

Bulletin of The Heather Society



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Vol. 5 No. 10

Spring 1997

DIARY OF EVENTS 1997

15 March	Yorkshire Group	Inaugural Meeting at Harlow Carr
27 March	South West Group	ROADSHOW at Harold Hillier Aboretum
5 April	South West Group	Annual Indoor Meeting
5 April	Southern Group	Joint meeting with South West Group
24-27 April	North East Group	Harrogate Spring Flower Show
10 May	North East Group	Annual Outing to Floors Castle, Kelso
11 May	Southern Group	Garden Visit - Beauchamp

15 May **CLOSING DATE FOR SUMMER BULLETIN**

7 June	South West Group	Stourton House, Mere, Wilts
7 June	North East Group	Car Outing to Howick Hall, Craster
14 June	Yorkshire Group	To be decided
5-6 July	South West Group	To be decided
16 July	North East Group	Car Outing to Bill Crow's Nursery
19 July	South West Group	Two-garden visit
20 July	Southern Group	Bodiam Nursery
16 August	Southern Group	Thursley Common

5-8 September **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

13 September	Yorkshire Group	Talk on Cape Heaths
13 September	North East Group	Annual Show - Ponteland
20 September	Southern Group	RHS Wisley
31 October	North East Group	A.G.M.



A Registered Charity No. 261407

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Cover illustration *Erica carnea* by Brita Johansson

The Heather Society is now on the Internet! (See the message from the Chairman). How the world has changed since 1963 when the Society was born. Looking in my encyclopedia I see that, by coincidence, 1963 was the year that the first minicomputer was developed - before that time I understand they practically filled a room - and the first electronic calculator was developed (how on earth would I manage to do my VAT returns without one of those?). Now practically every household has its own computer and many parents are having to learn from their seven year olds how to use them. What would Sir John Charrington make of it all?

27th Annual Conference 5 - 8th September 1997 Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Cumbria

Programme

Friday. 5th September

- 4.00 pm Registration and Tea
- 6.15 pm Bar Open
- 7.00 pm Dinner
- 8.30 pm Conference opened by our Chairman, followed by guest speaker Andrew Humphries, giving an illustrated talk on the scenery of Cumbria.
- 9.30 pm Bar open.

Saturday. 6th September

- 8.00 am Breakfast.
- 9.15 am Visit by coach to Lingholm, near Keswick, the garden of Viscount Rochdale, to see a recent planting of heathers. Coffee stop to be arranged.
- On to Holehird near Windermere, the garden of the Northern Horticultural Society to visit a Heather garden planted under the direction of Heather Society Member, John Larking. A talk on Holehird and the Heather Garden will be arranged.
- Lunch will be at Holehird.
- 3.30 pm Return to Newton Rigg via Ullswater

6.15 pm Bar open
 7.00 pm Dinner
 8.30 pm AGM
 9.30 pm Bar open

Sunday. 7th September

8.30 pm Breakfast.
 9.15 am All day workshop on propagation with talks, demonstrations and 'hands on' sessions. Coffee and lunch will be at Newton Rigg. Alternative to the workshop will be a mini-coach visit to Don Richard's garden in Eskdale with a pub lunch. This visit will only be for the sure of foot.
 6.15 pm Bar open.
 7.00 pm Dinner.
 8.30 pm Open Forum followed by the closing of the Conference by our Chairman.

Monday. 8th September

8.00 am Breakfast
 9.30 am Depart Newton Rigg

The above programme may be subject to some minor adjustment. It would be useful if when booking members could indicate their preference for the Sunday, bearing in mind that there will be a restriction on the size of the coach going to Eskdale and numbers may have to be limited. Members will note that there has been a departure from the normal timing for the AGM, which has been arranged for the Saturday evening to allow for a possible overrun of business. The timing of the group photograph will be announced at the Conference

Cost of the Conference

Residents for the whole weekend	£130.00
Non-residents, per day	£ 33.00
Friday evening (includes dinner)	£ 11.00

All accommodation will be en-suite single rooms. The day visitor rate includes coffee, lunch, dinners, speaker fees and coach costs where applicable. A quotation can be provided for other options - e.g. leaving Sunday evening

Bookings may now be made by sending £2 (per mailing) to Phil Joyner, 84 Kinross Road, Rushington Manor, Totton, Southampton, SO40 9BN. Cheques should be made payable to *The Heather Society*, the booking fee is non-returnable and is not a deposit on the cost of the Conference. Full payment for the Conference should be made by 31st July 1997 at the latest. Members are reminded that payment by VISA or MASTERCARD credit cards is acceptable.

In Memory of Pat

On 25th October 1996, a large congregation gathered at the Garrison Church of St. Michael and St. George at Aldershot, for a Service in memory of Major General Patrick (Pat) George Turpin CB. OBE. MA. Pat's wife Cherry, daughter Annabel, and son Richard attended. Members of the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment, with which Pat had connections during his career, were on duty outside and inside the Church. The Heather Society was well represented, with about twenty six members attending, including our President, a Vice President (all the way from York), the Chairman and Secretary, also representatives from Wisley.

Music by Handel and Bach, followed by 'Nimrod' from Elgar's Enigma Variations, was a prelude to the service, which commenced with The Bidding from the Reverend V Vasey OBE, CF(RC) Senior RC Chaplain 4 Division. Three hymns were sung including 'Bless'd are the Pure in Heart', which Cherry told us later was sung at their wedding - providing a memory of their long married life. The reading was given by their son.

