

THE HEATHER SOCIETY BULLETIN



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One of the nicest things about being Editor of the Bulletin is the correspondence I receive from members; a note in with a report from Newcastle tells me that the winter has been kind there so far and, in the same post, one from York, bemoans being snowed in several times already. Items in the Bulletin sometimes spark off memories and people write and tell me about them. Anne Parris, now living in Australia, read about the disappearing lowland-heaths and wondered if her beloved Dartford Heath, which she used to cycle over to school 60 years or more ago, is still in existence. She remembers watching her naturalist father photographing a Dartford Warbler's nest in a furze bush on the heath, when she was about six years old. Luckily, our President (who usually knows the answers to my questions, or if he doesn't - he knows a man who does) was able to tell me that the Heath does still exist, minus the Dartford Warblers, so the good news was passed on to the other side of the world. Thanks folks!

24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Askham Bryan College, York - 2nd to 5th September 1994

Friday 2nd

4pm - 6pm Reception and
Registration. 7pm Dinner. 8.30pm
Conference opened by our Chairman.
Quiz by PETER VICKERS.

Saturday 3rd

8am Breakfast. 9.15am Annual
General Meeting. 10.15am Group
Photograph. 10.30am Coffee. 11.15am
Coach to Golden Acre Park, Leeds
(Harry Ramsden's Heather Garden).
1pm To Harlow Carr Gardens for
packed lunch and visit the Heather
Collections. 4.30pm Coach leaves for
Askham Brian. 7pm Dinner. 8.30pm
Talk by DR SIMON CAPORN 'The
Effect of Pollutants on Heather'.

Sunday 4th

8am Breakfast. 9.15am Talk 'My
Garden Then and Now' by DON
RICHARDS 10.15am Coffee. 11.00am
Coach to the North York Moors,
stopping at the Moors Centre, Danby,
for packed lunch. MISS SUE REES,
Ecologist for the North York Moors
will be with us in the coach and will
give a talk at Danby. 3.30pm Coach
leaves for Askham Bryan. 7pm Dinner.
8.30pm Open Forum. Please have your
questions prepared, however basic.
Have you any slides to show? (max. 6
per person). 9.15pm Conference closed
by our Chairman.

Monday 5th

8am Breakfast. Farewells said - as we
depart for another year.

TOTAL COST OF CONFERENCE

Friday to Monday	£110.00
Friday to Sunday Evening	£92.00
Per Day - After Breakfast to Evening	£21.00

Please send £2 booking fee to:

Mrs B Mayne, 16 Poplar Avenue, Kirkbymoorside, York, YO6 6ES, as soon as possible. This is to cover administration costs and is not a deposit on the Conference fee. Cheques should be made payable to - The Heather Society. Payment should be made in full by 31st July.

For Members who are intending to stay over in York after the Conference, Jean Sharpe has offered to give guided tours around the historical parts of the City of York, on Monday or Tuesday (4th and 5th September). If a large party would like to take part, she could organise an Official Guide (free). I am sure it would be helpful to Jean if members wishing to take advantage of this offer would let the Conference organisers know in advance.

Alternatively you may only be free to do your exploring before the conference or on some other occasion. In this case our Hon. Secretary, Pamela Lee, suggests that members may like to collect a 'Walkman Tape' from her daughter, Wendy Goff, whose business 'Yorspeed Tours' is run from the Tourist Office in York. Hire a Walkman player (4.50p for the day) and one tape will take you around the historic City and the other, along the ancient walls. It is also possible to purchase motoring tapes (£2.90p each), a

series especially planned to be played in your car for a tour round Castles, Abbeys and Moors, the Forest & Wolds, or even through the Derwent Valley. All tapes include carefully planned directions of where to stop and are accompanied by appropriate background sounds for atmospheric effect!

CORRECTIONS

Dr Charles Nelson, who is the organiser of the 25th Annual Conference, which is to be held in Ireland in 1995, has asked me to make it clear that The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, is a state-run garden, managed by the Office of Public Works, Historical Properties & National Monuments Division. It is not in any way connected to the University of Dublin as stated in my AGM report in the last Bulletin. *Ed.*

SHOWS in 1994

The Heather Society is collaborating with the British Heather Growers Association at 2 major shows in 1994:

The Spring Fair at Olympia,
31st March to 4th April.

and

Gardeners World Live at the N.E.C.
Birmingham, 15th - 19th June.

