

Bulletin of The Heather Society



Volume 8, number 9.

Autumn 2016

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volume 8 number 9

Bulletin Editor: Daphne Everett (to October 2016)

please note new editor's contact details, after October 2016, on inside back cover



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DIARY 2016

31 October	Closing date for 2017 yearbook, <i>Heathers</i> 14.
23 November	Council Meeting, London

DIARY 2017

15 January	Closing date for Spring <i>Bulletin</i> (see p. 1).
18 March	Visit to Whitehall Nursery (see p. 6)
8–11 September	Annual Gathering, Somerset (see p. 2).



For contact details of the Society's Officers, Editors, Group Organizers, see inside back cover.
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Forewords

So – to my very last *Bulletin*! I am really delighted that the *Bulletin* will be continuing in the capable hands of its new editor, Samantha Barnes, and hope that she will enjoy being in touch with the members of our lovely (if shrinking) Society, as much as I have. She will be taking over at a momentous time in the *Bulletin*'s history, as it will be its 50th year. The deadline for Samantha's first *Bulletin*, is the usual date of 15 January.

Daphne Everett
dandmeverett@gmail.com

Message from Samantha

Hello Everyone, I am pleased to be joining the Heather Society team. I have taken over the role of main contact and will be overseeing future bulletins.

I have been working for Chairman David Edge at Forest Edge Nurseries for over 12 years and in that time I have gained plenty of heather knowledge. This will aid me to deal with any enquiries that come my way. I look forward to working with you to create an interesting and informative *Bulletin*. Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Bulletin* should contact me via email (see below). Wish me luck!

Samantha Barnes
admin@heathersociety.org

Chairman's piece David Edge

Following on from our Conference in Perth, it's back to work, with fond memories of time away. As always, the Conference is an annual opportunity to get away for a short break, meeting with other members and extending one's knowledge of heathers in enjoyable and interesting locations.

It is with regret that we are losing the valued services of our administrator Dr Charles Nelson and *Bulletin* editor Mrs Daphne Everett after many years of dedicated service. Whilst a measure is in place to continue the *Bulletins*, a successor to the position of Honorary Year Book Editor and Registrar has yet to be addressed.

Further, unless we can find a replacement for Mrs Susie Kay as Conference Organizer, the 2017 Conference will be the final one. This will have on-going issues with attendance at and with Annual General Meetings, and with the future of the Society, unless a replacement volunteer can be found.

I welcome Mrs Allison Fitz-Earle as a new member of Council as Hon. Treasurer with responsibility for membership (see contact information on inside back cover).

Repeating from the previous *Bulletin*, I continue to encourage

members to bring their skills and knowledge to benefit the Society.

I note increased interest in the subject of bees and pollination and the connection with heathers. This is indeed fortunate and is a 'tool' with which to promote our subject plant, others being as a good luck token for weddings and as an ingredient in the manufacture of some gins.

Generally there is increased interest in heathers and hopefully their popularity will rise as other alternative plant subjects are exhausted on the media. I heard an apt word recently to describe the media over-exposure with herbaceous plants as "herboredom".

It is my hope and aim that, with the increase in popularity of heathers, the Society can, hand in hand, continue and succeed in parallel for the future years.

Society events & news

Annual Gathering 2016

Council was delighted to see so many of our regular attendees at Perth a few weeks ago and we were very pleased that a new member joined us.

We did not get wet this year and had an enjoyable time in Perth. The main objective of this year's gathering was to see the wonderful heather plantings at Riverside Gardens. Should you be in the environs of Perth I urge you to take some time to visit

the Gardens and see them for yourselves. The work has all been done by volunteers. "Beautiful Perth" hosted this event and gave us a great welcome, with a conducted tour and tea, coffee and cakes.

Annual Gathering Somerset 8–11 September 2017

It is now time to think about the Annual Gathering for 2017. We shall be visiting the Somerset area.

