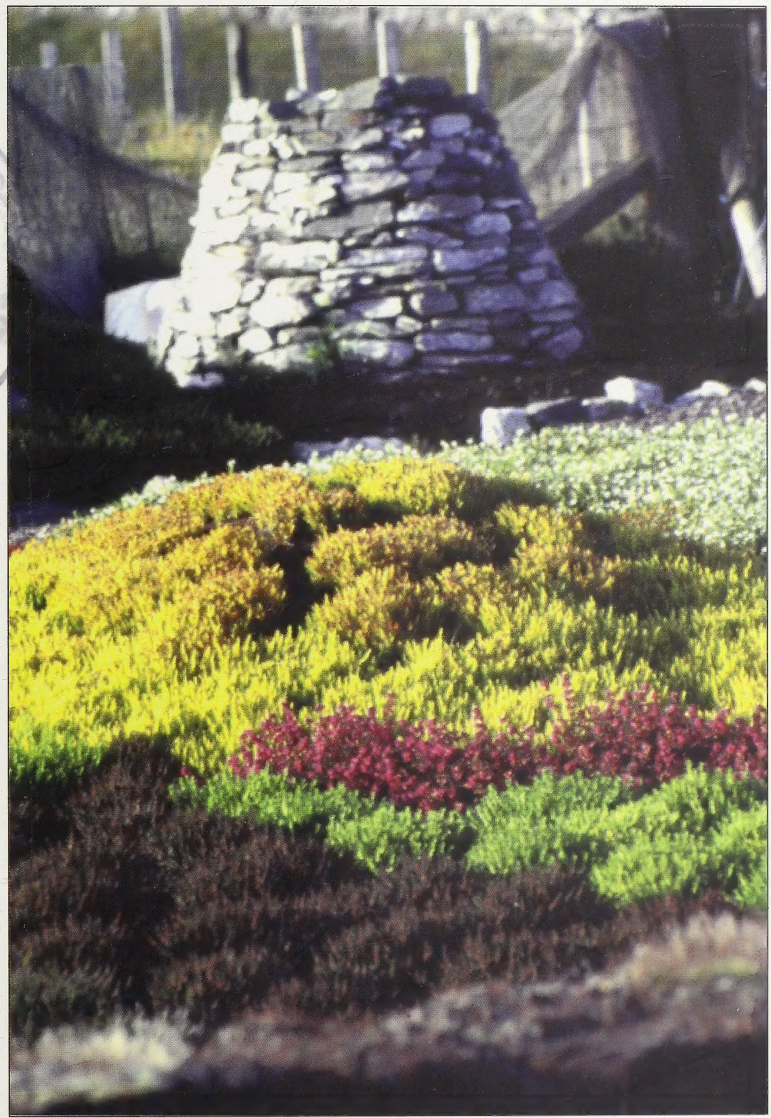


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2008

HEATHERS 5



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of The
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FRONT COVER: Frank Odie's garden at Cluness Cottage, Burravoe, Shetland Isles; photograph by Helen Harrison © (2007).



Heathers 5

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Yell for heathers

FRANK ODIE

Cluness Cottage, Burravoe, YELL, Shetland Isles, Scotland, ZE2 9AY.

Taking off from where I sit, a crow would only have to flap its wings for another 25 miles before it landed on the Muckle Flugga lighthouse – the most northerly structure in the British Isles. If it flew east for 180 miles it would alight in Bergen or, if it preferred a granite perch, the same distance south and it would be spoilt for choice on the rooftops of Aberdeen. There it could view a profusion of gardens effortlessly (or so it seems) growing just about any plant you care to name – from the smallest of heathers, through literally millions of roses, to stately trees. While it isn't impossible to grow these in Shetland, it's a great deal harder – and, if you want a 30ft apple or cherry tree, you could try designing a 40ft-high glasshouse that would withstand the rigours of the highest wind-regime in the country, plant a sapling, and wait ...

That's not to say there aren't certain advantages being this far north and in the path of the Gulf Stream – the absence of serious ground-frost in the winter and a summer that has weeks of almost 24-hour daylight being the two most obvious – but most people would feel that this is more than offset by the salt-laden, wind-driven air and the unpredictability of the weather.

The island I live on is for the most part blanketed with a deep cover of peat, with the occasional rocky outcrop. Peat has been cut as fuel for centuries but over the last two decades or thereby its use has dropped significantly – and to see people cutting and curing peat in the traditional way is now rare. Old, worked-out areas, where most of the surface peat has been removed, give rise in places to the remaining peat layer drying into a granulated form which can be readily scraped off and used as a mulch. Given that it is often a dense black and is, of course, highly acidic, it not only contrasts starkly with any plants but can effectively deter wind-dispersed weeds – in short the ideal mulch for heathers, and free for the taking.

My site is rather more than an acre – an acre of almost completely exposed ground that is, so shelter was the first priority. This has been achieved by building wooden fences. You can't play about when the finished article has to cope with the odd gale in excess of 100mph, and consequently I have four quite substantial fences – the tallest of which, protecting a few specimen trees and the heather bed planted in 1995, is 10ft high with 12ft posts sunk

into 4ft-deep holes each filled with around a ton of concrete. Parallel to the trees, and providing a second tier of shelter, a hedge of *Fuchsia* was planted, and the heather bed formed on an old peat stack site immediately in front. The site – some 55ft long – was rotovated with the addition of some earth, mounded in profile and semi-circular ends formed – roughly 10ft across at one end and 10 inches at the other. The shelter-fence and trees followed a year later.

A visit to a heather-grower in Angus resulted in visual overload, and me asking him to pick out a selection of heathers that would provide year-round colour. The heathers duly arrived, and the 30 varieties (totalling 230 plants) were planted over the course of a week. Before the onset of winter, fencing posts were driven in to the bed at each end and in the middle, rope strung over these and then covered with a “tent” of salmon smolt netting, the plants underneath having been loosely draped with fleece. The next spring, following this mollycoddling (which they never had again), the survival rate was 92.7%. From then on there emerged a pattern which seems, to say the least of it, peculiar. A group of, say, six plants of one variety sitting between two other groups would thrive for perhaps two or three years then all die out; the plants adjacent would all continue to thrive for at least another year. And this happened with frustrating regularity. On the odd occasion perhaps one or two would still be surviving – but sickly-looking. Applying chellated iron had no effect. The only solution I found was to keep on replacing varieties, and looking now at the original planting plan I see that only 16 of the original 30 heathers (representing all three genera) survive today. By far the poorest performing genus was *Calluna vulgaris*.

In a never-repeated feat of orderliness, I did a review of the situation in the autumn of 1998. Looking at that now I can see that of the 13 varieties of *Calluna* originally planted only two remain. Not only that but nine other varieties of *Calluna* were planted as replacements over time – and of these only one remains.

The original *Calluna* varieties planted were ‘Beoley Gold’, ‘Crimson Glory’, ‘Flamingo’, ‘Fred J. Chapple’, ‘Glenfiddich’, ‘Inshriach Bronze’, ‘Iris van Leyen’, ‘Jan Dekker’, ‘John F. Letts’, ‘Kirby White’, ‘Mair’s Variety’, ‘Mousehole’, ‘Sir John Charrington’, ‘Spitfire’, ‘Spring Cream’, ‘Spring Torch’, ‘Summer Orange’, ‘Sunrise’, ‘Tib’, as well as ‘Golden Carpet’, ‘Oxshott Common’ and ‘Velvet Fascination’. Only the last three survive. Surviving with them are:

Erica carnea (winter heath) ‘Foxhollow Fairy’, ‘Golden Starlet’, ‘Isabell’, ‘King George’, ‘Loughrigg’, ‘March Seedling’, ‘Porter’s Red’, ‘Rosantha’, ‘Springwood Pink’, ‘Springwood White’, ‘Westwood Yellow’.



Top left: Heather bed – planting just completed in 1995.

Top right: Heather bed – one year after planting – shows holes for fence.

Lower: Heather bed – late summer same year, showing the 10ft high fence.

Erica cinerea (bell heather) 'C. D. Eason', 'Eden Valley', 'Pink Ice', 'Velvet Night', 'Windlebrooke'.

Erica x darleyensis (Darley Dale heath) 'Ada S. Collings', 'Jack H. Brummage', 'Kramer's Rote'.

Erica vagans (Cornish heath) 'Valerie Proudley' and 'Yellow John'. There is one St Dabeoc's heath (*Daboecia cantabrica* 'Atropurpurea') and eight plants of "Scottish White Heather" (*Calluna vulgaris* f. *alba*).

Whether it is safe to conclude from this experience that, for whatever reason, *Calluna* cultivars are not suited to the conditions that prevail at these latitudes is a matter for growers with a great deal more horticultural or scientific knowledge than me, but a friend some 40 miles to the south on another island had very similar results from a smaller heather bed planted a year later. In his case *Calluna* performed marginally better than *Erica carnea*, and *Erica cinerea* varieties were very decisively the best performers – as they were, and are, with me.

Keeping on replacing *Calluna* with *Calluna* clearly wasn't working for me, and one obvious solution was to replace further failures with varieties of the most successful heathers – so, over the intervening years, varieties of *Erica cinerea* and a further two *E. x darleyensis* have been planted, and it is now three years since the last failures and subsequent replanting. Fingers crossed!

The tribulations of the 230 plants in the heather bed should have dictated to anyone with even a nodding acquaintance with the easy life to change allegiance to potatoes or carrots but, by the millennium, the idea of a much larger area, themed around peat and its workings, had taken hold and wouldn't let go. Rooted in a perverse way to childhood (I never did like working in the peats), the idea was to incorporate into a garden area what had been common practice with peats. Tossing the idea around with a gardening friend threw up ideas that were mulled over and coalesced into a plan.

Peats for the home fires used to be carted from the hill to the homestead before the incursion of tractors. I could just remember that – so a cart was first on the list. The cart might well have to traverse a road within the peat hill area – so incorporate a rough road. The peats at the homestead would be built into a stack – include a peat stack, and so on.

A cart was obtained by advertising in the local newspaper. The main parts were in good condition but the box was largely past redemption. No matter – the parts were all there and sufficiently intact to re-build. With the help of a talented carpenter friend, two blacksmiths, a firm of shot-blasters, an artist friend, and nearly 150 hours of sanding, filling and painting, the job was completed by the spring of 2003.



Planting year. Coverings removed awaiting the addition of peat – two of the 1 cubic-metre bags in shot.

Work on the garden itself started in mid-June of 2001. The area – a total of just over 4,500sq ft which also incorporated a 60 x 27ft wildflower mini-meadow was given its first treatment of glyphosate. It subsequently had four more spot treatments. A month later my neighbour went over the entire area with a 5ft, tractor-driven rotovator, and then came the weary task of picking out stones – a task which took several weeks and involved re-doing parts with a smaller machine where the loosened stones had become re-embedded. The volume of stones that were thrown up by the rotovators was astonishing and even when they were used as a core for the peat stack and building a dyke and a cairn there was enough left over to build the whole lot all over again! By mid-August the cairn was progressing and by mid-September the dyke foundation was dug out. Early October, and a mini-digger carved out the road and one of the drains, and by mid-October the first of the weed-control fabric was laid over the de-stoned areas and covered over with stone chips to hold it in place, and by the end of October the covering of the entire heather area, to await planting the following year, was complete.

Early in 2002 post-holes for a 6ft-high fence were dug and the fence was erected in September just before the planting was completed. Before that there was shingle to bag up and transport from the beach for the area in front of the cart, the core of the peat stack to be built from stone, peats to be cut, cured and transported, the dyke to be built and turf cut to top it off, the road surfacing material to be spread, drains to be laid, the cairn to be built, the stone chips and the weed-control fabric to be removed, and several more spot-sprays of Roundup to be done as the not-to-be-defeated weeds kept popping up.

I had decided, so as not to take too much risk with the project, to plant the embankment area with 90 *Erica carnea* 'March Seedling', 75 'Springwood Pink' and 97 'Springwood White' – all of which had a 100% success rate in the heather bed. These arrived at the end of July and were planted by the third week of August, together with 49 'Foxhollow', and a further 32 'Springwood White' and 31 'March Seedling' in the main area. Prior to planting in the main area, the ground had around 2.5m³ of peat rotovated in, tamped down and marked out by drawing curved interlocking shapes



Planting complete – only the vegetable patch and a few finishing touches left to do.



One year on – all is completed. (The herring basket in the foreground is from 1901.)

with a stick, then inserting short bamboo pins, spaced at the appropriate planting distances, with wooden spacers cut to the appropriate length. The main order of plants arrived on the last day of August, the intervening time having been taken up with completion of the stone-building jobs.

The planting list for the main area was:

Erica carnea 'Foxhollow' (49), 'Golden Starlet' (31), 'March Seedling' (31), 'Nathalie' (41), 'Schneekuppe' (40), 'Springwood White' (36), 'Vivellii' (48);

Erica cinerea 'Alba Minor' (125), 'Coccinea' (70), 'Fiddler's Gold' (81), 'Romiley' (52), 'Stephen Davis' (33), 'Westwood Yellow' (119); and

Erica x darleyensis 'Kramer's Rote' (33).

ne thousand and fifty-one heathers – all planted in a few days between early August and early September with the help of friends who kindly volunteered their services.

Over the intervening five years *Erica carnea* 'March Seedling' has had losses of perhaps 25–30, some of these damaged by a break in the shelter netting; 'Springwood Pink' perhaps 10 losses; 'Springwood White' 15 or thereby; 'Golden Starlet' – almost all failed and have been replaced with

Calluna vulgaris 'Golden Turret' this year; *E. cinerea* 'Fiddler's Gold' likewise, and these have just been replaced with *E. carnea* 'Schneekuppe' and *E. x darleyensis* 'White Perfection'; *E. cinerea* 'Alba Minor' is struggling with perhaps 25 to 30 losses and the remainder have all had at least one loss with the sole exception of *E. carnea* 'Nathalie'. Percentage-wise, these losses are higher than the heather bed but the infernal problem of total failure cheek to cheek with almost total success continues. I have both dug out and replaced the earth where the major failures have been, added to the drainage and treated the embankment area for leatherjackets (which I found some evidence of when re-planting). But, I won't be placing any bets that the answer has been found!



Four years on – spot some of the problems developing ('March Seedling' and 'Springwood White' on the embankment, 'Fiddler's Gold' opposite 'Springwood White'. Note also the wild heather on the dyke turfs alive and thriving (they are even better now).

A heather hybridizer's Yorkshire garden

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On occasion I have been asked about my garden and what part it has played in my heather hybridizing experiments, so I thought a short account of how the garden developed and the sorts of plants I grow might be of interest to members. Many Society members will have gardens of much greater aesthetic value than mine, so I lay no claims to anything of horticultural excellence. The garden was developed on something of a shoestring, and no doubt my account will strike a few chords with those of you who faced similar financial restraints when establishing their first garden.

My wife, Valerie, and I acquired the garden in 1970 when we moved to Yorkshire and purchased our first (and to date only) house. This was located in a typical newish open-plan housing estate, and had an unusually large garden for the time (even more unusual by present-day standards), covering



Figure 1. After 30 years, laurels and Leyland cypresses still provide reliable and trouble-free boundary hedging for the garden.

just under one third of an acre. Although this was to be our first garden, we already knew that we would be keen gardeners given the chance, and the size of the garden was certainly one of the major factors in choosing the house. My gardening inexperience meant that I had given no real thought to what sort of plants might thrive in this plot, and looking back I can see that I was very fortunate in acquiring by chance a plot with good quality, reasonably well drained soil, and with a slightly acid pH – in other words, a soil ideal for growing any species of heather. The garden had its problems, and we found that it actually occupied one of the lowest points in the area and some parts could become heavily water-logged in very wet weather. It was also something of a frost pocket, which caused me many problems with early-flowering rhododendrons and other shrubs. However, with increasing maturity of protective shrubs and favourable climate change, this problem has now largely disappeared.