If any members would like to help to man the stand at either of these events please telephone our Chairman, David Small, on 0449 711220

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those who were not at the Conference at Reading missed, not only an excellent gathering, but my surprise gifts. Wrapped in 'Happy Birthday' wrapping paper were two fine wine glasses, 6 inches high, each with a sprig of Ling delicately engraved on them. They now stand, looking fine, on my sideboard. I did wonder if they were on the large side for normal use, but I soon found they were just right for a bumper of claret! The next parcels contained something that I did not know existed - Fine Old Wood Port and Fine Old Tawny from Trinity, Cambridge, my old College. By the time you read this they will have been broached, when the family are all here (16 of them - and only 8 beds) for Christmas. Happily, my wife saw my apt presents shortly before she died and was delighted with them. But - I do want to put into print my appreciation of the thought and trouble which led up to this fine and unexpected celebration of four score years.

After my wife's sudden and unexpected death I received 250 letters, cards, telephone calls etc. A particularly amazing tribute arrived in the post, from our old friend Hermann Westermann of the Luneburger Heide. It took the form of a wreath, some 18 inches across, with a base of coned *Thuya* sprigs and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Peter Sparkes'. Above them were sprays of the two most special bud bloomers - 'Melanie', the first white, and 'Alexandra', which has only just been released and has the richest colour of them all. The effect was quite lovely,

for bud bloomers are loath to lose their colour and these show no sign of it. I had it photographed, as I had never seen the like of it before.

David McClintock

B.G. (JACK) LONDON

Jack London, who died in 1993, was one of the Society's earliest members. He served on the Committee and later the Council for over 12 years, during which time he also undertook the job of Advertisement Manager of the Year Book.

He moved to High Wycombe in 1956 and created an impressive heather garden on the side of a chalk hill. His interest in heathers followed his ownership of the 'Heather Garden' by Fred Chapple and before the Society was formed he was in correspondence with the author, on the growing of *Erica ciliaris* and *E. cinerea* on chalk. This was the subject of an article in Amateur Gardening, written in August 1963 by our first President.

When he retired in 1978, Jack moved back to his beloved Norfolk with his wife Flo. Here he created another delightful garden, also open to public view but this time on acid soil. The public were suitably impressed and, in no time at all, Jack had created a flourishing local group.

Jack had two strong beliefs: 1. The hard pruning of heathers, no straggly plant was ever seen in his garden, and 2. That heather slides should have people in them for added interest. He showed many slides at the earlier Conferences.

A warm-hearted and friendly man - he went out of his way to welcome me to

the Society when I joined and later he made the effort to collect Fred Chapple from a committee meeting in London to meet me and see my own modest garden. A lovely gesture!

With the failing health, Jack and Flo were persuaded by their family to move nearer to them in North London, but they could not settle and they ended their days in Norfolk; his wife passing on shortly after Jack.

A J Stow

SCRAPBOWL

Snippets of News from Members

On November 22nd, with about 1 inch of snow on the ground, the brightest spot in my garden is a group of about five *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marleen' - standing up in full splendour, many inches above the snow. This bud-bloomer (or is it bud-flowerer?) is certainly worth growing. Also, as directed by most good authors, I have two groups of *Erica vagans* 'Valerie Proudley' growing in full sun, proudly (excuse the pun) showing off their golden foliage and sparse white flowers. I like the shrub so much and, as it doesn't always do, only to do as one is told, I have two more groups in a border at the foot of a north facing, four feet high, panel fence. Here, all the shrubs are more lime green in colour but the flowers show up more. I wonder - does 'Valerie Proudley' only flower sparsely, or does the brilliant golden foliage hide its many white flowers?

Norman Taylor - Zone 5

GESELLSCHAFT DE HEIDERFREUNDE IN YORKSHIRE

In April 1993 we received a letter from the Vice President of Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde (the German Heather Society) who were visiting Britain, to see some of the heather highlights of Scotland and Yorkshire. He was proposing to lead a party of 50 or more of his members during the week 15th - 20th August and asked for advice on an itinerary for a day-tour over the North York Moors. David Mayne, who lives in this area was able to make useful suggestions and to give advice on the suitability of the roads for large tourist coaches. After leaving Scotland (and their visit to Cherrybank) their Yorkshire base was to be the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate where, on their arrival on Monday 16th, they were welcomed by a reception committee of Diane and Bert Jones, Jean Sharpe and Albert Julian.