Venue: The Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton, near Bridgwater.

Cost: approx. £320 per person.

Speakers: Roy Cheek on the development of Cannington Gardens and another speaker yet to be confirmed. Visits: Hestercombe Gardens; Cannington Walled Garden; R.H.S. Rosemoor.

We have not produced a flyer this year so if you wish to join us, please email me (susiek@gofree.indigo.ie) or telephone (00353 95 43575) or even send a letter (Susie Kay, Lettergesh East, Renvyle, Co. Galway, Ireland, H91 K5RT): make sure you use a European rate stamp (or 2 x UK 2nd class stamps). The weekend is a great opportunity to meet people who share an interest in heathers. I have, as usual, reserved a number of rooms at the hotel so early booking is essential to secure a place.

Somerset is not as great a trek, so hopefully we shall see more of you joining us for the Annual Gathering 2017.

Susie Kay

2016 Heather Photographer's competition

I am delighted to announce the winners of the 2016 Heather Photographer competition, as judged by Professor John Griffiths (President) and Mrs Valerie Griffiths, were as follows:



First Prize (£100 and a trophy in memory of Julian James Fitz-Earle): John Plowman, for his entry "Dignity and Impudence"

Second Prize (£50): Molly Hall.

Congratulations to you both and thank you for taking part.

Allison Fitz-Earle

The winning photographs can be viewed on the Members' Only area of the Society's website.

Annual General Meeting 2016

The Annual General Meeting of The Heather Society was held at 9.00 am on Sunday 11 September 2016, at The Royal George Hotel, Perth, Scotland, during the Annual Gathering.

In his opening statement the Chairman, David Edge, welcomed

attending members and went on to mention several items:

- re-allocation of tasks now that Charles Nelson had resigned from the position of Administrator and, after the impending resignation of Daphne Everett from the position, of *Bulletin* Editor.
- nomination of Allison Fitz-Earle to Council and the intention of combining the Membership Secretary role with that of Hon. Treasurer.
- website maintenance by Council Member, Dave Brown, who continues to expand the list of cultivars and their descriptions.
- the annual effort to gain membership by the Society having a presence at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show.

In 2016, the Chairman and his staff once again constructed an exhibit within the Floral Marquee under the banner of The Heather Society and gained a Silver Gilt Medal.

John Hall with his daughter Molly continue to actively promote the Society at Wisley events and are engaged in aiding RHS Wisley to maintain the National Collection by propagating the endangered cultivars.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Susie and Alan Kay for organizing the Conference and the Council members, the retired Administrator, the *Bulletin* Editor and the Slide Librarian for their work and their support throughout the year.

The 2015 Annual Report and Accounts was presented by the Hon. Secretary, Phil Joyner, and the Hon.

Treasurer, Richard Canovan, and subsequently accepted.

Amendments to two clauses within the rules were passed:

- Replace clause 6(a) with: The management of the Society shall be the responsibility of a Council consisting of the Officers and not less than three elected Councillors.
- Replace clause 12(b) with: The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 12.

The meeting agreed to the recommendation by Council of the appointments of Prof. John Griffiths as President and Daphne Everett, Pamela Lee, Alice Knight, Kurt Kramer and *ex officio* President of NAHS (still to be appointed) as Vice-Presidents.

There were two nominations for Hon. Treasurer, namely Richard Canovan and Allison Fitz-Earle, and a secret ballot was held, the result of which is that Allison Fitz-Earle is now the Hon. Treasurer. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary, David Edge and Phil Joyner respectively, accepted nomination for a further year. Barry Sellers and Dave Brown were re-elected to Council under the three-year rule and Richard Canovan was elected to Council for a period of three years. There was a brief discussion, without any decision, on the future role of the Society.

Finally, the Conference Organizer, Susie Kay, announced that the 2017 Conference would be held at The Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton,

Somerset, from Friday 8 September to Monday 11 September, with the Annual General Meeting being held sometime during that same weekend.

