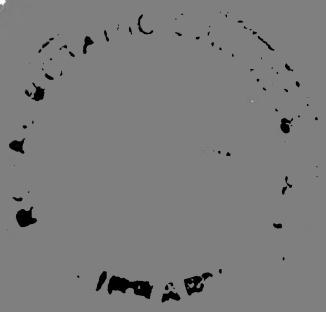


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YEAR BOOK  
OF THE  
HEATHER  
SOCIETY



1992



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# THE HEATHER SOCIETY

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*Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde*

*North American Heather Society*

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*Administrator:*

**Mrs A. SMALL**, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creting St Mary,  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8PJ

*Editors:*

*Bulletin:* **Mrs D. EVERETT**, Greenacres Nursery, Bringsty,  
Worcester WR6 5TA

*Year Book:* **Mr A. W. JONES**, Otters' Court, West Camel,  
Somerset BA22 7QF

*Registrar:*

**Mr D. McCLINTOCK**, Bracken Hill, Platt, Sevenoaks,  
Kent TN15 8JH

*Slide Librarian:*

**Miss J. SHARPE**, 3 Selby Road, Fulford, York,  
N. Yorkshire YO1 4RD

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## Editorial

In the 1987 *Year Book* there is a brief account of some of the work, undertaken on behalf of the Society by Mr T. A. (Albert) Julian. Much of that work was concerned with the heather trials plot and reference collections at Harlow Carr Gardens.

On the 29th May 1991 Albert was presented with the Award of Honorary Membership of the Northern Horticultural Society in recognition of his outstanding services to that Society. He also received a citation and a medal.

The Heather Society formally expressed its thanks to Albert at the AGM on 8th September 1991 by electing him a Vice-President. Long may he continue in that office.

The honours he has received are richly deserved. That they follow so closely on each other does not signify that he is now resting from his labours. However, we were delighted to hear that Bob Rope, the Council Member from Nottingham, has started to help with the work at Harlow Carr.

\*\*\*\*\*

During 1991, Mr H. L. (Hugh) Nicholson retired from Council. He had been elected to the Committee at the first General Meeting of the Society on the 25th September 1963. He served, without interruption, first on the Committee and then the Council, until last year. This is a unique record. He had also been a member of the Technical Committee since its inception in 1975.

He was forced to retire, at the age of 82, by failing eyesight. However Hedda, his wife, tells me that his sight has since been fully restored by surgery. He is now looking forward to driving again "the dear little one", his beloved Alfa Romeo Giulia.

Hugh had been trained as a land agent. He worked for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, under it's

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various guises, until 1976. Some time prior to 1955, while working in the West Midlands, he met and became friendly with J. W. Sparkes. It is possible that his interest in heathers dates from that time. (Hugh wrote an appreciation of J. W. Sparkes in the 1982 *Year Book*).

In 1955 he was posted to London, and hence, in 1963, he had both the interest and the opportunity to play an active part in the newly formed Heather Society. By 1964 the membership of the Society had been divided into geographical zones. I seem to remember Mrs MacLeod telling me that Hugh had played a major role in that work.

Perhaps Hugh's most important contribution to the Society has been the encouragement of close relations with fellow enthusiasts in Holland and Germany. He was ideally suited for this task by his personal qualities of easy friendliness and almost child-like enthusiasm.

In 1965 he had been made Tree Adviser to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In 1966 he was invited to undertake a study tour of the Netherlands as a guest of the Dutch Government, and with the support of the Ministry. He made a point of meeting as many Dutch heather enthusiasts as he could, and was very impressed by what he was shown. Other visits, both private and professional, were made to Holland, and later Germany. Hugh made many close friends in both countries.

He wrote up three of his Dutch trips in the *Year Books* for 1966, 1970 and 1972. The only other writing by Hugh in the Society's publications is a report on the Nomenclature Sub-Committee in *Bulletin* No. 7, Summer 1969. That also appears to be the only reference to the Nomenclature Sub-Committee.

Hugh moved from Surbiton to Farm Cottage, Dorking, with his second wife, Mary, in 1961. He had grown heathers in Surbiton, but at Farm Cottage the entire eastern side of the house was given over to a large heather bed. Later he started what he calls his "friends bed", where he planted heathers named after, or associated with his many friends.

This still exists, and is replanted as necessary. It is strictly respected, whatever other redevelopment is undertaken in the garden.

With his many visits to the Continent, and his many friends there, he grew many of the best Dutch and German cultivars before they became well-known here. This provided opportunities for visitors to the garden to become acquainted with them. Some years ago John Bond took cuttings of many cultivars at Farm Cottage for ultimate inclusion in the collections in Windsor Great Park.

I am sure that I shall not be alone in missing Hugh at future meetings of Council and the Technical Committee. His twinkling eyes suggest that mischief is never far away, and yet it would be difficult to find a man more free from malice.

Thank you Hugh for all you have done for the Society during your long service on our governing body. May you long continue to enjoy your plants and the company of your friends.

## The President Writes

*David McClintock, Platt, Kent*

This time I want to express my, our, great appreciation of the helpful contacts we have with officers and members of our sister organisations and with other friends from abroad.

From the American Society, we were delighted to have its Secretary, Walter Wornick, at our Conference at Bury St Edmunds. From the enthusiastic account he wrote of it in their *Heather News*, it seems that the delight was mutual. Now we are expecting his example to be followed by more of his members, and not only for the lure of Cherrybank in September.

In 1988 our Conference was enhanced by the presence of

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Herman Blum, the editor of *Ericultura*. He is a regular and invaluable correspondent and a key person in trying to keep up with the constant flow of new cultivars. We have had group visits by his Society, and some of its members have come over on their own; but please, we want others also at our Conference, to the joy of both of us.

Herman keeps in close touch with another of our special friends, the fabulous Kurt Kramer of Edewecht, near Oldenburg. Not only have his skills resulted in some of the finest new cultivars one could wish, but he also takes startlingly beautiful photographs. How welcome it would be if he could show them over here. But he lacks a No. 2 to care for his nursery in his absence, so he is tied for most of the year and, sadly, always at Conference times. But some of us know what a warm welcome we get from him and his mother when we go to see his remarkable plants. See what Allen Hall has to say on pages 45 to 51.

In 1990 we had the pleasure of a visit from the German Society, and individual members have come too, but, so far, none to a Conference. Fritz Kircher, a warm friend, who founded the Society in 1977 and has run it ever since with his wife Loni, is of the kindest, and a wonderful host when one visits him in Hamburg.

I daresay that, despite her great enthusiasm and drive, it may be some time before there is a Swedish Society, but Brita Johansson has endeared herself. She really has put Swedish heathers on the map and keeps close touch with several of us. Much the same can be said of the faithful Eileen Petterssen from Norway, who also, happily, comes to our Conferences year after year, and we love having her. In France we have Comte Bernard de la Rochefoucauld with his unbounded keenness. But I wish he could get a French Society going. Finally I must not forget Karel Hieke, that able plantsman and heather enthusiast who worked at Pruhonic near Prague.

My hope for 1992 is that we may have more personal contacts with, and visits from, our friends across the seas, above all to our Conference when they can see what nice members we too have; and that before long we can arrange Heather Society visits to each of their countries. After all we are an International Society.



## From the Chairman

*Maj.-Gen. P. G. Turpin, C.B., O.B.E., West  
Clandon, Surrey*

It is nearly 15 years since the Heather Society Colour Chart was first published. During that time it has been widely used and has proved a valuable means of describing the flower-colour of the very many different cultivars of heather.

The colours are numbered 1 to 16, which gives 48 variations, if the epithets pale or deep are used. It is very important to use the numbers in conjunction with the colour names, to avoid confusion, because the names of colours can mean different things to different people. Apart from colour-blindness, many of us have a subjective view of colour and put our own interpretation on the exact meaning of a colour name. This is particularly true of the colour range from red to blue through the purples, mauves and lavenders. Apart from this, colour names have different meanings in different countries. If the Colour Chart is to be used on the Continent, some of the colour names need to be altered. Similarly, in the United States a number of names have been changed in order that they will conform to differences in language interpretation. For instance Heather Acres Inc., one of the leading heather nurseries in the United States, uses Violet or Violet-purple to describe H1 Amethyst, Pale pinkish purple for H2 Mauve and Pale bluish-purple for H3 Lavender. So, it is most important always to use the number in addition to the name of the colour.

In recording the colour of a heather, it must be remembered that the colour changes as the flower matures. Normally it grows darker. The colour also varies in accordance with weather conditions, the amount of sunlight and shade, the position where the heather is planted and many other

factors. Often the upper side of a flower is different from the under side. In which case, both should be recorded. When a record is taken the date and place should always be included in the record.

In the Harlow Carr Trials, the colours were always recorded by daylight through a north facing window, to ensure uniformity. I suggest that, whenever possible, this procedure should be followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

**21st Annual Conference, The Butterfly  
Hotel, Bury St Edmunds,  
6th -8th September 1991**

*David Plumridge, Castleside, Co. Durham*

It was an auspicious start. The weather perfect, the A1 contraflows remarkably trouble free and, despite getting ever so slightly lost on the outskirts of Cambridge, we found the Butterfly Hotel effortlessly. We were particularly grateful for the good omens because we had persuaded Rita's sister Lorna that Heather Society Conferences were the best mini-break around. She wanted some new heathers anyway, so she decided to tag along.

We told Lorna that it would be difficult to find a nicer bunch of people anywhere. This was really confirmed when following a pleasant dinner with affable companions things really opened up. This was just what the organisers wanted. Their "Fun Competition" really helped to get new and old members alike to get acquainted. Groups had to identify heather names from cleverly crafted cartoons. 'Sherry' from a glass of about the right shape was easy, but some of the rest, it was agreed, were the product of a really devious imagination! What was done with some of the Scottish names was hilarious. This ice-breaker showed Lorna

that the thoroughly nice bunch included the odd few madcaps!

And so to bed, exhausted, but refreshed the next morning by as hearty a breakfast as anyone would want to eat. Then followed a talk by Caroline FitzGerald, who kept the over-indulgents awake with her enthusiastic description of the lowland Suffolk heath and the careful and detailed management essential to maintain the heather. Quite a contrast to our own native heath, just up the road from "Rose Cottage" in the North Pennines. Here the odd sheep and a bit of burning keeps thousands of acres of *Calluna vulgaris* in fine fettle.

On the follow-up visit to the Suffolk Sandlings with Caroline the weather continued to be more than kind. The Sandlings were a marked contrast to our wild open rolling moorland. In comparison it was like a large garden with stretches of purple heather with pines and birch adding height and interest. But the birch! We could now see very graphically how the dreaded birch was swamping the heath in those areas where it had not been possible to apply the necessary husbandry. There were still large areas of *Calluna* remaining, and it was fun to see the enthusiasts hunting for the sport that might be the find of a lifetime!

And how grateful we were for the enthusiasm of our President who encouraged the coach party to divert to the coast to see the rare Sea pea (*Lathyrus japonicus* ssp *maritimus*). This was magically growing in the biggest shingle bank we had ever seen.

On a more prosaic note, we came to the result of the Top Twenty Heather Poll. And what a reactionary bunch they were by all accounts, the respondents that is. The list was full of the old stagers. The cogniscenti were disgusted. The writer was embarrassed. He hadn't even voted for 'Red Star', and it was magnificent this year! Anyway, full marks to David Small, who must have spent hours sorting it all out, and for his additional date-adjusted list which put 'Red Star' at the top.

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On another coach visit, we had more opportunity to see at first hand the sterling work done by the Smalls for the Society. Their computers can only help lighten a large administrative work load, and the compilation of the International Register must be a mammoth task for all concerned. David and Anne's perseverance and success in heather gardening with adverse soil and drought conditions can also be a source of admiration.

The sun continued to shine at Bressingham Gardens, where we were favoured with a chat by Adrian Bloom in his famous heather garden. Lorna, Rita and myself saw it last in 1985 when it really was a heather garden. Fashion has changed, and now his beautiful heathers are interplanted with fashionable spikey things. Despite that, Adrian's garden is still a joy, as of course is his father's. A further delight on this visit was to be able to take tea in the lovely Bressingham church while being able to listen to our favourite hymns, played on request by the village organist.

Following another excellent dinner, Michael Warren gave an inspirational slide show on flower photography, showing the delights that can result from the synergy of the activities of gardening and photography. In the following photographic competition, this synergy worked well for Rita's heather garden and my camera - we were placed twice in the snapshot competition. A further tribute to Rita was when Daphne Everett's slide of her garden was placed second. Arthur Dome's superb close-ups, however really stole the show. It is sad that the *Year Book* cannot include colour prints for all members to share the experience.