Major General P F Claxton CB, OBE spoke of Pat - the man - kind, a little shy, a stickler for high standards in himself and in others, but with a sense of humour, and of his army career, ending with the rank of Major General; his achievements over the years make one feel rather humble. In retirement, gardening was his interest, especially growing heathers.

The service ended with the Blessing 'Go forth into the world in peace' then the congregation stood while the Regimental March 'Wait for the Wagon' was played on the organ, a very rousing tune, which was in marked contrast to the lone piper who was playing outside.

Tea was served in the Officers' Mess at Buller Barracks, where we were greeted by Cherry, who was wearing a sprig of *Erica x stuartii* 'Pat Turpin' - how fitting that it should be in full bloom.

Later, as we travelled home through the beginning of the rush-hour traffic, our thoughts were still back in the serenity of the Garrison Church, remembering Pat and the privilege it was to have known him.

Desmond and Sybil Perry

From the Chairman

New Group Organisers

May I extend a heartfelt welcome to two new Group Organisers. John Griffiths is heading a Committee which is going to run the new Yorkshire Group based on Harlow Carr, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Also, following our Treasurer's move to Leicestershire, David Sprague has kindly agreed to head a Committee which will run the highly successful Southern Group.

We can never have enough Local Groups and the reason we do not have more is the old, old story that no-one is willing to organise them. I am sure that I am speaking for everyone in the Society in wishing all Group Organisers

and their Committees every success in planning local events and assuring them of the support of Council.

Are there any other budding Local Group organisers out there? We would love to hear from you.

P.S. Just a little reminder that you are always welcome to attend any Group Meeting if you are in the area. [Ed]

The Society and the Internet

The Council is always looking at ways of advertising the Society to recruit new members whilst at the same time providing up-to-date information for members. Council is also very conscious that we are not recruiting younger members. As a result, Council have decided to offer a web site on the Internet which can be accessed by 30 million people worldwide.

Our home page (as it is called) provides a mass of information on the heather family, their distribution and hardiness, planting and aftercare, propagation, Cape heaths, the index to the 1997 *Yearbook*, Diary of Events, affiliated Societies, the 1997 Conference, Registration of heather names and details on how to join of course. All of these features will be constantly updated so it will prove a useful extra to existing members who can access the net.

Perhaps the most important feature, however, is that a version of the *Handy Guide to Heathers* is available listing over 1000 cultivars together with over 100 pictures to date! Although up-to-date, it is a limited version of the *Handy Guide to Heathers* as we only plan to list cultivars which are available from nurseries who subscribe. We are offering to list any heather nursery catalogue on the net for £10/annum. Any nursery wishing to do this should contact our Advertising Manager, Arnold Stow (see details on inside back cover).

So why not visit our home page at:- <http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/heather/> and if you wish to email us on any topic you can do so at:- heathers@zetnet.co.uk

David Small- Chairman

Rose On The Lizard

It was time to attend the annual conference of *The Heather Society*, but it's about 6,500 miles from my home in California to Dillington House in Ilminster, England - a bit far for the week-end.

Having heard wonderful accounts of *Erica vagans* and *Erica ciliaris* growing in Cornwall, I decided to explore the area for a day or two. Membership of *The Heather Society* carries with it the special privilege of knowing the experts on Ericas. When David Small heard about my quest, he quickly acted to find a botanist in the area who might be of assistance. It was really no problem at all! David called David McClintock, who knew of someone, but had no telephone number. He called Pamela Lee, who produced the number, conveyed it back to David McClintock, who in turn made the

contact, relayed the word back to David Small, with instructions that the botanist requested survey maps to accompany the visitor (c'est moi). David Small knew that my first contact point in England would be the home of Bert Jones. David called Bert, who magically produced the maps, and was then given the contact instructions for me to follow when I arrived. So, you see, it was all really quite simple!

After a few more phone calls, it was arranged that I would drive the botanist, who would navigate us into the land of *Erica vagans*. Diane Jones wisely gave me the route to follow, suggesting that once on the A30, I would simply go, and go, and go. And go, and go I did, remembering Bert's advice, that if I reached a large stone wall, with plenty of water beyond, I should stop and turn around. Rose Murphy's explicit instructions easily led me to her home, Shang-ri-la in Reskadinnick.

Stella Turk was busy at her computer, compiling a species list for the Cornish Biological Records Unit. The system has a heather connection. ERICA, as it is fondly addressed, is an acronym for Environmental Recording In Cornwall Automated. Stella's husband, Dr. F. A. Turk started centralizing Cornwall's records a quarter of a century ago, before any thoughts of computerization. While Stella concentrates on many aspects of the zoology of Cornwall, Rose has dedicated most of her life to becoming one of the foremost experts on the Cornish flora.

After a welcome morning coffee in the exquisite garden of fern, mosses, sink gardens, and rooms catacombed with botany books, it was difficult to leave. The facade of innocence and timelessness was cloaking a powerful brain pool, with Stella, Rose and ERICA contributing immensely to preserving the records of the biological tapestry of Cornwall.

A modern-day cloning of Don Quixote's windmills led me into Cornwall. His fantasies were child's play compared to this sea of speeding propellers and colossal towers, frantically creating electricity. Keeping the pace on the A30, further and further away from London and yesterday, I wondered how any ancient landscape could have survived this century.

Many plants in my garden bear such names as 'Truro', 'Mousehole', 'Godrevy', 'Gwavas', 'St. Keverne', etc. Now the road signs lured me to visit these very real places en route to the Lizard. The road leads through Helston and past the H.M.S. Seahawk installation. Farms, towns and pavement covered the landscape. Periodically a familiar haze of lavender brought hope from the horizon. There were several fields of mixed gorse, *Calluna* and *Erica cinerea*. If they had survived, was it possible...