When we first arrived, the garden was basically a flat, lawned area, encircled by what seemed to be endless wooden-panel fencing, with a few strategically placed ornamental trees and shrubs. Our first priorities were therefore to cover up the fencing with suitable hedging, and to create more interest in the garden, in the form of paths, flower-beds, rockeries and a pond. Though not appreciated at the time, one of the great advantages of starting a garden with a very limited budget is the forced acquisition of a wide range of skills, and as a young family with several commitments, we certainly had to watch the pennies. Compost-making and propagation marked the start of our steep learning curve. Good, solid hedging around the perimeter was achieved within five years, starting with a modest number of laurels and Leyland cypresses (X *Cupressocyparis leylandii*) stock-plants and propagating these from cuttings. After 30 years, both types of hedging are still intact and doing their job (Figure 1). Despite its bad press, I have found "*Leylandii*" to make an excellent hedge if looked after properly, that is, cut well back once a year. I will admit that for the first ten years growth will be prodigious and cutting twice a year might be needed, but eventually its growing energy will be dispersed through so many growing tips that only a few inches will be put on each season, and clipping once a year is plenty and will keep it looking neat and tidy for a full twelve months, unlike other less vigorous hedging plants such as privet. Once established, the hedging helped a lot with frost problems, and also provided a useful wind break in what was quite a windy area.

Because of pressures of work, the prime object was to develop a garden with all-year-round interest and colour, requiring the minimum of time and effort to keep in good order. How fortunate we were, that in the 1970s heathers and dwarf conifers were still popular, and our thinking was soon directed



Figure 2. The water-garden in early summer, some thirty years on.

towards these for our foundation planting. Sad to think that had more recent gardening fashions predominated then, we might now be looking forlornly at a flooded “Mediterranean” garden, or a weed-infested prairie planting, complete with decaying decking and peeling blue-painted fencing. Modern, fashion-driven gardening hype has a lot to answer for!

In those first few years, progress was relatively slow due to lack of time, but gradually more beds were dug and planted up. The pond provided useful soil for the rockeries, and the rock pond-edging and waterfall construction was tackled by using concrete moulded into natural rock formations and textures. This technique took a little perfecting, but the result was well worth the effort, and 25 years on, all the structures are still intact and look as though they have been in place for ever (Figure 2). In the case of the rockeries, I was able to find a recently worked-out quarry and after some phone calls I was given permission to take away what rocks I could find, provided I tipped the gatekeeper adequately. For the price of a fiver and a hired van I was able to select all the rocks I needed and collect them in three or four trips. Although the pond did provide some soil for the rockeries, this was not enough for our needs and we had to look elsewhere. The answer to our prayers seemed to come in the form of an advertisement in our local press, offering free top-soil

from a sugar-beet processing plant. I immediately ordered ten tons of this, which soon arrived by lorry and I watched it being dumped on our driveway with growing apprehension. Shifting this into the back garden was a priority, as we could hardly get into the house, let alone get the car onto the drive. However, a prodigious effort of wheelbarrowing, with the welcome assistance of willing neighbours, eventually moved it, and my muscles still ache to think about it. Unfortunately the soil proved to be full of lime and extremely alkaline, and where it was to be used for heathers I had to resort to liberal application of strong sulphuric acid to bring the pH down. Using nothing more than a plastic watering can, this proved quite an experience, and with all the fizzing, bubbling and splashing, this was not a job for the faint-hearted. However, I eventually reached an acceptable pH without personal injury, and the rockeries were finally completed by about 1978 and were planted up on the various levels with alpinines and winter-flowering heathers. The latter were given greatest prominence, covering about five square metres on the lowest level, directly facing the house. The chosen cultivars were *Erica carnea* 'King George', 'Springwood White', 'December Red', 'Vivellii' and 'Myretoun Ruby', and with the exception of 'Vivellii' which seemed not too fond of our Yorkshire weather, these proved to be an ideal choice, and have given us welcome colour unfailingly every winter for 30 years, with no more attention than a good clipping every May. Most of the original plants still survive, and despite 30 years of continuous growth, none have strayed outside their allotted space. These early successes with *E. carnea* made me realise the potential of heathers and I soon became hooked. Over the next five years I sourced numerous hardy species and hybrids, and planted these in various locations.

Strangely, *Calluna vulgaris* has been the least successful with me, and although the plants establish and grow well, they have generally required the most frequent replacement (every four or five years). Even with severe pruning, the flower spikes seemed to diminish in length every year as the plants themselves became larger and leggier. Nevertheless, *Calluna* cultivars will always earn their keep, thanks to their wonderful range of colours and flower forms, and their amenability to propagation.

Erica vagans cultivars have proved much more permanent, and have kept up their flowering performance with increasing age almost as well as the *E. carnea* clones. However, they are somewhat harder to keep in check, and do eventually outgrow their allocated areas. I have even had to replace plants of the slow-growing *E. vagans* 'Valerie Proudley' after about 20 years because of excessive size.

Other heathers which have retained their floriferousness and reasonably restricted size (with annual pruning) for 20 years or more are various

Erica x darleyensis cultivars, *E. terminalis* 'Thelma Woolner', *E. lusitanica* (the species), *E x veitchii* 'Exeter' and 'Gold Tips', *E. x williamsii* and *Daboecia x scotica* 'William Buchanan'.

Plants which I would never be without, but which do require replacing every five years or so are various cultivars of *Erica tetralix*, *E. cinerea*, *E. ciliaris*, *E. x watsonii*, *E. x stuartii* and *E. erigena*. For me, the most frustrating species to keep satisfactorily for more than three or four years has proved to be *E. umbellata*, and I must confess that I do not know the answer to this.

After my seemingly immortal *Erica carnea* plants, the tree heaths *E. x veitchii* and *E. lusitanica* are my favourites, as they have provided invaluable, tidy backdrops at key points in the garden, helping to divide the garden up, and at the same time providing beautiful, massed flower-cover in spring. They also have the bonus of delightful fragrance. The *E. x veitchii* hybrids proved perfectly hardy from the word go, but the harsh winters of the '70s always proved too much for *E. lusitanica* and I was unable to establish plants until David McClintock kindly provided me with cutting material from plants that had naturalised themselves in the south of England. These were propagated, and have since proved perfectly hardy with me, still flowering vigorously every spring with never any signs of frost damage to the leaves or stems.

My interest in heathers expanded into acid-loving plants in general, and the family Ericaceae in particular. For the garden-lover, plantsman and botanist alike, the Ericaceae have an incredible amount to offer, and it would be a formidable challenge for anyone to collect just one example of each genus (currently standing at 124 genera, I believe). These 124 genera truly range from A to Z (from *Andromeda* to *Zenobia*), encompassing almost any shape and size of plant one could wish for. For example, at one extreme there is the tiny, Arctic moss heather *Harrimanella hypnoides* (formerly *Cassiope*) which I managed to keep outside for a few years, and at the other extreme there are large trees, such as *Oxydendron arboreum* which can reach 50ft in height (my own, grown from seed, stands at 10ft after 15 years).

For a few years I set about collecting as many examples of the Ericaceae as I could, already having, of course, *Calluna*, *Erica*, *Daboecia* and *Rhododendron* to start my collection. The first obvious additions were the other heath-type genera *Andromeda*, *Cassiope*, *Phyllodoce* and *Bruckenthalia* (now *Erica*), and these were followed quickly by such familiar and readily available shrubs as *Pieris*, *Enkianthus*, *Gaultheria* and *Vaccinium*, and the strawberry tree, *Arbutus unedo*. However, thereafter other genera became increasingly difficult to find, and proved very challenging, but at one stage I did manage to put together a collection of 43 genera. Alas, not all proved to be as undemanding as the heathers, and today only a small percentage of these remain. For those



Figure 3. A mixed planting of heathers among blueberries in early September (left *Erica x watsonii* 'Claire Elise'; right *E. carnea* 'Ann Sparkes').

blessed with acid soil, I can recommend trying various species of *Enkianthus* (flowers and autumn colour), *Kalmia* (unusually attractive flowers), *Lyonia* (flowers and autumn colour), *Vaccinium* and *Gaultheria* (foliage and berries) and *Zenobia pulverulenta* (for its unusual silvery-green foliage and scented, pure white flowers). My all-time favourites are the blueberries (*Vaccinium*) (Figure 3), which provide everything one could want in a shrub: neatness with minimal pruning, abundant flowers, intense autumn colour, and of course attractive, edible berries, which are both extremely good for you and delicious.

Having soon become a member of The Heather Society in those early days, I was intrigued to read the article written by veteran member Anne Parris in the 1976 *Yearbook* – Preliminary note on a cross between *Erica erigena* and *E. carnea* – and her follow-up article in 1977. Her comments inspired me to carry out my own hybridization experiments, and I wrote to (then) Vice-President David McClintock for advice. His response was extremely encouraging, and it was largely due to him that in the next few years I persevered with my experiments and did not give up after the first few setbacks. My first attempts used pot plants in a cold greenhouse, but results were disappointing, so I then used more mature plants in the garden. The

greatest difficulty was not the pollination stage but keeping bees away from the pollinated flowers so that the results were not compromised. I hit on the idea of using small muslin “tents” which could be placed over the whole plant and staked to the soil, and for a while the heather beds looked most peculiar with these dotted about the place. However it was impossible to plug all the gaps, and bees are perhaps the most persistent of all insects, so more often than not I would find bees trapped inside the tents, having had exclusive access to all my carefully pollinated flowers. The eventual solution was to use small mesh bags that fitted over each flower stem, and to seal these tightly to the stem with a wire tie. Although less obtrusive than the tents, some plants could have as many as ten of these bags on them at any one time.

After a few years I was getting enough successes with my crosses to cause problems accommodating and growing on the numerous resultant seedlings. It generally took two to three years to be able to assess the hybrid character and garden value of a plant. As a result I decided to build a 1x4 metre cold frame out of breeze-blocks, so that the more important seedlings could be lined out and grown under exposed conditions, with some protection from wind and frost (Figure 4). The frame covers were only used in extremely cold weather. Hybrids produced successfully at this time included *Erica x griffithsii* ‘Valerie Griffiths’ (named after my wife) and ‘Ashlea Gold’ (named after our road) (Figure 5), *E. x williamsii* ‘Gold Button’, *E. x garforthensis* ‘Craig’ (my first grandson), and *E x watsonii* ‘Claire Elise’ (my daughter). Interest-



Figure 4. Hybrid seedling trials in the cold frame, 1985. The original *Erica x griffithsii* seedlings from which ‘Valerie Griffiths’ was selected can be seen at the rear.



Figure 5. The mixed heather, maple, conifer and dwarf rhododendron beds in May, with *Erica x griffithsii* 'Ashlea Gold' in the foreground.

ingly, 'Valerie Griffiths' does not provide such a rich yellow colour on my soil as 'Ashlea Gold', and so I have found myself becoming increasingly more attracted to her rival in recent years.

Today the garden contains more mixed planting than it used to, and herbaceous perennials, spring- and summer-flowering bulbs, and climbers are also to be found in most beds. However, heathers, rhododendrons, conifers and small shrubs still dominate the scene. Some of these have outgrown their space and usefulness, and are gradually being replaced. The pond with its synthetic rockwork has stood the test of time and looks very natural, and as the ravages of herons have at last been eliminated (thanks to plastic netting), the fish population is burgeoning and will soon need thinning out. The seedling frame has gone, and the netted heather plants are now rarely seen, but the real lasting memories of my hybridization experiments are the plants themselves, examples of which are dotted about the garden as pleasant reminders of the trials, tribulations, and (very occasionally) successes of the amateur hybridizer.

Erica maderensis in England

ALLEN HALL

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Erica maderensis is a native of the island of Madeira and grows nowhere else in the wild. On Madeira, it frequents the highest ground, typically on the tops of mountains. *E. maderensis* is rarely grown in cultivation and so is one of those heathers that is unfamiliar even to heather enthusiasts. For these reasons, the plant has been little observed and written about. This article is about my experience of growing *E. maderensis* in England and may to some small extent help redress this situation.

In the mid- to late 1980s my interest in heather gardening spilled over into a curiosity about heathers themselves and I wanted to know more about



Figure 1. *Erica maderensis* on Pico do Ariero, Madeira, December 2006, a short walk from the café at the end of the road. The shrubs in the background are also *E. maderensis*, but this one was the most compact and shapely. (© E. C. Nelson)

heathers on the fringes of the hardy species of northern Europe that were rarely if ever cultivated. So I sought to acquire some of these plants, *Erica maderensis* among them. Plants of these species can't be obtained on the market. However, one of the unsung advantages of membership of The Heather Society is that rarities can be obtained through the liberality of fellow members. Heathers that are worthless to horticulturists, yet priceless to enthusiasts, are obtained without cost from one's fellows.

A CLONE FROM AN EXPEDITION IN 1974

Dr (now Professor) John Griffiths generously sent me a rooted cutting of *Erica maderensis* in 1989. This was a clone collected by Don Richards and David McClintock in Madeira in 1974. Don Richards subsequently wrote about the expedition in the *Yearbook of The Heather Society*.¹ He reported that

... on the bleak top of Pico do Ariero *E. maderensis* is quite common as tight cushions or mats draping the rocks. Some of these plants are ancient with a main stem thicker than one's thumb and close pressed to the rock up to 6 feet (1.83 metres) across. ... *E. maderensis* survived on the bleak, rocky mountain tops where practically nothing else could find a living.

Lower down they saw bushy plants perhaps 1–2ft (0.3–0.6m) tall. The colour of flowers was "near white to fawny or puplish pink, much like a paler version of *E. terminalis*." Writing in 1981 about the same expedition, David McClintock² said that all but the youngest plants had thick, stout stems. He stated that the colour of the flowers was mauve – H2. However, one plant had flowers with colours ranging from deep rose pink to near white.

A more recent botanical explorer was Dr Charles Nelson, and he has kindly provided a photograph to use with this article (Figure 1). In 2003, Dr Nelson gave a talk³ to the East Midlands Group of The Heather Society in which he showed a number of slides of *Erica maderensis*. One of these showed a woody plant fully 3m long hanging down a mountain side.

SEED FROM THE BOTANICAL GARDENS IN MADEIRA

The 1999 Heather Society conference at Falmouth was addressed by Dr Judy Rose of the Horticultural Research Institution, East Malling, Kent. Dr Rose was engaged in research in which heathers were to feature. After her lecture I discovered that she was seeking some plants to use in her research, in particular *Erica bocquetii* and *E. maderensis*. Subsequently I sent her some plants of both species. Later, Dr Rose obtained some *E. maderensis* seed from

a contact at the Madeira Botanical Gardens and she had a surplus which she sent me as thanks for the plants I had given to her.

The seed from the Botanical Garden was dated 1998. I obtained, and sowed, my share in May 2000 and raised many fine plants, most of which I gave to fellow members of the Society, including John Griffiths and David Small, our current President, who has also assisted me with my collection of rare heathers over the years. I kept a number myself until I was satisfied that the plants had similar flowers and forms to each other and to the Richards/McClintock clone. I now have clones from two different sources.

HARDINESS

When I received my first plant in 1989, David McClintock advised me that the species was hardy. *Erica maderensis*, after all, experiences windy conditions in its native clime and is sometimes covered with snow. Moreover, Don Richards could grow the species in his garden in Eskdale, Cumbria. David himself grew *E. maderensis* outside at his home, Bracken Hill, Platt, in Kent for a number of years, as he mentioned in his article on the bell heather of Madeira.² He commented: "here it does not thrive or make the floriferous display to be seen in the climate of Madeira."



