

THE HEATHER SOCIETY BULLETIN



Volume 4 No. 16 Summer 1992

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Maurice & I have just come back from a sneaky visit to Ireland (in the middle of the Spring potting - very decadent!) where we saw *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea* growing very healthily and happily on the limestone rocks of The Burren. Dr Charles Nelson, in his new book on this wonderful area, explains the phenomenon. He tells us that the limestone rocks are porous, and honeycombed with subterranean channels. The rain-water drains away in seconds, leaching the lime and other soluble mineral salts from the hummocks of soil, which have formed on the rocks over the years. Carbon dioxide in the rain-water accelerates the solution of any lime in the soil and also tends to make the hummocks of soil acidic - thus heathers can grow quite happily. An up-date on the eating habits of my furry caterpillars: Some of the heather cuttings have been 'stopped' so many times that even Peter Vickers would approve and a batch of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Mrs Pat', look just like little mossy green pin-cushions, covered with pink pin-heads - quite pretty really. They also relished *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*, but all-in-all they have done very little harm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 13th September 1992 at 9.15 am at West Park Hall, University of Dundee. An Agenda for the Meeting is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

11th - 14th SEPTEMBER

WEST PARK HALL, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Details of the 1992 programme were included in the Spring Bulletin, but due to the untimely death of Ken McCrindle, the exact cost of attending the Conference could not be given at that time; these costs have now been finalized:

Residents - (prices include coach-trips)

Friday pm to Monday - £125.00

Friday pm to Sunday, including lunch- £95.00

Non-Residents - £34.00 (price includes coach trips)

The final date for payment is 31st July 1992. If you have not yet booked, please write (with your booking fee of £2) to;

Mrs Jean McCrindle, 1 Drummond Rise, Dunblane, FK15 0EX.

DUNDEE - HOME OF THE 1992 CONFERENCE

Dundee, as every schoolchild used to be taught, was the city of the three 'J's' - Jam, Jute and Journalism. Changes in eating habits and fashion have ended the first two but journalism still flourishes in Dundee and few of us haven't at some time or other read the Beano, Dandy, Beezer, Woman's Weekly and hundreds of the other publications - with the Dundee Courier being the daily paper of many thousands of Scots.

Last year Dundee proudly celebrated, in the presence of the Queen, the eight hundredth anniversary of its founding. Situated as it is on the River Tay, it has been a busy trading port with Europe and the Baltic since the 15th century. The story is well known of the Dundee Ship's Captain who brought back a cargo of the 'wrong oranges' from Seville. His wife, after losing her temper with him, did her best to salvage the mistake and thereby invented marmalade.

Dundee is also the home of Captain Scott's ship 'Discovery', the birthplace of William McGonagall (the world's worst (published) poet), William Watt the inventor of RADAR and James Chalmers who invented the adhesive postage stamp. Further up the Tay can be found the famous Tay pearls with their lovely lilac coloured lustre.

So - this year's Conference is being held in a very old city which is also a very modern, busy city. West Park Hall is a hall of residence of the University of Dundee. A new Conference Centre has just been completed and the lecture halls and facilities are excellent. Some rooms will have a view over the Firth of Tay to Fife.

The people who attend the Conferences make them the success they always are, so come along here and have a great time. Few people only attend once.

Jean McCrindle

Jean has asked me to express to you, her appreciation of the many letters she received after Ken died; she says they have helped her a lot, and she will be pleased to welcome to her home, any member who is in Dundee before the start of the Conference (Ed.)

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW - February 18th and 19th 1992

Ornamental Plants from the Open.
Heather Classes.

There were twelve entries in the two heather Classes. Apart from *E x darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' the exhibits were not of a particularly high standard. It would be encouraging if more members of the Heather Society took part in these competitions.

Results:-Class 5. A Heath or Heather in bloom, one vase or bowl. Six entries. 1st. Col. and Mrs Bullivant. *E. x darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' 2nd. Mrs T Forbes. *E. x darleyensis* 'White Perfection' 3rd. Mrs T Forbes. *E. carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby'

Class 6. A Heath or Heather shown for foliage effect, one vase or bowl. Six entries.