A full report of the proceedings of the AGM will be found in the Members' Only area of the website.

Phil Joyner (Hon. Secretary)

Hampton Court 2016

Many congratulations to David Edge and his team for his award of a Silver-Gilt Flora Medal at the 2016 RHS Hampton Court Flower show (see cover). He also made an appearance on TV at the Show, being interviewed by Adam Frost about his new introduction *Erica cinerea* 'Creepy Crawly' and promoting heathers.

2017 Subscription Renewal Reminder

The annual subscription for 2017 is due for renewal on 1 January 2017. A5 leaflets are being put online with this *Bulletin*, with payment choices for both UK and non-UK Members clearly set out.

Members who pay by standing order in the UK, or for those who have joined through PayPal, need not take any action.

Subscription reminders are being posted with the *Bulletin* for those who do not have email addresses.

Please also note that in the event of your subscription not being received by 1 February 2017, the THS website will automatically prevent you

accessing the Members' Only section. It will promptly be re-activated when your membership is renewed.

For any queries regarding subscriptions renewal, please contact the Hon. Treasurer/Membership Sec., Allison Fitz-Earle (see inside back cover): tel: (int +44) 07905825818; email membership@heathersociety.org

Group News

All members are welcome to attend any of the local group events

Home Counties Group

RHS Wisley 25 September 2016

A fine warm autumn day beckoned as THS members gathered outside the entrance to RHS Wisley garden. The RHS had given great publicity to the event, which they labelled 'The Heather Show', appearing in the RHS magazine, *The Garden*, and on their web site. It was also publicized in the *Telegraph's* weekend gardening section.

Beside the familiar faces as we gathered outside the café were a few recent new members and RHS members. We set off for the Heather Garden where we met Andy Collins and several more members and RHS members. Among them was Irene Lang of Perthshire Heathers, whose nursery we visited during the Perth Gathering just two weeks earlier. Also among the RHS members was Julie Kilcher who had only been working at

Wisley for 3 weeks. She takes over from Stewart Hall who looked after the heather beds previously. Julie has studied botany and ecology. Her home country is Switzerland. She is very enthusiastic about her new role.

Andy explained a brief history about the Heather Garden and the issues about maintenance, including weeding, and the problems with rabbits and deer eating the tips of the heathers. We walked around the beds discussing growth and pruning. We then went to the restaurant for lunch.

Meanwhile John and Molly Hall had been busy setting up their Workshop and setting out plants for sale. They explained to a group of around 20 people how to propagate heathers, then how to grow them in different soils, how to prune them and how to plant them in containers. There were a number of questions about compost, how big the plants will grow in a container and when to prune. Members of the audience having watched John prune an *Erica vagans* with a pair of shears were invited to try for themselves, with good results.

We were pleased to see our Vice President, Pamela Lee, who joined us for the afternoon session. Molly stepped up to describe how she found the plant now named after her: *Erica cinerea* 'Molly Rose'. She described how, having discovered the plant, she realised its distinctive deep rose-pink flowers and took cuttings. She watched carefully as the cuttings

began to root. She grew the plant on, named it, and then took further cuttings to increase the number of plants. From the plants raised and sold she was able to raise funds for a charity.

This was followed by Peter Jones who gave a brief introductory talk about the proposals for the new heather garden. The existing one has many trees that have grown up and over-shadow the garden. RHS Wisley has grand plans for further developing the Wisley site. The heather garden has been at Howard's Field since the 1980s and as part of the make-over of Wisley Garden it is proposed to re-establish the National Collection on land further north. The plan is to move the collection towards the house where there are proposals to change this into a café, associated with a new secondary entrance to the garden.

Afterwards Barry Sellers gave a brief talk showing slides of the Gathering in Perth, Scotland, particularly the heather garden in Riverside Park, which it was hoped would become the new Scottish National Collection. Photographs of The Heather Society's visit to Perthshire Heathers, were also shown.