Heather Society Annual General Meetings are normally processed in a speedy workmanlike manner. This year, apart from a small hiccup over the accounts, was no exception. The elections to high office presented no great surprises, but a particular point of note was the Chairman's plea for support for the RHS Heather Competitions

which has been lamentable of recent date. On a happier note for the promotion of our beloved heathers is the news that the collection at Wisley is progressing well. Our North East contingent made a plea for a measure of financial assistance to promote the Society locally and were promised that this would be given consideration at the next AGM.

The group photograph is always a lively affair as it is always a challenge to get one's own photo of the group when it seems that half of them are trying to do the very same thing! This Year there was even more jostling by the paparazzi to take exclusive photographs when a large potted heather (*Erica x stuartii* 'Pat Turpin') was produced by David Small for an unexpected presentation to our Chairman in recognition of his 80th birthday and his services to the Society. It will be fascinating to see both 'Cherry Turpin' and 'Pat Turpin' growing together in the same heather garden.

There was always something of interest going on at the Conference. The "Guess the Heather" species competition, for example. This consisted of a number of pots of rather weedy looking specimens which would not have been given garden room at Rose Cottage. It was amazing, however, to see how the more erudite members had little difficulty in identifying these gems. One must be grateful for such experts whose like are responsible for recognising and developing those gardenworthy specimens we value so highly.

Our President, with his impressive botanical knowledge always adds value to the Conference. It was sad that he could not be given a little more time on this occasion. The "star" of the show, though, must have been that visitor from the New World, (New Hampshire, to be precise) Mr Walter Wornick. His droll observations on our quaint Olde Worlde ways had us in stitches. His descriptions of heather gardening in climes much more severe than those of our

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North Pennines made us realise we weren't so badly done by after all! Walter is Secretary of the North American Heather Society and brought along some samples of their interesting publications. The book, *Hardy Heather Species* by Dorothy Metheny was of particular note, being of value to the botanist and keen heather gardener alike. We hope Walter will overcome his modesty and bring some slides of his and other American gardens next time!

The Annual Conference provides an invaluable forum to discuss heather triumphs and tragedies with old friends and new, from not just all over Britain but from abroad as well. As well as having Walter with us, our two "regulars", Eileen and Brita from Norway and Sweden, provided, as ever, some interesting discussion. We hope the knowledgeable Bert Aldebra from Holland will swell the ranks of the overseas visitors next year in Dundee.

Another highly successful Conference over, and the verdict from Lorna? "Every bit as good as promised"! So off we went, not home back up the A1, but to explore Suffolk, and that's another story!

\* \* \* \* \*

## **The Heathers of Europe and Neighbouring Regions - An Up-Date**

*David McClintock, Platt, Kent.*

It is twelve years since the last edition of our *Guide to the Naming of Plants* appeared. So, members may like to have set out the tally of the heathers native from Madeira to Siberia, from the Azores and Iceland to the Lebanon and from Norway to N Africa. Comments on changes to the *Guide* follow at the end. I omit citations of the authors of the

names, which are mostly unintelligible to gardeners, and add nothing to the precision of the names below.

1. *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*
2. *Calluna vulgaris*  
*Daboecia azorica* - see *D. cantabrica* ssp *azorica*
3. *Daboecia cantabrica* ssp *cantabrica*
4.                               ssp *azorica*
5.                               ~~ssp *scotica* (*D. x scotica*)~~
- Erica andevalensis* - see *E. mackaiana*  
                                  ssp *andevalensis*
- E. anthura* - see *E. manipuliflora* ssp *anthura*
6. *E. arborea*
7. *E. australis*
8. *E. bocquetii*
9. *E. carnea* (*E. herbacea*)
10. *E. ciliaris*
11. *E. cinerea*
12. *E. x darleyensis*
13. *E. erigena* (*E. mediterranea. E. hibernica*)
14. *E. lusitanica* (*E. codonodes*)
15. *E. mackaiana* ssp *mackaiana*
16.                               ssp *andevalensis*
17. *E. maderensis*
18. *E. manipuliflora* ssp *manipuliflora*
19.                               ssp *anthura*
20. *E. multiflora*
21. *E. scoparia* ssp *scoparia*
22.                               ssp *azorica*
23.                               ssp *maderincola*
24.                               ssp *platycodon*
25. *E. sicula* ssp *sicula*
26.                               ssp *cyrenaica*
27.                               ssp *libanotica*
28. *E. x stuartii* (*E. x praegeri*)
29. *E. terminalis* (*E. stricta. E. corsica*)
30. *E. tetralix*
31. *E. umbellata*
32. *E. vagans*

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33. *E. x veitchii*
34. *E. x watsonii*
35. *E. x williamsii*
36. *Andromeda polifolia*

4. No gardener likes the cumbersome appellation subspecies, but it fills a useful purpose for groups of plants as discussed in Q2 of the *Guide*. Thus *azorica* could hardly have a more distinct distribution from *cantabrica*, but in fact differs only by being smaller (and size is not a good taxonomic character) and in having absolutely no hairs on the corolla. This is not enough to warrant its being treated as a distinct species, added to which it produces any amount of fertile seed when crossed, which also goes against calling it a distinct species. But no-one can insist on its being called either a species or a subspecies, and gardeners may well prefer to continue to name it plain *D. azorica*, and they will not be wrong. When a species has a subspecies attached to it, the original typical plant must also have a similar distinction, by repeating its specific epithet. But this technically necessary repetition is used only in botanical publications.

5. *D. x scotica* is a correct name for all the intermediates, first crosses and backcrosses, between *D. azorica* and *D. cantabrica*. If however *azorica* is classified as a subspecies, *scotica* should strictly be considered as just another subspecies of *cantabrica*. Gardeners may well however ignore this technical nicety.

8. There is no doubt that *E. bocquetii* is a good species clearly distinct from *E. sicula*.

16. *E. andevalensis* is another good example of a plant dowered with a name at specific level, which does not deserve it. The only difference from *E. mackaiana* that its authors gave was that it had shorter glandular hairs. But not only can that length be approached in *mackaiana*, but at least one eglandular *andevalensis* is known. Here



again the very distinct area of distribution makes subspecific treatment appropriate - and hybrids between the two are likely to be fertile. But it is more convenient for gardeners to use simply *andevalensis*.

19. *E. anthura* is also best treated as a subspecies, because basically it grows in areas away from typical *E. manipuliflora*. It is so distinct in its typical guise that it would merit specific status but for somewhat intermediate plants, which may merge the clear distinctions, and hence its not meriting the full status it was originally given as long ago as 1845.

21 - 24. Typical *scoparia* of the Mediterranean area is a dull thing in comparison with the stouter tree heaths of the Atlantic islands. So much so, that there is a case for grouping the plants of all three archipelagos with a distinct name. Meanwhile however all three show measureable differences from each other as well as from the typical plant, and with hundreds of sea miles between them, are suitably treated as subspecies. *E. azorica* was published as a full species, and almost warrants it, but subspecies probably reflects the position better. Ssp *madericola* was given that name, meaning inhabiting Madeira, because *maderensis*, meaning Madeiran, was already in use for a heather. *Platycodoni* was published only as a variety of *scoparia* but was later upgraded to subspecies. I do not know if anyone has tried to cross these four subspecies, but I would be surprised if they did not prove interfertile.

25 - 27. Here are extremely widely separated colonies, which have been granted subspecific names. There are over 1000 km from ssp *sicula* to ssp *cyrenaica* and nearly as much before reaching the three colonies of ssp *libanotica*. Adaptations to the differing conditions of these three areas might well have led to distinguishing morphological modifications, but how valid these are remains to be gone into thoroughly. At present visits to Libya and the Lebanon are not recommended.

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28. 'Pat Turpin' is a result of Kurt Kramer crossing *E. andevalensis* with *E. tetralix* 'Foxhome'. If those two are considered species, there is no binomial to cover such a hybrid, which can, at present only be denominated by the formula of its two parents. But when *andevalensis* is made a subspecies of *mackaiana*, this cross is just another clone of *mackaiana* x *tetralix*, ergo *E. x stuartii*. This would be a pity, because we had hoped that Pat's 80th birthday plant would be the first of a new interspecific hybrid in the Ericas. Technically it can still be to gardeners.

36. At the end I have added *Andromeda*, which is not confined to the European area sensu lato, but is almost circum-polar. Some plants in N. America are called *A. glaucophylla*, but I remain unconvinced that they justify, perhaps even subspecific status. But that needs working on too. All the plants of the Old World are *polifolia*.

### Appendix

Making *E. anthura* a subspecies of *E. manipuliflora* has not been formally published, so it is here - *Erica manipuliflora* ssp *anthura* (Link) D. McClintock subsp. nov. based on *Erica anthura* Link in Flora 23 (1):190, 1845.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The National Heather Collection at Wisley

*A.R. Collins, Wisley, Surrey*

The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley in Surrey, lying 20 miles south-west of London on the A3 London to Portsmouth road, is now home to one of the National Heather Collections.

It was on the 24th April 1979, at a meeting between Wisley and the Heather Society, that the decision to create a heather collection in an area known as Howard's Field was taken. Howard's Field is at the extreme northern end of the garden, and is reached through the Pinetum.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, the project did not get under way until several years later. However, all was not in vain. During the intervening years plant material was collected and propagated, lined out and grown on. At the same time, the rough outlines of beds were marked out in the predominantly grassy areas of Howard's Field, grass and weeds within the boundaries then being eradicated.

During 1987 the Society's Garden was to see the greatest devastation in one night that it was ever likely to witness - the great storm of October 16th. This marked a turning point in the priorities of garden development as a whole. For the next two years the Pinetum and Howard's Field remained closed to the public. Here was the opportunity to carry out major tree surgery, remove tree stumps, fallen timber, etc, and to prepare the ground for the heather collection.

Much of the bed preparation I shall discuss later. However, I shall mention that, due to the sandy nature of Wisley's soil, an irrigation system was considered to be imperative to enable successful establishment of the plantings. Thus the early development of the collection resembled a building site, with trenches and heaps of soil everywhere.

With a comprehensive survey of the whole site having also been carried out during this period, a plan could now be drawn up, showing all the trees, shrubs, beds, underground services, fence boundaries and the like, along with detailed planting plans of each heather bed.

So by the autumn of 1988 we were in a position to begin the first plantings.

Howard's Field covers an area of some 2.26 hectares, approximately one quarter of which is at present available for planting. In fact, at the time of writing, the majority of this planting space has been filled, with the exception of

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one or two areas retained for such genera as *Sorbus* and *Betula*. At present the collection totals 738 cultivars, of which 667 are planted out. The remainder should be ready for planting during the spring and summer of 1992.

The genera and species already represented in the collection are: *Bruckenthalia*, *Calluna*, *Daboecia cantabrica*, *D. x scotica*, *Erica arborea*, *E. australis*, *E. bocquetii*, *E. carnea*, *E. ciliaris*, *E. cinerea*, *E. x darleyensis*, *E. erigena*, *E. lusitanica*, *E. mackaiana*, *E. manipuliflora*, *E. scoparia*, *E. x stuartii*, *E. terminalis*, *E. tetralix*, *E. vagans*, *E. x veitchii*, *E. x watsonii*, and *E. x williamsii*.

The various beds have been planted as follows: WH01 autumn 1988, WH02 spring 1989, WH03 and WH04 summer 1989, WH05 autumn 1989 and spring 1990, WH06 autumn 1990, and WH07 spring 1991.

### The Site

The site the heather collection occupies is predominantly flat, although the western side has a slight incline running down towards the river Wey, which provides a natural boundary for the garden. A fairly exposed site, running in a north - south direction, it has good light levels. Some 20 m above sea level, it is one of the lowest parts of Wisley Garden.

Sandy soils are a feature of much of Surrey, including Wisley. The soil in Howard's Field has a pH of 5, and contains 24 ppm magnesium, 29 ppm phosphorus and 81 ppm potassium.

The mean annual rainfall since 1988 is 568 mm, with an average annual maximum temperature of 23°C and an average minimum of 2°C. The prevailing wind comes from the west, which as regular visitors will know, has few obstacles, since across the river is the newly constructed Wisley Golf Course, its shelter belt plantings still in their infancy. The area is also troubled with frost, perhaps aggravated by being so close to the river. Tender subjects, particularly *E. lusitanica* 'George Hunt' and *E. x veitchii* 'Pink Joy' have been badly affected.

During the establishment of the collection, and even today, pest problems occur. Rabbits thrive throughout the Garden, and therefore, during the early establishment of plantings, whole areas have had to be surrounded by chicken wire. Deer are also a problem, although mainly on young trees planted in the vicinity. The occasional mole also creates havoc, running his tunnels under the beds, along with squirrels burying their nuts.