1st. Mr D McClintock. *E. arborea* 'Albert's Gold' 2nd. Mr E Cameron *Calluna vulgaris* un-named 3rd. Mrs T Forbes. *E. arborea* 'Albert's Gold'

HEATHLAND MANAGEMENT

As members will recall, Allen Hall reviewed a publication in our Spring Bulletin 1989 entitled 'A strategy for Surrey Heathlands'. This was a report published in June 1988 by the Nature Conservancy and the Surrey County Councils, with recommendations for the future protection of a habitat which has become rare and valuable and is constantly under threat, not least from the effects of atmospheric nitrogen.

As a direct result the Heathland Countryside Management Project was launched jointly by Surrey County, English Nature and the Countryside Commission. The work is also sponsored by the three Borough Councils most closely concerned: Woking, Guildford and Waverley, and after two years some very rewarding results can be seen on the commons.

The Task Force is very small - only two very enthusiastic and dedicated young men. They circulate a programme of 'Sunday' projects, in the hope that volunteers will come along and lend a hand. My husband and I have spent half a day with them at a number of different sites (once when everything was magically white with hoar-frost). Removing the seedling pine and birch is often the main requirement and in many areas they have grown too big to merely 'pull' them but saws and even gloves are provided. A huge bonfire burns most of the day and the sight of a great stretch of newly-revealed heather is most rewarding.

Sometimes a group from the Herpetological Society joins in to restore

a specific habitat for sand lizards, or a school party may come to strengthen the small band of volunteers. Sadly though, the two 'staff' often have to battle on alone. We have helped with the reseeding of the heather by cutting areas of old woody plants, scraping away the nutrient rich top-soil with its invasive grasses and finally sowing heather seed. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch, but tea, coffee and biscuits are supplied. It is great to feel one is really doing something practical - a job which has so much variety that there is something to suit most adults and children.

It would be a tragedy to lose these unique natural habitats where so many of our garden cultivars originated and any group which is striving to check the decline of our fast disappearing heathlands should receive our support. If any members live close enough to be interested in helping occasionally, do contact their office in Godalming on 0483 869392.

So much importance is now conferred on the problem that a two day Conference on Heathlands is being held at Surrey University from 8th - 10th July under the auspices of Surrey County Council. Its report will be of interest to our Society.

Pamela Lee - Zone 11

PROBLEM CORNER

DROUGHT RESISTANT HEATHERS

In the Spring 1992 Bulletin Mr Forsyth asked for information on drought-resistant heathers. I certainly

can't recommend particularly resistant cultivars, but would suggest that in search for drought-resistant species it may be worth recalling where they are found in the wild.

Most of the European species occur towards the western edge of the continent, where there is a maritime climate with cool winters, warm summers and rain throughout the year. However, some grow in the Mediterranean area, where the winters are relatively mild with moderate rainfall and the summers are hot and dry. Perhaps the plants from this region will prove more drought resistant.

Erica australis, *E. lusitanica*, *E. umbellata*, and *E. mackaiana* ssp and *evalensis* need not be considered here since they are found on the western side of the Iberian peninsular where the climate is maritime. The species found in the true Mediterranean region are *E. arborea*, *E. terminalis*, *E. manipuliflora* and *E. multiflora*. The habitats of *E. terminalis* are said, in 'Flora Europaea', to be "river banks, wooded ravines and other shady places", while those of *E. arborea* are given as "woods, evergreen scrub and by streams". Hence, on first sight, neither of these species appear very promising. With me, *E. terminalis* always seems to grow well and put up a better show of flowers in a hot dry summer than a cool moist one. This hardly seems to suggest that the plants are particularly susceptible to drought stress. I have no first hand experience with *E. arborea* but Stevens does not mention proximity to water when describing its habitat in 'Flora of Turkey'. It may well be worth examining the