The Cornish Heath, *Erica vagans*, was first reported in 1667 when Ray made an excursion to Cornwall and the Lizard. His reference: "Juniper or Firre-leaved heath, with many flowers. By the way-side going from Helston to the Lizard-point in Cornwall, plentifully." Many accounts followed, particularly during the nineteenth century. P.D. Williams of Lanarth was one of the first to record varieties of *E. vagans*, and in October, 1909 he collected the variety which would ultimately be named 'St. Keverne'. (1)

D. F. Maxwell and his wife found two cultivars at the Lizard, 'Mrs. D. F. Maxwell', named after his wife, and 'Lyonesse', which he named "after the strip of land which, fable relates, once existed between the southern coast of

Cornwall and the Scilly Isles". Each has received an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society, in 1925 and 1928 respectively. Today, along with 'St. Keverne', they are still considered to be the most outstanding cultivars of *E. vagans*. (2)

The lure of pink was suddenly at the roadside edge, and the flowers much brighter and larger than I'd observed earlier. We were surrounded by fields of *Erica vagans*. At Kynance Cove we turned the car and drove slowly to the National Trust parking area. It was comforting to know the National Trust has taken action to protect this botanical treasure.

Rose had manoeuvred us into position, keeping her eye on the maps and thinking ahead for the next move. She took a moment to check the soles of my well-researched new tramping boots, muttering something about the inadequacy of the tread, as exposed serpentine is very slippery. She concluded that she would have to go slowly lest we have an American tragedy (not too great a loss I surmised). Then she took off like a bloodhound. Snapping the camera all the way, I kept the pace (thank heaven, as I'm probably about thirty years younger than Rose, and no kid myself). We were in search of the rare *Erica x williamsii*.

The first hybrid of *Erica x williamsii* was found about 1860 near Goonhilly Downs by Richard Davey MP of Bochym Manor. It was his nephew P.D. Williams who rediscovered it in 1909. Several new discoveries have taken place since that time. (3)

The first observation of the Kynance Cove hybrid was made on August 20, 1975 by Dr. A. Leslie and Mr. R. H. W. Bradshaw, at Lizard Downs. The plant was observed to be over 2 m across and competing with gorse, grasses and Cornish Heath (*Erica vagans*). (4)

On September 5, 1996, I observed no gorse growing within the plants, although the Cornish Heath did grow into the southern exposure of the plants. The other parent, *Erica tetralix*, was growing to the east of the hybrid. *Erica x williamsii* was in perfect bloom, appearing to be two plants. The hybrid is growing in a slight depression, giving rise to the suggestion that nature was able to use this mixing bowl to play with the *Erica tetralix* pollen until the mutation took place. The rediscovery was followed by a short celebration at the local pub, after which time a very fine birdseye-serpentine bowl distracted us and delayed our afternoon departure to search for *Erica x watsonii*.

Our travels took us northeast toward Truro, and the spotting of a fine field of *Erica ciliaris*, completely surrounded by farmland. *Erica ciliaris*, was undiscovered in England until 1828.(5)

As quickly as our expedition had begun, our time had run out. I felt that Rose had been on hundreds of similar outings, but her excitement and enthusiasm were as great as my own. We returned to Shang-ri-la where Stella had a lovely cup of tea and cakes waiting. After a brief reflection on a perfect day in the life, I bade farewell and headed back to The Lizard.

Housel Bay proved to be a perfect place to find solitude and ponder this day, spent following in the steps of so many who have botanized this area. Their immense contributions to the pleasure gardens of today are highly praised.

The following day I tacked my way northeast, realizing that I needed a

month on The Lizard. It had been a great joy to see what is thought to be one of only eight sites of *Erica x williamsii* existing on the planet. Rose, our expedition remains unfinished. Where is *Erica x watsonii*?

Reference: (1-5) Cornish Studies, Journal Of The Institute Of Cornish Studies, Natural Sciences, P. G. Turpin, Pgs. 5-8, 1982

Acknowledgements: To David Small, Chairman, The Heather Society; David McClintock, President, The Heather Society; Pamela Lee, Secretary, The Heather Society; Diane Jones, Council member, The Heather Society; Bert Jones, International Registrar, The Heather Society, and special gratitude to Rose Murphy, botany expert on Cornwall.

Dee Daneri - California USA

Heathers May be Dangerous to your Health!

Last autumn, a few weeks after the Propagation Workshop at Denbeigh Heathers, when David Small judged the 'competition' for propagating heathers, Pam and I came joint second with Lynn Joyner, Allen Hall and David Sprague. Thank you David for so tactfully avoiding strife in the Millis household by judging us both second. We definitely had a large measure of beginners' luck and little did we realise that that was the easy part.

We proudly bore our trays home and then it dawned on us that we now required over 500 pots and space to put those pots once we had lovingly transplanted our cuttings - help! A visit to our local garden centre solved the first problem, they sold us the pots at trade price, now all we had to do was pop the cuttings into them. Vast quantities of ericaceous compost and perlite were then obtained; we were now ready for the next stage.

The next two weeks were taken up with potting, all other arrangements were cancelled so that we could complete this task! We developed a routine - I mixed the compost and perlite in a large bucket, Pam filled the pots and I planted the cuttings. Thirteen at a time were completed then they were watered and stood on the lawn while the next batch were filled and the process repeated until we had approximately 270 pots neatly lined up. We then had to transfer the whole lot to a shady area at the end of the garden. Of course, by this time it was dark, so Pam held the torch while I transferred the pots by the trayful.