Figure 2. *Erica maderensis*; plant growing outside in sheltered spot, Nanpantan 2007.



Figure 3. *Erica maderensis*; plant growing in 19-litre container, Nanpantan 2007.

When I had accumulated a number of plants, I conducted my own experiment in my Surrey garden and later repeated it in Loughborough.⁴ In both trials, the plants were cut to the ground by winter frosts and fragile

spring recoveries were not sustained. A mature plant was later installed in a concrete container, by the south wall of the house and sheltered from the east by a water-butt. This has survived, and indeed flourished, for several years (Figure 2). Dr Nelson saw this plant recently and thought it reminiscent of those he has seen growing in the wild on Pico de Ariero.

My conclusion is that *Erica maderensis* might be hardy in milder, western parts of the country but is on the fringes of hardiness in middle and eastern England. In these places, the species needs some protection in the winter either by careful selection of site, protection in a cold glasshouse, or, as I prefer, in a heated glasshouse.

CULTIVATION IN ENGLAND

I keep stock plants in a glasshouse from mid-September to mid-May.⁵ The glasshouse has an electric fan-heater thermostatically controlled to prevent the ambient temperature falling below +5°C. Good ventilation is important and the glasshouse is liberally equipped with automatically operated, and hand-worked, ventilators. On winter nights the ventilators have to be closed but they are opened during the day even if it is cold, providing the temperature does not drop below freezing.

Erica maderensis thrives when well watered. I water the plants every day except in the winter months when frequency and quantities of water are reduced to suit individual needs – as informed by experience. In some weeks at the turn of the year, watering once a week is enough.

During the summer, my *Erica maderensis* plants are put in a sheltered place outside and they enjoy their weeks in the sun.

I neglected to re-pot one of my plants for a number years but when I came eventually to re-pot it, I found no trace of the root ball being pot-bound. The plant, it seems, had accommodated itself to its conditions. This prompts me to wonder if in the wild *Erica maderensis* has to live in cracks and hollows in the rocks that contain little soil?

COMPOST

I use a compost mix of half moss peat and half Perlite.⁶ This compost is light, free-draining and acidic. Both components are water-retentive. To this mixture is added John Innes base fertiliser at the rate of 6.25ml per litre (1fl oz per gallon). During the summer months, I give the plants feeds of liquid ericaceous fertiliser once a month.

I have not explored whether *Erica maderensis* might grow in a neutral or alkaline soil.

PROPAGATION

I find that *Erica maderensis* is easier to grow from seed than from cuttings. Each flower is capable of producing many seeds and early autumn⁷ is a good time to collect them (Figure 8). I use similar techniques to those described by Barry Sellers⁷ but confess that I do not take so many pains. I use the same peat/Perlite compost with a 3mm layer of horticultural grade sand on top. The seed is mixed with a little of the same sand and sprinkled on top. As Barry advised⁷, in his authoritative article, the compost is not allowed to dry out. The seed typically germinates in three to five weeks after sowing.

Erica maderensis is a very woody plant but the stems throw slender, green side-shoots of up to about 2.5cm (1in) long (Figure 4). These can be used for cutting material but care has to be used in selecting them because they harden quickly and the best cutting material has half-ripe wood. I root them in a peat/Perlite mix with a thin layer of horticultural sand on the surface. The cuttings are placed in a cold frame and the strike rate I obtain is reasonable.

SIZE OF PLANTS IN CULTIVATION

Currently, I have four plants, two of the Richards/McClintock clone, and two from seeds obtained in 2000 from the Madeira Botanic Garden via Dr Rose.

One seedling, from the seed sown in May 2000, is now growing in a 19-litre (4-gallon) plastic container. It has a spread of 97cm (38in) and reached a height above the rim of the container of 45cm (18in). However, the nature of the plant is to form a hummock and it trails 27cm (10.5in) over the side of the container, reaching the ground. It has a single woody main stem that is 2.2cm in diameter – as thick as my thumb in fact (Figure 3). *Erica* seedlings take a long time to develop so I reckon that the main growth of the plant has occurred since around May 2001, in other words within six years.

A second, older plant of the Richards/McClintock clone has a single main stem 2.5cm in diameter (1in), while a third has seven stems emerging from the compost and the diameter of these is 10–13mm (<0.5in). These dimensions accord with David McClintock's² and Don Richards's¹ observations of plants in the wild.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Erica maderensis is a distinctive plant with tough, woody stems and branches that are not brittle. It puts out short, stubby twigs which form green side-shoots (Figure 4). The twigs soon mature and harden. The plants characteristically form dense hummocks around their roots or mould



Figure 4. *Erica maderensis*; a typical side-shoot.



Figure 5. *Erica maderensis*; close-up of a single flower.



Figure 6. *Erica maderensis*; flower with corolla removed.



Figure 7. *Erica maderensis*; plant in full flower, Nanpantan 2007.

themselves to their immediate environment and this habit may be a response to the strong, Atlantic winds that sweep its mountain homeland.

In my Leicestershire garden, the plants flower in June and July – depending on their particular locations – and sometimes flowers appear in August or even September.

My plants produce very pale pink flowers (Figure 6). From a distance, the flowers appear white and when in full flower a plant can look attractive (Figure 5). However, I do not regard it as a good garden plant, lack of hardiness aside.

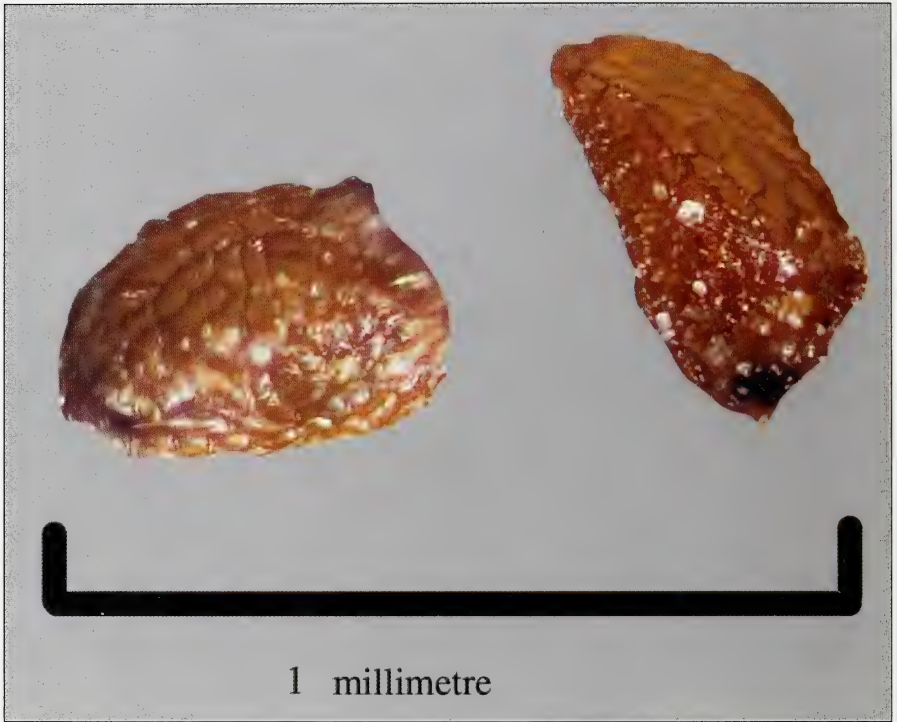


Figure 8. *Erica maderensis*; seeds.

In his talk to the East Midlands Group in 2003³, Dr Nelson pointed out that the valves of the fruits are woody (Figure 9). The fruits persist for a long time after the seed has been released and the valves open and close according to humidity (like a pine cone).

David McClintock raised the question of whether *Erica maderensis* should continue to be regarded as a separate species² or as a subspecies of *E. cinerea*. He concluded that its specific status should be retained but said that it would be helpful if someone could attempt to cross the two species. Professor Griffiths was present at the East Midlands Group meeting in October 2003 and said that he had crossed the two several times, using *E. maderensis* as the seed parent.



Figure 9. *Erica maderensis* in fruit; a shrub photographed at Pico do Ariero, Madeira in December 2006. (© E. C. Nelson)

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Visiting the African Queen – with the assistance of satellites

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We awoke to an azure sky and a gentle breeze, which promised a wonderful day for our trek to find the queen of heathers.

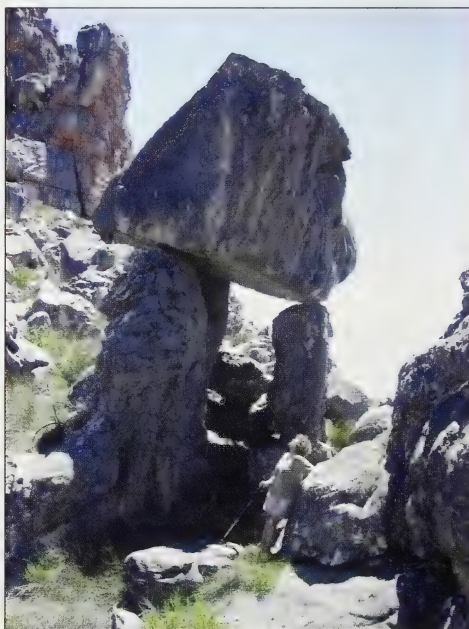
Ted Oliver and Ross Turner, the gurus of the *Erica* world had joined us in a rented cottage in the Cederberg Mountains and were to take us to find this very special lady. All aboard Ted's trusty Landrover for the 70km drive to an area just south of a small hamlet called "Op-de-Berg". The place we were going to is known as "Rocklands", and our intention was to climb almost to the top of North Rockland Peak; this is the opposite side of the valley where The Heather Society tour went to view *Erica thunbergii* in 2003.

We drove through the fruit farm and up a very overgrown track to the base of the mountain. Booted and creamed up, with supplies of food and water we started to climb the steep kloof. Our first *Erica* was *E. leucantha*, the small bushes completely covered with pale lemon flowers, alongside *E. cristiflora* giving the pink hues that Europeans are more used to seeing.

It was a case of up, and up, and up, but with so much to see that we didn't really notice the steep climb. Just before cresting the skyline we found ourselves waist-high in a field of *Erica monsoniana*. A stop for more photos and exclamations of how stunning it was.

After the first main ascent we moved across a small plateau bounded by extraordinary rock formations, some of which looked extremely precarious. After wandering around and through and over and under these incredible rocks, Ross went ahead to check the location – the wonders of GPS!

There was a sudden shout of "Eureka" echoing round the mountains, and we moved as fast





“Eureka!”: the Kays at the court of the Queen of African Heathers. (© E. G. H. Oliver.)

as the terrain would allow towards the call.

Spread just below us was the fabulous sight of *Erica junonia* lifting her coral tubes to the sky. A few yards further away was a bigger population with more flowers completely open. It certainly was an entrancing view, with *E. cristiflora* in the background making the salmon colour of Juno’s heath seem even more bold.

A good half hour was spent admiring the queen, and the paparazzi clicked away from all angles. Ross regaled us with tales of how he discovered this particular population whilst camping out in the area and heather-hunting. There is another colony a bit further south in the Skurweberg Range, but it is not as easy to reach, being at about 1,800m altitude, our flowers being at a mere 1,600m (5,250 ft).

Having enjoyed the spectacle, it was time to head home and descend the kloof. There are no trails in to these mountains, one just picks the easiest route. As one gets older, the coming down is harder than the going up and this old lady was rather slow. Peering down into the precipitous valley, I found it hard to believe we had just “strolled” up, botanizing all the way. After



Erica junonia on North Rockland Peak (© E. G. H. Oliver).

about two hours we did reach the bottom with no mishaps and a real feeling of exhilaration. Only a handful of people have ever seen this particular population, so this made the day very special.

A few flowers had been picked to show to the manager of the fruit farm and the owners of the cottage which we were renting. However, it became apparent that we had an extra guest staying in our cottage who was also very interested in *Erica junonia*. We were woken early the next morning by an anguished howl from Ross. A little mousey gerbil, who had decided to keep Ross company for the night, had eaten all the precious *E. junonia* flowers, leaving just a few crumbs for Ross to examine with his microscope.

During that day we saw 21 species of Cape heaths and once again I have to thank The Heather Society for taking me to South Africa in the first place. My biggest thanks must be for the continuing friendship of Ted and his forbearance of my total lack of knowledge, although I did recognise one lonely plant of *Erica plukenetii*. I also thank Ross for his total commitment to *Erica* and his delight in spending time in the mountains. Without this pair of enthusiastic and expert botanists, there would never have been an opportunity for this particular expedition the see "The Queen of Heathers".

The creation of a public heather garden: Cottage Grove Community Hospital, Oregon, U. S. A.

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In early 2004, Alan Williams, Facilities Director of the newly constructed Community Hospital in Cottage Grove, Oregon, contacted me about planting heathers on the hospital grounds. He grows heathers in his own garden and thought that they might be an attractive solution for a problem slope between the sidewalk and a low spot that was to serve as a catchment basin for run-off water during western Oregon's winter rains. Photographs that Alan sent me showed a long stretch of unkempt grass and tall weeds, difficult to mow because of the slope, and some mature deciduous trees in the sunken catchment area: a challenge.

I consulted members of the Oregon Heather Society (OHS) about taking on this project, and we offered to design and plant a heather garden for the hospital – provided that the hospital took care of site preparation, including weed removal and installation of an irrigation system, and paid for the heather plants, which we would obtain at wholesale cost. The hospital grounds committee accepted our offer, and work on the site began that summer.

Soil preparation was relatively simple. The site is blessed with a sandy loam spoiled only by the odd chunk of clay and a scattering of rounded river rocks, and it is naturally acidic like most other soils west of the Cascade Mountains. The ground was graded to minimize and even out the slope, and where the slope was steepest, in the narrow spot by the trees, a low retaining wall was constructed to produce a more gently sloping planting bed above it. A gravel path running the length of the garden divides it into manageable planting areas and enables visitors to enter the garden rather than just look at it from the sidewalk that forms the eastern boundary. Because the path runs immediately below the retaining wall, the wall has become a favourite place for staff to sit during fine weather. But I get ahead of myself.

I undertook the task of designing the garden. Cottage Grove is located just to the south of the Willamette Valley, at an elevation of about 600ft (183m) above sea level, in United States Department of Agriculture Cold Hardiness Zone 8, with average annual minimum temperatures between 10° and 20°F

(-12° to -7°C): we should be able to grow any of the hardy heathers here. The site was much larger than my own garden – more than 210ft (64m) long and varying in width from 5ft to 45ft (± 1.5 –14m). As a public garden, it would need the impact produced by large groupings of individual cultivars, as opposed to the small groupings in my “collector’s garden”, yet there should be diversity in colour and form, and colour interest throughout the year.

Early on, I decided that there would be a path within the garden, running from the service entrance road at the southern end to the emergency room driveway at the northern. The widest part of the garden, nearest the emergency room, needed an additional path to allow access for gardeners. Near the entrance to the service road and parallel to it is a large wooden sign, and not far from that is a metal box for access to the hospital’s underground power and communications networks. Both of these had to be considered during the design process.

Also playing a large part in the design were the trees in the catchment area that forms part of the western boundary of the garden, remnants of the site’s original riverine vegetation. (The hospital is close to the Row River, a tributary of the region’s dominant Willamette River.) The trees make a natural backdrop for the garden, and they needed to be treated as part of the garden. They would be thinned and their lower limbs removed to allow light to reach the heathers. Their shade would reduce flowering in the nearest heathers but would also give protection from hot summer afternoon sun. After studying the shade pattern cast by the trees in summer, I decided to put *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Beoley Gold’ and *Erica ciliaris* ‘Aurea’ in the shadiest spot, so that their foliage would not burn during summer days that can occasionally exceed 100°F (38°C). *E. tetralix* ‘Swedish Yellow’ would be planted along the edge of the catchment area, where it, too, would receive afternoon shade.