drought-tolerance of this species. Again, 'Flora Europaea' gives the habitat of *E. manipuliflora* as "evergreen scrub and dry, rocky places", and that of *E. multiflora* as "rocky hillsides, dry woods and thickets". Unfortunately, *E. multiflora* does not seem to thrive in British gardens and is seldom, if ever, offered for sale. *E. manipuliflora* is becoming very much more widely available as it is realised that it is hardy in Britain; it also seems to be drought-resistant. It is noticeable that pot-grown cuttings require less water for successful growth than those of *E. carnea* or *E. darleyensis*. It is interesting to note on passing that both *E. manipuliflora* ssp *anthurea* and *E. manipuliflora* ssp *manipuliflora* put on their new growth during the winter. This characteristic may have originated from the growing conditions being better at that time in their native environments. The flower buds develop shortly before the plants bloom in the autumn.

In this discussion I have ignored *E. bocquetii* and *E. sicula* because neither are freely available. Furthermore, *E. sicular* is not hardy.

There is a further factor which may affect the drought-tolerance of heathers. It is possible that, if a plant can get its roots beneath a large stone, it may obtain enough moisture to enable it to withstand a drought. Obviously, plants with strong wiry roots stand the best chance of achieving this happy state of affairs. The larger-growing Mediterranean species satisfy this requirement, and it is also possible that it is true of *E. vagans*.

A. W. J. Zone 11

Regarding your query about drought resistant heathers, I would refer you to the Bulletin, Volume 4, Number 8, Autumn 1989, under 'SOUTHERN'. Here, is a list of cultivars which were the least (and the most) affected by the 1989 drought in my garden. With the possible exception of *E. vagans* 'Fiddlestone' (which could better be placed under 'fairly resistant') they all came through the more severe 1990 drought (also with a hose-pipe ban) with flying colours. I say more severe, as the knock-on effect from the previous year resulted in nearly half my heather garden dying and having to be replanted.

I had two *Daboecias* 'Praegerae' and 'Bicolor', which came through the whole summer and on the strength of this I have obtained further *Daboecias* and hope for equally good results.

According to my experience, none of the other species (except tree heaths) seem to be either more or less susceptible to drought; I lost large numbers of all of them, including *E. cinerea* which by repute likes drier conditions.

Although on chalk subsoil (I use a lot of peat) *E. carnea* failed equally with the rest. As regards my list of 'drought susceptible species' - I hesitate to make one as there seem to be so many. Most noticeable were *E. tetralix*, *E. ciliaris*, and *E. mackaiana*, all of which died, almost without exception. I have not replanted these species.

John Tucker Zone 11

John's original table is reprinted above right.

Drought Resistant	Fairly Resistant	Drought Susceptible
'Sandpit Hills'	'Atrosanguinea'	'Irish Dusk'
'Summer Wonder'	'Tib'	'Irish Salmon'
'W T Rackliff'	'Tenuis'	'mackaiana plena'
'Jan Dekker'		'Corfe Castle'
'Salmon Leap'		'Mrs Gill'
'Brian Proudley'		'Brightness'
'Ewan Jones'		'Wickwar Flame'
Tree heaths		
'Pink Spangles'		
'Fiddlestone'		
'Windlebrook'		

In recent summers I have found the silver foliage heathers have survived drought better than others. In particular - *E. tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Silver Knight'.

Allen Hall - Zone 11

POLLINATION OF HEATHERS

Scent or flower colour may play a part in attracting pollinators to some plants, while others with no fragrance may be wind-pollinated. It has even been suggested that the preponderance of certain flower colours at particular times of the year is related to the preferences of the pollinators which are active at those times.