I was doing well, the pots were arranged around three sides of the greenhouse, and I was on the last trayful of the evening. I carefully manoeuvred between a hedge and the greenhouse, a gap of about three feet, and then I tripped - fell headlong into the hedge - and banged my head on the propane gas cylinder (used for greenhouse heating). I was dazed, but fortunately the heathers were all right! I had a large bump above my left eyebrow and over the next few days developed a wonderful black eye, but happily sustained no lasting damage.

The next weekend we repeated the whole process - minus the fall. Now we await the results with interest; with any luck we will be able to start our own mini -nursery!

I should like to take this opportunity to thank David and Anne Small for

such a rewarding day last July; it was a lot of fun and has certainly given us plenty to occupy those spare moments. I should also like to thank all members of the Heather Society who have made us so welcome, we have enjoyed all the events in which we have participated and look forward to many more.

Derek Millis - Zone 10

Erica manipuliflora 'Aldeburgh'

During my visit to Denbeigh in July for the Propagation Workshop, I noticed plants of *Erica manipuliflora* 'Aldeburgh'. Since I live quite close to the town of Aldeburgh, I asked David Small if he knew the origin of the name. He told me of a visit that the then Eastern Group had made to Aldeburgh and promised to find out more. This he did and discovered that the Eastern Group visited Mr & Mrs Bacon at Cragg Pitt House, Aldeburgh in the summer of 1974.

He recalls being asked, along with Jack London, to visit the next door neighbour to identify a heather in their back garden. He was confronted with a small neatly clipped hedge about 5 feet high. The plants certainly looked like heather and the few flowers looked like *Erica vagans* but the leaves were much shorter. He could only guess that it was either *Erica manipuliflora* or *Erica multiflora*. Cuttings were taken and the species was eventually identified by David McClintock as *Erica manipuliflora*.

Despite a few enquiries made by Jack London, the origin of the plants remained a mystery. As other clones of *Erica manipuliflora* became available, it became necessary to name this clone and so it became 'Aldeburgh'.

Although the trail was cold, I thought for my own interest, I would investigate. Mr & Mrs Bacon had just gone through the trauma of being burgled and being rather of a frail nature are now in the Abbey Nursing Home here in Leiston and Crag Pitt House is now up for sale. David Small recalled that the neighbour lived to the right of Crag Pitt House. This turned out to be a house named 'Talltrees' owned in 1974 by a Mr & Mrs Biggar who were there from 1971 to 1976. Mrs. Biggar lost her husband, married again and has since lost her second husband. Mrs. Biggar sold out to the present owners, a Mr & Mrs Parsons.

I visited the Parsons at 'Talltrees' and they told me that for the first year or so they only used the house as a holiday home, during which time Notcutts had redesigned the garden, ripping out everything and so, sadly, *Erica manipuliflora* 'Aldeburgh' was destroyed.

I also visited Mrs Biggar, now Mrs Barnard through her second marriage and asked her if she knew how long the heather had been there and she said that she had planted it herself. However, for the first year or so she obtained 'bits and pieces' from here, there and everywhere and could not remember where she obtained the heather. So, sadly, we have come to the end of the trail.

Mrs Barnard was so pleased I had called and thrilled to know that the heather had been called 'Aldeburgh'. I told her that I had obtained one of its offspring (as part of the Propagation Workshop) and hope to present her with one or two as she has no heathers in her garden.

John Collyer, Suffolk

Are there any Retail Heather Nurseries Left?

Following my plea for catalogues in the last Bulletin, so that I can make the next edition of the *Handy Guide* to Heathers as comprehensive as possible, I have only received one and that was from abroad! Surely, a free listing in the book is worth having? Please send a listing, if you have no catalogue, and your trading terms (retail, wholesale, mail order, export) to: David Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creeting St. Mary, Ipswich, IP6 8PJ.

From the Registrar

Calluna vulgaris 'Marleen' was collected by Dr Ir. T. Visser on the Ginkelse Heide, near Arnhem, in the Netherlands. It is approximately 30 cm tall, the foliage is mid-green [RHS 137C] with a dark red tinge. The buds, which never open, start with H4 lilac bases and H10 purple tips. Later they become H3 lavender [RHS 84C]. They show their colour from September to November. The plant was introduced by Fa. W. Haalboom & Zonen of Driebergen, Netherlands in 1972.

Five sports from *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marleen' have been named. They are:-

1. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Redbud', which was introduced by H. Hoekert of Oldebroek, Netherlands at the Plantarium exhibition at Boskoop, Netherlands in 1988. This name has also been used erroneously for *Calluna vulgaris* 'Rose Bud'. Furthermore *Calluna vulgaris* 'Red Bird', which was published by Pépinières Dauguetin in their 1996 catalogue, is almost certainly in error for *Calluna vulgaris* 'Redbud'.

2. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Roswitha', which was found by L. Meurs of Bedburg-Hau, Germany by 1990 and introduced by Kurt Kramer in 1991. This plant was granted Plant Breeders' Rights by Bundessortenamt, the German statutory plant registration authority, on 20th February 1992. This cultivar was originally called *Calluna vulgaris* 'Rote Marleen'.

3. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marlies', which was found by H. Tüber of Gescher, Südlohner Dam, Hamburg, Germany by 1991 and introduced by Bundengartenschan, Dortmund Germany.

4. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Lydia', which was found at Wardenburg, Germany by H. Wordtmann, who applied to Bundessortenamt for Plant Breeders' Rights on 28th October 1993.

5. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marianne', which was found by J. van der Schaaf of Geldern, Netherlands, who also applied to Bundessortenamt for Plant Breeders' Rights, a few days later, on 10th November 1993.