## Management

As mentioned earlier, the soil at Wisley is very sandy. Therefore, vast quantities of well rotted leaf mould, horse manure, wood shavings and, prior to the controversy concerning its use, rough peat, were incorporated into the beds. During cultivation and preparation of each bed, the soil had been slightly raised in the centres, the purpose of this being to achieve a more undulating effect which would be further enhanced by having the taller cultivars planted there.

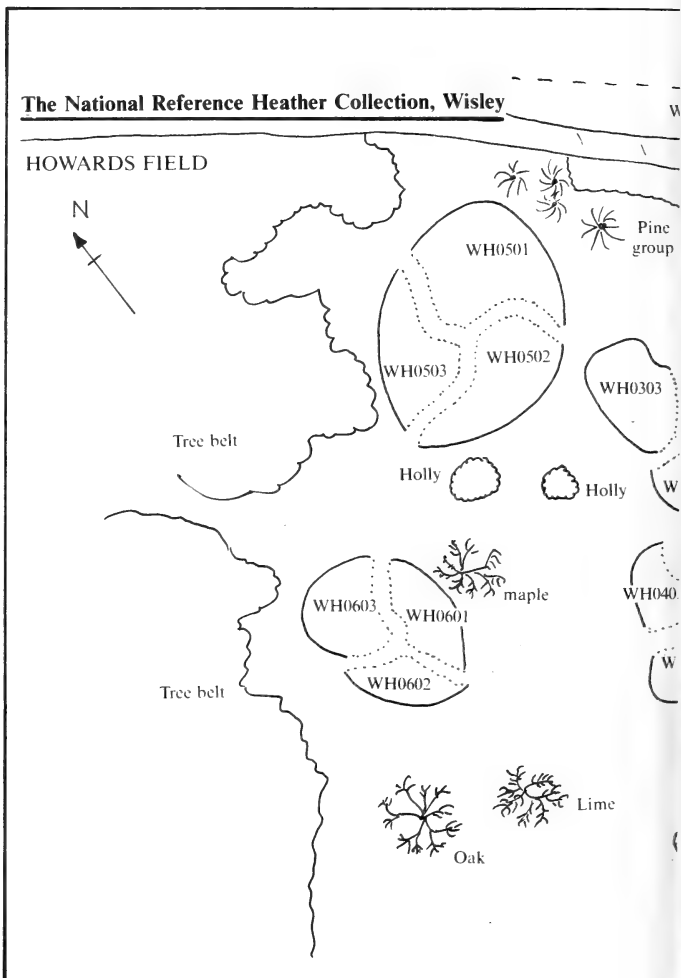
Due to the thorough soil preparation, it has not been necessary to feed the heathers at present, but this will need looking into at some time in the future.

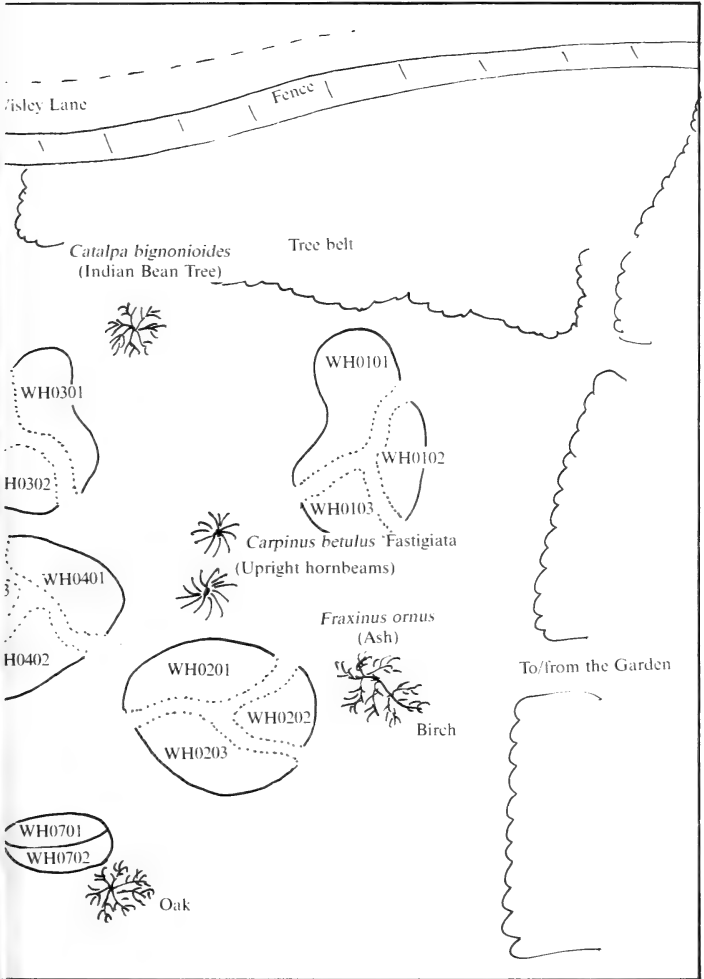
Mulching was originally done with peat when the plants were first put in. Coarse grade bark has now replaced the peat, and is proving to be very successful in cutting down weed growth and conserving moisture.

Irrigation, as explained earlier, was considered vital to the establishment of the collection. Each bed now has a permanent sprinkler system installed enabling watering to be carried out as required. This system, when fully operational, will be linked into the new pressurised system currently being installed at Wisley.

Pruning is left until late winter and early spring. The annual clipping is perhaps the most labour intensive activity in the heather garden. The majority of cultivars are clipped with hand shears, but I am considering experimenting with electric hedge trimmers this coming season, now that the plants have grown on and are probably able to withstand a more vigorous approach.

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Cultivars for the collection were obtained primarily from our original heather garden in Seven Acres, the trials plants at Harlow Carr, and several nurseries in Britain. However, as the cultivars required have become fewer in number, and rarer, David Small is now locating the sources and supplying us with sufficient rooted material to be planted out.

Obviously verification of cultivars has to be carried out, and at this point I should like to thank the Heather Society's President, Mr David McClintock, Chairman Maj-Gen. P. G. Turpin, David Small and Society members (during the post Conference and summer visits) for their assistance in this matter.

Originally we aimed at approximately 30 plants per cultivar. This figure has had to be adjusted to the size of area allocated to each group. For example, some of the tree heaths have only seven plants in their group, whilst others like *Calluna vulgaris* 'Penny Bun' will have more.

Spacing of the plants has again been determined by the cultivar. Generally those chosen for the edges of the beds were planted at about 30 to 45 cm apart. Cultivars with a more spreading habit, such as the *E. carnea* group have been planted slightly further apart. Those cultivars situated towards the centre of each bed, the more vigorous varieties, average 45 to 60 cm, whilst the tree heaths have been spaced at 60 cm plus.

Finally, as this heather collection has both to serve as an amenity feature as well as an educational one, it was decided that the cultivars would be planted so as to be visually interesting all the year round. Thus the policy has been to plant different genera amongst each other, complementing each other in flower, foliage, colour and time of flowering. Unfortunately this has a slight drawback for the enthusiast who wishes to compare similar cultivars with each other, in that they will not be planted in the same vicinity. Eventually however, this problem will be eased by arrangements now being finalised.



## Joint Heather Society - Northern Horticultural Society Heather Reference Collections at Harlow Carr

*T. A. Julian, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire*

### *Calluna vulgaris* Collection

One afternoon in September, immediately following the 1980 Conference in Edinburgh, Diane and Bert Jones and Albert Julian, representing the Heather Society, and Mrs Rakusen, the new director of the Northern Horticultural Society's gardens, and the newly appointed curator, Philip Swindells, met at Harlow Carr to consider plans to replace the ageing 1971-5 Heather trials plants with a new collection. They were unanimous in their decision that a *Calluna vulgaris* collection should be planted in the gardens with plants propagated from material taken from the authenticated plants in the old trials plot. Philip undertook to provide a suitable site and the Heather Society representatives accepted the responsibility for planning and planting the collection, and for propagating and providing the plants. The absence of local volunteer helpers limited the proposed collection to a manageable size, so it was to be confined mainly to two plants of each of the 180 surviving cultivars. We were fortunate in having access to mist bench and potting facilities at the experimental grounds of the Manchester University Botany Department at Jodrell Bank (under the shadow of the famous radio telescope), and the invaluable help of Dr Peter Newton.

More than 400 plants were raised from cuttings taken from the trials plot and were delivered to Harlow Carr in 1982. No space was available in the nursery for temporary planting, so the plants remained in their pots. Regrettably,

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due to neglect of watering at weekends, most had perished by 1983 and it became necessary to start a fresh plant raising programme. A second batch of plants was raised and they were planted in their final positions in 1984.

Two beds in the main trials area of the garden, each 4m x 13.5m, were allocated for the collection, and a third bed was to be made available the following year. The total area was disappointingly small, but it was expected that more space would be freed for expansion when required. During planting, fragments of chalk, distributed over the whole plot, were noticed. pH tests of the soil were instituted and gave values of 7.0 plus, thus confirming the suspicion that it was slightly alkaline. One of the long-serving gardeners remembered that Geoffrey Smith, when curator, had dressed the beds with mushroom compost.

Philip Swindells came to the rescue, offering a site on the high ground of South Field which, unfortunately, is a remote part of the Gardens and little visited. pH tests gave acceptable values of around 6.7. It is 150 m above sea level and exposed except that nearby woods provide a windbreak to the north side. The soil is a well drained heavy loam. There is no water supply. An area 98 m x 4 m was ploughed, rotovated and divided into four similarly sized plots. A relatively narrow width was chosen for easy access to the plants and to allow them to be easily seen from the sides. To keep the plants healthy whilst they were waiting to be transferred to this new site, they were given two foliar sprays of iron chelate, and the soil was drenched with very dilute sulphuric acid (pH 4.5).

This was to be a "reference" collection so, in arranging the layout, our aim was to facilitate comparison of similar cultivars. Cultivars were grouped according to height, flower colour (single and double) and foliage colour, in keeping with the Technical Committee's recommendations of August 1982. Aesthetic considerations of landscaping were not to be taken into account, although the double-flowered and the coloured foliage cultivars have produced

outstandingly attractive effects in the last two years. The groups were arranged in four beds:-

Bed 1. Confined to low growing plants, (height less than 15 cm) four of each cultivar. At one end is a small collection of St Kilda varieties, green foliage cultivars in the middle, and coloured foliage at the other end.

Bed 2. Cultivars grouped in order of their foliage colour:- silver, grey-green, yellow, orange and red, and spring coloured foliage.

Bed 3. White and double-flowered cultivars.

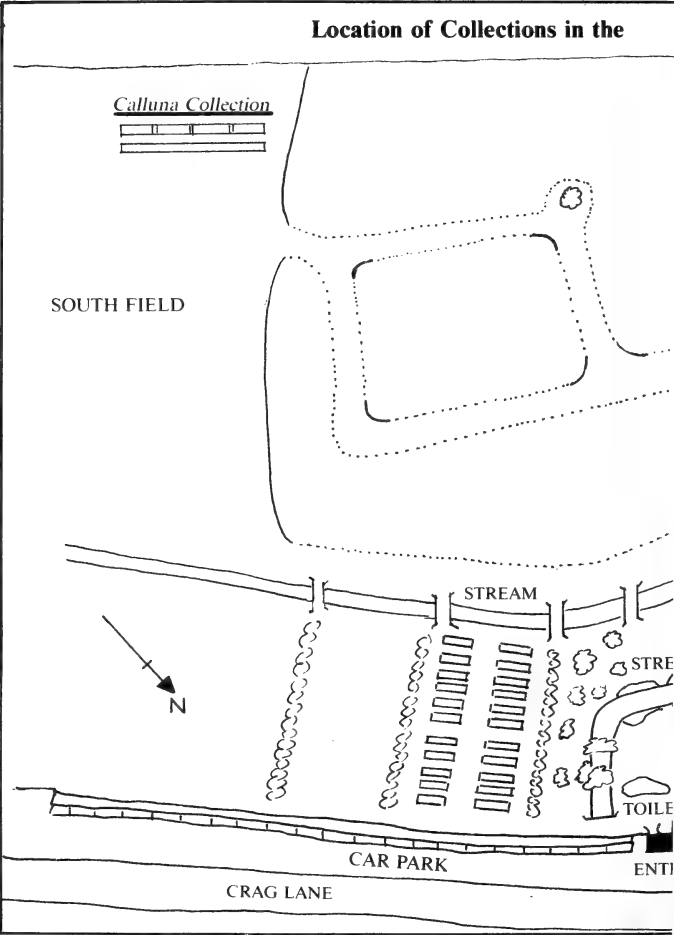
Bed 4. Mauve, pink, red and bud-flowering single varieties.