Erica arborea and *E. lusitanica* may be examples of species which attract their pollinators by scent; both have included anthers. *E. carnea*, *E. multiflora*, *E. umbellata* and *E. vagans* may all be wind pollinated, having exerted anthers and no noticeable perfume. However, some of the European heathers do not seem to obey the 'rules'. *E. ciliaris*, *E. cinerea*, *E. mackaiana*, *E. scoparia*, *E. terminalis* and *E. tetralix* all have

included anthers and yet none of them are scented to us. *E. australis*, *E. erigena* and *E. manipuliflora* all seem profligate in that they have both perfumes and exserted anthers. It is unusual for a species to have characteristics which are of no benefit to it. It may also be noted in passing that, *E. erigena* also breaks the 'flower colour rule'. Most spring-flowering native species have yellow or white flowers, while the predominant colour for the heather is pink. This may lend some support to the opinion expressed by Foss and Doyle (Plants Today, 1988, Vol.1, No. 5, pp 161-167) that *E. erigena* was imported into Ireland.

With so many exceptions to the rules, can anyone tell me how each of the European heather species are pollinated?

A.W.J.

SCRAPBOWL

Titbits of news from members

MONTE PALACE GARDENS, Monte, Funchal, Madeira.

Any Society member visiting Madeira should not fail to visit the above. It is a well landscaped heather garden with European and some South African cultivars and species. It is backed by a very attractive Portuguese Palace (so called) and faces a lovely view down to Funchal and the sea.

There seems, at the time of writing, to be very little publicity about it, as much of the planting has been done fairly recently and the gardens have not been open to the public for very long. It is open Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm and admission is 1000 Escudos (4). There is also a collection of indigenous plants and

South African ones, including some Proteas.

Heather is planted amid bubbling streams and rocks but unfortunately no labels! In my view it is quite the most interesting garden in Madeira - I have been visiting there for the last 18 years.

John Tucker Zone 11

ST ANNE'S HEATHER GARDEN, GUERNSEY

I was in St Peter's Port Guernsey on business in the second week in March and noted opposite my Hotel (The Old Government House Hotel) a municipal garden which was set out mainly with heathers and shrubs. The garden faces east, looking towards the sea and is situated in a deep dell in the hillside. It was planted with many well known summer and winter varieties of heather. The winter varieties were looking splendid. There were drifts of *E. carneas* and *E. darleyensis* was well represented. My eye was caught by the bushy *erigenas* which were in luxuriant flower but best of all, some *E. australis* 'Mr Robert' and *Exveitchii* (perhaps 'Exeter' or Pink Joy) were flowering; the latter was particularly striking. These plants showed no sign of frost damage and were evidently happy in their dell some four to five hundred metres from the sea. Incidentally, I examined a sprig of *E. veitchii* under a lens. It was thick with branched hairs, but some were simple. The stigma was a cheerful pink.

Allen Hall - Zone 11

CALLUNA VULGARIS 'ORANGE GLOW'

In December 1990, we received a letter from David McClintock requesting information about a heather we were listing as *Calluna vulgaris* 'Orange Glow'.

After fifteen months of careful observation I have been unable to spot any discernable difference from *C.v.* 'Orange Queen'. As we obtained the original *C.v.* 'Orange Glow' from a local wholesaler about eight years ago, it is possible that others have bought it under this misnomer. I have not been able to trace the nursery of origin but I think that 'Queen' written badly on a label could easily translate to 'Glow'.

Hilda A Warren - Zone 7

ERICA HYEMALIS HORT.

There has been some doubt about the name of the commonest of the winter-flowering Cape hybrids with its numerous cultivars, so I managed to see what is regarded as the source description of it. This is in the American publication 'Woods and Forests' for 23 March 1892, pp 136-8, and is signed W. Watson (of London). I guess that of the various W Watsons, this one may have been William (1858 - 1925).

The article tells us that, 100 years ago, at least a dozen nurserymen were each selling 20,000 - 30,000 plants of this annually (1 foot tall, in 5in pots, for 18 pence). Watson said that he had not been able to trace the origin of the plant, but it existed 40 - 50 years earlier and had often been mentioned since; his guess was that it was a winter flowering variety of *E. perspicua*. He adds advice on its culture and propagation. I doubt if this amounts to valid publication of the binomial, so it is safest to cite it as *E. hyemalis* Hort. 'Hort' means 'of gardeners' *Hortulorum*. It seems that *E. hiemalis* is a wrong spelling.

