The Heather Society

Closing statement for the Meeting 12/12/20

**From The Chairman**

Whilst one is saddened by The Heather Society as a registered charity reaching its end date we should conversely have optimism and enthusiasm with the formation of the new Heather Society that will arise in the New 2021 year .

I thank all who have contributed to the Heather Society through past years and to the present time either by their membership or as Council members providing the foundation that has enabled the Society to continue over the years.

I cannot pass without the mention of our Council members who have served the Society so well during my period as Chairman.

Susie Kay as Council Member and for her dedication to arranging our past Annual Gatherings in such interesting locations.

Mrs Alison Fitz-Earle for her sterling work as Honorary Treasurer.

Dave Brown as Council Member and for maintaining the Heather Society Website

Barry Sellers as Council member and Home Counties Group Organiser

Dr Charles Nelson as Council Member and for his invaluable intellectual knowledge

Without doubt the person who gave of the most over the recent years was our past Treasurer and then Secretary, Phil Joyner, he gave unequalled dedication to the Society enabling the Heather Society to perform its functions so ably.

As our older members will recollect The Heather Society was founded in 1963 at the height of interest in ornamental and landscape gardening and heathers were a fashionable plant due to their long flowering time and low maintenance requirement. Membership increased, I understand to 1500 members at the height with attendance and displays at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London highlighting the qualities of heathers to the public.

Since this time membership has dwindled to around 150 with the associated responsibility of the running of the Society resting on fewer shoulders, hence the move to relinquish its Charitable status to reduce the workload and to simplify the day to day running.

The new Society will require the posts of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to perform its functions; be aware that without these positions being filled the new Society will be unable to fulfil its function and cease With the use of modern technology these positions can be performed from a distance and willing volunteers are welcomed.

I hope that you the current members will continue to support the new Society in its changed format and whilst it will be primarily web based it will, I hope, provide where required an alternative facility of paper based contact.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you on the other side…

David Edge