With the larger plants in beds 2, 3 and 4, space limitations allow only two plants per cultivar, spaced 60 cm apart; although a wider spacing would have been preferable, particularly for the vigorous varieties. As an insurance against loss, a third plant is planted alongside each pair to be removed after two years if there have been no casualties. With the addition of new varieties from time to time, it has been impossible to conform to the planned classified groupings, but no plant is out of place by more than a few metres. Large engraved labels of a black/white sandwich material enable names to be read easily from the sides of the plot. Plants are trimmed in the early spring; approximately two thirds of the flowering stems are removed.

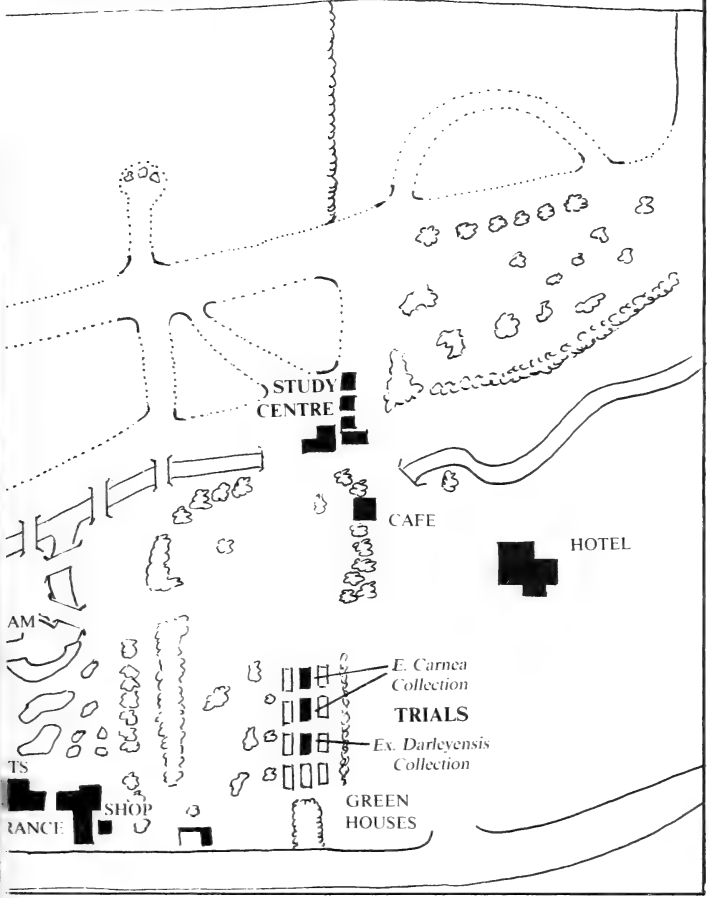
The site is surrounded by what is virtually a hay field and, consequently, the weed population is enormous. The most troublesome one is the dandelion which, if not hoed in the early stages of growth, has to be treated individually. If a dandelion seedling grows unnoticed in the base of a heather it can be difficult to remove without breaking the tap root or damaging the root system of the host. An accurately aimed jet from a small hand spray containing glyphosate ("Tumbleweed") has proved to be effective in

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Location of Collections in the



# Harlow Carr Gardens



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these cases. This year (1991) we have adopted different weed control techniques in order to reduce the number of hours spent on this time-consuming chore. In the dwarf bed where the plants are positioned fairly close together and cover most of the ground a little hand weeding and hoeing suffices. The beds of the white and the coloured flowered varieties have been treated with "Casaron G" which proved to be so effective on the 1971 - 5 trials plot. Practically all the plants have been in position for more than 18 months so will not be adversely affected by the herbicide. On the coloured foliage bed, black polythene strips, 45 cm wide, were laid between the rows of plants and covered with a thin layer of soil. The gaps between the parallel strips were treated with Casaron G. So far this method has proved to be most effective.

The NHS collect large quantities of straw litter from nearby stables, for use as a weed suppressing mulch. In 1989 the whole of the area of the collection was covered with a 5 cm layer of the litter. Although it served its purpose of inhibiting weed germination, it was unacceptable aesthetically and was not renewed.

Fertilizers have not been applied as the soil is a fairly rich loam and is capable of satisfying all the plants' needs. No water supply is laid on to the site but, fortunately, the soil is fairly moisture-retentive, so by planting when it is moist, casualties, caused by drying out, have been few. In future, to minimise the effects of drought, a water absorbing polymer will be mixed with the infill soil of the planting holes. Yearly average rainfall is 70 cm. The site is exposed, and in very severe winter conditions there has been browning of the foliage on the windward side of a few plants, but no losses.

During the planning stages of the Bell's Heather Collection it was decided that three plants of each cultivar should be sent to Harlow Carr for verification. *Calluna vulgaris* plants received from Bells are planted alongside those of the identical cultivars in the collection for side by

side comparison. These are to be removed after verification. The planting area had been extended to incorporate the other *Calluna* cultivars which are to be retained after verification to become part of an enlarged collection. It is fortunate that we were able to increase the area of cultivation, as there are no adjacent plantings competing for space. A two metre wide strip extending the full length of the line of beds and separated from them by a path, a metre wide, has been cleared for the new acquisitions. Before expansion, the cultivars numbered 183. The present total (December 1991) is 300, and it is anticipated that this will increase to 350 in the next year or so.

## Winter Flowering Cultivars, *Erica Carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* Collections

When, in 1984, it was discovered that the garden trials area was alkaline and unsuitable for *Calluna* plants, it was appropriate that the space that had been allocated to them should be used for planting collections of the lime-tolerant winter-flowering *E. carnea* and *E. x darleyensis*. As they have fewer cultivars than *Calluna vulgaris* the total area of the three beds, each 54 sq m, was considered to be just adequate. Two beds were allocated to plants of *E. carnea* and one to *E. x darleyensis* cultivars. The soil is a well drained heavy loam and the area is sheltered on two sides by tall Lawson's Cyprus hedges spaced 10 m from the centre line of the beds. Two mature Ash trees, distanced 12 m away, give light shade and shed a thick layer of leaves and twigs in the autumn. Their roots are not far below the surface and compete with the heathers for moisture.

Using cutting material from the 1971 - 5 trials plot, plants

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of 13 *E. x. darleyensis* and 35 *E. carnea* cultivars were raised and planted in 1986. The *E. x. darleyensis* plants were grouped, three per cultivar and spaced 90 cm apart, the *E. carnea* plants in fours, spaced 60 cm apart. Subsequently, as the collection grew, the grouping was reduced to two plants for *E. x. darleyensis* and three for *E. carnea* cultivars to accommodate the newcomers.

The collection has become much more representative of the increasing numbers of cultivars in commerce by the generosity of Diane and Bert Jones who have donated most of the new acquisitions. We have, now, 21 varieties of *E. x. darleyensis* and 76 of *E. carnea*, prominently labelled as for the *Calluna* plot. The way in which the collection has evolved has hindered the grouping of cultivars according to their individual characteristics. This has not proved to be a serious handicap in studying differences in cultivars as the site is small. Plants of any two cultivars are separated by not more than a few metres.

For the first two years the plants were nibbled, near to extinction, by rabbits, so, in 1988 a wire netting fence, 60 cm high was placed around the beds and the plants were watched anxiously for signs of recovery. It was quite remarkable how stumps, almost devoid of foliage, rapidly developed into healthy and bushy plants in a few months. The wire was removed in 1989 and, apart from some nibbling of the darker foliage plants, there has been no significant "pruning" by rabbits since.

No nutrients have been applied, but the three beds were covered with a thick layer of straw stable litter to suppress the annual weeds. This proved to be unsightly and unacceptable. The following spring one bed was mulched with a 4 cm layer of sphagnum peat and its appearance was greatly enhanced. This year, 1991, one of the other beds was mulched with fine textured wood chipping stable litter, and the other with a 2 cm layer of cocoa shell. For a few days there was a pleasant smell of cocoa in the close vicinity of the



treated bed. It had an attractive appearance, but the shells tended to blow about and to accumulate randomly into small piles. After six months or so it had almost disappeared.

Most plants have spreads of 30 cm or more now, and apart from a few vigorous plants which needed trimming and the rabbit "pruning", they had not been trimmed until the spring of this year (1991). In future we shall trim the *E. carnea* beds alternately, one bed one year and the other the following year. This will ensure that at least half the plants will carry the full amount of flower each year. The more vigorous *E. x darleyensis* hybrid plants will be trimmed annually.

Weeds are less numerous than on the *Calluna* plot, pearlwort being prevalent, often hiding under the spread of the heathers. The beds are kept very tidy by mulching and a little hoeing and removing leaves by hand in the autumn.

The collections are situated in an easily accessible part of the gardens, and have proved to be a great attraction with their large expanses of winter colour.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Bell's National Heather Collection, Cherrybank Gardens, Perth**

*Norrie Robertson, Perth*

I wrote, briefly, about the Bell's heather collection in the 1990 *Year Book*. I now intend to set down in more detail the history of the collection, together with descriptions of the

## THE HEATHER SOCIETY

site, and the way in which the collection is maintained. However, there have been several changes since 1990, and it may be as well to deal with them here before passing on to the main purpose of this article.

The Company has changed its name from Arthur Bell Distillers to United Distillers U.K. Unfortunately there is no longer a Bell's National Heather Scholarship. The collection will continue to be known as the Bell's National Heather Collection, and the name Cherrybank Gardens will be retained. The gardens are now open seven days a week from May until October, and at other times by appointment.

The total area of the gardens is 18 acres. It was originally landscaped in 1984. In the autumn of 1987, it was decided to plant a heather garden, and the idea was discussed with Philip Swindells, then Curator of the Northern Horticultural Society's gardens at Harlow Carr. Gradually the scheme evolved from a heather garden into a National Heather Collection, containing as many cultivars as possible of *Bruckenthalia*, *Calluna*, *Daboecia*, and the hardy European species of *Erica*. At present, all save *E. bocquetii* and *E. multiflora* are represented in the collection. About three acres of shrub beds, adjacent to the entrance and coffee shop at the eastern end of the gardens, were made available for the heathers. The shrubs were cleared, and to date about two acres have been planted with heathers.

Planting began in March 1988, when approximately 100 cultivars were put in, in groups ranging from 24 to 127 plants per variety. The total number of plants used was about 6,000. A year later, a further 150 cultivars (7,000 plants) were planted. A very much larger planting of 17,000 plants of 400 cultivars was undertaken in March 1990. By now most of the freely available cultivars have been planted and, with David Small's help, we are searching out the rarer ones. During the 1991 planting season about another 50 cultivars were added, bringing the total to approximately 700.

The site is about 230 ft above sea level, and faces north with an average slope of one in ten. At ground level it appears sheltered, but the prevailing wind is from the west, and blows straight down the Earn Valley. This has blown trees down, but the heathers have never been affected.

There is a very fertile top soil, derived from clay, but only about 25 cm deep. This overlays a heavy red boulder clay. The soil lies very wet at times, and no amount of drainage work seems to produce any improvement.

A soil survey, carried out by the East of Scotland Agricultural College in the autumn of 1987, suggested a pH value of 8.9. This was traced to lime being leached from the rock infill of a motorway which had been built to the south of the site of the present gardens in 1975 - 76. It is usually necessary for salt (sodium chloride) to be present for such high values to develop in soils, and that may have come from frost treatments of the road.

Be that as it may, by spring 1988 the average pH over the garden had dropped to 6.5, and we continued with the plan to create a heather garden. The pH of the base soil is of little significance in our case, as will be seen later, when the method of preparing the beds for planting is described.

The rainfall in 1991 was 738mm, and there were 1309 hours of sunshine. Unfortunately, at present I have no access to records of average temperatures.

Early in 1989 we had slight trouble with rabbits. This was controlled by shooting, a task made easier by a convenient fall of snow which made it easy to track the culprits.

The preparation of our difficult soil for the planting of heathers entails quite a lot of hard work. An area which is to become a bed is first covered to a depth of 10 cm with a layer of very coarse sand, with particles upto 5.5 mm in diameter. The sand is followed by a 7.5 cm thick layer of peat, and everything is forked well into the soil. The bed is then trench dug, and a further 5 cm of sand and 7.5 cm of

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peat is spread. The bed is then ready for planting.

During preparation 160 kg of sand and 150 litres of peat have been added to each square metre. That raises the bed height by 30 cm, and gives a mounded effect. It also lifts the root zone of the heathers out of the surface water, thus solving that problem.