David McClintock

ORANGE PEEL WORKS AGAIN

Having tried during many years all thinkable recommended methods to keep the deer from our garden and from what is obviously their favourite dish - our azalea buds - we finally gave up and put up a high fence. My confidence in deterrents is therefore somewhat notched and I didn't believe for a moment that orange peel could have any effect on cats, as Delia P Wyers wrote in the Summer Bulletin. When, in the Autumn Bulletin, Dorothy Warner confirmed with great enthusiasm that 'IT WORKED' I began to hesitate.

We have never had any trouble with heathers and cats, but my husband (who is a friend of 'order') highly dislikes the next door cat's dirty paw-marks on the roof and bonnet of our car, standing in an open garage. It has probably sometimes found the bonnet nice and warm to sleep on.

Two months ago we rubbed the woodwork at the entrance to the garage with orange peel (at cat-level) and, *mirabile dictu*, no paw marks since then. So 'IT WORKED'! Thanks Delia. Thanks Dorothy.

Brita Johansson - Sweden



Shoot-tip of 'Gwavas'

THE HANDY HEATHER GUIDE

The long awaited replacement to Geoffrey Yates admirable 'Pocket Guide to Heathers' is now available. This new publication, based on the Heather Society's work for the International Register, has been produced by David and Anne Small and provides a detailed description of over 1000 cultivars which include - flower colour, flowering time, foliage colour(s), and habit, together with the height and spread of a mature plant AND sources of supply.

The Handy Heather Guide consists of 120 pages, spiral bound for easy reference use. The price will be £4.95p but up until 31st August 1992 there is a special introductory offer - which consists of :- The Handy Heather Guide, plus a copy of the Heather Society Colour Chart (very useful, as HS Colour Chart details are quoted where possible) for £5.50 including postage.

Local Groups, members who give talks, nurseries, Garden Centres etc. can obtain a special discount of 33% if they purchase a minimum of 20 copies.

GARDENS

If you have a Heather Garden and you would be willing to open it occasionally to interested members and/or the general public - our Administrator Anne Small would be glad to hear from you.

CONGRATULATIONS ALLEN

The Horticultural Club has been going for 117 years. It now meets in the evening of the first day of the winter

RHS Shows; first a dinner, then a lecture. It also runs summer visits to gardens. It has about 200 members and its Chairman is Anthony Huxley, the Editor of the new RHS Dictionary.

Speakers to the Horticultural Club are eminent, so it was a particular pleasure when our own Allen Hall was invited to address the meeting on 18th February. He gave an excellent talk, well illustrated with his fine slides. It did just the job that was needed to 'sell' heathers and he deserves our congratulations.

David McClintock

GROUP NEWS

SCOTLAND

See Conference details.

NORTH EAST

We've had a long dreary winter this year culminating in floods and gales but fortunately the heathers withstood it all and gave a splendid display.

Our annual invitation to have a Heather Society Stand at the Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Houghall took place on May 9th and 10th. For the first time this was a two day event but, unfortunately, the Saturday coincided with their home team (Sunderland) playing in the Cup Final and this undoubtedly kept the crowds away. Sunday however was 'business as usual' and everyone enjoyed the day. The weather too was very kind!

At the time of writing we are now looking forward to our annual outing on Saturday May 16th; this year we are going to the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, which are always a joy to see.

Dates and venues for both our Annual Show and the AGM are yet to be decided so local members will be notified with all details as soon as possible.

Dorothy Warner

MIDLANDS

The Midlands Group met on March 13th at Winterbourne. The results of the winter heather competition held on that evening were as follows:

Class 1. *E. carnea*: 1st Daphne Everett, 2nd John Dearn, 3rd Betty & Ray Bishop. Class 2. *Ex darleyensis*: 1st Daphne Everett, 2nd Daphne Everett, 3rd Betty & Ray Bishop. Class 3. Foliage Heather: 1st Ray & Betty Bishop. Class 4. Tree Heath: 1st John Dearn, 2nd Betty & Ray Bishop. Class 5. Heathers in a Basket. 1st Daphne Everett, 2nd Betty & Ray Bishop.