The next day they had an enjoyable run over the heather-clad North York Moors and on the following day went on to Leeds where they were joined at the Harry Ramsden Heather Garden in Golden Acre Park by Dr and Mrs J Griffiths, and Geoffrey and Jennifer Yates. Over lunch, they were persuaded to make an unscheduled stop on their way back to the hotel, to see the Society's *Calluna*, *carnea* and *darleyensis* collections at Harlow Carr; this visit terminated the official tour. For Thursday morning Jean had made arrangements for German-speaking guides to show the party around historic York and she joined them for the lunch she had organised, in

the attractive 'Kings Manor' - the York University refectory. After the President, Fritz Kircher, had expressed his gratitude for all our efforts, the party left for Hull to catch the evening ferry for Rotterdam.

Albert Julian - Vice President

ANSWERS TO MEMBERS' QUERIES

David Glue (Zone 6) wanted to make a Heather Lawn (Autumn 1993 Bulletin) and wondered if any members had tried it:

Donald Mackay, President of the North American Heather Society says - "The short answer is to stick heather clippings into the turf and then mow. Eventually the heather spreads and crowds out the grass. I have done it many times in two different locations, so I know it works". He says that the subject has been written up in one of the American publications in the past and he promises to send on any further information he can find.

Donald thinks that this method of spreading heathers is also the answer to the preservation of wild heather on heathland. Rather than fencing off heather patches, he advises mowing the area two or three times a year with a rotary mower.

Mr Jens Kjaerbøl from Denmark wanted to know other members' experiences of growing heather cuttings under light tubes (Autumn 1993 Bulletin).

Brita Johansson from Sweden says: Jens Kjaerbøl writes about propagation of heathers indoors under lights. I was

not clear whether he had actually propagated the *Callunas* or had only exposed the rooted cuttings to light.

I tried some years ago putting cuttings of *Calluna* under light-tubes in my work room. The cuttings were taken in late October. They were put 20cm below the light-tubes, which were on sixteen hours a day. Some cuttings rooted, but not all and before I could take them outside in the spring, they had grown into balls of weak mossy shoots. They turned to normal growth during the summer, but I did not find the method very successful and didn't repeat it.

A couple of years ago I visited a heather friend who had built an impressive piece of propagation equipment in a room in his basement. It was a stand on wheels (so that he could turn it around in a small room) with netting shelves. On the shelves were boxes containing cuttings and each box was enclosed in a white polythene bag - thus the humidity was 100%. Underneath the shelves were light-tubes of the type used for plants. He opened the boxes one after another and showed me his *Rhododendron* cuttings, all growing like mad! (This was in April). When he opened the last box and we looked in, I stared with wonder at a crowded heap of large, entangled balls inside. They were dark green, with a hint of blue-grey, a bit like the foliage of *Erica mackaiana* 'Shining Light'. They were hairy in a way that reminded me of a mould culture and, believe me, they looked quite threatening. I felt the creeping uneasiness you can experience when, in a science fiction film, you are uncertain whether what you are looking at is a plant or an animal. I hesitated to

reach out my hand and touch it for fear that it could attack me. I turned to my friend and asked "What on earth is this?" and can clearly remember the roar of laughter that followed his answer: These are my cuttings of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Silver Knight!'

Don Richards from Cumbria is the inventor of the 'Dewpoint Cabinet'. This is a heated, glass covered cabinet, which will hold 4 standard seed trays. Underneath the trays is a reservoir of water, through which air is pumped, thus keeping the cabinet high in humidity. Situated above the glass are two fluorescent light-tubes. (*My attempt at a description. Ed.*)

Don writes: "I am always involved in so many jobs that I never do anything properly, but I have of course, carried out a lot of experiments. Plenty of non-woody plants must have some sleep, but I have not found any woody plants or ferns that did not thrive in constant light. (I put that point to many colleges long ago but none of them had any useful comments.)

As Mr Kjaerbøl found, *Callunas* normally flower after about a month of constant light. Nowadays the only time I find for taking cuttings is the winter and for *Callunas* I use the tips (that need pruning anyway) and these have no flower initials. As a rule the cabinet is run at about 20 degrees Centigrade, with a rooting medium containing equal parts Perlite and peat and with a layer of Perlite over the surface of the compost. This last point is important as it increases the lighting by a factor of about four. A point to make is that strong sun can

damage foliage that is produced under artificial light and, coloured foliage cultivars do not colour until they are exposed to daylight".