A cynic may be tempted to wonder whether access to the lucrative Continental pot plant market may be more important than introducing a new cultivar that is distinctly different to the rest.

It seems logical to inquire whether the same mutation has occurred on a number of occasions. That question was implicitly asked about 'Redbud', 'Roswitha' and 'Marlies' in the *Year Book of the Heather Society*, 1992, 3(10): 63.

In that article it also suggested the similarity of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Plantarium'.

This is a red herring. This cultivar is another bud-bloomer that was also found by H. Hoekert. Furthermore, he introduced it, like *Calluna vulgaris* 'Redbud', at Plantarium. However, it has no place here. It was sport on *Calluna vulgaris* 'David Eason'. Dissection shows that, like 'David Eason', it has both style and anthers. It is thus an example of *Calluna vulgaris* f. *diplocalyx* subf. *hermaphrodita*. All the other cultivars that have been dissected have no stamens and are thus the female f. *diplocalyx*.

I have been enabled to comment on these cultivars as a result of the generosity of Cherrybank Gardens, our member M. Letellier, and our Chairman David Small, who have all supplied me with material. It seems that:-

1. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Redbud' is approximately 25 cm tall. The sample from Cherrybank showed the foliage to be RHS 141C, while that from France was RHS 146B. These are very similar, and I would describe both as light green, rather than the dark green, as stated in **Handy Guide to Heathers**. The buds are H9 beetroot at first, but darken to H13 crimson [RHS 71C] as the season progresses. They show their colour from September to November.

2. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Roswitha' is about 40 cm tall, with mid-green, RHS 137B foliage. The buds first show colour as H2 mauve, but deepen to H1 amethyst [RHS 78B]. They show their colour from November to January.

3. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marlies' is 30 to 35 cm tall, with dark green, RHS 147A foliage. Late in the season the buds are H13 crimson [RHS 71B], and colour is present from September to December.

There are clear differences in flower and foliage colour, height, and blooming period for these three plants. They must be regarded as three distinct cultivars. Unfortunately, no details are available for *Calluna vulgaris* 'Lydia' and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marianne'. At present, they are regarded as NOT ESTABLISHED. However, if they are granted Plant Breeders' Rights, Art. 22.2 of **ICNCP- 1995** states that they must be accepted. Should they prove to be identical with any of the three cultivars discussed above, then that cultivar will be relegated to a synonym, and therefore REJECTED. This may seem unjust, but it is one instance where the rule of priority does not apply.

These observations may be summarised as follows.

'Lydia'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	NOT ESTABLISHED
'Marianne'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	NOT ESTABLISHED
'Marleen'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	ACCEPTED
'Marlies'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	ACCEPTED
'Plantarium'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	ACCEPTED
'Red Bird'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	REJECTED
'Redbud'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	ACCEPTED
'Roswitha'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	ACCEPTED
'Rote Marleen'	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	REJECTED

Scrap Bowl

Snippets of Information from Members

Yet Another "Nomenclatural Change"?

I believe it was William Beijerinck who coined the phrase "bud-flowers" in his magisterial volume *Calluna: A Monograph on the Scotch Heather*¹. Despite the German equivalent being "knospenblüher", a sharp reprimand awaited anyone who called them "bud-bloomers" within earshot of our late Chairman, Maj.-Gen. Turpin. Now I must assume even this term has become acceptable since its appearance in as august an organ as *The Garden*².

Bert Jones

Heather Rejuvenation

In my notes on Moorland Management in the Autumn issue of the Bulletin, I mentioned my surprise on learning that *Calluna* rejuvenation after firing is due to the growth of shoots from the fired plant stumps as well as from seed germination.

On our trip to the Quantocks during the Dillington Conference I raised the issue with our Warden escorts. We searched for *Calluna* stumps with new growth on recently fired ground but with no success although there were several *Erica cinerea* plant crowns with fresh shoots.

Recently this subject has been raised on both sides of the Atlantic by Donald MacKay and Allen Hall and in view of this and to satisfy my curiosity about stem rejuvenation after cutting, which is a recommended alternative to burning, Jean and I explored the moorland area around Carlton Rigg in the North York Moors National Park. On several cleared sites which had been fired or cut we found many examples of stumps with new shoots among the more numerous seedlings, also a few examples of layering renewal.

New growth on two fired plots was from seedlings only, the absence of shoots from old wood may have been caused by too intense burning. Another fired plot showed no signs of rejuvenation from stems nor from seedlings, and this could have been the result of even more intense burning. Three other fired sites inspected, exhibited well-established regeneration from stump growth but with seedlings predominating. Only two cut areas were examined and we found both stem and seedling rejuvenation; so much for my theory that fire or smoke would be necessary for satisfactory germination and production of new shoots. Incidentally the North York Moors National Park Authority favours cutting, because of the dangers accompanying unskilled firing. Firing also adds nutrients to the soil which encourages competing plants.

T A Julian

¹ Published, in English, at Amsterdam in 1940

² *The Garden*, 1996, 121(11): 680

Mr Alan Venn wrote recently to our Administrator, Anne Small - part of his letter is reproduced below: we felt his efforts should be applauded.

"I have enjoyed my first year's membership of the Society and a friend of mine recently joined the Society as well. This new member was introduced after hearing one of my introductory talks on heathers when I decided to share my new hobby with my musical friends at the organ weekends, which I run as a music tutor.

During the year I have sold around twenty heathers at these weekends, which I obtained from local garden centres and nurseries. As most of my musical friends are over 50 years of age (and quite a few are retired), gardening takes up some of their leisure time, along with the music. I have ordered the tie and badge to wear at organ weekends when I give my introductory talks on heathers in 1997 and I will do my best to 'spread the word'."