The overall results were a tie between Betty and Ray Bishop and Daphne Everett, who shared the Midlands Branch Silver Cup.

The Group manned a stand for the Society at the Malvern Spring Show. I would like to thank all the members who gave their time over that weekend and especially my husband Maurice who put a lot of time into mounting the superb photographs that we had on display. There was much appreciative interest from the public and plenty of chat, but the number of new members recruited was disappointing for all the work involved. Beryl and David Mayne came down from Yorkshire to lend a hand and Walter Wornick, came from the USA, though unfortunately I can't claim he came over specially. Thank you also to all those who lent their precious slides and prints to be enlarged - I will return them as soon as this Bulletin is out of the way.

July 4th is the day we are visiting Wolesley Garden Park, Wolesley Bridge, Stafford. We meet in the car-park of the Garden Centre (which is also the entrance to the garden) at 1pm. then we can take our picnics in with us if the weather is suitable. If anyone is not sure how to find the garden, let me know and I will send a leaflet.

On September 5th we are invited to visit Crails Nursery in Newstead Abbey Park, Linby, Notts (adjacent to Ravenshead) and Bob Rope's garden nearby. The nursery is best approached from the road marked Blidworth Waye, signposted to Papplewick (B683), which is approximately 1/2 mile south from Newstead Abbey Gates (the main entrance to the Park). Take the second

entrance on the right hand side and proceed SLOWLY to the bottom of the hill (rather rough in places) where the road forks. Bear left and continue past the entrance to Crail House to the nursery where there is room for about 15 cars. If we can arrive around 11am and we walk across the garden I am told there is a good chance of a cup of coffee from our hosts, Mr and Mrs Groome.

We have until around 3.30pm to enjoy the gardens and the nursery and to eat our lunch (there is apparently somewhere adjacent to the nursery where we can picnic). At 3.30 we go on to visit 'Clouds' 38 Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead where we can enjoy member Bob Rope's garden and are promised a cup of tea to complete the day.

Bob has sent me maps which cover both locations. Those who were at the last meeting should already have a copy, but if anyone else would like one, please let me know and I will send it on. Saturday November 7th is the date for our Social Evening - there will be a Conference Report and a quiz. It is also my 'swan song' as organiser of the Midlands Group; I hope someone will be prepared to take the job on! The evening will begin at 7pm at Winterbourne.

SOUTHERN

The planned visit to the Valley Gardens, Windsor, went ahead notwithstanding a forecast of gales and rain. The day was blustery but with bright periods and 29 members attended the outing which was led by Mr J D Bond, Keeper of the Crown Estate Gardens.

Mr Bond said that in 1750 the area was part of the Surrey heath and even now wild heathers would soon re-establish themselves. The soil is sandy, being on the Bagshot sands and the heather garden was, at the time of the first world war, a sand quarry which had become a rubbish tip by the time the heather garden was established by Mr Eric Savill and his team. The heather beds are irregular and renewed every 7 to 10 years. Mr Bond does not allow the soil to be disturbed more than necessary during the replanting but considerable use is made of leaf mould and wood chippings for mulching. As Mr Bond said - drought is the great enemy of the heathers.

The gardens were wonderful, as ever, and we were having a great time when the storm burst at 12.20pm. This was a great disappointment as it curtailed a visit of some promise. We were for example, unable to visit the small conifer collection which also contains many new heather plantings and is well worth seeing in its own right. Mr Bond was set to show us some magnificent magnolias when the rain came down. Moreover, some members had travelled considerable distances to be with us. What can I say?

Before the rain however, we were able to see some splendid beds of *E. x darleyensis*, *E. carnea* and *E. erigena*. *E. lusitanica* was in flower as was the solitary bush of *E. x veitchii* 'Exeter' which has survived frost and drought for these last many years, *E. australis* was in bud and should be looking good in a few weeks time and *E. arborea* 'Alpina' was also showing some flower.