Don Richards sold his interest in Dewpoint Cabinets to: Two Wests and Elliot Ltd., Sheepbridge Industrial Estate, Chesterfield, S41 9RH.

I hope Mr Kjaerbøl will have deduced some useful information from these two very interesting and very different letters, although I think that Brita's is enough to put him off for life. Please write Mr Kjaerbøl, and let us know how you are getting on. Ed.

NEW HEATHER CULTIVARS

At the 1993 Conference our Chairman gave members a fascinating talk about the problems caused by the large number of new heathers good, bad and indifferent, which are introduced and named each year. From the long list, he chose a few which he considered to be worthy new cultivars. For the benefit of members who did not attend the Conference, he has been prevailed upon to write up his talk for this Bulletin.

Most of us have been alarmed at the high number of new introductions that are made each year and from my work in acquiring new cultivars for the National Collections, I have found only a small percentage can be considered an improvement on existing cultivars. So why do these introductions happen and who are the culprits?

For the past few years I have been helping our Registrar, David McClintock, by recording heather names onto a computer. That work is nearly complete

and it is now easy to interrogate the database for a number of interesting facts.

New introductions over the past few years have been:

1989	57
1990	73
1991	32
1992	39

From the database, it is clear that a number of nurserymen are responsible. In general, the new cultivar may be distinct in the range being offered by the nurseryman in question but he has not bothered to find out whether similar cultivars exist. However, the nurseryman responsible for the largest number of introductions in the last five years is an exception. In fact, he is an exceptional man, none other than Kurt Kramer, the introductions being the fruits of his plant breeding programmes.

Having complained about the vast number of indifferent new cultivars, occasionally a little known nursery has introduced a really good cultivar. Often it takes years for this cultivar to find its way onto the general market. So here is my choice of some good new introductions from the past four years with some really good, but not so new cultivars that have yet to 'make it'.

	Date Introduced	Raiser
Winter whites		
<i>Erica carnea</i> 'Isabell'	1991	Kramer
'Ice Princess'	1993	Kramer
'Winter Snow'	1993	Kramer
Winter pinks		
<i>Erica carnea</i> 'Rosalie'	1990	Kramer
'Wintersonne'		
('Winter Sun')	1991	Kramer
Winter reds		
<i>Erica carnea</i> 'Nathalie'	1992	Kramer

	'Rotes Juwel'		
	('Red Jewel')	1991	Kramer
Foliage - yellows			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>			
	'Apollo'	1980	Anderson
<i>Erica carnea</i>	'Barry Sellers'	1989	Sellers
	'Bell's Extra Special'		
		1991	Kramer
	'Rosalinde Schorn'	1985	
		Zwijnenburg	
Foliage - reds			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>			
	'Amilto'	1982	Johansson
	'Red Carpet'	1975	Taylor
	'Sesam'	1988	Johansson
Foliage - spring tips			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>			
	'Kerstin'	1988	Johansson
	'Red Fred'	1979	Anderson
	'Reini'	1986	Huisman
<i>Erica vagans</i>	'Golden Triumph'	1982	
		Twin Acre	
Doubles			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>			
	'Dark Beauty'	1989	Hockert
	'Strawberry Delight'		
		1980	
		Cornish Garden Nurseries	
	'White Coral'	1990	Kramer
Bud-flowerers			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>			
	'Melanie'	1990	Kramer
	'Romina'	1990	Kramer
	'Alexandra'	1993	Kramer

* not yet available in the UK.

David Small

GROUP NEWS

NORTH EAST

Our Annual Show, which was held last September (my goodness that does seem a long time ago) was very successful, attracting 98 entries, all of which were a very good standard. I wish I could say the same of the weather - it was cold and wet! The overall winners were :- Maximum Points in Show - Bill Crow; Best Potted Heather - Eileen Anderson; Best in Classes 13, 14, 15, 16 - Dorothy Warner; Best Exhibit in Show - Dorothy Warner.