Lin Joyner kindly provided tea and cake, whilst John Hall was busy selling a selection of heathers, including *Erica cinerea* 'Molly Rose'.

Thanks are due to Vanessa Penn, (RHS Partnership Co-ordinator), for her contribution to the success of the day.

Visit to Whitehall Nursery

18 March 2017

The next Home Counties visit will be on Saturday 18 March to see the RHS AGM Heather Trials of winter-flowering *Erica* at John Hall's Whitehall Nursery, Red Lane, off Churt Road, Headley Down, Hampshire GU35 8SR. We will meet at the nursery at 11 am for a tour of the site. The winter-flowering heathers will be in flower. (Please contact me for directions to Whitehall Nursery.)

Barry Sellers

Yorkshire Group

On Saturday 28 May the usual team of six met at RHS Harlow Carr to look at slides and talk about heathers and heather growing. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and the gardens were looking good although it was "off season" for flowering heathers as there are no *Erica cinerea* at Harlow Carr. The RHS debated taking the garden over as the soil is blue clay and needs a lot of soil improvement and drainage. The RHS decided it was a challenge they should take on, but, even after treatment, the drainage and pH is not good enough to grow *E. cinerea*. As Geoffrey Smith used to tell me, if he could not grow them then there was no hope for my efforts. Although they did grow well in the trial grounds as the pH there was 4.5, the trial grounds were behind the Harrogate Arms public house, now an

education centre for the RHS and thus completely separate from the gardens.

We decided that afternoon that it would not be a good idea to visit the Himalayan Garden at Harewood House in 2016. Due to personal commitments and holidays, members could not organize a meeting within a few days of the beginning of June, and by the time we could all get together again the rhododendrons and azaleas in the garden would be over.

Consequently we met on 13 August at Beningborough Hall, a National Trust property, a few miles north of York. This Georgian house has a large garden kept in order by a few gardeners and a lot of volunteers. We had an enjoyable afternoon and a better tea than usual as members did not have to put up with the secretary's baking.

We would normally have held a third meeting at RHS Harlow Carr in September but as our "free room" has been reduced from three to two dates, nothing has been organized for this autumn. I have no doubt that our members will pop in to look at the *Calluna* displays and check that they are flowering well.

We do plan to organize meetings for 2017 and are still enthusiastic about meeting to discuss heathers and heather gardening.

Jean Preston

North East Group

The 39th annual Ponteland show was held on Saturday September 11 in the

Memorial Hall, Ponteland, and, subject to confirmation, I understand the number of exhibits was down overall. It has certainly been a difficult year weather-wise to get fruit, vegetables and flowers at their peak for a certain date, and we were lucky to have a perfect summer's day for the show.

How marvellous it was to see David Edge on TV, promoting heathers at the Hampton Court Flower Show, and being given enough time to explain their virtues. Then, a few weeks later, Alan Titchmarsh on the television show, 'Love Your Garden', planted heathers. Whatever next! Surely it can't be too long before it becomes the 'in thing' to grow heathers?

Finally, our thanks go to Daphne for 26 years of editing the *Bulletin*. She has done a tremendous job and has been a real stalwart of the Society. We hope she enjoys her retirement.

Dorothy Warner

***Daboecia* National Collection at Holehird: June 2016**

There is little to add since the last report in January 2016. Only in the last couple of months have we got down to doing much work in the garden. We have potted on some *Daboecia* plants from the Dewpoint cabinet and planted out some others from the frame. *Daboecia* cultivars received from

David Edge on his visit in November 2015 have now been planted out in the garden. A few additional plants have been purchased, none of which is new to the collection. We usually buy *Daboecia* when we see them because they are not always readily available. The weeding season has now started in earnest and we are looking forward to seeing the collection in full flower in the late summer.