Plants are bought in at one year to eighteen months old, in seven or nine centimetre pots. Two or three plants of each cultivar are sent to Albert Julian at Harlow Carr for him to verify that they are true to name. In 1988 we planted in groups of as many as 127 per cultivar, but now the size has been reduced to about 40, with tree heaths being represented by groups of 10 to 12 plants.

Tree heaths are planted at one per square metre, and the lower growing species at seven to nine per square metre. These spacings give total ground cover in three years.

Cultivars have been positioned for landscape effect and to give flower colour in the beds throughout the year. This may render it difficult to compare similar cultivars, but it provides a better spectacle for the public. Nor have we planted dwarf conifers or other shrubs amongst the heathers.

Fertilisers were not incorporated during soil preparation, and subsequently none of the plants have been fed. Nor will feeding be undertaken in the foreseeable future.

It is our policy to water only in the first season after planting, since the underlying soil is frequently very wet, and moisture is conserved by heavy mulches. Indeed, we only have one water point within the heather garden. As stated above, when the beds are prepared for planting in early February, the peat mulch is 7.5 cm thick. By the time planting takes place the depth has reduced to 3.5 to 4 cm. That depth is maintained by further peat dressings as necessary until the plants touch.

We do not trim *Erica carnea* or *E. x darleyensis*, but

merely cut out long ends to keep them tidy. *E. erigena* is not trimmed at all. *Calluna*, *E. ciliaris*, *E. cinerea*, *E. tetralix*, *E. vagans* and *E. x watsonii* are trimmed every year by the end of March. Three quarters of the previous year's flower is removed, but they are not cut back into the leafless wood. *Daboecia* are also pruned in early March, but in this case all the previous year's flowering wood is removed.

The gardens have been most successful, having had 44,000 visitors in the 1991 season. Also they were voted the best gardens to visit by Beautiful Scotland in Bloom, the best free tourist attraction in Perthshire, winning the Glenturbet Tourism Award and also featured on the BBC Television gardening programme Beechgrove Garden (shown only in Scotland). This year we will be showing it in all its glory to the Heather Society Conference in September when they visit Bell's Cherrybank Gardens

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## A Root of *Erica arborea*.

*Mrs D. Maginess, Broadstone, Dorset.*

The "Briar" Pipe, an article written by J. P. Ardron in the 1966 *Year Book*, described how the tall tree heath *Erica arborea* is used for making pipes.

As I had cause to remove a large root of this shrub, and mindful of Mr Ardron's interesting information, I wrote to Dunhill Pipes Limited.

The reply I received started "It is true smoking pipes are made from the wood of the root system, however only the burr grained nodules are used which have a strong and turbulent grain structure".

Britain does not suit the shrub best, a drier climate being necessary to develop the essential properties.

My root unfortunately was of no use!

## This Was “Our Mr Richard Potter”

*Jean Sharpe, York*

This follows the President's account of his researches on Richard Potter, in the 1991 *Year Book*, pp 17 - 18.

Before becoming a member of the Heather Society, I had assisted Albert Julian in his search for information on Richard Potter by following up various leads in my home town York, the home of the now defunct but still famous Backhouse Nurseries.

At my first Conference at Winchester, I teamed up with Peter Vickers and Albert Julian in order to intensify the work that was already in hand. I fear that having little spare time, our efforts were somewhat protracted, but by Christmas significant progress had been made. I visited the York Central Library on a few occasions, but drew a blank. They had the Backhouse Nursery Catalogues, a copy of *The Backhouse Nurseries, a Northern Kew*, a typescript by York Archives, books on European birds and travel written by James Backhouse and *Memoirs of James Backhouse* by his sister Sarah, but no trace of a reference to Potter could be found.

Making enquiries in the Acomb/Holgate areas of York where the Backhouse Nurseries were situated, I was put in touch with David Lodge, a local historian, and with an Askham Bryan Horticultural College lecturer whose students had worked on a Backhouse Nursery project. Each one led me to Daphne Hamilton, the sole survivor of the family who took over the nursery in 1923 when Backhouse ran into financial difficulties. She was to be of little help in our search.

Subsequently David Lodge produced a copy of an arti-

cle from the *York Illustrated* of 1894 in which it stated that "Mr Backhouse was admirably seconded in his work by Mr R. Potter". He also produced the same excerpt from *Rock Gardens and Rock Plants* (RHS 1936) which Susan Schnare, a post graduate student at York University, had given David McClintock for his article "Who was Our Mr Richard Potter?" in the 1991 *Year Book*.

Having exhausted practically all avenues of enquiry, it was decided to send a letter to the local newspaper, *The Yorkshire Evening Press*, asking readers for information and, if this was to fail, to write personally to all the Potters living in the vicinity of the nursery site. It would have been a mammoth task however as Potter is a fairly common name in North Yorkshire.

#### "Nurseries plea

Please may I request some help from your readers. I am searching for information on a Mr Richard Potter, a member of the staff of the famous Backhouse Nurseries around 1911.

The James Backhouse Nursery of York was one of the most prestigious in the North of England during the period from 1816, when it was acquired from Telfords, until 1923 when the Backhouse family ceased to have an interest.

In 1911, the year of the Coronation, Backhouse produced a commemorative catalogue in which were illustrated 12 new *Erica carnea* cultivar introductions among which were: 'King George V', 'Queen Mary', 'Prince of Wales', 'Queen of Spain' and 'Praecox Rubra', priced at three shillings each.

Most of the 12 are familiar names to this day and can be found in private gardens and on sale in many garden centres.

Backhouse's Mr Richard Potter, when on his Continental botanical rambles, discovered these now famous winter flowering heathers and this is acknowledged in the 1911 catalogue.

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No further mention of him can be found in the nursery literature nor in the relevant writings of the period and we, in the Heather Society, are anxious to know more of the family history, horticultural and other activities of one who has made such a significant contribution to heather lore.

Richard Potter is likely to have lived in Acomb or Holgate area around 1911. If any of your readers have any information about him or his activities I should be very grateful if they would communicate with me at the address below."

This drew a response from Geoffrey Hodgson, another local historian, who concerned himself with 18th and 19th century history of the Holgate area, and a friend of David Lodge. He had looked up the 1871 and 1881 censuses (1891 not yet available) and found details of our man's occupation and addresses for which we had been searching. Geoffrey had a special interest, for, by coincidence his grandfather lived next door to Richard Potter's house in Poppleton Road and Geoffrey himself was born there. He enthusiastically pursued his search by studying local directories and records, even calling at the Leicestershire Record Office to find details of Richard's birth and parents.

123  
✓  
Now we know, from St John's church records, that Richard was baptised in January 1845 in Whitwick, a Leicestershire coal mining town, that his father was Richard Potter, a Whitwick butcher, and his mother Susanna Sharp Potter. His father is further described as publican at the baptism of his sister, Elizabeth in 1848, and in the 1851 census he is occupying 18 acres of land. So it would appear that he was farming on a small scale and combining this with keeping a public house.

The 1851 census also records a brother John, a labourer, aged 20 years, sisters, Susanna a schoolgirl aged 8 years and Elizabeth 3 years. There was another brother, William, who was baptised 3rd September 1832 in



Coleorton, a Leicestershire village, close to Whitwick, according to a York archive microfiche.

In the 1871 census he is unmarried, employed as a nurseryman and lodging with John Botterill, a Backhouse nursery propagator, at 12 Poppleton Road, Acomb. The 1881 census tells us that he is married and living in his own house (?rented) at Severus Place. This is now 69a Acomb Road, Holgate. This census also tells us that he was born in Whitwick in 1844, his wife's name was Frances and she came from York. They had a son Richard F. Potter, born in Holgate in 1877. Richard senior is described as "collector and manager of alpine and herbaceous department, Holgate nursery" and it is interesting to learn that John Botterill was living at 71a Acomb Road, next door to Richard. The 1893 Kelly's Directory gives his address as 3 St Paul's Square, which is in a superior residential district of Holgate, and his occupation as commercial traveller. Voters' lists and various directories name Richard, and in his absence, his wife as the occupier. His absence could be accounted for by working out of town on garden construction or plant collecting on the continent. Our last record is in the voters list of 1889, and shows the Potters were still in residence in St Paul's Square. A Mrs Race was in occupation in 1905. Incidentally by a further coincidence, Susan Schnare now lives next door to number 3 St Paul's Square.

It is very likely that Richard was alive in 1911 as the Backhouse catalogue of that year refers to "Our Mr Potter" and not the late Mr Potter. We have conducted a thorough search of the York cemetery Index but could discover no reference to Richard or his son. The York Probate Office is undergoing reorganisation so they will not allow full access to their records. For the time being they will allow a search only if one can give the approximate date of death. However we can make our search when they resume normal service which it is hoped will be sometime in 1992.

The photograph of Richard and his wife which appears in the 1991 *Year Book*, page 56, was taken, I believe at a

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house in Holgate Road which is now an hotel. It occurs to me that he may have moved to this house after leaving 3 St Paul's Square.

I must express my gratitude to Geoffrey Hodgson for his marvellously thorough detective work, and hope that this will not be the end of the story.

### References

- Census, 1851 (Reel 20, folio 766, entry 108); 171; 1881.  
Voters' List, 1890; 1898; 1899.  
Kelly's Directory, 1893; 1897; 1905.  
White's Directory, 1895.  
Cook's Directory, 1896/97; 1898; 1902/03.  
Leicestershire Record Office, Entry No. 625 (baptism at St John's Church of Richard Potter); Entry No.762 (baptism of sister, Elizabeth).  
Whitwick, St John's register, (Bishop's Transcript 1640 - 1854?) Microfilm MF 452, entries Nos 1017 and 1077.  
Mormon microfiche (IGI) -entries of Potter forebears at Whitwick.

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"There are few things in the flower garden calculated to become so thoroughly interesting as a bed or group of the hardy species of heath. There is something about the heaths that always produces pleasing sensations:"

From *Annals of Horticulture*, 1847. Author unknown, but he also wrote that *Calluna* grows in Kamtschaka and Greenland.

***Erica x stuartii* 'Pat Turpin'**

*David Small, Creeting St Mary, Suffolk*

During the early summer of 1991, David McClintock and I thought it would be a fitting tribute to give our Chairman on, or near, his 80th birthday something, as a surprise, which would commemorate the many years of hard and unselfish work that he had done on behalf of the Society. The problem was what?

We quickly decided that it would be appropriate to name a plant after him in a similar way to that done for a previous Chairman, Sir John Charrington. It had to be a popular plant reflecting the popularity of our Chairman. We also wanted it to have some association with the work he had done on the heaths of the Lizard. However, many of you will know that Pat is very reluctant to name a plant that is not distinctive and although there are some good un-named clones of *Erica x williamsii*, for instance, we knew that he would not be too keen on seeing one of them being named.

We thought a hybrid, to accompany his wife *E. x watsonii* 'Cherry Turpin', might be appropriate and although we knew of a good *E. x veitchii* clone, we felt that this would not be a particularly popular plant.

Many of you will have read of the exploits of David and myself, along with Charles Nelson, in the 1983 *Year Book*, in the search for *E. andevalensis*. Since that time Kurt Kramer had used some of the plants grown from the cuttings collected on that trip, for hybridisation work with *E. tetralix*. I had been observing one of these hybrids for a number of years, becoming more impressed each year with its length

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of flowering time and depth of flower colour. I suggested to David that this might be a possible contender. Kurt readily agreed and having checked with Cherry, we decided to name this cross with *E. tetralix* 'Foxhome'.

For a short while I was elated at the prospect of giving the plant a new species name, e.g. *E x turpiniana*, but I was rapidly brought down to earth when David reminded me that it had been agreed to treat *E. andevalensis* as *E. mackaiana* ssp *andevalensis*, thus making this new plant just plain *E. x stuartii*. Nevertheless, it is a special plant, being the first with the Andalucian parent to be named, so *E. x stuartii* 'Pat Turpin' was presented during the 1991 Conference to a special person, our Chairman.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Hardy Heather Species*

*D. Metheny*

186 pp. Illustrated with many black and white drawings.  
Frontier Publishing, PO Box 441, Seaside OR 97138.  
1991

ISBN (Soft Cover): 0-939116-29-4. Price: \$24.95 US.

ISBN (Hard Cover): 0-939116-31-6. Price: \$39.95 US.

Dorothy Metheny has been a Vice-President of the Heather Society since 1968. She was a founder member of the North American Heather Society in 1977 and, for ten years, the Editor of its news-sheet, *Heather News*, in which many of her contributions appeared, including an

illustrated series, describing the various species of heather. In her garden in Seattle she has grown most of the cultivars she writes about and so can speak authoritatively about them from personal experience. She has many contacts with heather enthusiasts and experts on both sides of the Atlantic, from whom she has been able to amplify her own very extensive knowledge of her subject. Thus she is well-qualified to write this excellent book on the heather species, which collects together her wide knowledge and experience of growing heathers.