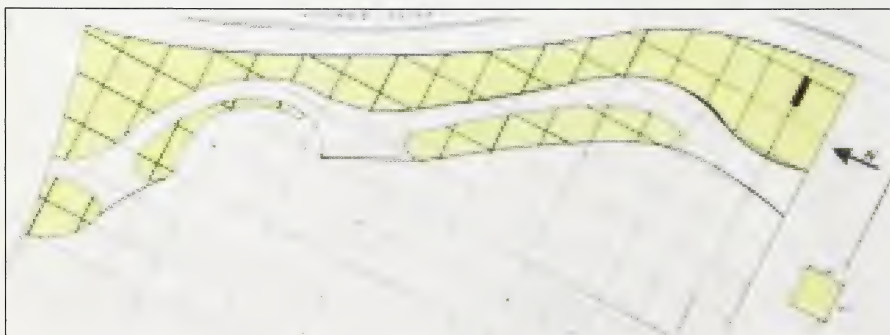


Figure 1. Schematic plan of the heather garden (shaded yellow); each grid block represents 100 square feet.



Figure 2. Cottage Grove Community Hospital heather garden in late August 2006. From this viewpoint, you cannot see the retaining wall because of the curve in the path, but the bright foliage of *Erica tetralix* 'Swedish Yellow' is clearly visible under the ash. Some very happy plants of *E. mackayana* 'Shining Light' are in front of the left-hand conifer, with *Calluna vulgaris* 'Schurig's Sensation' behind it. Heathers in the foreground are *C. vulgaris* 'Tib', 'Shining Light' and *E. cinerea* 'Alba Minor'. The vigorous central grouping is 'Kerstin'. In the upper left, nearly behind the large tree, is *E. arborea* var. *alpina*.

Fortunately, most of the site is sunny, which meant that the only limit on cultivar selection was availability. There are several specialist heather nurseries in Oregon, and they were able to supply many of the specified plants. Some OHS members donated plants they had propagated in their own gardens, and we ordered the more difficult-to-obtain cultivars from a heather nursery in a neighbouring state.

The creation of this garden provided an opportunity to demonstrate how effectively heathers can be used in the landscape. One of the reasons for choosing particular cultivars was our desire as a heather society to show the public that there are many more kinds of heather than the limited range available in garden centres and used by most landscape gardeners. Consequently, in addition to ensuring that there were tall heathers, short

heathers, those of upright habit and sprawlers, we selected a wide range of species and hybrids. There are now heathers blooming in this garden every month of the year. Low-growing rhododendrons planted under the trees add colour in late spring when the fewest heathers are in flower.

The new Community Hospital in Cottage Grove was made possible through major fund-raising efforts and donations from the local community, which had been facing the imminent closure of its only hospital when Peace Health (a Catholic health care system serving communities throughout the Pacific Northwest under local lay leadership) came to the rescue. Peace Health, founded in 1936 by the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace, an order started by an Irish nun, owns and operates the hospital. One of the nursing sisters at the hospital is Irish, and she was thrilled to learn that there was to be a heather garden. I had fun choosing cultivars with names that have a connection to either Ireland, nursing, or the Catholic faith, however remote or unintended that connection. Consequently, the garden now contains *Calluna* 'Caleb Threlkeld' and 'Sister Anne', *Erica cinerea* 'Providence', *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk', *E. x stuartii* 'Irish Lemon', *E. vagans* 'St Keeverne', and *E. x watsonii* 'Mary'. That these are also outstanding cultivars is a happy coincidence.



Figure 3. A blue dwarf conifer and brown sedges add variation in form, colour and texture to the heather garden, photographed in October 2007. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Schurig's Sensation' is in the foreground; the tip of the conifer points to *Erica x griffithsii* 'Jacqueline'.

Tree heaths – *Erica australis*, *E. arborea* var. *alpina* and 'Estrella Gold', and *E. erigena* 'Maxima' – used as stand-alone specimens punctuate the predominantly low vegetation, and a loose grouping of three columnar "dwarf" conifers provides additional interest. Because maintenance of open sightlines for the service road and emergency entrance is essential, the conifers were planted near the centre of this elongated garden.

I had been so pleased with the effect of sedges and grasses in my own garden that I included several in the hospital garden. The brown New

Zealand sedge *Carex flagellifera* grows into a fountain about 4ft (± 1 m) in diameter and 2ft (0.6m) high. *C. buchananii* is similar in colour and height but narrower and much more upright. The small blue grass *Festuca glauca* was not actually drawn on the garden plan, but seedlings from my garden were scattered randomly throughout the hospital garden after the heathers were planted. We warned Alan Williams that we had planted them, so he wouldn't remove them, thinking that they were weeds.

September is the month when western Oregon's summer drought begins to give way to the rains of winter, although most September days have fine weather. The date chosen to plant the garden, 11 September 2004, turned out to be one of the few rainy days that month. Nevertheless, eleven OHS members assembled at the hospital to plant the garden. (Oregon gardeners are used to working in the rain.)

In addition to the uncooperative weather, some other things didn't go as expected. The area prepared for the garden didn't exactly fit the boundaries originally outlined on the site plan, and the gravel path had not been laid along the designated route, primarily because of construction of the retaining wall – an on-the-spot innovation of the team doing the site preparation, when the existing slope proved too steep. Perhaps because the workers preparing the site expended considerable effort in building the wall, not all weeds had been removed as promised, so some of our precious planting time had to be



Figure 4. *Erica cinerea* 'Celebration' flows between signposts in the hospital garden; 'Velvet Night' is in upper right; *Calluna vulgaris* 'Bray Head' is left foreground.

spent removing tap-rooted weeds. Finally, when all purchased and donated plants had been unloaded and placed in the general areas where they were to be planted, we discovered that not all requested cultivars had arrived and that members had brought along some cultivars I had *not* requested!

Thus, although we attempted to follow the (soggy) planting plan, fine-tuning of the design became a co-operative effort, as we compensated for the different hardscape and cultivar availability. What began as somewhat awkward blotchy patches on the landscaping plan emerged in more graceful final form as we juggled plants for the most pleasing effect and attempted to adjust for missing and substitute cultivars. All pots were set out on the ground before any heather was planted, so that we could be certain we had the final design right.

One combination in particular was tweaked into a much more interesting shape than I had envisioned. I'd wanted a large patch of *Erica cinerea* 'Celebration', my favourite golden-leaved cultivar, to be an attention grabber as visitors approached the hospital from town. It was to be right at the beginning of the garden, by the service road entrance. Highland Heather nursery-owner Janice Leinwebber suggested that we run the planting under the service road sign, so a stream of gold now flows from an irregularly shaped golden pool on one side of the sign to a differently shaped golden pool on the other side. This large patch of 'Celebration' is abutted on one side by a planting of *E. cinerea* 'Velvet Night' that provides a dark foil for the gold when its nearly black flowers open.

Low cultivars were planted at the corners where sidewalk and driveways intersect: *Calluna vulgaris* 'White Lawn' at one end and a white-flowering *Erica carnea* at the other. The identity of this *Erica* is a mystery that we hope to solve when it blooms.

We may have set a speed record for garden planting as we struggled to finish quickly and get out of the rain and into dry clothing. All of the more than 400 heathers brought that day, in either 4in-diameter or gallon-sized pots, were planted in less than two hours. Digging the planting holes evolved into a game of sorts. As we encountered erratic chunks of clay and rock that would impede the growth of heather roots in the otherwise friable soil, we tossed them into the catchment basin. The "game" part of this activity involved managing *not* to hit fellow members.

The rain may have been an annoyance, and the gardeners quickly turned into mud-puppies, well splattered from head to toe, but it got the garden off to a great start. There were very few losses during the garden's first winter.

As missing cultivars became available, either later that autumn or in the spring, we added them, eventually filling all the gaps. The few plants that

died were replaced, except in one small part of the garden that proved too wet and shady to support heathers. Bowles' golden grass (*Carex elata* 'Aurea') would be more suitable for that spot and will be planted there this coming spring.

Planting a garden for a public institution that depends heavily upon donations and volunteer workers has its challenges, as we have learned over the last three years. Because the hospital is close to an interchange on Interstate 5, the main West Coast north-south superhighway, OHS members find it easy to make a brief visit as they pass the garden on their travels. Sometimes we have been pleasantly surprised at how quickly the garden has become an asset to the community. Other times, we have had unpleasant shocks.

The first, and still the worst, shock came when we arrived to discover that someone had planted maple trees in the heather garden. Gone was *Rosa glauca*, under-planted with *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Cinderella', that was to have added height, movement and variety to one end of the garden. A maple tree now occupied the rose's place, although most of the *Daboecia* had survived the intrusion. Other maples were spaced evenly along the sidewalk at regular intervals, continuing a line of trees that began at the property's northern boundary, ran in front of the hospital's roadside parking lot, continued through the heather garden, and ended at the service road. One dwarf conifer had also been transplanted to make way for a maple.

We contacted Alan Williams immediately and explained that if the maples were allowed to remain in the garden, all our effort (and the cost of the heather plants) would be wasted. We learned that he had not been consulted about the trees and that they had been given by a *very* generous hospital donor whom the hospital dare not offend. Alan managed to work out a compromise. The maples, potentially very large trees, were moved to a lawn south of the heather garden and west of the catchment area trees. They are bound to cause trouble for the heathers in the long run, because they will shed multitudinous leaves and seeds, but at least they no longer are *in* the garden.

The advent of the maples was the beginning of a game of "musical plants", as we attempted to repair the damage. Quite a few plants had been moved or removed, and it took several tries to get them replanted where they should be. We decided not to replace the missing rose but planted, instead, *Erica australis* 'Riverslea', which would require less maintenance and was, after all, a heather.

A later visit revealed that many of the heathers had been nearly buried when the garden was mulched. The original mulch had not been applied thickly enough, and after all the plant-moving, it was nearly gone from some parts of the garden. Community volunteers spread more mulch, but nobody was there to teach them the proper way to apply it around heathers. They

not only had buried many of the plants' outer branches; they also had deposited mulch right in the centre of some plants. I spent a lot of time during that visit rescuing plants from the misapplied mulch.

When OHS agreed to plant the hospital garden, we said that we would give the garden its first pruning, and at the same time, we would teach local volunteers how to prune heathers so that they could assume responsibility for the garden. OHS members are scattered all over western Oregon, some living more than 100 miles from Cottage Grove. We did not want to have to maintain the garden. At the initial, well-advertised pruning session, only one local gardener and a couple of hospital employees showed up. We quickly realized that if the garden were to be the showcase for heathers we had intended it to be, we as a society would have to continue to prune the heathers. We have now devised a pruning schedule that spreads the task out over three visits: late autumn, when we prune the *Daboecia*, spring-tipped *Calluna* and any other *Calluna* cultivars that have finished blooming and are not grown primarily for foliage effect (golds, reds, silvers, bright greens such as 'Martha Hermann'); early spring, when we prune everything else except the spring-bloomers; and late spring, when only a few people are needed to prune the spring-bloomers, including the tree heaths. By not attempting to prune all at once, we don't overwhelm the limited capacity of our small society and we ensure that the heathers are pruned at the best time for their health and appearance.

By the 2006 annual North American Heather Society conference, which the OHS hosted, the Cottage Grove Community Hospital heather garden, though not quite two years old, was looking good enough to include on the pre-conference tour. As a major player in the garden's design and maintenance, I was eager to show off "our baby" to other heather enthusiasts. Imagine my dismay when, upon arriving at the hospital with the tour group, I discovered that someone had given the sedges "hair cuts"! No longer were they gracefully flowing fountains, assets to the garden. They were now awkward upright bundles of stems – no grace at all to these pathetic things. When I contacted Alan Williams to explain that sedges should not be pruned in summer – they rarely need pruning at all, only combing to remove dead blades – he confessed that he had cut them back because they were impinging upon adjacent heathers. I assured him that had been my intent. There were plenty of heathers, so we could spare the few that were crowded by the sedges.

During the tour visit, we also discovered that the corner planting of *Calluna vulgaris* 'White Lawn' was in trouble. One of the in-ground sprinkler heads was in that corner, so lack of water should not have been the problem.



Figure 5. The retaining wall has become a popular place for hospital staff to sit. Foreground: *Calluna vulgaris* 'Firefly', left; *Erica x stuartii* 'Irish Lemon', center; *E. x darleyensis* 'Mary Helen', right.

However, when I returned to check it the next morning, the spray pattern showed that the water from that sprinkler was going clear across 'White Lawn', but none was landing on the nearest plants. Rather than plant

something else there, we are hoping that surviving plants of the cultivar further away from the sprinkler head, which do receive some water, will eventually spread to cover the dry spot.

One last mishap attributable to the garden's public/institutional nature occurred just this summer. The hospital badly needed a fibre optic cable system. Access to the existing network was through the metal box in the heather garden. Although Alan Williams tried to postpone installation of the new system until autumn, when disturbed heathers would have the best chance of surviving, the work was done in late summer when the heathers were already stressed by high temperatures and no rain. Alan replanted them after the installation had been completed, trying as best he could to plant them where they had been originally. Amazingly, the only significant loss was *Erica erigena* 'Hibernica', that had been planted next to the utilities box to hide it. The heath was already large when it was planted, and it didn't survive the disruption to its extensive root system. We have not replaced it, though we may do so eventually. The upright metal box now has an in-ground companion. Concealing that box will be impossible, because workers must have access to the box at all times. So be it.

These bumps along the public road detract only a little from our pride in what we have created. The garden is only three years old, but it is already giving joy to many people. This past summer, it was rarely without a visitor, and many visitors brought their cameras. Because garden visitors were asking hospital workers the names of heathers they particularly liked, we finally labelled the cultivar groupings, in the least obtrusive way we could. The names are painted in dark brown on red, grey or black river rocks, hand-sized or slightly smaller. These rounded rock labels are snuggled into the mulch where they can be seen from either gravel path or sidewalk. We are hoping that they don't become souvenirs for garden visitors. So far, they seem to be staying put. Only the cultivar name is on each label. We provided the hospital with an alphabetical list of the 71 cultivars. There is a corresponding alphabetically arranged list of genera and species (there are 17, including hybrids) followed by cultivar names, and OHS member Barbara Reed recently re-sketches the planting plan to reflect actual cultivar locations and number of plants per group. The hospital heather garden is now both beautiful and a place where area residents can learn about heathers.

Old painting instrumental in rediscovery of a Cape *Erica* species

E. G. H. OLIVER

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For almost two centuries, a painting from about 1820 was one of the only traces there were of a particularly beautiful tricoloured *Erica* species, *Erica recurvata*. None had ever been recorded in the wild, and for all we knew, the plant might as well have been a hybrid raised in a London nursery or even a figment of the artist's fruitful imagination.

In early September last year (2007) the *Erica* enthusiast, Ross Turner, was working in the mountains above the town of Napier in the Western Cape, South Africa, as part of consultancy work for a proposed nature conservancy. He was recording the flora and degree of infestation by alien European pines, Australian wattles and *Hakea* for the local landowners. Ever keen to note any interesting ericas, Ross noticed some small plants growing in rock crevices on large boulders. From a distance these could well be the interesting *Erica banksii*, but on closer examination he was astonished to see compact, nodding heads of white flowers with very long, exerted, red styles. This was something he had never seen before and could very well be a new species – “*rubristyla*” was the name he coined for it himself. He phoned me and said he had just sent some photographs by email, would I look at them and see if they were of a new species. Well of course I could not wait until the Monday morning in office so went down to look at the photographs immediately. At first I was struck by the flowers and red styles which I had not seen before in any live material. Going through the photographs several times the “penny suddenly dropped” – I had seen those long styles before in a very odd looking *Erica* when I had photographed all the old *Erica* paintings by H. C. Andrews. I started to search my database of the photographs and there I came across the exact replica of Ross's plant – *Erica recurvata* apparently named by Andrews himself!