October 25th saw 20 members meeting for our AGM. The business section was fairly short, with Roy Nichols being returned as our

Chairman, Dorothy Warner as Secretary and Geoff Warner as Treasurer. The committee continue with Syd Courteney, Bill Crow, David and Rita Plumridge, and David and Mary Roberts. With this part of our meeting safely concluded, David Plumridge then entertained us with Walter Wornick's slides of heathers in America. We found these most interesting and later the evening was rounded off with a Faith Supper.

Now we are in 1994 and already we have some forward dates for your diary. The first event will be the Houghall Open Weekend which this year takes place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May, we do hope to see as many there as possible.

Saturday June 4th will be our outing to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. The coach will leave Ponteland at 9.00am returning at approximately 9.00pm. There will be a coffee stop at Jedburgh, but please bring a picnic lunch. The afternoon will be spent in the gardens, although anyone wishing to spend the time in Edinburgh is free to do so and this can easily be arranged. Everyone is free to make their own arrangements for tea before we leave at approximately 6.00pm. Costs are not available at this stage, but notification of this, and all the following events will be sent out nearer the time.

The Car-Outings, instituted last year, proved popular, so this year our first one will be to the garden of our members, David and Mary Roberts, at Middle Holding, Ogle, Ponteland, on July 10th. This is also the day their garden is open for the Red Cross, but we have been kindly invited to meet there with our picnic lunch. The gardens will be open at 2.00pm and there will be teas with home-made scones and cakes served during the afternoon. Any member who hasn't seen this garden has missed a treat - so do come.

On Wednesday, August 17th, the second Car-outing will be to fellow member Bill Crow's Nursery at Scots Gap; meeting there at 7.00pm, when we look forward to seeing as many as possible.

Our final event will be the Annual Show, held on Sunday September 18th. This year it will be held at the Northumberland College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Kirkley Hall, Ponteland. Full details, including a schedule will be sent at a future date. In the meantime

PLEASE put all these dates on your calendar now, in readiness for an enjoyable social summer.

May 7th-8th - Houghall open weekend.
June 4th - Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. July 10th - Car-Outing to David and Mary Roberts, Ogle. August 17th - Car-Outing to Bill Crow's Nursery, Scots Gap. September 18th - Annual Show, Kirkley Hall.

Dorothy M Warner

SOUTHERN

On Sunday September 26th 1993, 16 members visited Merrist Wood College of Agriculture and Horticulture, which is set in the beautiful Surrey countryside near to Guildford. The month turned out to be the wettest September in the South East since 1976 and our visit was favoured with a few gentle showers. I am glad to say that these in no way spoilt our visit - for one thing we were never far from shelter. Our tour was led by Mr John Whitehead, head of the Trees Department and included parts of the lovely grounds, the college, the nursery and the college shop.

Merrist Wood College was founded in 1945 by the Surrey County Council and occupied Merrist Wood Hall and its estate. The Hall was designed and built in 1877 by the architect Norman Shaw RA. We were privileged to see the main hall which is built in the Tudor style, with many soaring roof beams and a fine window. The college has, over the years, acquired new buildings and now has facilities for 400 students. Part-time and leisure courses are offered.

Some of the trees on the Estate date from 1877, including a *Wellingtonia Sequoiadendron giganteum*. This tree is 94 feet high and 21 ft - 9 ins in circumference, but Mr Whitehead said that it is nevertheless tiny by comparison with those growing wild in their native California. There were other examples of rare and unusual trees of which Mr Whitehead was justifiably proud.

The heather garden contained a number of familiar cultivars. Merrist Wood is near to Bagshot and the main underlying stratum is Bagshot sand - i.e. the same as at Wisley and the Valley Gardens, Windsor. Hence the soil is basically light and acid. Ideal for heather!

The College has some stock-beds which are being redeveloped, with black polythene surrounding the individual clumps of heather - less picturesque, but more practical. It has a good line in related species including *Cassiope*,

Andromeda and *Phyllodoce*, though regrettably specimens of these were not for sale. We saw well equipped glasshouses, where heathers and other plants are rooted and grown on.

One interesting teaching practice at the College is that each third-year student is asked to specialise in a given subject. Most years one such subject is 'heather', though the student may choose to deal with promotional or commercial aspects rather than horticultural ones. Naturally we said that we would offer any facility we could to the heather specialist if so desired.

The college teaches Commercial Practice - so important a subject in modern times. As an expression of this there is a college Garden Centre and it was opened especially for us.

We had a good day if not a fine one and after thanking Mr Whitehead for an excellent tour we said our farewells until another year.