Brenda Leese

(Since this report from Brenda in June, several Heather Society members visited Holehird in September, on their way to the Perth Gathering. The collection was looking superb, even though Brenda thought the flowers were past their best. Brenda, and the other volunteers, deserve our congratulations. Editor.)

Philomath frolickings Deer in the heather garden Ella May Wulff

One of the reasons for having a heather garden where I live is that "my deer" don't like heathers. Sadly, there are a few exceptions to this general observation, but for the most part, the deer in our area find heathers uninteresting as forage.

Our house was built in a former sheep pasture that is surrounded by oak forest (*Quercus garryana*), one of the few remnants of the vast prairie-oak savannah that greeted pioneers arriving in the Willamette Valley in the

early-to-mid-nineteenth century. This was not a natural landscape but had been maintained by fires set by native American tribes for many centuries. Fire killed the Douglas fir trees (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) that are the dominant end-succession canopy tree in western Oregon. Without regularly set, low-intensity fires that kill Doug fir seedlings but leave the oaks relatively unscathed, the faster-growing firs soon overshadow the oaks. The forests would become dense stands of conifers difficult to hunt in as well as poor habitat for the deer being hunted.

The pioneers that poured into the Willamette Valley from the Oregon Trail were attracted by the rich soils of the river bottomlands and promptly set about felling most of the trees. (A few oaks were left to shade homes or livestock pens.) Land too steep to farm was left as forest, but without periodic burning, most of the slopes were soon covered by fir trees. Fire was anathema to the settlers, who didn't understand that the fires kept the forests open, park-like and easy to traverse. And soon the native Americans who had set the fires succumbed to European diseases, some tribes vanishing completely.

Somehow, oaks persisted on our hillside, though now there are a few large Douglas firs and many seedling firs among them. The native Columbia blacktail deer find the forest/meadow interface much to their liking and

make a wide circuit of the area, staying a few days here, then moving on to the next stop on their circuit. Deer are herbivorous browsers, rarely staying long enough in one spot to consume all of a particular food and kill the plants. Rather, they nibble a little, then move on. This mode of eating usually ensures that by the time they have made a complete circuit of their territory, the partially eaten plants have regrown enough to provide another meal.

What does this little foray into Oregon history and the eating habits of deer have to do with my heather garden? Everything! When I was planning my unfenced heather garden, I had to assume that deer would visit it frequently (as has proven to be the case). After the earth was sculpted to form a berm along the roadside ditch, I delayed planting for a while to give the deer time to visit. Because deer are creatures of habit, I inspected the berm for hoof prints and made a diagonal trail across the berm at the spot having the most prints.

Once the location of the deer trail had been fixed, I set about choosing cultivars for the garden. I planted mostly *Calluna* along the deer trail, because I knew from experience with heathers in the house foundation planting beds that my deer pretty much left them alone once they got over the novelty of finding new plants.

A word here about novelty – deer will sample *anything new* (and their

fawns will try *everything*). Before I learned this lesson, I was appalled to find new plants torn up by the roots and dropped near their planting holes. Now I protect all new plantings with wire cages or netting until the deer get used to them, the plants use up excess nitrogen supplied in the nursery potting mix (deer selectively browse plants high in nitrogen) and grow enough new roots to anchor themselves firmly in the ground.

New plant protection is necessary throughout the garden because, of course, the deer don't always use the deer trail. They find the dry stream bed and garden paths designed for humans very acceptable, and they take shortcuts across the garden, especially when startled. The shortcuts can result in more heather damage (from stem breakage) than the occasional nibble.

Nibble they do, mainly flowers. I'll never have the gorgeous flower display I see on *Daboecia* in deer-free gardens. My deer think that *Daboecia* flowers are candy, though they never eat all the flowers on a plant. They always leave some for the next meal. *D. × scotica* 'Silverwells' is a particular favourite, eaten much more frequently than other cultivars. I have watched the deer go out of their way to visit this planting. The 'Silverwells' plants have responded to the extra attention by covering several square yards beyond their allotted space, crossing the dry stream bed and climbing up the far bank.