The painting was done by the eighteenth to nineteenth century British botanical artist, Henry Charles Andrews. This was from his very rare publication *Coloured engravings of heaths*, which consists of four large volumes



Erica recurvata

Throughout this extensive family there is not one that bears any resemblance to this perfectly new and distinct species; the aggregation of the leaves and branches, joined to the drooping character of its flowers, with long descending pointals that rival the finest purple silk, give it a singularity of appearance that renders it equally interesting with the most splendid species. We have seen it flowering successively from the end of almost every branch.

Our figure represents nearly an entire plant from the Nursery of Mr. Lee.



Figure 2. Close-up of flowers of *Erica recurvata*.

containing 288 full-coloured plates of almost exclusively Cape *Erica* species in cultivation in the London area between 1794 and 1828. These books are extremely valuable, with very few full sets available worldwide. It was not possible to ascertain the exact date of the painting, in the investigations done several years ago by Ron Cleevely, Charles Nelson and myself. It was probably some time before 1821.

The notes accompanying the painting give no indication of the wild origin of the plant that Andrews used as his model. All that is known is that it came from the nursery of Mr Lee – in other words, from Lee & Kennedy's Hammersmith Nursery. (Andrews was married to one of Kennedy's

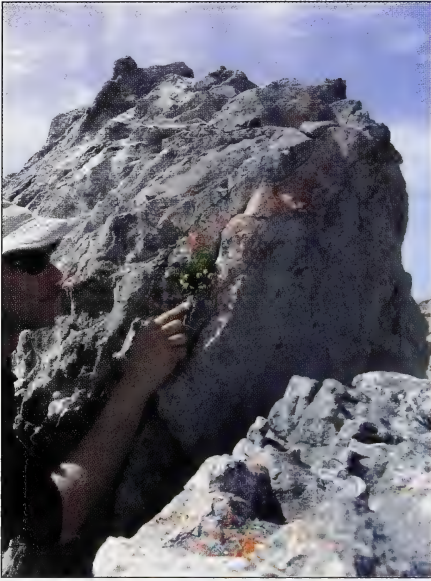


Figure 3. Ross Turner pointing to a small plant. Figure 4. The same plant on its boulder.

daughters.) In my database of *Erica* specimens, I have recorded three specimens in Kew's herbarium, all labelled as "cultivated material". Only one was dated – it was collected in May 1816 at "Milburn". Considering the herbarium specimens and the painting, this heath looked like rather lush *Erica bruniifolia* or *E. cumuliflora*, and I could only assume that it was a hybrid raised by some horticulturist, a regular practice at the time with Cape ericas to satisfy the demand for new plants. With no herbarium specimens of it collected from the wild, the plant was relegated to "hybrid of uncertain origin".

The earliest record of the name *Erica recurvata* traced for the *International register of heather names* is not in Andrews's *Coloured engravings of heaths*, but in another rare work: John Cushing's *The exotic gardener*, first published in 1811. At that time, as indicated on the title-page, Cushing was "Foreman to Messrs. Lee & Kennedy, Hammersmith". Taken together, these sparse facts suggests that this particular erica was introduced around the middle of the first decade of the nineteenth century and that Lee & Kennedy's nursery was the most likely place where it was first raised.

Also of specific interest was a Kew specimen labelled "McNab". William McNab was Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh from

1810 until his death in 1848, and he wrote a small book on growing Cape heaths, published in Edinburgh in 1832. Before that, between 1801 and 1810, McNab had been a gardener at the Royal Gardens, Kew. Thus, he was working Kew during a decade when seeds of many of the Cape ericas arrived from a fellow Scot, the gardener / collector James Niven who was at the Cape of Good Hope from 1799 to 1812. Originally Niven was collecting for George Hibbert of Clapham, and then for Lee and Kennedy in Hammersmith, so James Niven seems to be the most likely person to have collected seeds of *Erica recurvata* in the wild.

Niven kept small voucher specimens with brief notes on locality and habit. These landed up in Edinburgh, in William McNab's possession, and then went to Dublin (because McNab's son was Professor of Botany there in the 1880s). While the bulk of McNab's herbarium was purchased for the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Niven's *Erica* specimens and notes went to Kew. In my database of Niven's *Erica* collections there are no records of his having been at the Napier locality, but he was about 35–50km away somewhere on the Klein River Mountains where the species could well grow.

A visit to the locality with Ross was very exciting. The plants he found flowering grew in crevices on some large sandstone boulders – there were only nine of them! They are small woody plants from only a few centimetres tall and across to an old gnarled plant little more than 10cm across, all protected from the ravages of fires that sweep the mountains. A thorough search by Ross along the whole range has revealed no more plants. With the very specific habit requirement it is relatively easy to locate any likely localities for the plants.

The species has most distinctive long, red styles hanging from white and black-tipped flowers which face downwards in small heads. The unusual, very dark red, almost black, corolla lobes are shared by only two species, *Erica cumuliflora* and *E. genistifolia*, both of which grow on mountains just to the west, the former on dry, open slopes, the latter on damp ledges or rock faces.

What is intriguing is the size of the largest plant. At 10cm across, *Erica recurvata* forms a woody, gnarled rootstock from which lots of short branches arise after each burn. Knowing the age to which regenerating species grow in the Cape fynbos area, it would not be surprising to estimate the age of this plant at several hundred years. Did Niven perhaps visit this plant for his seed almost 200 years ago?

The discovery in the wild of this long-lost species is almost more exciting than finding yet another new species!

Northern Spain, July 2007

RICHARD CANOVAN, EILEEN PETERSSEN, GIANLUPO OSTI & SUSIE KAY*:
edited & augmented by CHARLES NELSON

* Contributions are identified by § at the start and the author's initials at the end.

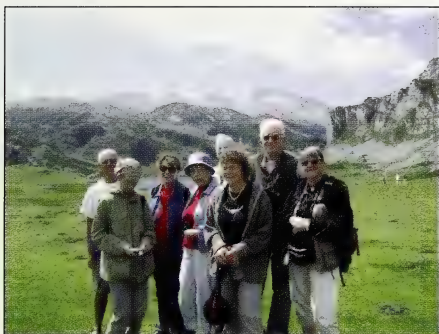
Domingo (Sunday). While three of the party were travelling from distant parts – Lupo Osti from Italy, Dee Daneri and Molly Eggel from the western USA (via the Alhambra) – four assembled at Stansted on 8 July. The quartet comprised Eileen Petterssen from Norway, Susie Kay (The Heather Society's Conference Manager) from Connemara, Richard Canovan from Toothill, and the Honorary Editor. The easyJet flight landed at Asturias airport a trifle late and it was rather shocking to see the wet runway and to be told the temperature was just 15°C.

Teresa Farino, our tour manager and leader, was waiting. Lupo had already arrived and was chatting with Stuart Hedley who was to be our companion for several days. But there was no sign of the American contingent. Where could they be? Announcements were made, but Dee and Molly did not materialize.

While Teresa waited for the next flight from Madrid, the rest of us set off, guided by Stuart, for a brief visit to some coastal heathland – an unplanned addition to the programme. We reached a small headland at Playa de Torimbia, and took the chance to see what was in flower. Cornish, Dorset and St Dabeoc's heaths, ling and bell heather (for Latin names, see Table 1, see p. 52) – all splendid, in the gentle, rather Irish, soaking drizzle. Our American friends, and Teresa, joined us shortly afterwards. With the party complete, we set off for our first hotel, following Teresa and guided, ingeniously, using inter-vehicular walkie-talkies!

Hotel La Balsa in Soto de Cangas was ideally situated, and this lovely, old, stone building with very comfortable rooms was our base for three nights.

Lunes (Monday). § The rain that greeted our arrival in Asturias was clearly a cold front as we woke to a glorious crisp morning. After breakfast we departed to Covadonga in the Picos de Europa National Park. It was to be rather busy but we were eventually able to park and walk to Llagu La Ercina



At Llagu La Ercina. Right to left: Teresa, Lupo, Susie, Richard, Dee, Molly, Eileen, Charles; photograph by courtesy of Stuart Hedley



Morning coffee near Covadonga (ECN). Right to left: Richard (explaining microwave cooking), Stuart, Lupo, Molly, Susie, Eileen.

to examine the limestone terrain and its flora. The sink holes and other geomorphological features provided varied habitats. Teresa and Stuart knew where to find the real gems. These included the familiar harebell, small-flowered foxglove, Pyrenean eryngo, toadflax and saxifrage – one massive rockery! A yew struggled up one of the limestone crevices. We found Mackay's, cross-leaved and Cornish heaths. We stopped there for the group photograph. The Picos still held a few patches of snow in the corries, despite the snow-free winter, and that may be the explanation for the paucity of butterflies, their larvae not having been protected from the frost.

Before lunch we visited the cave and chapel, a shrine to the Virgin of Covadonga, where the prince Pelayo resisted the Moors in the eighth century, and viewed the nineteenth-century basilica regarded by many as the birthplace of Spain as we know it. [RC]

Teresa had prepared a picnic and decided that the best place for this was on the terrace back at our hotel, so we retired there. Lupo recalls the whole trip, but especially those lunches; § I increased not only my knowledge of heathers but also my weight: ... the picnics organized by Teresa were surely among the best I had in my long life as an inveterate globe-trotter. [GO]

§ After our delightful lunch, it was off to the north west for Sierra de Sueve, a limestone peak nearer the coast. At well over 1,000 metres, the air was still quite cool and conditions ideal for work. The sparkling clear polar air provided stunning views of the coast and inland towards the Picos de Europa. One outcrop had four genera of Ericaceae – *Calluna*, *Daboecia*, *Erica* and *Vaccinium*. Seven different heathers were found – tree, southern, Dorset, and Mackay's heaths and bell heather, plus ling and St Dabeoc's heath. Stuart was the first to find a white-flowered plant of Mackay's heath; there was

also a good mauve and the more typical pink shades. There was an excellent bright purple bell heather and a pale-flowered plant, and a floriferous, light purple St Dabeoc's heath. [RC]

Martes (Tuesday). Teresa wanted to show us a fine segment of coastal heath which she had visited on our behalf, and so our programme was revised and we set off in convoy along the motorway westwards, almost back to the airport.

Cabo de Peñas is a promontory, bounded by cliffs. A short walk from the car park at the lighthouse (the ancillary building of which now serves as a visitor centre and natural history museum) brought us to the edge of the coastal heathland, and almost immediately Teresa and Stuart spotted the lovely summer lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes aestivalis*), so we spent a little time admiring and photographing the orchid. A little further on, a network of paths and tracks allowed access to a "patchwork quilt" of heathers. Teresa showed us patches of white Mackay's heath that she had found earlier, and we soon spotted others scattered about – they did stand out! The urge to wander and explore was overwhelming, and we soon were scattered about on our own, wandering across the cape, looking at pale Mackays and dark Dabeocs, striped Dorsets and creamy Cornishes. A "patchwork quilt" is a perfect description of this gently undulating landscape thickly covered with dwarf shrubs. The heathers were in brilliant bloom in every shade of pink and purple, mingling with bright blue scrambling gromwell and yellow cinquefoil. We also soon learned that while the hummocks of Cornish, Dorset, Mackay's and St Dabeoc's heaths, ling and bell heather looked soft and gentle, they were inextricably interlaced with extremely sharp gorse.

Cabo de Peñas impressed us all, even those not besotted by heathers, and the photographers among us all got some good pictures. Stuart had been especially pleased to find plants "The Heather Society might not be interested in – *Exaculum*, *Spiranthes*, *Cicendia*, etc!": *Exaculum* and *Cicendia* are minuscule annuals related to gentians.

Here are Eileen's recollections. § Ever since I read about the 1982 tour to Spain, it became my strong wish to see the great variety of *Erica* species in the wild for myself. Originally the chance to perhaps find something exciting was in my mind, I must admit, but by now my propagation days are over. To me the greatest pleasure in heathers has always been to be *with* them and the heather's ability to survive unfavourable conditions is a great attraction for me. For seeing hardy heathers in the wild this field-trip certainly must be the best ever – the places we were taken to were magnificent. No doubt there will be some new cultivars out soon as we really did see outstanding plants well worth naming.



Above: Dorset heath and white-flowered Mackay's heath at Cabo de Peñas.
Below: white-flowered Cornish heath and cross-leaved heath at Cervera de Pisuerga.
Photographs © Teresa Farino.





Teresa's first picnic lunch on the terrace at Hotel La Balsa (ECN).



Photographing white-flowered heather, Cabo de Peñas (ECN).

With the few cultivars available in Norway it would have been tempting to take cutting material from several specimens of all the species we saw. For instance, I've seen many pale bell heathers in the wild here, but never a pure white one and my excitement was great spotting one near the edge of Cabo de Peñas. To others it was nothing special and not worthy a name. Happy memories do not need names!" [EP]

On the way to the heathland we had all noticed a white-flowered plant of St Dabeoc's heath in a area that was enclosed by a high fence, part of the lighthouse compound. Whether it was the fact it was apparently inaccessible, or whether it was just the lure of a white heather – Queen Victoria has a lot to answer for! – some of the party wanted to get nearer to "photograph" this plant. Teresa "pulled all strings" she could think of, and eventually got permission for us to traipse through more gorse to see this plant. "Photographs" were taken, of course! The lighthouse keeper was watching but seemed quite unperturbed; indeed he told Teresa that he was delighted some people were more interested in the wild plants rather than the plastic shark that "guarded" the visitor centre. There was a white Dorset nearby too.

After our very successful morning, we moved to a nearby beach, Playa de Xago, for our picnic lunch, after which we all took a brisk walk along the dune tracks. There was some excellent Cornish heath in full bloom, and on the beach abundant sea holly and a patch of handsome white sea daffodils (*Pancratium maritimum*).

Our next destination, Playa de España, to the east of Cabo de Peñas, was a fascinating place, included so that we could see Irish heath, even though it was not in flower. The heather grows on the sea-cliffs, in the wet patches where fresh water is trickling down. Another species notched up.

Miércoles (Wednesday). Transfer day: we were moving from Hotel La Balsa and to break up the long drive, Teresa had arranged for us to visit Tito Bustillo at Ribadesella. These caves contain a remarkable series of prehistoric (Palaeolithic and Neolithic) paintings of animals on the walls and ceilings. We did not have a picnic today, but a sumptuous fish lunch, Spanish-style, at a bustling pavement restaurant in San Vicente de la Barquera, further along the coast. Then we drove through the gorge that leads to south-eastern side of the mountains, stopping for a break at the little pre-Romanesque church of Santa Maria at Lebeña with its strange Celtic (pre-Christian) carved altar-stone. Our destination was Teresa's home village, Pesaguero, and Posada El Hoyal. A heather-less day, for a change.

The posada is a small modern hotel with a swimming pool, and a superb restaurant! § Who could imagine that in a posada rural in a remote village – as a matter of fact just three or four houses – in the Picos de Europa, an area known and publicized for its wilderness, you could have the food that you may expect to have in the Ritz of Paris or London? [GO]

Jueves (Thursday). For today's visits we were driving southwards, and crossing the watershed. The first stop was at Puerto de Piedrasluengas, a pass at 1,355m altitude. In 1982 David McClintock, David Small and I had been to this place but my notes do not indicate that we found any heathers of interest. Teresa, of course, knew where to go: a clear indication of the benefit of engaging a local guide! At the pass itself, in a wet flush, there was an impressive stand of lizard orchids. We had a lovely walk through ancient beech woods, to an open saddle where horses were grazing. Just beyond this was hill side densely cloaked with southern heath, alas not in bloom (you can't arrange everything!), interspersed with bell heather which was in flower. Despite the fact it was not in flower, the thicket of southern heath was most impressive, and the associated plants too – wood sage and yellow sun-roses (ideas for mingling?).

