large spikes and vibrant colours, particularly on Myretoun Ruby, which were so cheerful during the dark grey days.

Our outing to Newcastle Botanic Garden was scheduled for the last week in May, but on their advice this was brought forward to April 19th as the rhododendrons and azaleas were already in bloom. So - fourteen members duly met at the Gardens on the appointed evening - to be told by a rather embarrassed Dr. Trevor Walker that what we had particularly come to see had been completely devastated by frost two nights before. Never mind; the garden itself was a wealth of interest, with plants and trees from various parts of the world and we were shown several experimental sites which the University students use for research. There was even a bed of potted dandelions!! By the time we had gone round the garden on a bitterly cold, grey evening, we were more than glad to get into the warmth of the tropical houses to thaw out and here we saw lemon, banana and coffee trees and a whole house full of

cacti and succulents. It was most interesting and everyone enjoyed it.

As we anticipated, we were once again invited to have a stand at the Garden Open Day at Houghall on May 13th. This is always a pleasant day as we meet old friends each year and we were pleased to see Beryl and David Mayne who made the journey from Kirbymoorside. There was a very good attendance as usual in spite of a dry, but chilly day.

Could I remind everyone that the North East Group will have their Annual Show this year at the Gateshead Garden Festival on September 21st, 22nd and 23rd 1990 and all Heather Society members are eligible to exhibit. Schedules can be obtained from me, Mrs Dorothy M Warner, 'Littlecroft', Ponteland, Newcastle on Tyne, NE20 9BQ (with a S.A.E. please) and I will be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help man the stand on any of these days.

Dorothy M Warner

HEATHERS AT THE GATESHEAD GARDEN FESTIVAL

Look out for the 'Argyll and the Isles' display at the Festival, where members may be interested in the 'Heather Garden & Statue Walkway' This is composed of several larger than life figures, depicting various aspects of Scottish history (Saint Columba, a Viking Warrior, an illicit whisky distiller etc.) in a setting of several thousand heathers. The heathers were grown and provided free of charge by members of the British Heather Growers Association and planned and planted by horticultural students at Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture. At the end of the Festival the plants will be lifted and will form a permanent display at the College.

SCRAP BOWL

Titbits of News from Members

Letter to the Editor

On page 83 of the 1989 year Book there is a list of distinguished members of the Society who constitute the Technical Committee. I do not know when this Committee originally came into existence. I have searched past Year Books and the earliest reference to it seems to be in 1974, when Mr D J Small published a short notice on page 34, entitled 'Technical Report No 1/73,' on the subject of the response of heather cuttings to various factors.

What I should like to know is, what has the Technical Committee accomplished in its lifetime and to ask whether it is possible for a brief report to be published annually of its activities? Other ordinary members are grateful I am sure, as I am, to Council and Committee members who give generously of their time to Society activities; it is all the more important that the fruits of their labours should be known to all.

R D C Kingsford Zone 9

I will try and get a reply for the next Bulletin. Ed.

The letter below, was originally sent to Mr David McClintock. He passed it on for inclusion in the Bulletin as he thought it would be of interest to readers.

18 November 1989

Dear Mr McClintock

In this year's Heather Society Year Book you give some interesting dimensions of heathers, and suggest that members might 'better them'.

In Bulletin Vol.4 No.1, Summer 1987

a note from me referred to an *Erica darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' which was then 6' x 5'. That year I had to trim it as it was blocking a narrow gap between two troughs. It was then 12 or 13 years old. It did not mind being trimmed and today is nearly back to its old size. The centre (highest point) already has good colour to the flowers over a patch 8" x 6".

I give below the April 1987 and November 1989 sizes for 'Arthur Johnson', also for *Erica carnea* 'Smart's Heath', about 14 or 15 years old now but never trimmed. It is just starting to flower, having 3 spikes which have turned pale pink. Neither cultivar has ever been fed.