PROGRAMME FOR 1994

Saturday April 9th 1994 - An event in Cheam.

Joan and I invite members to visit us at our home - 18 Albury Avenue, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. Arrive any time after 12.30pm; we propose to arrange a buffet lunch, starting at 1pm approximately. Although not essential, it would assist catering if you could let us know you are coming. Cheam is situated within easy access of the M25 motorway (leave at Leatherhead or Wisley junctions) and the A3, A24 and A217 roads. Albury Avenue is off the A232 Sutton - Ewell road, about a mile south west from Cheam Village. It is on the right hand side of the main road when coming from Cheam. Look out for St Paul's Church, Howell Road, which is prominent on the left hand side of the road, by a roundabout. Albury Avenue is the next turning on the right, about 50 yards on. The winter heathers should still be out.

Saturday June 25th - Joint Visit with the South Western Group.

Saturday 25th June at 1.45pm for a 2 o'clock start, there will be a visit, with the South West Group, to the Windlesham Court Nursery. The Manager, Mr Alan Needs, will be showing us round and as Mr John Hall, General Manager, has kindly offered to provide some refreshments afterwards, it would be helpful to know how many will be attending. Please let me know a week beforehand if you intend to come. It is ten years since the Society paid a visit to this

famous wholesale heather nursery and this could provide another memorable occasion.

The nursery is situated on the A30 London Road, near to the villages of Windlesham and Sunningdale, about a mile and a half south-west of Sunningdale Station. It is right on the border between the Southern Group and the South Western Groups.

Future Events:

Sunday August 14th - Garden Visit to Champs Hill, Pulborough. Saturday October 1st - Indoor Event, Wisley

A Newsletter, complete with sketch-maps of the venues is available. Please send stamped addressed envelope if you would like a copy.

I would be glad to hear from any member who would like to suggest visits or activities for 1996. An embryonic programme is taking shape for 1995 but suggestions are welcome for that programme.

All good wishes

Allen Hall Tel. 081 393 6380

SOUTH WEST

As I write these notes, during the first week in January, we have experienced a very wet winter so far, with at least 10 inches of rain since the beginning of December. Fortunately my garden drains fairly well and the heathers are not left standing with their feet in water, so the plants are looking well - with at least three *Erica x darleyensis* well in flower. Anyway, we are now at that time of year when thoughts of the coming season of meetings should be in our mind - so please find below details of some of those events.

Saturday 26th March. Members should meet at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall at 2pm. Diane Jones, who gave us a talk some years ago, will be returning to talk on 'Heather Garden Design'. Diane, together with her husband Bert, own Otter's Court Heathers near Yeovilton and specialise in growing winter flowering heaths. Many members will remember the visits we have made in the past to Bert and Diane's garden and nursery. After the talk there will be refreshments and the judging of the annual, two class, Table Show. The classes are as follows:

Class 1. A vase or bowl of heathers in bloom.
Class 2. A vase or bowl of heathers shown for foliage effect.

Members may enter more than one entry in

each class but only the highest placed entry will count towards the award of the Burfitt Bowl. The Burfitt Bowl, currently held by Jennifer Turrell, will be awarded to the member with the most points overall. Prizes will be awarded to members for the first three placings in each class. Lytchett Matravers is situated 6 miles from Poole and 1 mile west of the Poole - Blandford Road. The Village Hall is on the west side of the High Street, just north of the Rose and Crown Inn. Ample parking is available and there will be a charge to cover expenses.

Saturday 4th June Members should gather at 2pm, at 'Spinners', the garden of Mr and Mrs Peter Chappell at Boldre in the new Forest. The garden is well known for a large range of hardy plants, some of which are uncommon and indeed rare. There is a nursery attached and selling many of the plants seen in the garden.

'Spinners' is reached by turning east for Boldre off the A337 Brockenhurst - Lymington road, it is situated between Boldre and Pilley.

Later in the afternoon we will move on to No. 2 Anderwood Drive in Sway, to visit the garden of Phyllis Kennedy, where we will have refreshment. Many members will remember the visits we have made to Phyllis's garden and the warm welcome we always receive there. Sway is also in the New Forest and is about 3 miles west of Boldre. It is reached by turning west off the A337 Brockenhurst - Lymington Road.