We continued southwards to a site that Teresa had reconnoitred, both as a picnic place and as an interesting and different type of heathland. At Cervera de Pisuega, on deep sand, we found dwarf Spanish heath (just finished flowering) with bell heather, Cornish and St Dabeoc's heaths and cross-leaved heath. Some of the plants of cross-leaved heath were very remarkable with silver-white foliage (alas, my cuttings drowned in Outwell, but I have photographs). Teresa found a splendid white Cornish heath – she had been completely baffled, to begin with, by the group's interest in white-flowered heathers. After wandering about here on a lovely sunny afternoon,

it was time to return to the hotel, with another stop to see one of the regions magnificent Romanesque churches at San Salvador de Cantamuda.

Viernes (Friday): 13th. § Once again we left the hotel looking at brilliant blue skies and the promise of a hot day. We passed through a small town called Potes, which looked as if it would be good retail therapy. In fact the American contingent opted for the shopping. So only the Europeans were daring the odds on this awful day and for one who has the fear known as *paraskavedekatriaphobia*, the imminent journey in a cage hanging from a wire caused the blood pressure to rise. But I was assured that in Spain Tuesday the Thirteenth is the unlucky day.

Arriving at Fuente Dé we waited our turn for the cable car. All crowded in, and up, up and away into the mountains – what an easy way to gain a few thousand feet – into the magic world of the soaring peaks of the Picos.

Leaving the consumer area of shops and cafes we had been transported to an alpine meadow. Everyone is soon scrambling around on hands and knees, wondering at the botanical treasures on offer – rockroses, columbines, *Androsace* (tiny relatives of the primrose) and gentians – and some friendly, greedy alpine choughs. Charles, of course, is first to spot the gentian, just the one in full flower. Lupo was delighted to find daphne which he thought might show some different characteristics from the usual plant.

Teresa had kindly arranged the trip so that I might stretch my legs and have a walk, but poor Charles had to “mind me”. It is not often that one has the chance to just walk downhill, i.e. no effort, and still enjoy mountain scenery. But I had not imagined a jeep track all the way; in fact it was more like a motorway with many people and the occasional 4x4.

We ascended a short way to where several paths branched off further into the mountain wilderness, but wisely set our sights downhill. No heathers here and vegetation eaten right down by horses, cattle and sheep. Clean air, wonderful sun, but a mighty wind. Down and down we went, with Charles pointing out botanical curiosities of the area. Around halfway down a sight for sore eyes for me – a coffee shop!! So we had a break with a wonderful cup and set to looking for a place for lunch on the very bare hillside away from the local animals. Teresa had prepared us a feast as usual, but we had declined the wine today. This was the only area where we saw heather, namely Cornish heath and it was very stunted.

Down and down and getting steeper with lots of loose stones, but in the distance we could see the small village where we had left the car. Several hostelryes too, so we were able to have refreshment before the drive to Potes

where local foods were available to buy; cheese and honey for me. Our hotel had a pool, which gave Charles and me the chance of a quick dip before the others returned for dinner. [SK]

Meanwhile ... § The days passed all too fast and the final day came. For most of us it was a no-heather-day. After the splendour of the Pico peaks and alpine plants we split up and four of us were taken to the hillside village of Tudes with vernacular architecture and walnut trees. It was nice to see a few of the old buildings done into holiday flats without spoiling their character. The 30 or so inhabitants had joined forces and done the centre into a nice 'square' in the shade of old trees, with a table and benches. In the company of some hens we enjoyed the last of Teresa's lovely lunches. The glimpse of local life in a peaceful setting was really nice. [EP]

§ Our last evening together on what had been a truly international trip. It began with a drink at Teresa's home: a chance to say "thank you". The Americans had not been lazy on their shopping trip and had found wonderful presents for our tour leaders. Molly had painted beautiful cards for Teresa and Charles, but it was THE HAT presented to Charles which produced the most gasps. The peals of laughter and the sighs of admiration that, once again, Dee had found the perfect present. Much photographing and people trying it on.



The Hat! The wearer's identity has been disguised. (© Dee Daneri).

It was an illuminating trip to find so many heathers co-existing; we are used to seeing them in different habitats. A big public "thank you" to Teresa for arranging the trip: it really was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. [SK]

Sábado (Saturday)

We retraced our route, north through the gorge and on to the motorway, getting quickly to Gijón, where we paused for a short time to look around the quite new Jardín Botánico Atlántico. In the heathland section, a fine Cornish heath was in flower (we assume it was wild-collected), and there were representatives of the other species. A hunt for a plant of Stuart's heath (*Erica x stuartii*) eventually led almost back to the entrance, although the heather beside the label did not look right. (*E. x stuartii*, the hybrid between *E. tetralix* and *E. mackayana*, was discovered in Asturias about 1992, and last year was also found in Galicia.) Soon afterwards, we had checked in for our flight and the trip came to an end. We flew north, over Cabo de Peñas.

Everyone enjoyed the trip: the enchanting landscapes and vistas; learning to recognize *Quercus pyrenaica*; those picnics; the heathers, white and pink and purple; the chance to make new friends and again to renew acquaintances; the opportunity to revisit places seen in a hurry decades ago. As for Teresa, she shall have the "last word": "Thanks to you all too, for being great fun, for introducing me to the variations in the Ericaceae, and for your generosity at the end of the trip. I will now look on those purple hillsides with a different eye!"

Table 1: Heathers seen in northern Spain, July 2007

(* in flower; ‡ with white flowers)

English name	Latin
bell heather * ‡	<i>Erica cinerea</i>
Cornish heath * ‡	<i>Erica vagans</i>
cross-leaved heath *	<i>Erica tetralix</i>
Dorset heath * ‡	<i>Erica ciliaris</i>
dwarf Spanish heath	<i>Erica umbellata</i>
Irish heath	<i>Erica erigena</i>
ling (common heath) *	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Mackay's heath * ‡	<i>Erica mackayana</i>
St Dabeoc's heath * ‡	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>
southern heath	<i>Erica australis</i>
tree heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>

Hendrieke Berg's hand-coloured copper engravings



Eileen Petterssen, a member of The Heather Society since April 1977, recently presented to the Society a set of three hand-coloured engravings by Hendrieke Berg.

The three engravings represent the heathers that are native in Norway: Røssløng (*Calluna vulgaris*, see p. 54), Purpurlyng (*Erica cinerea*) and Klokkelyng (*E. tetralix*: frontispiece). Eileen commissioned Purpurlyng; the others had been created earlier. The outline of each image was engraved on a copper plate, and then printed. The prints are individually finished by hand, using aquarell colours, to emphasize the individual appearance of each print.



Hendrieke Berg grew up in the Netherlands. In 1985 she moved to Norway, where she works as a botanical artist and illustrator. She studied systematic botany at the University of Bergen and has considerable expertise in botanical illustration, her images having been published in such prestigious works as *Curtis's botanical magazine*, *Flora neotropica* and *Flora malesiana*. She is often inspired by the abundance of Norwegian flora and fauna, and is now working on a project about historic tulips.

As The Heather Society has no permanent library or archive, a decision was made to deposit the triptych on permanent loan in The Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society.

The set is reproduced in this issue by kind permission of Hendrieke Berg.

THE HEATHER SOCIETY'S PROCEEDINGS 2007

Stepping down

On returning home from a short trip to Germany with my local horticultural society in 2000, I was somewhat surprised to find a letter from David Small following a Council meeting that it had been agreed that the position of Chairman should be offered to me as he was relinquishing it to take over as President from David McClintock who was stepping down due to failing health. I was surprised, proud and humbled that, subject to confirmation by the members at the Buxton AGM, I was to follow in the footsteps of so many prominent incumbents of this position. As I was not at this Council meeting, only the fourth incidentally that I had missed since 1972, I assumed that no else had wanted the job. I will never know!

Looking back now, the first year was a baptism of fire as our Honorary Secretary, Ron Cleevly, resigned for health reasons and our Honorary Treasurer, Tony Princep, was also not in the best of health. At Hereford in 2001, I was pleased that Jean Julian agreed to become the Honorary Secretary, and my thanks to her for the assistance she has given to me during my time in office, especially over the past year when she has tackled the recent Charity Commission administration requirements which seem to become more complex each year.

In 2002 Phil Joyner took over as Honorary Treasurer and it has been a great help to have these two reliable officers helping with the running of the Society.

I wish that this farewell message could mention that the Society was increasing its membership, but despite the best efforts of your Council, including advertising, this is not the case, but efforts are continuing. We are not alone in this regard; other societies also have problems recruiting new members, especially younger ones.

In my report at each AGM, I mention that members get good value for their subscription with three interesting *Bulletins* a year from Daphne Everett and a first-class *Yearbook* from Charles Nelson. I make no apologies for repeating this.

Looking back over these last eight years the most rewarding event was the 2nd International Conference in 2004 that my wife and I arranged at Colyumbidge, with assistance from Betty and David Lambie from the Speyside Heather Centre, and the post-conference tour to Skye and Wester Ross with an eccentric, although likeable coach-owner / driver named Colin Stewart.

These memories will remain, as indeed will others. I shall miss the day to day running of the Society, but will continue to take a keen interest. My best wishes to my successor.

Arnold Stow

**ANNUAL GATHERING AND 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE, 7–10 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Pembrokeshire, ahem, *is* Wales!

“We never go to Waaaales,” I complained to everyone in The Heather Society whenever anyone would listen.

“There is no heather in Wales,” was a frequent reply. Now, even though I’m American and there are a lot of places in Great Britain I don’t know, I doubted this was an accurate assessment of the ericaceousness of the westernmost bit of the big island. When it was announced the 2007 conference was being held in Pembrokeshire I was still unimpressed, right up until conference organizer Susie Kay more or less gently broke the news to me that Pembrokeshire *is* Wales. Duh, what to do? Stop whingeing and go to Wales of course!

Arrival in Haverfordwest (after a personal little side trip to Caldey Island, home of Cistercian monks and heavenly perfumes) brought happy hellos to old friends and several new faces. Our hotel, The Mariners, was founded in 1624 but had updated their facilities enough to accommodate us in comfort and charm, and to feed and water us extremely well.

It is customary at The Heather Society’s conferences to have a speaker the first night who tells us about the locality we’re in, to better understand the lay of the land. This year’s expert gave us our educational component of the conference as well as a whole new environmental issue to think about: re-wilding.

Matt Sutton, a senior conservation officer in Pembrokeshire, explained the background of his highly unusual Marloes Coast Project. The National Trust, he said, is in the process of acquiring as much coastal land as possible in the name of conservation. Returning what was formerly used as farm fields to natural heathland is the goal – to make an area wild again – and it is one of about sixty similar projects taking place all over Britain.



It's an interesting concept, and for those of us with agriculture in our background, an ethical dilemma. But it might be a wave of the future, too.

The next morning we journeyed out by coach to see how it's done. High above a sunlit bay we walked down an old farm lane while Matt explained the problem. How to take acres of grain field, high in lime and well-fed with fertilizers, plowed unnaturally flat, and make the land wild again? First you remove the topsoil, 20 centimeters or about 8 inches of it, and heap it up in hedge banks. That's easy enough to do with machines nowadays, but then you have to lower the soil pH dramatically and this is where the story gets really interesting.

There happens to be a huge Chevron-Shell oil refinery just down the road, and they happened to have a lot of leftover sulfur hanging around, a byproduct of the refining process. So, in 2004 workers spread the dried, not-quite-perfectly-powdered sulfur (we picked up chunks of it) at a rate of between four and eight tons per hectare. The fields were sprinkled with a seed-rich mixture of heather, heath and gorse cuttings obtained by driving a farm forage chopper out on a bit of moor, and then Nature took over.



The result, which we walked through, is a new moor rich in native flora, attractive to native fauna, and beginning to look like Pembrokeshire a thousand years ago – just amazing, especially in its partnership of new and old, or perhaps what we think of as dirty and pure. It certainly gave a lot of new, radical ideas to think about.

But, before we could get too weighed down intellectually, we were whisked off to Picton Castle, a wonderful relic of a family seat 850 years old but updated with a lovely courtyard restaurant where we had lunch of Mediterranean cuisine. After a guided tour of the residence we were turned loose in the 40 acres of gardens, plus gift shop, art gallery and, by lucky chance, a rare-plant fair that was taking place on the castle grounds. (A garish but supposedly rock-hardy variegated *Fuchsia* from Wales is taking up residence in southern Sweden as a result, thanks to that nice coincidence.)

Back at the hotel it was time for cocktails and dinner, after which we were treated to a slide show and details of what we missed by not going on The Heather Society field trip to northern Spain earlier in the summer (see p. 44).

Sunday morning we got “down to business” with the annual general meeting. To be honest, your reporter’s eyes glazed over here, but I can relay the news that our officers are running the society efficiently and well. There were no big changes, annual reports were given and approved, and all the council members were re-elected. But seriously, we should all say thank-you to those who work and toil and even occasionally tear their hair out over The Heather Society business, thus allowing the likes of me to take a little nap. Thanks, all!

Back on the coach we headed east to Carmarthenshire (that’s in Wales, too) and a visit to what surely must be the jewel in the crown of Welsh horticulture. The National Botanic Garden of Wales is also the first new botanic garden in Great Britain for 200 years, opened in May of the millennium year, and thus only seven years old.

Our arrival by choo-choo train (see Autumn 2007 *Bulletin* for photographic evidence) was hysterically funny, but it did give old legs a rest and eager eyes a chance to get an overview of the sweeping lay of the land.

Originally Middleton Hall, a parkland estate, the place reached its prime in the nineteenth century but went into slow, steady decline after World War I until the Carmarthen County Council bought it. Today it boasts its own herd of Black Welsh cattle and flocks of sheep, amongst many other things such as a restored manor house, an original double-walled garden, a peach house, ice house, glass house and a restored stable block (where we had lunch) as well as world-class views across the Welsh countryside.



Oh, and did I mention a glasshouse? The Great Glasshouse is simply breathtaking and is the largest single-span glasshouse in the world. Built largely underground, it fits into the hillside like a giant dewdrop (wouldn't you love to see it from the air?) and, according to its purely practical goal, it protects and conserves some of the most endangered plants on the planet.

Our guide explained that the plants inside are those of general Mediterranean climate from six distinct areas of the world: California, Australia, the Canary Islands, Chile, South Africa and the Mediterranean Basin itself. We happily explored continents within a few steps and learned that many of these seemingly diverse plants share features such as small, leathery, evergreen leaves, in response to the similar conditions they face. Beautifully laid out walkways took us around rocky terraces, sandstone cliffs, graveled scree slopes, down to little isolated pools, all balancing light and shade, moisture levels and a wide range of habitats. The total area is 3,500 square meters, which is the better part of an acre under glass, no columns! It was stunning, and well worth the whole trip. There were even a few heathers (Cape heaths!) growing in it.



Time running short now, we returned to The Mariners for final festive watering and feeding, after which conference organizer Susie Kay had scheduled the best for last. There was last-minute shopping to be done at our own plant sale, a bring-and-buy event that remains a popular mainstay of conferences. The new feature this year was a rare-book auction with Alan Kay presiding. There were some incredible bargains and as always the cheerful auctioneer got many to open their wallets and dig deep. Some real treasures of heathery historic interest changed hands, and what a nice way it is to remember people by passing down their books to a new generation.