The setting of the heather garden in the Valley Gardens is mature and the topography also adds to the charm of this garden. I regret that the weather prevented us from seeing more but I and others who attended are grateful to Mr Bond for spending the morning with us, for braving the weather and, most of all, for keeping this wonderful garden in such splendid condition.

This year's Programme:

July 12th 1992 - Visit to Chelwood Vachery. Members of the Society visited The Vachery, which is the staff college of BAT Industries, in 1987, as part of the Annual Conference that year; there is a heather garden and much else to see. Mr John Ashwood, who is very keen on heather, is hoping to lead the tour which should take 2 to 2.5 hours. Meet in the car park at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Chelwood Vachery is at Nutley, Uckfield, East Sussex - on the west side of the A22 road, between Wych Cross and Nutley. If the day turns out to be dry I propose we start with a picnic in the Ashdown Forest. The Forest includes a considerable heather moor. Joan and I will arrive at the Gill's Lap car-park at about 11.30am. This car-park is grassy and on a gentle knoll overlooking part of the heath; it will be possible for those so inclined, to do a bit of gentle exploration on the moor and for the

rest to sit and watch. Gill's Lap is only a mile or two east across the forest from Chelwood and is situated on the B2026 road. I have a sketch map - please send sae if you would like one.

WEDNESDAY 12th August - Playboys & Pensioners. Visits on the trail of Major General Turpin. In a series of articles in the Year Book, Major General Turpin has described a number of heather gardens. He dealt with the two gardens of Richmond Park in 1976 and with Cannizaro Park, Wimbledon in 1983. The Southern Group visited the main heather garden in Richmond Park last year; I now propose we visit the other one and because it is small, link it with a visit to Cannizaro Park. We start with a picnic (weather permitting) at Cannizaro Park, Wimbledon. Meet at the main gate at 12.15pm for a 12.30 start (entrance is free). The visit to the heather garden begins at 1.30pm. If the weather does not suit a picnic but permits a visit, we can meet at 1.30pm at the main gate. On a Wednesday, there should be scope for parking in the streets near to the Park entrance, which is in West Side Common, not far from Wimbledon High Street (parking there on a sunny Sunday is impossible) At 3pm approximately we plan to move on to Richmond Park, entering at the Kingston Gate. We proceed to Pembroke Lodge, which is between the Kingston and Richmond Gates; again, on a Wednesday there should be plenty of room in the free car-park at the Lodge. Here we visit the garden and then take tea at the cafe. We can look forward to sitting on the terrace with a lovely view. I have a sketch map - please send a sae if you would like a copy.

Saturday, September 19th - we have an indoor meeting in the lecture room at RHS Wisley. The group will convene at 1.45pm outside the main entrance for a 2pm start; this will allow members to visit the Garden first if they wish - a tour of the garden is not included in the formal arrangements. Mr Phil Joyner, South Western Group Organiser, will present a lecture, with slides.

As last year there will be a heather competition with the following classes: 1.) best flower arrangement in which heathers predominate; 11.) best vase of heathers in flower, single variety; 111.) best vase of

flowers chosen for foliage. There will be a modest prize for each class, but in line with the best practice (ie. that of the South Western Group) a new Southern Group challenge bowl will be presented to the person with the best overall display; the bowl to be held for one year.

Sunday November 1st - The last event of the year will be a visit to the National Trust Garden at Sheffield Park. Convene in the car-park at 12.45pm for a 1pm start; this will allow us to complete our visit before dusk. Sheffield Park was planted with an eye to the autumn foliage colours of trees, which are arranged around five lakes. The timing should be optimum given ordinary weather conditions in October. Sheffield Park is situated on the A275 road, south of Wych Cross. If you would like a news sheet (including sketch maps) summarising this year's visits please send a sae to 18 Albury Avenue, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 7JT. Members of other groups are of course welcome.