The first part of the book - to p.119 - is concerned with detailed descriptions of all the European species of heather, with black and white sketches illustrating the characteristics of each species. These detailed drawings are a great help in identifying the different species and hybrids. Many of the drawings appeared in *Heather News*.

This is followed by a chapter on *Cassiope*, by Arther P. Dome, and others by our author on related genera of Ericaceae.

The rest of the book includes articles by Alice and Bob Knight on "Propagation", "Cultivation", "Pests and Diseases" and "Heather Flower Colours". This last article gives the numbers and names of the colours shown on the Heather Society Colour Chart and lists some of the equivalent names in use in the USA.

There follows a chapter on hybridizing heathers and another on "Mycorrhizal Associations of Heathers" by Donald A. M. Mackay, which helps to clarify some aspects of this difficult subject.

Finally there are lists of cultivar names, a bibliography and glossary of botanical terms.

Altogether this is a valuable addition to the heather

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literature with clear descriptions, careful documentation and balanced judgment. It will appeal as much to British and European readers as to those living in America. I can fully recommend this book to all members of the Heather Society.

P.G.T.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Heathers & Conifers

*David Carr*

128 pp

62 colour photographs

50 diagrams

index

The Crowood Press, Marlborough, 1991

ISBN 1 85223 506 3

£7.99 (paperback).

This colourful paper-back has rather more to say about conifers than heathers. It appears to have been written for those with little prior knowledge of gardening who wish to create a new garden, or renovate an old one. It contains a wealth of detailed information on planning, and how and when jobs should be done. This is supported by many clear diagrams. There is also sound advice on the growing conditions required by the various plants which are described.

Among the surprises which may be found here are the suggestion that trimmed dwarf heathers may be used as the edging for parterres, and advice on topiary.

The photographs in the book are generally of a high standard, and well reproduced. However, several of those of

heathers are obviously wrongly captioned.

From a beginners point of view the book has several short-comings. The lists of varieties, given in the last chapter, are very brief and many fine heather cultivars have been omitted. The trees listed under "Large and Quick-growing Conifers" are not suitable for small gardens, and have no place in even large heather gardens. The use of *Erica mediterranea* in place of *E. erigena*, in the belief that that is the name still used by gardeners and nurserymen, is tiresome, and may lead beginners into bad nomenclatural habits.

This is not a book for the experienced heather gardener, but despite the criticisms, it may be recommended as providing sound instruction at a moderate cost for those who seek it.

A.W.J.

\* \* \* \* \*

## When is a "Heath" not a "Heath"? When it's a "Heather"

*Norman Taylor, Doncaster, Yorkshire*

Nearing the end of my working life I got interested in "heathers". So I acquired a few books. I even was moved to consider experimenting with island heather beds.

Now, in my situation this was not easy and called for extra long thinking sessions, as in my garden, 12 inches below the soil, there is limestone. My south-side neighbour has a 3 foot high hedge at the front and a lovely 5 foot high wooden panel fence at the back. So my drive and garden path are all on the sunny side of my plot, and my garden has more than it's fair share of shade. But I have persevered.

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Reverting to the books, all the early books that I came in contact with had "Heathers" only in their titles. Then one day I came across *Heaths and Heathers* (1). Immediately I started to re-read my books and as a result I have become thoroughly confused.

It would appear that within my limited knowledge the only two heather species (*Calluna vulgaris*, the common heather and *Erica cinerea*, the bell heather), have successfully imposed a minority rule in the "Name stakes", over all the other many species of heath.

### Examples:

1. No matter what one plants, in this sphere of shrub, one never makes a "heath garden". It is always said to be a "heather garden".
2. All the Irish heathers *Daboecia cantabrica*, *E. erigena* and *E. mackaiana* have for their common names St Dabeoc's Heath, Irish Heath and Mackay's Heath.
3. I have recently re-read another book (2) in which the author informs me that *Erica* is the botanical name of "heaths", hence *E. carnea*, the Alpine heath, *E. vagans* the Cornish heath, so why is *E. cinerea* known as the Bell heather, and not the Bell heath?

I would like to read a simple explanation of this.

### References

1. *Heaths and heathers: A Wisley handbook*, F. P. Knight
2. *Heathers: An Adrian Bloom Gardening Guide*.





Plate I.

L to R foreground, Maj.-Gen. P. G. Turpin, Mr A. J. Stow and Mr D. McClintock at the 1991 Conference, after the President had presented the Chairman with a new cultivar of *Erica x stuartii* bearing his name.

(Photo by Mrs J Stow).



Plate II. Anne and David Small.



Plate III. Diane and Bert Jones.



Plate IV.  
Kurt Kramer.  
(Photo by Mr A Hall).

## English and Scientific Names for Heathers

A. W. Jones, West Camel, Somerset

The word heath is derived from the Old English "haeth" (1). Old English was spoken from the fifth to the eleventh century. Haeth meant an open, uncultivated wasteland, but it came to be used also for the plants that may be found growing in such places. These were by no means only heathers. Mr James (1) cites an eighth century biblical gloss which translates *thymus* as haeth.

Heath has been used in the English names of plants from at least six genera. Thus we have the Balkan heath for *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*, Common rough-leaved heath (2) for *Calluna vulgaris*, St Dabeoc's heath for *Daboecia cantabrica*, Berry-bearing heath (2) for *Empetrum nigrum*, Fine-leaved heath (2) for *Erica cinerea* and English low Sea heath (2) for *Frankenia laevis*.

It is clear that the name "heath" cannot be regarded as a unique and precise identification of a genus.

The name heather is of Scottish origin. It presumably derived from the word haeddre in the Northumbrian dialect of Old English (1). It is recorded in Scots from the 14th Century, and always seems to have been used for ericaceous plants. It was adopted into the English language during the 17th and 18th centuries. However, it was no more precise in its applications than the earlier "heath".

The pedantic idea that heath should be used for *Erica* (with the exception of *E. cinerea*), and heather for *Calluna*, arose during the 19th century. It also appears to have been common practice to use "heather" when referring to groups containing more than one species of *Erica*, for example heathers, heather garden etc. These ideas have no justification, historic or otherwise. One is free to use "heath" or "heather" to name this group of ericaceous shrubs, just

as the fancy takes one. However, it is better to use the correct scientific names, thus ensuring that the plant is identified unambiguously to whoever one is speaking or writing.

### References

1. James, A., Heath, Heather and Ling in Place Names, *Year Book of the Heather Society*, 1985, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp 40 - 45
2. Ray, J., *Catalogus Plantarum Angliae et Insularum adjacenum*, 1677, pp 97 - 98

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## Outliers

### *David McClintock, Platt, Kent*

Members may not know of all the surprising examples of often small colonies of heathers growing far away from their main area.

Recently I was looking into the history of *Erica tetralix* in Finland. There had been unconfirmed claims for it since 1865, thrice with specimens, but none were ever verified. It was only as recently as 1964 that it was proved to be native in a new place, when a small colony was found near Kuhmo half way up the country quite close to the Russian frontier. This is some 500 miles from the next nearest localities, in Sweden and Norway. Outlier No.1.

Little known also seem to be Outlier No.2, i.e. that *E. cinerea* was described in 1965, as var. *numidica* (although apparently indistinguishable from normal), from evergreen oak forest at Cap Rosa, E of Bore in Algeria, 500 miles from anywhere else it is known further north.

No.3 is *Calluna*. East of the Urals it is abundant in the western part of R. Tobol and the lower parts of its tributaries, R. Tura and R. Iset. This is anything up to 1000 miles from its scattered localities in Russia, and most surely a very different climate from Tangier or the Azores! Underhill's maps omit all these three.

The natural distribution of heathers which are part of the so-called Lusitanian flora in W. Ireland and Iberia or S.W. France has long puzzled phytogeographers. There are 800 miles or so of open sea between the colonies in the British Isles and those on the continent. The three are *Daboecia cantabrica*, *Erica mackaiana* and *E. erigena*. The last has quite lately been postulated to be introduced by trade in the middle ages - there is no earlier pollen evidence. But how then did it get to Co. Donegal? My theory for *E. mackaiana* is that it is not a case of distribution but parallel evolution, similar forms having arisen independently over the aeons. For *Daboecia* I know no unassailable surmise.

All these grow in numerous places in both areas, but of two more of these, there are only very small outliers. One is *E. ciliaris* with its tiny colony in Connemara, 300 miles from S.W. England; and it is slightly further for the small all-white colony of *E. vagans* in Co Fermanagh. I think that that arose from a garden, but Dr Nelson does not agree.

Finally *E. sicula* grows in three very distinct areas extending 1600 miles from west to east with between 200 and 600 miles of the Mediterranean between its, mostly quite small, colonies. Who has better, or any explanations for these outliers?

\* \* \* \* \*

## Visit to Germany and Holland, March 1991

*Allen Hall, Cheam, Surrey*

Five members of the Society made a visit to Germany in March 1991, primarily to see the unique collection of *Erica*

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*carnea* and winter hybrids of Kurt Kramer of Edewecht, Oldenburg.

Our President, David McClintock, led the party, which included Anne and David Small, Andrew Collins, and myself. The trip extended from the 20th to the 24th March. Brita Johansson of Vagon, Sweden, met us at Edewecht on the 21st, and stayed on after we left to paint some of Kurt's heathers. On the 22nd we were joined for the day by Herman Blum from Steenwijkerwold, Holland, and Herman Westermann of Bispingen, Germany

### Edewecht

Edewecht lies about 35 miles from the North Sea, roughly on a parallel with Nottingham. Rainfall is around 800 mm (31.5 inches) per year. Yearly average temperatures are about 9°C, though winter temperatures are somewhat lower than in central England. The soil is peaty and acid, and the landscape generally flat. There are many nurseries in the area, some of them growing heathers, and there was plenty of evidence from domestic gardens that heathers are popular in the locality.

### The Kramer Nursery

We arrived at Kurt's Nursery at about 3.10 pm on the 21st March after a journey of 160 miles from our overnight stop. We were kindly greeted by him, and by Brita who had arrived a little earlier. Frau Kramer, Kurt's mother, gave us some tea later.

The afternoon was dull and cold but that did not prevent us enjoying our first viewing of the nursery and garden. The house, a typical Bauernhaus, has a heather garden on two sides. Like all good heather gardens, this one contains allied plants such as *Empetrum nigrum* and *Phyllodoce*. It also had plants which Kurt has produced himself by hybridisation and from sports. We saw *Calluna* 'Melanie', the first white bud-flowerer, still looking fine. *Calluna* 'Romina', a dark bud-flowerer he has raised, was also there.

The nursery covers an area of about 2.5 hectares, and produces some 350,000 heathers per year. There are two



very large glasshouses used for propagation, which are extremely well fitted with modern equipment and kept in immaculate condition. Plants are grown on in the open ground (which appears to be normal practice for heathers in this part of Germany). They are usually lifted into about two litre pots just before they leave the nursery. There are extensive trial grounds for Kurt's seedlings.

David McClintock first described Kurt's *E. carnea* crosses in the 1985 *Year Book*, and Bert Jones wrote about his subsequent work in the 1988 *Summer Bulletin*. We saw some of these crosses and we were deeply impressed with the range of flower colour and foliage. To our eyes, some of the reds were deeper than 'Myretoun Ruby' and others bluer.

Kurt has named very few of these plants, but he has dowered the names 'Schneekuppe' upon a compact white, and 'Schneesturm' on another with long racemes and large flowers. One evening while we were with him, after long discussion a name was chosen for a plant with deeper red flowers than 'Myretoun Ruby', which is more compact, and flowers earlier. It was christened, with Russian red champagne, 'Rotes Juwel' ('Red Jewel') by Brita Johansson in a charming little ceremony on the nursery in the late afternoon of the 22nd March. 'Isabell', a white cross, and 'Rosalie' and 'Wintersonne', two 'Myretoun Ruby' crosses have since followed.

### **The Kramer Interspecific and Intergeneric Hybrids**

We saw a number of these, but few were in flower. However, we later viewed some of them in Kurt's first-rate close-up slides, and heard his accounts of them. Some of the remarks below are based on the slides.

A row of plants with some flowers open and others in bud were *E. arborea* x *E. carnea* hybrids. The individual plants differed, but all were upright, perhaps 0.5 to 0.75 meters high. The flowers, some white, some pale pink, were slightly scented. There was a row of *Bruckenthalia* x *E. carnea* hybrids with dead heads from last year's flowers. They had the appearance of tall open *Bruckenthalia* but the leaves on

racemes went right up to the first of the dried flowers. Slides showed that the hybrids have coloured spring tips. David McClintock brought back a plant for the Jodrell laboratory, Kew, to discover the number of its chromosomes. *Bruckenthalia* has  $2n = 36$  and *Erica*  $2n = 24$ . [This has since been ascertained in Germany as intermediate. Ed.]