We also got to see something of each other's gardens in a high-tech way during a computer-generated "Open Forum", with the rather inexperienced Administrator at the controls of the electronic slide show. Isn't technology grand?

But the people you meet are the grandest of all, as exemplified by our Norwegian member who so stunned conference-goers back in 2005 at Bournemouth by breaking into melody. Yes, Egil Sæle sang us another song!

Your reporter had a long drive in the pre-dawn light to return a rental car, so missed civilized breakfast and leave-taking Monday morning. I think all who attended deemed the weekend a success, though, and we left reassured that there *is* heather in Wales after all.

JUDY WIKSTEN

BOOK REVIEWS & RECENT PUBLICATIONS

MARY FORREST, 2005. *Landscape trees and shrubs. Selection, use and management.* Wallingford: CABI. ISBN 978-1-84593-054-7. £25.

In her introduction, Dr Mary Forrest gives some quite depressing data. Only about a thousand taxa are cultivated in “public and commercial landscape” in Britain and Ireland – compare that with the 2005 *RHS plant finder*’s listing of around 73,000 taxa (species, cultivars). Her very laudable aim is to demonstrate to landscape contractors and their kind that it is possible to use many more plants than the “six trees and 15 shrubs” which make up 75% (it is estimated) of orders for plants for “public” spaces in Britain.

This book contains descriptions of plants and their uses, including a page-and-a-half on the Ericaceae (less than 1%!). Heathers are only mentioned by generic name, apart from *Erica carnea*. Surely much more use could be made of heaths and heathers, especially the taller ones, and those with special characteristics like resilience to coastal conditions? Some public authorities have used heathers, but they are few and far between.

CHARLES NELSON

URSULA BUCHAN, 2007. *Garden people. Valerie Finnis and the golden age of gardening.* London: Thames & Hudson. ISBN 978-0-500-51353-8. £16.95.

Published some seven months after the death of Valerie Finnis (in October 2006) this is an evocation of “a golden age for the ‘plantsman’ ... the 1950s and 1960s.” *Garden people* is humorous, even a mischievously affectionate. Finnis (as she was always called by those who knew her very well) was a professional gardener, and a consummate plantsman. Quite late in her life, after almost three decades teaching at Waterperry Horticultural School for Women near Newbury in Oxfordshire, she married Sir David Scott. In addition, Finnis was an expert photographer acquiring her first good camera in 1955. During the next forty-odd years she photographed plants and plantsmen, accumulating some 50,000 2½ in transparencies. So this book has at its heart Finnis’s photographs of plants and people, a record of gardening from the 1950s into the 1990s. She was never interested in photographing gardens or part of gardens, as Ursula Buchan notes; there are usually people in her garden pictures, but she only ever took one image.

Of particular interest are a few heather plantsmen (a term covering women too): Mrs Amy Doncaster (1894–1995) [*Calluna* ‘Amy’; *Erica australis* ‘Amy Doncaster’]; Randle Blair Cooke (1890–1973) [*Erica carnea*]; Jack Drake (c. 1909–1997) [*Daboecia x scotica*]; and Geoffrey Smith at work in Harlow Carr. There are two photos of Mrs Doncaster, one in Waterperry, and one in her own garden at Chandlers Ford posing beside a *Magnolia stellata* that is encircled with a pink-flowering winter heather mixed with white fritillaries. Alas, not many other heathers are in view, except in the unidentified garden of the enigmatic J. Brunskill (? somewhere in Ireland).

Finnis’s photographs are accompanied by informative captions and narrative text by Ursula Buchan. There are “potted”, but not always accurate, biographies of the main characters by Dr Brent Elliott, and Anna Pavord’s tribute to Finnis from *The Independent*. But the photographs are paramount, and they contain much that illuminates the last half of the last century. It is a charming confection of a book that I commend wholeheartedly.

CHARLES NELSON

C. JARVIS, 2007. *Order out of chaos. Linnaean plant names and their types.* The Linnean Society of London in association with the Natural History Museum, London. Pp xii, 1,017; illustrated. ISBN978-0-9506207-7-0. £80.00.

Order out of chaos weighs around 3.2kg: it is a monumental book! It is also scholarly and painstaking.

Linnaeus himself wrote: “If you do not know the names of things, the knowledge of them is lost too.” By providing two-word Latin names – binomials like *Erica cinerea* – for almost 6,000 plants, he ensured knowledge about them was not lost. At the same time he established a method of naming organisms that is unlikely to be replaced.

Despite its hefty weight, this is a rather readable book. Four chapters, in particular, contain essential, invaluable, historical and bibliographical details about Linnaeus’s own major botanical publications (Chapter 3), the numerous literature sources that he used (Chapter 4), the herbarium specimens that he owned or consulted (Chapter 5), and the other botanists, collectors, correspondents and intermediaries who assisted him or informed his botanical studies (Chapter 6). There is also an excellent summary of his life and career.

The culmination of a quarter of a century of research by a team, headed by Charlie Jarvis, *Order out of chaos* records the designated types for each of

Linnaeus's plant names. The type of a name is the "permanent, fixed reference point against which [its] correct identity ... can be checked", in perpetuity. A type can be a herbarium specimen, sometimes now in the Linnean Society in London, or it can be an illustration.

Of course, there are numerous references to *Erica* in *Order out of chaos*, not just in the alphabetical listing of Linnaeus's names but also elsewhere. A word of warning – the index seems to have been prepared from an early proof copy and is not correct for many of the *Erica* references.

A splendid book. I know I will refer to it frequently, and that is its purpose.

CHARLES NELSON

Recent publications

§ indicates that an abstract of this paper, or sometimes the complete text, is available free of charge on the publication's website: these can be found using Google Scholar, with the author's name and a few key words from the title of the paper.

ANDERTON, S., 2007. Setting the winter garden ablaze. *The garden* **132** (2): 87.

Includes *Erica* x *darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' and 'Furzey', photographed at the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge.

ANONYMOUS, 2007. Compton Acres, Dorset Heather in the mist. *The garden* **132** (12): 836.

"The Heather Garden peaks in winter", and is "undergoing a rolling programme of clearance and replanting ...". (See *Heathers* **3**: 62–63.)

§ **BANNISTER, P., 2007.** A touch of frost? Cold hardness of plants in the southern hemisphere. *New Zealand journal of botany* **45**: 1–33.

§ **BRITTON, A. J. & FISHER, J. M., 2007.** Interactive effects of nitrogen deposition, fire and grazing on diversity and composition of low-alpine prostrate *Calluna vulgaris* heathland. *Journal of applied ecology* **44**: 125–135.

BUCHAN, U., 2007. The best winter-flowering heaths. *Daily telegraph* 13 January: G8.

Recommends: *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White', 'Myretoun Ruby', *E. x darleyensis* 'White Perfection' and 'Arthur Johnson', and *E. lusitanica*; with pictures.

DUNLOP, J., 2007. Cherrybank Gardens, Perth ... A view from ... Head Gardener. *The garden* **132** (1): 62.

Bell's National Heather collection, "the largest collection of heathers in the UK!" "The display of heathers is the key attractions."

§ **FAGÚNDEZ, J. & IZCO, J., 2007.** A new European heather: *Erica lusitanica* subsp. *cantabrica* subsp. nova (Ericaceae). *Nordic journal of botany* **24** (4): 389–394.

HARRISON, H., 2007. Gardening at the northern edge. *The English garden* September 2007: 53–56 [NB in North American issue, dated November 2007, pp 45–48.]

About gardening in Shetland, featuring Frank Odie's "vibrant patchwork".

HITCHCOCK, A., 2007. The return of *Erica verticillata*. *Veld & flora* **93** (1): 14–17.

More about the rescue of this extinct heather; mentions The Heather Society.

§ **LA MANTIA, T., GIAMÌ, G., LA MELA VECA, D. S. & PASTA, S., 2007.** The role of traditional *Erica arborea* L. management practices in maintaining northeastern Sicily's cultural landscape. *Forest ecology & management* **249** (1–2): 63–70.

§ **MÁRQUEZ GARCÍA, B., HIDALGO FERNÁNDEZ, P. J. & CÓRDOBA GARCÍA, F., 2006.** How does the plant *Erica andevalensis* survive despite highly elevated soil metal contamination? *SETAC globe* **7** (1): 37–38.

Available at <http://communities.setac.net/download/cat-TheGlobe/TheGlobe-0701-Full.pdf>.

§ **NELSON, E. C., 2007.** Richard Salisbury FLS and the discovery of elaiosomes in *Erica*. *The Linnean* **23** (1): 26–30.

Available from the Linnean Society's website.

NELSON, E. C., 2007. *Erica* × *williamsii* Druce (*E. tetralix* L. × *vagans* L.): a note on typification. *Watsonia* **26**: 487–488.

Specimen is Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro; collected by P. D. Williams on 3 November 1911.

NELSON, E. C., 2007. The original material of two Turkish species of *Erica* (Ericaceae) described and named by Richard Anthony Salisbury (1761–1829). *Turkish journal of botany* **31**: 463–466.

Typification of *Erica spiculifolia* and *E. manipuliflora*.

NELSON, E. C., 2007. The Porters and their passion. *The Irish garden* **16** (2): 62–65.

James Walker Porter and his family and his heathers.

§ **NELSON, E. C. & WULFF, E. M. T., 2007.** Proposal to conserve the name *Erica manipuliflora* against *E. forskalii* (Ericaceae). *Taxon* **56** (3): 959–961.

Initiation of formal procedure to ensure an unused name is not resurrected.

§ **PIZARRO DOMÍNGUEZ, J. M., 2007.** About *Erica* × *lazarohana* Rivas Goday & Bellot (*E. arborea* Linnaeus × *E. umbellata* Linnaeus). *Fontqueria* **55** (53): 439–442.

A rather odd paper, and inaccurate.

§ **RODRÍGUEZ, N., AMILS, R., JIMÉNEZ-BALLESTA, R. & RUFO, L., 2007.** Heavy metal content in *Erica andevalensis*: an endemic plant from the extreme acidic environment of Tinto River and its soils. *Arid land research & management* **21**: 51–65.

§ **ROSE, R. J., 2007.** The effects of hybridization on the small-scale variation in seed-bank composition of a rare plant species, *Erica ciliaris* L. *Seed science research* **17**: 201–210.

THOROGOOD, C., 2007. Fen Bog. Our jewel on the Moors. *Yorkshire wildlife Summer*: 18–19.

Fen Bog Nature Reserve, North York Moors: ling, cross-leaved heath and many other species.

§ **TURNAU, K., HENRIQUES, F. S., TERESA ANIELSKA, T., RENKER, C. & BUSCOT, F., 2007.** Metal uptake and detoxification mechanisms in *Erica andevalensis* growing in a pyrite mine tailing. *Environmental & experimental botany* **61** (2): 117–123.

Supplement VIII (2008) to *International register of heather names*

Registered cultivars

Calluna vulgaris

'Glasnost'

Reg. no. C.2007:03: registered 15 October 2007 by Jos Flecken, Kerkrade, Holland.

Multibracteate; flowers single, magenta (H14); end September–November. Foliage dark green. Broad, erect; to 30cm high, 40cm across in 4 years. Healthy, fine colour; late flowering.

Seedling (clone 21) between 'Battle of Arnhem' and 'Allegro' (K. Kramer, c.1987); selected by Jos Flecken.

R *Ericultura* 147: 7, 25.

I *Ericultura* 147: 16–17.

'Juliane'

Reg. no. C.2006:08: registered 25 December 2006 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.

Bud-flowering; calyx red; August–December. Foliage dark green. Upright. Late blooming with long durability.

Deliberately bred seedling from 'Amethyst' and "97-18-15"; raised and selected by Kurt Kramer.

'Julie Bradbury'

Reg. no. C.2007:04: registered 26 October 2007 by Dr Colin Rogers, Tintwistle, Glossop, Derbyshire (see photographs overleaf).

Dr Rogers provided this account of 'Julie Bradbury'.

This is a foundling with two remarkable features. Flowering is very early in the season, dying off before many of my "normal" *Calluna* come into flower; and spring tips develop into bright red branches until the appearance of buds signals a return to more normal dark green. Plants attain about 20cms tall x 40cms across after three years.

I have called it 'Julie Bradbury' in recognition of the very helpful Brentwood Farm Nursery at Charlesworth. Unfortunately, the nursery no longer deals with heathers, having grown a couple of dozen cuttings for me, so it looks as though it will not be developed, the only plants being in my own garden and that of a neighbour.

'Liliane'

Reg. no. C.2006:09: registered 25 December 2006 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.

Bud-flowering; calyx violet; August–December. Foliage dark green. Upright. Late blooming with long durability.

Deliberately bred seedling from 'Amethyst' and "97-18-15"; raised and selected by Kurt Kramer.



Calluna vulgaris 'Julie Bradbury'



'Nelly'

Reg. no. C.2006:10: registered 25 December 2006 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
Replacement name for 'Momo' (reg. no. C.2005:09) which was rejected because it is also a registered trade-mark.

R Blatt für Sortenwesen, Heft 11, Seite 281; *Heathers* 3: 69 (2006).

'Pink Angie'

Reg. no. C.2007:05: registered 24 November 2007 by J. van Leuven, Geldern, Germany.
Bud-flowering; white; September–December. Foliage green. Broad, upright habit; to 50cm x 50cm in 4 years.

Sport on 'Angie' found by Johannes van Leuven in October 2005 at Geldern.

'Pink Madonna'

Reg. no. C.2007:06: registered 24 November 2007 by J. van Leuven, Geldern, Germany.
Bud-flowering; pink; August–December. Foliage green. Broad, upright habit; to 50cm x 50cm in 4 years

Sport on 'Madonna' found by Johannes van Leuven in October 2006 at Geldern.

'Rote Schlesierperle'

Reg. no. C.2007:01: registered 23 January 2007 by Frank Mittrach, Görlitz, Germany.
Bud-flowering: dark red; September–November. Foliage dark green. Upright.
Outstanding contrast with white-budded, or yellow-foliage bud-flowering cultivars.

Sport on 'Aphrodite' found by Frank Mittrach.

'White Angie'

Reg. no. C.2007:07: registered 24 November 2007 by J. van Leuven, Geldern, Germany.
Bud-flowering; white; September–December. Foliage green. Broad, upright habit; to 50cm x 50cm across after 4 years.

Sport on 'Angie' found by Johannes van Leuven in October 2005 at Geldern.

'Zeta'

Reg. no. C.2006:11: registered 25 December 2006 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
No flowers produced. Foliage yellow-green. Upright.

Deliberately bred seedling from "00-42-1" x "00-42-3"; selected and named by K. Kramer.

'Zora'

Reg. no. C.2006:12: registered 25 December 2006 by Kurt Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.
No flowers produced. Foliage orange-green. Upright.

Deliberately bred seedling from "00-42-1" x "00-42-2"; selected and named by K. Kramer.

*Daboecia****D. cantabrica* f. *blumii* 'Valvinsan'**

Reg. no. D.2007:01: registered 4 September 2007 by by Jos Flecken, Kerkrade, Netherlands. Flowers held erect at anthesis, urn-shaped, 8–10mm diameter, H12 (heliotrope); calyx dark red/green; July–October/November. Foliage green. Habit broad erect, after 5 years (pruned) 30cm x 30cm. The erect flowers are of a colour that is more attractive than 'Pink Blum'.

A chance seedling found in 2001 in his garden, and selected by Jos Flecken. For a period this was grown by Halmanns, Kevelaer, Germany, but he stopped growing it (commercially not interesting); it will be available 2008/2009 from van Hoef, Barneveld, Netherlands.

R *Ericultura* 147: 7.

I *Ericultura* 147: 16–17.