Also - Part of a letter to David McClintock, from one of our Norwegian members, Eileen Petterssen. Eileen is a regular attender at our Annual Conferences

"You perhaps know that 'the Friends of the Arboretum' decided to give the (Norvegia) Arboretum a Heather Garden for its 25th Jubilee? The process is about to start and the group now has me as their secretary; I'm taken in on the group to plan the garden. The first meeting will be soon and I'm eager to learn what the Arboretum will have of ideas. I was very thankful that Albert and Jean (Julian) took such an interest in giving me advice on what I would be able to contribute. It was also great to see Albert's work on planning the new area for the Heather Collection at Harlow Carr."

News from Harlow Carr

Cutting Material: There are mature plants of approximately 400 *Calluna*, 150 *Erica carnea* and 14 *Ex darleyensis* cultivars in the heather collections at Harlow Carr. They include plants of most of the cultivars that have been generally available over the years but not all the most recent introductions. As the majority of the plants are large enough to provide small amounts of cutting material, it has been decided to offer some to members, sufficient to produce five or six cuttings of each cultivar nominated.

Requests should be addressed to Jean Julian, 3 Selby Road, Fulford, York. YO1 4RD

No charge will be made for the service but applications should be accompanied by a first class stamped addressed envelope. It is anticipated that cuttings will be despatched within 14 days of receipt of requests.

Northern Horticultural Society Membership Tickets: Our Society has group membership of the Northern Horticultural Society and receives two tickets, each allowing entry for two people to the Harlow Carr Gardens Harrogate. A ticket also allows entry for one person to:- The Wisley Gardens,

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Rosemoor, Wakehurst Place, Ryton Garden, Yalding, Thorp Perrow Arboretum and Duncombe Park and House. The tickets are held by Jean Julian and are freely available to members. Requests for the loan of one or two tickets should be made to Jean at 3, Selby Road, Fulford, York. YO1 4RD, at least ten days before they are required and accompanied by a first class stamped addressed envelope. Two copies of the Northern Horticultural Society's quarterly magazines *The Northern Gardener* are held by our administrator, Anne Small.

Group News

Yorkshire

Following the symposium held at Harlow Carr on Saturday, 23rd March 1996, a meeting was held on Saturday, 14th September to explore the possibility of reviving the Northern Horticultural Society's Heather Group, which founder member John Ardron formed in the early 1970s. It was well supported by an attendance of 20 and there were several letters of apology for absence, including one from Geoffrey Smith who contributed to much of the creation of the Harlow Carr Gardens, and who gave his support to the Society's 1970 - 75 Heather Trials.

It was agreed unanimously to start the group again and four members volunteered for committee to organise and manage future activities. They included Dorothy Boyd who chaired the original group on many occasions and Dr. John Griffiths. A committee meeting is to be held in the near future to arrange the group's organisation and future activities. The discussions were followed by a demonstration by David Small, our indefatigable chairman, illustrating the individual features of the various species with representative specimen plants which were on display.

The meeting of the four committee volunteers was held in the Study Centre, Harlow Carr Gardens on Saturday, 16th November to decide the form that the new NHS Heather Group and the Heather Society's Yorkshire Group should take and to arrange a programme for 1997. Dr. John Griffiths, Jean Julian and Malcolm Birkett stated that they were prepared to be nominated for the offices of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The following three meetings for 1997 were agreed:-

Saturday, 15th March 1997, 2.30 pm - at the Study Centre, Harlow Carr Gardens - Inaugural meeting, election of officers and committee, discussion of the programme for 1997. A talk "Heathers and Associated Dwarf Ericaceae for the Garden" by Dr. John Griffiths followed by an inspection of the winter-flowering heather collection in the trials area.

Saturday, 14th June 1997 - to be decided. Suggestions made were:-

(a) a visit to the Harry Ramsden Heather Garden and the *Gardening Which* Trials in the Golden Acre Botanical Gardens, Leeds, or (b) a talk on new varieties, followed by a species identification workshop similar to the one held at the Dillington Conference in September 1996.

Saturday, 13th September 1997 - A talk on Cape Heaths followed by an inspection of the new enlarged *Calluna vulgaris* collection.

Jean Julian

North East

Nine members attended the AGM held on October 25th 1996 and we also welcomed Dave and Beryl Mayne from Kirkbymoorside. The Chairman reported that we had enjoyed a good year with a wide range of meetings and hoped that the symposium, which *The Heather Society* had held at Harlow Carr last April, would bring the Society some new members. The Treasurer reported that we were solvent and with a small surplus for the year, which was encouraging. Officers and Committee duly elected were namely:- Chairman - Roy Nichols, Secretary - Dorothy Warner, Treasurer - Geoff Warner, Syd Courtney, Bill Crow, Rita and David Plumridge and Mary and David Roberts. Bob Scott was re-elected as Hon. Auditor. We then finished with a social evening and our usual Faith Supper and David Plumridge gave us an interesting slide-show of the American Conference which he and Rita had attended last August.