		N/S axis	E/W axis	Height
'Arthur Johnson'	1987	79"	58.0"	27.5"
	1989	68"	45.5"	20.0"
'Smart's Heath'	1987	76"	65"	27.5"
	1989	92"	73"	19.0"

Yours sincerely,
Alan Duncan (Zone 9)

PROBLEM CORNER

My problem is cats, which break pieces off my heathers by running over them and even sitting on large heathers causing them to become scraggy. I have tried sticking blunt pieces of cane in one heather, namely *Erica tetralix* 'Alba Mollis', which used to be beautiful, but they just flatten the plant all round the canes. I am going to throw this specimen away.

I would be very grateful for any ideas of help from other readers.

Paul Scotland from Bolton.

Differences in types of peat:-

In response to one of the questions posed by Mr Kingsford in the Autumn and Spring Bulletins (Mr Kingsford really needs a Bulletin all to himself) I wrote to Bord na Mona, the Irish Peat Development Authority for accurate information regarding the differences between the different types of peat. The interesting and informative letter I received from their horticultural adviser, Dr J R Smith, is reproduced below:-

Sphagnum peat and moss peat are different names for the same peat originating predominantly from an accumulation of various sphagnum moss species. This peat is generally referred to as white peat in the literature though the colour varies from light to dark brown according to the age and stage of decomposition. Sphagnum moss peat has a low pH of 3.8-4.4. This type of peat has the capability of absorbing 10-15 times its weight in water but still retains a very good open structure ideal for roots.

Sedge peat as the name suggests comprises predominantly of sedges though some reeds and mosses may be present. The pH of this type of peat varies between 4.0 and 7.0. The texture tends to be coarse and the absorption is much lower than moss peats.

Most of the peat in Ireland was formed in shallow basins made as a result of glaciers thousands of years ago. The basins were frequently lined with a thin layer of impermeable clay. Lakes were rapidly formed with a fringe of fen swamp. Over a long period of time the vegetation gradually filled up the basin forming fen peat. Conditions of water-logging meant the water was stagnant and of low oxygen

content, preventing breakdown of the plant material. Because the area remains wet, sphagnum moss then continues to grow and form a mound. The mound may contain up to 98% water. The mound retains its water because sphagnum peat binds water so efficiently. Eventually the mound can become several feet deep at the centre. This is now known as a raised bog; when drained peat can be harvested for horticultural use.

Dr J R Smith

Also - proving yet again that someone in the Society can usually come up with a knowledgeable answer to any query, I have received a letter from member, Mr Peter Vickers, who has a nursery at Dinnington, near Sheffield. Peter's letter covers different aspects from Dr Smith's and part of his letter is reproduced below:-

SPHAGNUM PEAT & MOSS PEAT are the same thing and should be styled 'Sphagnum Moss Peat', it is formed from the partially decomposed remains of sphagnum moss. This peat varies considerably, from the light fibrous upland peat from Finland and Russia, through the medium fibrous Irish and Scottish peat, to the dark lowland peat found in some parts of England. Any one of these, when mixed with perlite (or the correct grade of grit sand) forms a satisfactory compost for rooting heathers.

SEDGE PEAT is formed from the decomposed remains of reeds and sedge grasses, they lack fibrous texture and have a low water holding capacity. Because of these features, sedge peat is not recommended as a rooting or potting medium. However, because of the lower cost of sedge compared with sphagnum

peat there is merit in using it to condition soils that are too light or too heavy.

BLENDED PEAT is a mixture of sphagnum and sedge peat (e.g.. Humax Garden Peat). This is cheaper than sphagnum peat and by using a 50/50 mix of blended peat and perlite I have rooted many thousands of heather cuttings. However I now use sphagnum peat exclusively as I get consistently good results this way.

Peter Vickers Zone 5

Adding yet another aspect to the subject of peat in horticulture is this letter from a member:-

It horrifies me that I have aided in the destruction of wonderful bogs, resulting in the loss of flora and fauna, by buying moss peat. In future, NO MORE PEAT.