The other heathers that I'll never have flowering to perfection are cultivars of *Erica carnea*, although some years I think I may finally see a good display. Wishful thinking! How early the flowers are eaten seems to depend upon the weather. If a summer is very hot and dry, the deer will eat the juicy *E. carnea* buds for their water content. Keeping the birdbath filled can prevent this very early loss of next year's flowers. I learned the hard way not to put the birdbath in the heather garden but a short distance away. When it was among the heathers, species only slightly favoured by deer were regularly munched, flowering or not. How about a little snack to go with that drink?

If the *Erica carnea* buds are not eaten before the winter rains return, there is a chance that a fair number may open before they are consumed. I've tried to discern whether deer have an *E. carnea* cultivar preference as they seem to with *Daboecias*, but in my garden all *E. carnea* cultivars are browsed equitably. Which plants lose more flowers than others varies from year to year, depending more upon the meandering nature of the browsers than the relative tastiness of the flowers.

With the exception of my first *Erica vagans*, which is now left alone and was probably a victim of the novelty factor, I have never seen my deer eat summer-flowering heaths: *E. cinerea*, *E. × gaudificans*, *E. × griffithsii*, *E. manipuliflora*, *E. × stuartii*, *E. tetralix*, *E.*

× watsonii and *E. × williamsii*. They eat the flowers of most winter/spring-blooming *Erica* to some extent: *E. × darleyensis* (not nearly so much as might be expected considering that *E. carnea* is one of its parents), *E. erigena* (the other *darleyensis* parent), *E. australis*, *E. arborea*, *E. lusitanica*, and the hybrid between the last two – *E. × veitchii*. Most are sampled only occasionally, not on a regular basis and not every year. So far, my *E. × oldenburgensis* seems to have escaped notice entirely, but that may be because it is pretty well surrounded by *Calluna*.

Surrounding a deer magnet with unappealing (to deer) heathers such as *Calluna* and *E. cinerea* can work to protect the tree heaths from losing their flowers to deer, but low-growing *E. carnea* and *Daboecia × scotica* cultivars really look much better in the foreground on the outside of a bed or along a path. The re-blooming nature of *Daboecias* means that they will almost always have flowers open for many months of the year, even in a deer-challenged garden. The solution with *E. carnea* may be to use the coloured-foliage cultivars, whose flowers are a bonus, not the main show.

Early on, I talked about the eating preferences of "my deer", which don't like *Calluna*. In other areas, notably northern California, the local deer do eat *Calluna*. When we lived in New England, deer there were notorious for eating rhododendrons. My deer eat only a few rhododendrons, the

"azalea" types and, most notably, the huge 'Polar Bear', to which they returned again and again, even after I transplanted it to the opposite side of the house and partway up the hill. By all means, if you garden in deer territory, use this little essay as a guide to which heathers might escape deer predation. Just don't count upon it. "Your deer" may have very different tastes.

Cherrybank: from Bell's to Merlin ERD Richard Canovan

It might have been thought that when the Cherrybank Heather Garden closed to the public on 31 March 2008 and business development was proposed that heathers would disappear from the site, for good, especially when a new Riverside garden was proposed. We have now seen the Riverside display and seen how outstanding it is, beautifully designed and impeccably maintained. I could not resist a visit to its predecessor, which the International Conference visited in 2004.

The Cherrybank visitor centre and café we used to enjoy, have been converted to offices of oil and gas engineering company Merlin ERD [extended reach drilling]. They acquired the site in November 2012 but have retained the garden, although this is not

open to the public. However, there is an attractive display outside the entrance (see cover). Once the gift by Diageo to the Calyx garden project bid failed, and no viable garden project was forthcoming, this is an outcome far exceeding expectations a few years' ago.