Eponym: named by Jos Flecken after his grandchildren: Valerie, Vincent and Sander Palmen.

*Erica****E. cinerea* 'Angela'**

Reg. no. E.2007:14: registered 6 September 2007 by Dick de Bruijn, Boskoop, Netherlands. Flowers ruby to beetroot, corolla H5/H9; calyx green to reddish brown; June–August/September. Foliage dark green. Broad erect habit; after 5 years (pruned) 20cm high, 25cm broad. Has same good characteristics as 'Pentreath', but special colour.

A sport from 'Pentreath' found by Dick de Bruijn in 1997 on his nursery (Boomkwekerij D.B.H. de Bruijn).

R *Ericultura* 147: 7.

I *Ericultura* 147: 16.

Eponym: after the finder's wife.

***E. x darleyensis* 'Bert'**

Reg. no. E.2007:12: registered 19 December 2007 by Peter Bingham, Gedney Hill, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Flowers pink; corolla H8 (pink), 6mm x 4mm; calyx H11 (deep lilac pink); November–March. Foliage mid green. Habit strong but compact; after 3 years 35cm tall, 60cm across. Differs from other cultivars in its large flowers and early flowering. Deliberately raised and selected seedling from Kingfisher Nursery hybridisation programme.

Eponym: nickname of Richard Bingham, Peter's son.

***E. x darleyensis* 'Bing'**

Reg. no. E.2007:13: registered 19 December 2007 by Peter Bingham, Gedney Hill, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Flowers white; corolla 6mm x 4mm; calyx white; November–March. Foliage mid green. Habit strong but compact; after 3 years 35cm tall, 60cm across. Differs from other cultivars in its large flowers and early flowering.

Deliberately raised and selected seedling from Kingfisher Nursery hybridisation programme.

Eponym: nickname of Mark Bingham, Peter's son.

***E. x arendsiana* 'Charnwood Pink'**

Reg. no. E.2007:11: registered 1 August 2007 by Allen Hall, Nanpantan, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Pale pink flowers (H4 (RHS75D) lilac to H16 (RHS65C) shell pink). Foliage mid-green, young shoots discoloured; leaves in whorls of 4. Upright; to 1m tall after 5 years.

Seedling raised in 2000 by Kurt Kramer (Edewecht, Germany); this clone provided the holotype of *E. x arendsiana* (see *Heathers* 4: 59–60. 2007).

Toponym: Charnwood is the Loughborough borough in which the Halls' garden is situated. The Borough of Charnwood is named after the ancient Charnwood Forest. The *Oxford dictionary of English place names* gives the mediaeval version of Charnwood as "Cerneuoda" meaning "Wood in a rocky country".

***E. x darleyensis* 'Katia'**

Reg. no. E.2007:10: registered 25 June 2007 by Olivier Pantin, SAPHO, Les Islettes 49250 La Ménière, France, on behalf of Aurélie, Gaëlle & Pierrick Brégeon.

Corolla white; November–February. Foliage green. Bushy habit. "Possède des fleurs d'une taille 2 fois supérieure à la variété d'origine."

Sport on 'Silberschmelze' found at Vaud, Switzerland, in 1998 by Henri Brégeon.

R *Heathers* 3: 74 (2006).

***E. vagans* 'Keira'**

Reg. no. E.2007:02: registered 10 January 2007 by David Edge, Forest Edge Nurseries, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset.

Flowers single with deep rose-pink corolla; calyx deep rose-pink; August–October. Foliage dark green. Bushy. Has larger bolder flowers and foliage than "type".

Deliberately bred seedling (possibly involving 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell') raised by Kurt Kramer; selected and introduced by Forest Edge Nurseries; named by Miss Samantha Cordwell.

***E. x darleyensis* 'Lucie'**

Reg. no. E.2007:05; registered 5 June 2007 by Olivier Pantin, SAPHO, Les Islettes, La Méritré, France, on behalf of les Pépinières Renault, Domaine du Rocher, Gorron, France.

"Fleurs rouge (type 'Kramer's Rote'), Décembre–Avril; fleur dont la taille est double de celle de 'Kramer's Rote'. Variété plus tardive que 'Kramer's Rote' de quelques semaines. Vert foncé; étalé."

A sport on 'Kramer's Rote' at Pépinières Renault, in 1997.

R Heathers 3: 74 (2006).

***E. x williamsii* 'Phantom'**

Reg. no. E.2007:09 registered on 12 June 2007 by David Wilson, Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

Low-growing shrub to 0.3m across, ± 0.15 m tall after 4 years; foliage light green; young shoots yellow. Flowers single; July–September; calyx lobes green, unequal, fused only at base; corolla white, 4-lobed; lobes with very sparse hairs in bud; stamens 8, short; filaments ± 2 mm long, free or variously and irregularly fused in groups of 2–3; anthers small, thecae pale red when young turning pale tan.

Deliberately bred seedling raised in 1986 from crosses made the year before; *E. tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' \times *E. vagans* 'Lyonesse'.

R Heathers 4: 58 (2007); D. McClintock, *Heathers of the Lizard* (1998).

Fantasy name.

***E. x arendsiana* 'Ronsdorf'**

Reg. no. E.2007:04; registered 17 May 2007 by Kurt Kramer, Edeweicht, Germany.

Has darker, lavender (RHS75A, H3) flowers, than 'Charnwood Pink'; habit more compact than 'Charnwood Pink'; foliage green.

Dark-flowered clone (number 1), raised by Kurt Kramer in 2000.

R Heathers 4: 59–60 (2007).

Toponym; Georg Arends, of Wuppertal Ronsdorf, the renowned German plant breeder and nurseryman was the first to raise the hybrid.

***E. x stuartii* 'Stuart's Original'**

Reg. no. E.2007:03; registered 17 March 2007 by the Registrar.

Original clone of *E. x stuartii*.

Replacement name for 'Stuartii'; note that 'Charles Stuart' was formally rejected (*Yearbook of The Heather Society* 1998: 72) and so cannot be used.

E. australis 'Trisha'

Reg. no. E.2007.01; registered 10 January 2007 by David Edge, Forest Edge Nurseries, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset.



Flower semi-double, with 4–6(–9) lobes; corolla deep lilac; calyx deep lilac, with <9 unequal, free sepals; bract and bracteoles stained dark red; March–May. Foliage “sage green”. Bushy, well-branched, erect. The corolla may have a “flap” forming an extra lobe or a petaloid sepal fused to the outside.

Deliberately bred seedling, raised by Kurt Kramer; selected by David Edge (Forest Edge Nurseries, Dorset).

Eponym: after Trisha Hardy, manageress at Forest Edge Nurseries.

Note: on The Heather Society’s 2007 “Society life in pictures” CD-ROM a photograph of this is mis-labelled “Ashford’s Blush” which is not established and should not be used.

Other names (not registered) new to the *International register of heather names in 2007*

Calluna vulgaris

BEAUTY SISTERS: **trade designation** for a pair of cultivars.

Vorratsliste (6 Marz 2007) [http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/katalog.pdf].

'Corita': flowers "chartreuse".

Being propagated in Canada by Qualitree Propagators, Rosedale, British Columbia. Qualitree Propagators Inc availability list for 27-Aug-07: 1 (pdf file downloaded 1 September 2007).

'Dark Beauty II': flowers "dark pink".

Being propagated in Canada by Qualitree Propagators, Rosedale, British Columbia. Qualitree Propagators Inc availability list for 27-Aug-07: 1 (pdf file downloaded 1 September 2007).

'Gelbe Maassen': **rejected**, correct name 'Cottswood Gold'.

According to Jos Flecken (email 1 September 2007), Gerd Maassen (Straelen, Germany) uses 'Cottswood Gold' in trios of BEAUTY LADIES, so his licencees call it 'Gelbe Maassen'.

Heidesortiment zur Heideschau 2005 Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig (www.felgentraeger.com pdf downloaded 1 September 2007); Vorratsliste (6 Marz 2007) [http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/katalog.pdf].

'Hebbe': *Heathers* 4: 16 (2007).

'Jeanette': bud-flowering; white.

Being propagated in Canada by Qualitree Propagators, Rosedale, British Columbia. Qualitree Propagators Inc availability list for 27-Aug-07: 1 (pdf file downloaded 1 September 2007).

'Josephä': flowers "rosa", September-October; height 35cm.

Listed by Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig; Heidesortiment zur Heideschau 2005 Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig (www.felgentraeger.com pdf downloaded 1 September 2007).

'Karminefeuer': flowers "lilarosa", end of August-September (quite early); foliage turns golden yellow with carmine over bright orange throughout the winter.

Chance seedling from 'Boskoop', raised and selected at Soltauer Baumschulen Robert Nielsen, Soltau, Germany.

<http://www.baumschule-nielsen.de> [accessed 22 December 2007].

'Kinlochuel': typographic error for 'Kinlochruel'

Heidesortiment zur Heideschau 2005 Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig (www.felgentraeger.com pdf downloaded 1 September 2007).

'Landebroog Pride': typographic error for 'Llanbedrog Pride'.

L. Denkewitz, *Heidegarten*: 324 (1987).

- 'Mießner': **rejected**, correct name 'Eckart Mießner'.
Listed by Heinz Schlangen (Saterland/Scharrel, Germany); Vorratsliste (6 Marz 2007) [http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/katalog.pdf].
- 'Newfoundland': flowers purple.
Plant Availability List–Spring 2000 (Hancock Woodland Nurseries, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada). [<http://www.hancockwoodlands.ca/plantlist.html#Broadleaf> accessed 21 December 2007].
- 'Rote Mullion'; niedrig kompakt, hellrot (September–October), to 25 cm tall.
Listed by Gartengestaltung Thomas Witte (Bispingen, Germany).
www.heidegaerten.de (accessed 1 September 2007).
- 'Scholjes Moritz': breitbuschig mittelhoch Blüte: magentarot gefüllt; September–October.
Vorrats- und Preisliste für Jungpflanzen 2006: 4 (pdf available on-line).
[<http://www.baumschule-krebs.de/Produkte/Jungpflanzen2006.pdf>;
accessed 20 October 2006]
- 'Seestern': bright yellow branches spread flat like the arms of a starfish; turning at the beginning of the winter to bright orange. Flowers bright lilac, and due to rich colour of the leaves, the blooms stand out.
Seedling from 'Boskoop', raised and selected at Soltauer Baumschulen Robert Nielsen, Soltau, Germany.
[<http://www.baumschule-nielsen.de> accessed 22 December 2007].
- 'Svenja': flowers "Rot".
Listed by Heinz Schlangen (Saterland/Scharrel, Germany) as ®. Vorratsliste (6 Marz 2007) [http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/katalog.pdf].
- TWIN GIRLS: **trade designation** for a pair of plants "zwei Blütenfarben auf einer pflanze".
Heidesortiment zur Heideschau 2005 Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig
(www.felgentraeger.com pdf downloaded 1 September 2007).
- 'Veronique II': flowers white.
Listed by Heinz Schlangen (Saterland/Scharrel, Germany) as ®. Vorratsliste (6 Marz 2007) [http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/katalog.pdf].
- 'Wynanda': bud-flowering; purple.
Being propagated in Canada by Qualitree Propagators, Rosedale, British Columbia.
Qualitree Propagators Inc availability list for 27-Aug-07: 1 (pdf file downloaded 1 September 2007).

Daboecia

- D. cantabrica* 'Praegerie': typographic error.
www.heidegaerten.de (pdf) (accessed 1 December 2007).
- D. cantabrica* 'Violetta': "aufrecht, violett-rosa" (June–October); to 35 cm tall.
Listed by Gartengestaltung Thomas Witte (Bispingen, Germany).
www.heidegaerten.de (accessed 1 December 2007); www.ppp-index.de.
- D. x scotica* 'Silverswells': typographic error.
B. de la Rochefoucauld, *La bruyère*: 67 (1979, 1st edition).

Erica dabici Crantz: invalid (ICBN)

Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums, Wien **68**: 155 (1965).

Erica

E. arborea

— ‘Alberta Gold’: typographic error: http://www.heidegaerten.de/heide_pflanzen.php?heidepflanzen=Alberta_Gold,_Baumheide [accessed 1 September 2007]

E. carnea

— ‘Chamäleon’: “Farbe rosa” (ruby H5); February–March. Foliage golden copper (“gelbkupferferbenes”, changes several times in a year, hence the name).

Jos Flecken bought it from Gruenberg Nursery (Coswig, Germany); they bought it at an auction mart. Listed by Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig. Heidesortiment zur Heideschau 2005 Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig; www.felgentraeger.com/pdf [downloaded 1 September 2007]

— ‘Kathy’: **rejected** (under ICNCP 2004. Art 19.25; may be orthographic error for ‘Kathi’): “breit aufrecht, weiss” (February–April), to 25cm tall.

www.heidegaerten.de [accessed 1 September 2007]

— ‘Märzenschnee’: white, late.

Listed by Heinz Schlangen (Saterland/Scharrel, Germany); <http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/index.php?id=29&L=1>.

— ‘Rosa Diamant’: **rejected** (under ICNCP 2004. Art 19.24); “flowers abundantly with H7 rose pink flowers, compact habit”; “aufrecht breit, rosa” (February–April), to 25cm tall.

Listed by Heinz Schlangen (Saterland/Scharrel, Germany); <http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/index.php?id=29&L=1>;

www.heidegaerten.de [accessed 1 September 2007]

E. x darleyensis

— ‘Citzlers Rosa’: **rejected** (under ICNCP 2004. Art 19.24).

Being propagated in Canada by Qualitree Propagators Inc, Rosedale, BC; origin unknown but possibly connected with Gartenbau Citzler GbR, Gütersloh, Germany; Qualitree Propagators Inc website [accessed 1 September 2007]

— ‘Eriginia’: presumed **error** for *E. erigena*.

Listed by Heinz Schlangen (Saterland/Scharrel, Germany); http://www.schlangen-jungpflanzen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/katalog.pdf.

— ‘Kraemers Red’: orthographic error

Qualitree Propagators Inc availability list for 27-Aug-07: 1 [pdf file downloaded 1 September 2007]

E. x griffithsii

— ‘Ashley Gold’: typographic error: *Bulletin of The Heather Society* **5** (15): 14 (1998).

E. spiculifolia

— ‘Bruckenthalia’: **rejected** (under ICNCP 2004. Art 19.24).

Heidesortiment zur Heideschau 2005 Gärtnerei Felgenträger, Leipzig, Germany; www.felgentraeger.com [pdf downloaded 1 September 2007]

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Articles may be submitted by e-mail.

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CONTENTS

Frontispiece	Klokkelieng (H. Berg)	ii
Frank Odie	Yell for heathers.	1
John Griffiths	A heather hybridizer's Yorkshire garden.	9
Allen Hall	<i>Erica maderensis</i> in England.	17
Susie Kay	Visiting the African Queen – with the assistance of satellites.	26
Ella May Wulff	The creation of a public heather garden: Cottage Grove Community Hospital, Oregon, U.S.A.	29
E. G. H. Oliver	Old painting instrumental in rediscovery of a Cape <i>Erica</i> species.	39
R. Canovan, E. Petterssen, G. Osti, S. Kay & E. C. Nelson (editor)	Northern Spain, July 2007.	44 53
Hendrieke Berg's hand-coloured copper engravings.		55
 PROCEEDINGS OF THE HEATHER SOCIETY 2007		
Arnold Stow	Stepping down.	
Judy Wiksten	Pembrokeshire, ahem, is Wales! (Annual Gathering and 35 th Annual Conference, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, 7–10 September 2007)	56 61
 BOOK REVIEWS & RECENT PUBLICATIONS		
	Supplement to <i>International register of heather names</i> – VIII (2008)	65

Website: www.heathersociety.org