Kurt reported that he had crossed *E. andevalensis*, as seed parent, with *E. tetralix* and that the resulting hybrid had been crossed back to both *E. andevalensis* and *E. tetralix*.

We saw some excellent slides of the flowers of an *E. arborea* x *E. baccans*. They varied between the parents but the attributes of *baccans* were generally predominant.

We saw a young plant which was a cross between *E. australis* and *E. arborea*.

In the nursery were rows of *Bruckenthalia* x *E. bergiana* hybrids and *E. tetralix* x *E. cinerea*, which need verification, for hitherto *E. cinerea* appears to have defied crossing. The latter appeared to have no characters from *E. cinerea*, but Bert Jones has verified that it is infertile. The marked similarity between the hybrid and *E. tetralix* may explain why this hybrid has not been noted from the wild.

### **The Bad Zwischenahn Teaching and Research Institute for Horticulture**

Bad Zwischenahn is about five miles from Edeweicht. On the 22nd March we visited the Institute, where we were met by Dr Härig, the Deputy Director, and Herr Bassler who is responsible for the heathers. The Institute occupies 92 hectares and has, among other things, a collection of 1,800 rhododendrons.

The first heather we saw was growing in an area near, and round the rhododendrons which was well stocked with a wide range of cultivars. They were clearly labelled and looking supremely well. The *E. carnea* were in glorious flower and it was hard to pick favourites. 'Myretoun Ruby' was growing near 'Challenger' and I confess that I couldn't

tell the difference. Similarly 'Adrienne Duncan' was next to 'Vivellii' and I could see no apparent difference between them.

We then visited the *E. carnea* trial ground. Here there were three parallel rows of *E. carnea* adjacent to each other. The plants were four years old. The first row was pruned each year, treated with fertiliser ("Hornoska" which is mineral and organic 8/10/12) applied at the rate of 50 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and fungicide (Euparen, Ferbam 80). The second row was pruned and given fertiliser, as above, but no fungicide. The plants in the third row were untreated.

The arrangement of the plants afforded direct comparison and this had been done by 13 people acting independently but comparing notes at the end of the exercise. We did much the same but in not quite so disciplined a manner. We were given copies of the Institute's results which showed overall scoring in favour of 'Lohse's Rubin'. This is a compact pink which keeps its habit without pruning. It seemed to us to be less vigorous than some of the others. Other plants which did well for the German team were 'Myretoun Ruby', 'Vivellii', 'R. B. Cooke', 'Winter Beauty', 'Walter Reisert', 'Springwood White' and 'Challenger'. The unnamed No.99 was the whitest of all.

Our overall impression was that the first row of plants fared best, but the least vigorous cultivars benefited most from the fertiliser and fungicide. The fungicide evidently helped, but not to the same extent as the fertiliser.

'Golden Starlet' was the best gold, retaining a very yellow appearance, helped no doubt by the white flowers. 'Westwood Yellow' and 'Foxhollow' looked similar to each other and both were very dull in these conditions. We wondered if the Institute had the right cultivars, and David Small promised to send over a 'Westwood Yellow' for them to compare. We were impressed with the close similarity of colour of pink cultivars and of these, to my eyes, 'R. B. Cooke', 'Pink Spangles' and 'Walter Reisert' stood out for their vigour and as the most floriferous. In the trials, 'December Red' came out as one of the earliest flowering of these cultivars, and it was not much behind in other respects.

### Hans Kruse

We went on from the Institute to the nursery of Hans Kruse, a friend of Kurt's. He markets conifers and also sells about 200,000 heathers a year. His growing area appeared to be extensive but we noted only winter heathers and in only a few varieties. Herr Kruse was keen on some small compact pinks which he said came from seedlings of 'King George'. David Small attributes this preference to the popularity of the pot plant trade in Germany which favours the compact sort.

### Jeddeloh

On the 23rd March we visited Herr and Frau J-D. Jeddeloh who have an extensive conifer nursery with a few heathers at Jeddeloh, where the family has been since 1190. We were very hospitably entertained and shown round by Jan-Dieter. The area covered by the nursery is vast with growing-on grounds literally going as far as the eye could see. He has a walled garden which contains his favourite dwarf conifers - and they are indeed quite special.

### Going Home

The farewells had to be said at last, but not before Kurt, piling kindness on kindness, had given us generously of his plants. We made our way to the coast via Utrecht, calling on the van Hoef nursery on the way. Van Hoef probably has the largest collection of cultivars in the world. We had the pleasure of an hour with the family and of seeing his large collection.

David kindly drove us on a detour through Boskoop on our way to the ferry. It is a horticultural centre with a thousand nurseries and a renowned research centre. It is very flat and lies below sea level, so there are many narrow canals. Rows of neat houses with small colourful gardens line the canals, and many of them have swing bridges for access. The nurseries are situated between the canals:

every inch of land being in cultivation. We paid a brief visit to the garden round the Centre.

David McClintock, Andrew and I were full of praise for the excellent arrangements made by David and Anne Small, and for their smooth, trouble free driving in their excellent Espace. We all remember with great affection and gratitude the kindness of Kurt and his mother.

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## David Wilson's Hybridisations

*David McClintock, Platt, Kent*

In addition to Kurt Kramer, John Griffiths, John Hall, our own Bert Jones and, to a lesser degree, Lothar Denkewitz and Hermann Blum, hybridisation of heathers has been carried on across the world in British Columbia by our member David Wilson. He began in 1985 and we are grateful to him for allowing us to quote from a most interesting letter he recently sent me. In it he sets out the crosses he has attempted, failed, and succeeded with. Going down his list of about fifty:

"*Erica carnea* 'Vivellii' x *E. erigena* 'W. T. Rackliff'. No plants of value, but one I still have is 12 ins diameter, very compact sometimes throws a tiny pink flower.

*E. ciliaris* 'Corfe Castle' x *E. tetralix* 'Hookstone Pink'. This cross has resulted in the most interesting *E. x watsonii* all with pink almost salmon pink flowers and darker almost red buds. Five seedlings of a similar colour. One a lower-growing somewhat compact spreading with good new foliage colour to be named 'Pink Pacific', another, vigorous masses of large flowers - excellent bright new growth to be named 'Pink Pearl'. Flowers on all these the colour of 'Corfe Castle' or *E. tetralix* 'L. E. Underwood'. There is no sign of the blue or purple as in 'Dawn', a clear

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pink - very nice. (But 'Pink Pearl' was one of the original Backhouse *E. carnea* plants, so that name ought to be changed.) In *E. x watsonii* crosses, other interesting results are one that I describe with exploded flowers, the corollas are split and thrown open. I've been propagating this for interest only. Also dark flowered ones mostly dull or uninteresting plants. Some look like *E. ciliaris*, others like *E. tetralix*. I've propagated some which show some promise but nothing incredible. I keep hoping for a dark red or bicolor perhaps double. (Split corollas are new to *E. x watsonii*.)

*E. tetralix x E. vagans* 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell'. This cross has produced the best of the *E. x williamsii*'s, a lovely pink like Mrs Maxwell on plants of various forms and abilities. I now have three planted in numbers to determine the best, and would like to name one for my dad Ken Wilson who was founding President of the Heather Society on the West Coast. Some of these crosses (*tetralix x vagans*) have lovely foliage. Some are very tight buns, others are tall and vigorous, most have small uninteresting non-showy flowers.

*E. tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' x *E. vagans* 'Lyonesse'. "Most seedlings of this cross are compact, some with very grey green foliage, some with colourless flowers - a dirty pinky white - one so far has had flowers of 'H. Maxwell' size and a clear white". (The first white *E. x williamsii*.) "I really do enjoy making this cross, I've thought that *E. x williamsii* may be rare in its natural habitat, but here on the West Coast of B.C. there's lots. I have 300 or so to see flower yet, and have thrown that many out after seeing them flower".

*Daboecia cantabrica x D. scotica* 'William Buchanan'. "Two remaining nice plants, no real value. One seedling I still have also was a compact little fellow that at an early stage was very fastigate. It's still upright.

*Calluna* 'Darkness' x 'Tib'. One seedling selected out of 14 semi-double/double. Introduced to Victoria Heather Society, and planted at Hort. Pacific Display Garden, October 1990. Dark green upright growing long spikes. Small double/semi-double deep pink flowers (long flower-

ing) - well ?? hard to say - the description is a bit vague. Named 'Mr J.' after long time friend Mick Jamieson who operated a nursery in Victoria in the 40's - 60's, specialising in heathers and alpines. Now at 75 spends his time as Sales Rep. here at the nursery. (But, alas initials are not allowed in cultivar names, so perhaps 'Mr J' can be expanded to 'Mick Jamieson'.)

"I have taken Alice Knight at Washington, U.S.A. some cuttings of these varieties as well as 'Pink Pearl', 'Pink Pacific', 'Mr J', 'Winter Sport'\* , 'Yvett's Gold'\* , 'Yvett's Silver'\* and 'Devon'. She will now be able to introduce these to the trade". He ends, sadly "Now in September 1991 I have lost interest in doing any more crosses for a while, my time is taken up with business and family".

[ \* I am enquiring about these. D. McC. ]

\* \* \* \* \*

## Heathers in Yorkshire

*Jean Sharpe, York and Albert Julian, Whaley Bridge, Cheshire*

### Strensall Common

Driving across Strensall Common, which lies four miles to the north of York, in late June we came across stretches of pink bloom typical of dense moorland Ling. A superficial inspection showed *Erica tetralix* plants massed and flowering in a manner similar to that of *Calluna*. It made a big impression as we had no previous experience nor knowledge of *E. tetralix* producing such large spectacular sheets of colour.

Later in the year, curiosity prompted us to investigate the

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site more thoroughly and to get a better appreciation of the distribution of the plants. It is about six acres in extent and is very slightly undulating. In the hollows and on the lower levels the *E. tetralix* flourishes but has some competition from long grasses. *Calluna* is dominant on the slightly higher levels, with only the occasional *E. tetralix* plant and no competing grasses. The area is bounded on one side by the York to Scarborough railway line, and on the opposite side by the road which adjoins the section of the common that is part of the army firing range and is signposted as dangerous. This has probably deterred ramblers from trampling the plants. We understand that water covers the lower levels for short periods following heavy rain.

### North York Moors

The North York Moors lie approximately 20 miles to the north of Strensall Common and stretch into Cleveland. Their extensive tracts of Ling constitute a major proportion of the heather cover in Yorkshire which, in turn, has 18% of the total heather population of the north of England. Early records show the area of the North York Moors totalled around 500 sq. km before the Enclosures. The subsequent gradual encroachment by agriculture, which accelerated during the sixties, was responsible for substantial reductions in the total area of moorland. However, taking advantage of recent changes in the government's agricultural policy, environmentalists are attempting to get some of the land restored to its original state.

For the last 35 years traditional burning of the heather has not been practised on the North York Moors, as in Derbyshire, as many disastrous fires have resulted from burning getting out of control. To remind us of the dangers there is a stone memorial marking the spot where "Willie Shaw" lost his life in a heather fire in 1893. During the time that the heather was burnt the stems (cows) surviving were pulled for use as kindling, and frequently a layer of peat was cut from the burned and cleared area.



In the winter of 1990, while walking the moors at Carlton Bank, just north of Helmsley, we came across sharply defined rectangular cleared areas, of about 100 m across, where the heather had been cropped to within 3 or 4 cm of the ground. In the vicinity were a few very tightly packed bales of *Calluna* stems lying alongside an unusual cutting and baling machine which, clearly, had been used for cutting the stems and binding them into 30 cm x 100 cm bales.

Early in this century contract cutters, using very sharp sickles, cut the Ling for thatching, and later for packing earthenware and iron pipes, but the main use of the long stems, which were cut with toothed sickles, was for making besoms. This was a flourishing industry in Pickering where, in Victorian times, seven firms were engaged in manufacturing heather besoms. The nature of the bales on Carlton Bank, suggested a different use, and subsequent enquiries of local people gave us the solution to the mystery. They were for export to Holland to be used in sewage filter beds.