On November 2nd Roy Nichols, David and Rita Plumridge, Geoff and myself, together with Albert and Jean Julian, were invited by Peter Vickers of Sheffield to a *Heather Society* meeting. This was held at Dave and Beryl Mayne's home at Kirkbymoorside and was to discuss two events for this coming year. As was mentioned in the autumn *Bulletin*, this year's Conference will be held at Newton Rigg near Penrith, Cumbria and Peter had been asked if he could organise this. This meeting was very successful and we all agreed on the format as to the talks and outings which will take place. However, I will leave the details to the Society's Conference Co-ordinator, Phil Joyner, who will be giving details about the Conference elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

The other item under discussion was the Society's presence, for the first time, at the Harrogate Spring show, which will be held from Thursday April 24th to Sunday April 27th, 1997. This idea originated from the Council of the *Heather Society* who are anxious that the Society should be more widely known to the general public and, in particular to the serious gardener. We do need many more members and Council felt that by promoting ourselves at a show as big as Harrogate we could attract that corner of the public.

Because Harrogate is in the North we are naturally looking to our Northern Members, and in particular those members who live in North Yorkshire, for help in manning the Stand for the four days. Anyone who feels they could help, even for an hour, would be most welcome and for further details you can ring me on 01661 823299, or Peter Vickers on 01909 565510. PLEASE, do offer your help if you possibly can.

Our Annual Outing this year will be to Floors Castle, Kelso, the home of the Duke of Roxburgh, on **Saturday, May 10th 1997**. The grounds are extensive with many rhododendrons and azaleas, together with refreshment facilities and a garden shop. The coach will leave Ponteland at 9.30 am returning at approximately 8.00 - 8.30 pm. Full details will be sent nearer the time.

Car Outings have been planned for Howick Hall, near Craster, on **Saturday, June 7th**, meeting in the Car Park at 2.30 pm and a visit to Bill Crow's nursery at Scot's Gap, on **Wednesday, July 16th**, at 7.30 pm; again details will be sent.

Our Annual Show will be incorporated, as it was last year, with the Ponteland Flower and Vegetable Show, and will be held in Ponteland Memorial Hall on **Saturday September 13th**. The AGM will be held on **Friday October 31st** at 7.30 pm in St. Matthew's Church Hall, Ponteland.

We look forward to seeing our members at all these events and also any members from other parts of the country who may be in our area at any of these times.

Sadly, on January 15th 1997, Bob Scott, our friend and Honorary Auditor died suddenly. Bob had been a member of the Society for many years and our auditor for the last seven. A quiet man who loved his garden and who won many times with his heathers at our shows. From us all, we send our deepest sympathy to Vera and the family in their great loss.

Dorothy M Warner

Southern

The Southern Group is sorry to record that our organiser Allen Hall has moved north! Allen's sterling qualities are so well and widely known as not to require elaboration here. It is enough to say that we in this group have been most grateful for the time and effort which he has always put into running the group so successfully for more than six years. We thank him very much and wish him and Joan continuing success in the East Midlands

An informal group, comprising John Tucker, Ron Wing and myself is now working on the proposals which Allen left behind for the 1997 programme.

Saturday 5th April - Lytchett Matravers - The South Western Group have invited members of the Southern Group to join them for a meeting in the Village Hall. The S. W. Group section has the details.

Sunday 11th May - 'Beauchamp'. Mr and Mrs Hancock (Peter and Joan) have kindly invited Southern Group members to visit their garden at Coombe Hill Road, Kingston, Surrey, at 2.30 pm. John Tucker tells us that this is a superb garden, so don't miss it!

Saturday 20th July - Bodiam Nursery, East Sussex. An opportunity to visit a specialist heather nursery, courtesy of the proprietor Mr Richard Biggs: 2.15 pm for 2.30 pm. And perhaps to fit in a visit to Bodiam Castle as well.

Saturday 16th August - Thursley Common, near Godalming Surrey. We hope that the visit may be led by Dr. Rob McGibbon, project officer of the Heathland Project. 1.45 pm for a 2.00 pm start.

Saturday 20th September - RHS Wisley A garden visit in the morning and a meeting in the Lecture Room after lunch are planned, but we are short on ideas for a topic/speaker at the moment. Suggestions gratefully received. There will be the usual heather competition with prizes and the award of the Turpin Trophy for the best overall display. Would members who plan to participate in these visits (Southern Group Members only for the one to Lytchett Matravers) please let me know. We can then give our hosts a rough idea as to numbers.

Ron Wing will be putting out two newsletters/programmes this year with further details. Copies will go automatically to members who have taken part in recent visits. Would other members who would like to receive copies please contact Ron Wing on 01403 790580.

David Sprague - Tel. 01306 886356

South West

As I write this report the weather is just beginning to warm after at least two weeks in which the temperature has barely risen above freezing, even during the daylight hours and on a couple of occasions has dropped to -9C overnight. Most of the broad-leaved plants have looked very sorry for themselves during this period but at least the winter flowering *Ericas* have brightened things up. It remains to be seen if any damage has occurred to any of the heaths and heathers during the last couple of weeks.

Another year has passed and once again we have managed to meet several times during this period and hopefully members have enjoyed the visits arranged for them. However it seems that I must again report that one of the meetings was poorly attended and resulted in some embarrassment with our hosts on that particular afternoon.

Meetings for 1997

Saturday April 5th - This will be the annual indoor meeting at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall in Dorset and on this occasion it will be a joint meeting with the Southern Group. Members should meet in the hall by 2.00 pm, where we will have a talk by Ron Clevely, the *Yearbook* Assistant Editor. Ron will be talking on '**Aspects of the Discovery and Early Cultivation of Cape Heaths.**' We will also have our two class Table Show -

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

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

Prizes will be awarded and the Burfitt Bowl (currently held by Phil Joyner) will be awarded to the exhibitor with the most points. Southern Group members are most welcome to take part in this competition. Lytchett Matravers is situated six miles from Poole and one mile west of the A350 Poole-Blandford road. For members coming from the Southern Group the best route will probably be to join the A31 at their earliest convenience and connect with the A350 about 2 miles west of Wimborne and then travel south along the A350. The Village Hall is on the west side of the High Street, just north of the Rose and Crown Inn. Ample parking is available close to the hall and a charge will be made to cover expenses. There will be refreshment supplied after the talk.