We have invested in a mechanical shredder which devours small twiggy branches complete with leaves. The result is wonderful compost.

For a small garden any prunings can be cut into pieces about 1" long with secateurs and used as mulch. It is surprising how flower arrangements when wilted and treated in this way make splendid compost, quite colourful too from the flower heads.

Mrs D Maginess Zone 12.

The best time to trim heather cuttings:-

To add to the answer given by Daphne Everett in the Spring Bulletin, regarding the right time to trim heather cuttings, I also take the tips off the cuttings as they are inserted into the cutting compost (about June), in addition I trim again as each cutting is potted the following spring. The more vigorous cultivars of *Erica carnea*,

and many of the *Erica cinerea* varieties will be trimmed again during May, June & July, with the trimmings being used for cutting material.

This amount of trimming cannot be undertaken by large heather nurseries as labour costs would be prohibitive but very good quality, bushy plants do result from this treatment, which my customers appreciate.

Peter Vickers Zone 5.

Gall Midge Damage on Ericas:-

In the 1981 Year Book, I wrote about the Gall Midge (*Wachtliella ericena*) which gets into the tips of *Erica carnea*.

Last year, 1989, E.c. King George was riddled with these swellings, resulting in very little bloom on the plants. That spring I cut the clump down to ground level, new growth appeared and a certain amount of flower. This year I shall cut again anything that holds these mites and hope by next year to have good healthy plants.

All this came from buying by post, a plant which was contaminated. I should have known better and should have removed the swollen buds but failed to do so.

Anyone finding these swellings on the tips of new growths be warned. The midges emerge in about June, they mate, then secrete themselves in the heather tips and ruin the plants. The only remedy that I have found is to prune really hard after flowering.

Mrs D Maginess Zone 12

OBITUARY

Members who have met and got to know Don & Evelyn Richards at Heather Society Conferences over the years will be sad to learn that Evelyn died very suddenly in February of this year. Don is very sensibly keeping himself busy with Parish Council business and the voluntary work with which he is involved. I am sure that every one of you who knows Don would wish me to express sincere sympathy to him on your behalf, through the medium of the Bulletin.

HEATHER HERITAGE CENTRE

Heather now has its own Heritage Centre, built by David and Betty Lambie in Inverness-shire and opened in May 1989. The centre is devoted to all the different aspects of heather, ornamental and useful. There are displays of heather honey and honey drinks and from a viewing gallery visitors can see craftworkers making heather buttonholes, keyrings, bottle openers and pictures etc. Other displays show the ornamental uses of heathers and also the important and very useful part heather has played in Scottish history.

The new centre covers 1.5 acres, it has a plant sales area and a tea room and is surely a must for heather enthusiasts visiting Scotland.

The address is :- The Speyside Heather Garden Centre, Skye of Curr, Dulnain Bridge, Inverness-shire.
Telephone 047985 359

DIARY OF EVENTS

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|----------------|---|
| July 6th/9th | South West Group.
Southampton Balloon &
Flower Festival. |
| July 28th | South West Group. Visit
to Forest Edge Nursery. |
| July 29th | Southern Group. Visit to
Garden at Seaford etc. |
| Aug. 14th | Council Meeting, RHS,
Vincent Square,
London. |
| Aug.14th/15th | RHS Show & Heather
Competitions, Vincent
Square, London. |
| Aug.18th | Midlands Group Visit to
'The Dairy House'. |
| Aug. 25th | Scottish Group. Meeting
at 'Cherrybank'. |
| Sept.7th/10th | 20th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE,
SPARSHOLT
COLLEGE. |
| Sept.21st/23rd | North East Group.
Annual Show, Gateshead
Garden Festival. |
| Sept. 23rd | Closing Date for
material for the Autumn
Bulletin. |