Saturday 25th June

Joint visit with the Southern Group to Windlesham Court, the famous wholesale heather nursery. Allen Hall, the Southern Group Organiser has arranged this visit and we are requested to assemble at the nursery at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Please see the Southern Group news for details.

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July

This is the weekend of the Southampton Balloon and Flower Festival on the Southampton Common. It is hoped that the local group will have the usual stand in the Horticultural Marquees and I am looking for volunteers to man the stand. Please get in touch if you are able to help.

Future Events:

Saturday 16th July - Garden visit to 'Ashtree Cottage', Kilmington Common, (near Stourhead). Saturday 17th September - Garden

visit to 'Sticky Wicket', Buckland Newton in Dorset.

Phil Joyner

NEW MEMBERS IN 1993

ZONE 1

MR A P MUNRO, Ashfield House, Garmouth, Fochabers, Morayshire, IV32 7NN.
MR & MRS B K AIRTON, Hillcroft, 13 Glendevon Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 6YN.
MR D B RAE, 15 Gartcows Crescent, Falkirk, FK1 5QH.
MR D McNAB, Rankeillour, Craigmyle Road, Torphins, Aberdeenshire, AB31 4HP.
MR I P SMITH, Earnook, 3 Hamilton Crescent, Elgin, Moray, IV30 2NW.

ZONE 2

DAISY HILL NURSERIES LTD., Hospital Road, Newry, Co. Down, N. Ireland, BT35 8PN.
MR. J BRENNAN, Kajon House, Creevagh, Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, Rep. of Ireland.
MR. N.A. HARRIS, St. Judes, Coolyhune, Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny, Rep. of Ireland.
MR L DORAN, Doran Nurseries, Timahoe, Donadea, Naas, Co. Kildare, Rep. of Ireland

ZONE 3

MR E SPENCELAYH, 19 Thorntree Gardens, Middleton-St-George, Darlington, DL2 1LG.

ZONE 4

MR J BIRMINGHAM, 26 Greenhead Avenue, Blackburn, Lancs., BB1 5PR

ZONE 5

MR K ELLIS, 32 Yews Lane, Kendray, Barnsley, S. Yorks, S70 3LJ.
MR G DAVIES, 3 Saxon Street, Cudworth, Barnsley, S. Yorks, S72 8LF.
MRS W M WALLACE, 5 Spring Bank Meadow, Ripon, N. Yorks, HG4 1HQ.
MR P H SMALE, 2A Hillcrest Rise, Leeds, W. Yorks, LS16 7DL.
MRS C E JONES, 5 Inglewood, Darton, Barnsley, S. Yorks. S75 5NY.
McCOWAN MR & MRS M, 21 Heaton Gardens, Paddock, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD1 4JA.

ZONE 6

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MRS D DANERI, 11 Pinecrest Drive, Fortuna, CA 95540, USA.

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MR F CLINTON, Pioneer Inn, Box 699, Port Hardy, B.C. Canada, VON 2P0.

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ZONE 4

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ZONE 6

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ZONE 11

MRS A J DARTON, Heather Bank, Bracken Lane, Storrington, W. Sussex, RH20 3HR.

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RESIGNATIONS

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MR D W WILLIAMSON, T & W Christie (Forres) Ltd., The Nurseries, Forres, Moray, IV36 0EA.

ZONE 4

MRS M E MANSFIELD, 17 Crag Avenue, Summerseat, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 5NZ.
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ZONE 7

MRS A P BARNETT, The Owls, Crumpsbrook, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY14 0HR.

ZONE 8

MRS J JONES, Gors Farm, St. Clears, Swansea, SA33 4AX

ZONE 9

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WING CMDR J S JOHNSON, 4 Ladythorn Avenue, Marple, Cheshire, SK6 7DR

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DIARY OF EVENTS

- 26 March** South West Group, Heather Competitions, Lytchett Matravers.
- 9 April** Southern Group, 'At Home' Joan & Allen Hall.
- 7/8 May** North East Group, Houghall Open Weekend.
- 15 May** CLOSING DATE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE BULLETIN
- 4 June** South West Group, Garden visit 'Spinners'.
- 4 June** North East Group, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.
- 25 June** Joint visit - Southern & South West Groups to Windlesham Court Nurseries
- 2/3 July** South West Group, Southampton Balloon & Flower Festival.
- 10 July** North East Group, Garden visit, Middle Holding, Ogle.
- 16 July** South West Group, Garden visit 'Ashtree Cottage'.