Saturday June 7th - we have been invited to visit the garden of Stourton House, near Mere in Wiltshire. Members may remember that we visited this garden many years ago and enjoyed an interesting afternoon. The garden is advertised in the Yellow Book; it is adjacent to Stourhead and shares the same National Trust car park. The 4 acre garden is informal and is regarded as a plantsman's garden. Mrs Bullivant who owns it is an authority on dried flowers and hopefully we will see examples. Members should gather together at the National Trust car park at about 1.45 pm for entry into the garden at 2 pm. Stourton House is just off the B3092 Mere to Frome road, about three miles north west of Mere; just follow the signs to Stourhead. There will be an entry charge and refreshment will be available.

Further Dates for your Diary:

Saturday March 22nd - *The Heather Society Roadshow* will be visiting the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum. The event will consist of a small display, mini-lectures and a tour around the newly planted Heather Garden.

The main aim of the **Roadshow** is to recruit new members. Members are welcome to attend but if anyone can help in setting up and manning the display would they please contact either Diane Jones or myself.

Saturday July 5th, Sunday July 6th - As yet there is no decision as to the annual involvement of *The Heather Society* in the Southampton Balloon and Flower Festival.

Saturday July 19th - Two-garden visit on the eastern side of the New Forest. The first garden will be that of members Bill and Joan Vicary at 13 Foxhills, Ashurst and the second garden will be my own at 84 Kinross Road, Totton. Members should bring picnic lunches to the first garden from 12 midday onwards and then at 2:30 pm move on to the second garden where afternoon tea will be provided. Last time we did this it rained, so better luck this time. More details in the Summer Bulletin.

Further information on the meetings described above can be obtained by sending me two SAEs as soon as possible and if you intend to come to a meeting then I would be grateful if you could let me know about 10 days before the meeting (tel. 01703 864336). Any member of *The Heather Society* and their friends are welcome to any of the meetings, so if you are on holiday in the area then why not join us. Once again I am grateful to those people who make the visits possible and I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the above meetings.

Phil Joyner

New Members In 1996

Zone 1

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- Chairman** *Policy matters, major events etc.*
 Mr. D.J. Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creting St. Mary, Ipswich,
 Suffolk, IP6 8PJ. e-mail: heathers@zetnet.co.uk
 Tel: (01449) 711220 FAX: (01449) 711220
- Secretary** *Council matters*
 Mrs. P.B. Lee, Birches, Kingswood Firs, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey,
 GU26 6EX.. Tel: (01428) 604947
- Treasurer** Mr. A. Hall, 10, Upper Green, Nanpantan, Loughborough, Leicestershire.
 LE11 3SG Tel: (01509) 238923
- Registrar** *Naming of heathers*
 Mr. A.W. Jones, Otters' Court, Back Street, West Camel, Yeovil,
 Somerset, BA22 7QF. Tel: (01935) 850285
- Slide Librarian** *Hire of slides*
 Mrs J. Julian, 3 Selby Road, Fulford, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 4RD.
 Tel: (01904) 632263
- Yearbook Editor** *Articles for the Yearbook*
 Dr. E.C. Nelson, Tippiwitchet cottage, Hall Road, Outwell, Wisbech
 PE14 8PE. Tel: (01945) 773057 FAX: (01945) 774077
- Bulletin Editor** *Notes, articles for the Bulletin*
 Mrs. D. Everett, Greenacres Nursery, Bringsty, Worcestershire,
 WR6 5TA. Tel: (01885) 482206 FAX: (01885) 482206
- Advertising** *Adverts, advertising rates etc. for the Bulletin*
 Mr. A. J. Stow, Widmour, Limmer Lane, High Wycombe,
 Buckinghamshire, HP12 4QR. Tel: (01494) 449397
- Administrator** *Membership, Subscriptions, Orders for publications etc.*
 Mrs. A. Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creting St. Mary, Ipswich,
 Suffolk, IP6 8PJ. e-mail: heathers@zetnet.co.uk
 Tel: (01449) 711220 FAX: (01449) 711220
- Technical Committee** *Any queries regarding culture of heathers*
 Mr. D.J. Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creting St. Mary, Ipswich,
 Suffolk, IP6 8PJ. e-mail: heathers@zetnet.co.uk
 Tel: (01449) 711220 FAX: (01449) 711220
- Steering Committee** *Suggestions for improving the Society, publications, etc.*
 Mr. D.J. Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creting St. Mary, Ipswich,
 Suffolk, IP6 8PJ. e-mail: heathers@zetnet.co.uk
 Tel: (01449) 711220 FAX: (01449) 711220
- Group Organisers** *(Remember, you will be very welcome at any local meeting or visit!)*
- North East** Mrs. D. M. Warner, Littlecroft, Click-em-in, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-
 Tyne, NE20 9BG. Tel: (01661) 823299
- Southern** Mr. D. Sprague, Steps, 5, Deepdene Drive, Dorking, Surrey. RH5 4AD
 Tel: (01306) 886356
- South West** Mr. P.L. Joyner, 84 Kinross Road, Rushington, Totton, Southampton,
 Hampshire, SO4 4BN. Tel: (01703) 864336
- Yorkshire** Dr. J. Griffiths, 9, Ashlea Close, Leeds, West Yorkshire. LS25 1JX.
 Tel: (01532) 863349