Allen Hall

Future Events: March 27th 1993 - Indoor meeting at Wisley; to include a talk by Mr David Small and a competition. July 11th 1993 - Visit to Great Comp August 1993 - Joint visit with South West Group Sept. 19th 1993 - Merrist Wood Hort. College.

SOUTH WEST

The first visit of 1992 was on the 28th March at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall, in Dorset. Members gathered together for an afternoon of slides and photographs taken by members themselves. The slides and photographs showed scenes from conferences, previous local group meetings and members' gardens; Phyllis Kennedy showed us slides from her recent visit to South Africa. This was followed by refreshments 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 Maureen Clark, 2nd Phil Joyner, 3rd Maureen Clark.

Class 2. A vase or bowl of heathers shown for foliage effect. 1st Jennifer Turrell, 2nd Phil Joyner, 3rd Maureen Clark.

There was a three-way tie for the most points and the overall winner was judged on the 'best first'. The overall winner was Jennifer Turrell and she was presented with the Burfitt Bowl. My thanks go to the members for providing the slides and photographs, Mrs Farrow for judging the Table Show and the ladies who provided and helped with the refreshments.

Meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:-

Saturday 27th June, 2.00pm - A two garden visit in Wiltshire. The first will be to a garden in Bromham, followed by a visit to Des and Sybil Perry's garden at Market Lavington. The garden in Bromham is 'Bryher' in Yard lane and is owned by Mr and Mrs Richard Packham; it features in the 'Yellow Book' Bromham is on the Devizes to Chippenham road (A342) and about 4 miles north of Devizes. Travelling from Devizes into Bromham, Yard lane is on the right hand side of the cross roads, and 'Bryher' is the second property on the right hand side of Yard Lane. The garden is about 2/3rd acre, with borders planted for foliage effect. Later in the afternoon we will move south along the A342, through Devizes to take the A362 Salisbury road to West Lavington. At the cross roads in West Lavington, turn left onto the B3098 for Market Lavington. Members Des and Sybil Perry live at 26 Park Road, which is on the left hand side of the B3098, just after the school. Des and Sybil have kindly invited us to view their heather garden and have tea with them.

The Southampton Balloon and Flower Festival takes place on Friday July 3rd to Sunday July 5th, 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? Open heather classes are also a feature and details are available from me if you wish to show your heathers.

Saturday, 22nd August 12.30pm - Two garden visit in the New Forest area. The first visit will be to members Bill and Joan Vicary's garden at Ashurst, followed by a visit to my garden at Totton. Bill and Joan have a garden full of interest, including heathers; members may meet there from 12.30 pm - please bring

picnic lunches and chairs. Bill and Joan's garden is at 13 Foxhills and is on the Totton side of Ashurst. It can be reached either from the Totton Western Bypass (A326) via Knellers Lane or from the Totton - Lyndhurst Road (A35) via Whartons Lane. Members may then move on to my garden at about 3.00pm where refreshment will be provided. My garden is at 84 Kinross Road and can be reached via Rushington Avenue from the Southampton - Lyndhurst Road (A35).

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

Phil Joyner



DIARY OF EVENTS 1992

- June 27th** South West Group -
Two garden visits.
- July 3-5th** South West Group -
Balloon & Flower
Festival.
- July 4th** Midlands Group - Visit
to Wolesley Garden
Park.
- July 12th** Southern Group - Visit
to Chelwood Vachery.
- Aug. 11th** Heather Society
Council Meeting,
Vincent Square.
- Aug. 11-12th** RHS Show and
Heather Competition.
- Aug. 12th** Southern Group -
Playboys & Pensioners
visit.
- Aug. 22nd** South West Group -
Two garden visits.
- Sept. 5th** Midlands Group -
Nursery & Garden
visit.
- Sept. 11-14th** HEATHER SOCIETY
CONFERENCE.
- Sept. 19th.** Southern Group -
Indoor meeting, Wisley.
- Nov. 1st.** Southern Group - Visit
to Sheffield Park.
- Nov. 7th.** Midlands Group -
Social & quiz.