Perth is certainly in bloom and its bees will be happy!

RHS Wisley

Work has begun to redevelop Wisley's National Heather Collection. John Hall of John Hall Plants Ltd is taking cuttings ready to re-propagate more than 800 cultivars. When finished, the collection will feature a fresh layout and will incorporate a range of different companion plants.

100th birthday

Albert Turner (front cover), finder and namesake of 'Albert's Gold', was 100 in June. His grandson, Simon, reported "My grandfather was so pleased to receive a card from The Heather Society [sent by Council]. He has been showing it to all the visitors to the house. He is still so proud to be associated to The Heather Society and what he did with 'Albert's Gold'. He had a wonderful birthday celebration and your card was on par with the one from the Queen."

Media Watch

The International Rock Gardener e-magazine for May 2016 included Molly Hall's article on heather propagation. Its editor, Margaret Young wrote: "I am pleased to be able to present the Heather Society's article from Molly Hall – it is to be hoped that other young growers will gain inspiration from Molly's efforts".

On 5 June 2016 John Hall reported that The Heather Society's youngest member, Molly Hall, was voted the RHS Young School Gardener of the Year 2016 (KS3 11–14 years) Winner, because of her work with heathers. She received her award – a framed certificate and an engraved trowel from Lawrence Wright – The Chartered Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year 2016. The award ceremony took place at RHS Wisley on Saturday 2 July 2016, with finalists coming from as far afield as Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Her school, Collingwood College, Camberley, who nominated her for the competition, received £250 of garden gift vouchers.

The Garden, June 2016, reported that among new plants to see at the Hampton court show was *Erica cinerea* 'Creepy Crawly'. "An unusual cultivar with a low-growing, trailing habit and purple flowers."

The Garden, September 2016, printed a letter from Simon Turner

reporting the 100th birthday of his grandfather, Albert Turner (see cover & previous page), the discoverer of *Erica arborea* 'Albert's Gold': "He is still passionate about plants and remains proud of his achievement with this AGM winning heather"

On 18 September *The Daily Telegraph* did us proud, with an item advertising the Heather Society Show to be held at RHS Wisley, on 25 September. With expert gardening advice and a talk on how Molly Hall, the youngest member of the Heather Society, and '2016 Young Gardener of the Year' winner, discovered a new heather variety called 'Molly Rose'.

The *Daboecia* collection at Holebird Gardens had a mention, with a photograph, in the October *Garden*: "The National Plant Collection of *Daboecia* (Irish heath) looks particularly good in October. Its 55 cultivars have large bell-shaped flowers forming a carpet that is much loved by bees. Look for *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Bicolor', which can have purple and white flowers on the same stem, and double-flowered 'Romantic Muxoll'."

Request

Erica tetralix 'L. E. Underwood'

David Edge is looking for some cuttings (or plants) of 'L. E. Underwood': can anyone help, please? Contact details on inside back cover.

Chairman	Mr David Edge Forest Edge Nursery, Verwood Road, Woodlands, Wimborne, BH21 8LJ. tel: 01202 824387; fax: 01202 829564; email heathers@forestedgenurseries.co.uk
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Group Organizers *Everyone is very welcome at any local meeting or visit*

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Administration c/o Forest Edge Nursery, Verwood Road, Woodlands, Wimborne, BH21 8LJ.
email admin@heathersociety.org



Back cover. Top: The Heather Society stand at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show with Barry Sellers (centre) and Molly Hall (Phil Joyner); centre: members and friends at RHS Wisley with Andy Collins (left) (Barry Sellers); lower right: Cherrybank, Perth, 2016 (R. Canovan).

Front cover. Top left: Ella May's Columbia blacktail deer; top right: *Erica* × *williamsii* 'Cow-y-jack' (Börje Sörensson); centre right: *Erica* × *griffithsii* 'Jacqueline' (John Plowman); Albert Turner (courtesy Simon Turner).

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