### Harlow Carr Gardens

Geoffrey Smith, the first Curator of the Northern Horticultural Society's gardens at Harlow Carr, Harrogate, created a heather garden in the Tarn Meadows area in the early days of the development of the site. Successive Curators have maintained the interest in heathers and recently have co-operated with the Heather Society in the development of the *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* Collections. Curator Philip Swindells cleared a large overgrown display bed in Tarn Meadows in 1985 for a planting of specimens of all the Heather Society's recommended cultivars, which are listed in the publication *How to Choose Heathers*. Planting was completed in 1986, but many of the summer flowering varieties did not develop as well as expected. Alkalinity of the soil was suspected, and was confirmed by pH measurements. It was subsequently

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discovered to be due to a much earlier application of mushroom compost. Chris Margrave, the present Curator, suggested that the "Recommended" plants should be replaced with a collection of the cultivars of the various lime tolerant species. The winter flowering plants were retained and, now, plants of *E. vagans* 'Valerie Proudley', 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell', 'Birch Glow', 'Lyonesse', and 'Pyrenees Pink', *E. manipuliflora* 'Heaven Scent', *E. umbellata*, *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Bicolor' and 'Alba Globosa' have been planted. *E. terminalis* 'Thelma Woolner' is being propagated for planting in the autumn.

### The Harry Ramsden Heather Garden (Leeds)

In the Golden Acre Park and Botanical Gardens, which lie on the A660 Bradford road, 8 miles to the north of Leeds, work is in progress on what will probably be the largest area of heather planting in the country. A five hectare field has been set aside for heathers of all hardy species, and to date 60,000 have been planted. The aim of Terry Exley, the horticultural officer of Leeds City Council, is to increase this to 250,000 by 1998. Six huge curved beds ranging from 100 m long to a relatively small diameter, 30 m irregular circle have been planted already, and one 54 m across, would appear to have been in existence for three years. It has an unimaginative combination of various winter and summer flowering species. There is a group of *Pernetia* spp in the middle. The remaining five beds, which have been partially planted, have been planned more effectively, having combinations of groupings of coloured foliage plants. Six more beds have been prepared, one of which is a huge curved 90 m x 100 m area, and are now ready for planting. Whilst it will not be possible to inspect many of the individual plants, the landscaping effects are likely to be spectacular.

The project is sponsored by local businessmen and is named "The Harry Ramsden Heather Garden" after the main sponsor. It lies on the perimeter of the park and the

direct entrance and car park is situated on Arthington Lane, i.e. the side away from the main entrance.

\* \* \* \*

## A Dorset Hilltop

A. W. Jones, West Camel, Somerset

An elevated plain enters north east Dorset from neighbouring Wiltshire, and runs south west across the centre of the county, almost reaching the sea close to Abbotsbury. It is an area of rounded hills and shallow hanging valleys. Here and there, there are groves of stately beech trees, some with their crowns permanently bent from the direction of the prevailing wind. It is crossed by steep-sided river valleys, running roughly north-south, and it is here that most of the villages nestle, as if in hiding. In these valleys in early spring, Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) bloom in the shadow of many of the hedges, while in autumn those hedges are lost beneath clouds of Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*). This is chalk country, a fact which may be easily confirmed where the plough or rooting pigs have brought pieces of the rock to the surface.

Black Down lies towards the south western end of this chalk upland, about four miles to the west of the Dorchester - Weymouth road (Map ref SY613876). On its summit (776 ft) stands a small tower. As this is Dorset, it comes as no surprise to read on the Ordnance Survey map that this is the Hardy Monument.

But, when you reach the tower there are surprises waiting. The first is that it does not commemorate Thomas Hardy (1840 - 1928) the novelist. A small stone over the door bears the inscription "Erected by public subscription in the year 1844 in memory of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Bart., KCB, Flag Captain to Lord Nelson on HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Restored 1900 and placed

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in charge of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty by the descendants of Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy on whose land it stands”.

This hardly seems sufficient biography for so gallant a sailor. He was born in 1769 in the village of Portesham, which lies in the valley a mile and a half to the south west of, and 560 ft lower than the monument.

He served under Admiral Hood, and came under Nelson's command in 1793. Over the years the two men developed great mutual respect. Hardy fought at the battle of the Nile aboard HMS Vanguard, then Nelson's Flagship. In 1801 he was appointed Flag Captain to Nelson on HMS San Josef. He fought at the Battle of Copenhagen, and later took Nelson to the Mediterranean aboard HMS Amphion. They transferred to HMS Victory, in which they blockaded Toulon, and later chased the French fleet to the West Indies. It is probably as Captain of the Victory at Trafalgar that Hardy is best remembered today.

He was made a Baronet on 4th February 1806.

He next served on the North American station and then, from 1809 to 1812, the Lisbon Station, being made Commodore of the Portuguese Navy in 1811. He returned to the North American Station in 1812, remaining there until 1815, in which year he was made a KCB.

In 1819 Hardy was made Commodore and Commander-in-Chief of the South American Station, where he served with conspicuous distinction during the American War of Independence.

He was promoted to Vice Admiral on 27th May 1825, and in November 1830 he joined the Board of Admiralty as First Sea Lord. In April 1834 took up his final posting as Governor of the Greenwich Hospital, on the Admiralty's condition that, should the country find itself at war, he should return to active service. He died in 1839.

It seems entirely appropriate that from his monument you can see the Isle of Portland with its harbour, and the English Channel. All around are chalk hills. However, the second surprise here is that around the Hardy Monument

an acid heath overlays the chalk. For that reason it has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. There are fine stands of *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea*. Among other acid loving plants which are present are *Agrostis curtisii* (*setacea*) (Bristle Bent grass), *Deschampsia flexuosa* (Wavy Hair grass), *Ulex gallii* (Western Gorse) and *Vaccinium myrtillus* (Bilberry or Whortleberry). Due to the dry nature of the heathland, I do not think *E. tetralix* is present.

Another acid cap on a chalk hill occurs three and a half miles away to the west at Abbotsbury Castle (SY555865). These caps were formed by western outposts of the Bagshot beds which support the heaths around Poole Harbour. They were laid down between 35 and 50 million years ago, in the Tertiary period, by a powerful river system. Subsequently, high rainfall and sharp drainage have combined to remove any calcium carbonate from the surface layers, leaving highly acidic conditions. This facilitated the leaching of iron and aluminium oxides from the surface layers and their redeposition at a lower level to form an "iron pan". The removal of iron oxide left a bleached layer near the surface. The high surface acidity also leads to the imperfect decomposition of vegetable matter and the accumulation of a "raw humus" surface horizon. This peat-like material may blacken the upper part of the bleached layer. This form of soil section is known to the geologists as a podsol.

I am indebted to Dr H. J. M. Bowen, the BSBI Recorder for Dorset, for pointing out that there are other heather sites quite near at Golden Cap (SY407923), Hardown Hill (SY405945), Lambert Castle (SY373986), and Pilsdon Pen (ST414012). However, these are all on hilltops in the West Dorset clay vales.

## Cape Heath Cultivars

*David McClintock, Platt, Kent*

When I undertook the job of Registrar for heathers, I tried to have Cape Heaths excluded as being a clearly distinct set with which I had little acquaintance. But I was told that they were Ericas and that *Erica* was one of our genera. So, over the years, I have unenthusiastically noted cultivar names I came across and they now total 143.

Their sources are, mainly

1. British crosses in the latter parts of the last century which were given fancy names, notably by Andrew Turnbull of Bothwell Castle in Lanarkshire. Many others got given Latin binomials as though they were species, but these fall outside our scope.
2. Monsieur J. B. M. Gentilhomme of Vincennes made many crosses at the end of the last century, some of which are still grown.
3. The numerous variants of the unstable *E. gracilis*, grown by the million on the Continent, notably in Germany and Switzerland.
4. The hybrids, mostly under *E. x hiemalis*, made by F. Esgate of Milton Hutchings, mainly in the 1970's.
5. Certain publications from the Antipodes, for example the recent *Palmer's Manual of Trees, Shrubs and Climbers from Queensland*.

There have been duplications of names. There were four of Milton Hutchings' that I noticed, all of which they changed in 1969, the changes being duly published by the RHS. Some others I have failed with, or given up because one or both is now lost. Thus there have been two Dawns, two Grandifloras, two Roseas and two Superbas in addition to the *E. erigena*, and there are a few names paralleled by ours, such as 'Globosa' or 'Minor'. But I don't think there is much risk of confusion from these quite different plants for different markets.

There are a dozen or so names of which I have discovered next to nothing (it occurs with the temperate names too!), a few of which were doubtful when listed. But I should be surprised if there are not more cultivars, at least in the Antipodes or USA. So, please report any you hear of. Several in the list are known to be now lost to cultivation.

But do not report to me. Some time ago I passed to David Small all my herbarium sheets of Cape Heaths. Now I am passing to him the cards for the cultivars, since it is he who knows the Cape Heaths, probably better than anyone else in the country.

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## New Acquisitions

*J. Platt, Ulnes Walton, Lancashire*

(Each year the trade seems to find new cultivars of the various heather species to introduce. Jack Platt collects and grows a fair number of them. Sometimes, he even finds a plant that has eluded him for some years. He describes his new plants in this long running series of articles.

Where the information is available, the height and spread has been given for the plants. However, with recently introduced cultivars, such figures should be treated with caution.

Where the name of a cultivar has been published previously, I have tried to add the appropriate references.

As always, I am grateful to our President, and our Chairman for providing extra information on some plants from their vast stores of knowledge.

Ed.)

*Calluna vulgaris*

**'Bob Pickering'**

July - Sept.

This plant has purple (H10) flowers and an erect, though fairly compact habit. The foliage is golden-red throughout the year, being particularly well coloured in winter.

It arose as a seedling c. 1990 in the garden of Mr R.H.P. Pickering, the North West local group organiser, and was introduced by Mr Rimmer of Hinton House Nursery, Lydiate, Nr Liverpool.

**'Dark Beauty'**

Aug. - Oct.

A very choice cultivar. The semi-double flowers have a wonderful colour, opening blood red and later turning purple red. The foliage is dark green, and the habit compact. It was raised by H. Hoekert of Oldebroek from a sport on 'Darkness'.

**'Eskdale Gold'**

Aug. - Oct.

Mr D. Richards found this seedling in his garden in Eskdale. It has white flowers, and is of medium height with a broad erect habit. The gold leaves are somewhat lighter than those of 'Celtic Gold'. (*Year Book of the Heather Society*, 1991, p 41.)

**'Golden Wonder'**

Ht 35cm

Sept. - Oct.

Gunther Anton of Bad Zwischenahn found this sport on 'Peter Sparkes' in 1989. It has double flowers of the same H7 rose pink as its progenitor. The habit is erect and bushy. The foliage is yellowish-green rather than gold, but it is a good looking plant.

**'Liebestraum'**

Aug. - Sept.

Raised in Germany by Herr H. Hatje, this plant has good red flowers, dark green foliage, and an erect bushy habit.

**'Monika'**

Ht 55cm

Sept. - Oct.

Found as a sport on 'Elsie Purnell' in 1981 the flowers are double. Their colour is rose, darker than the H3 lavender of 'Elsie Purnell', yet not as dark as 'Red Star'. The growth is similar to 'Annemarie'. Introduced by Weiner Stier of Wiesnoor.



**'Nico'** Aug. - Oct.

This cultivar arose as a seedling, possibly between 'Darkness' and 'Carmen', in 1983. It has purple-red flowers, dark green foliage and is of medium height with an erect habit. It appears similar to 'Darkness'. It is named after a grandchild of Herr Bardt of Bendingbostel, Germany, who introduced it. (*Year Book of the Heather Society*, 1989, p 64.)

**'Perestrojka'** Ht 40cm Sprd 60cm Oct. - Dec.

The result of a deliberate cross between 'Allegro' and 'Battle of Arnhem', made by Kurt Kramer in 1985, this plant has deep beetroot red (H9) flowers, dark green foliage and a broad erect habit. It is a good plant for late colour. It is an example of *f. multibracteata*.

H. J. de Bruijn of Boskoop named and introduced the plant in 1990.

**'Redbud'** Ht 25cm Sept. - Nov.

This is a low growing cultivar. The H9 beetroot (RHS 72B Red-purple) buds do not open, and therefore provide colour for a long period, late in the season. Their colour is deeper than that of 'Marleen', on which it was found as a sport by H. Hoekert of Oldebroek.

It is one of a group of names which require sorting. It is probably identical with "Marlies" and 'Roswitha', the last name taking precedence. 'Rote Marleen' was the original name of 'Roswitha'. 'Plantarium' (1991) is very similar.

**'Roter Oktober'** Ht 40 cm Sprd 40 cm Oct. - Nov.

The flowers of this plant are H13 crimson, the foliage dark green, and the habit broad and erect. It came from Scholjegardes of Aschhangerfeld c. 1987, and may be a seedling from 'Darkness' x 'Beoley Crimson'.

**'Sabrina'** July - Aug

The double flowers of this cultivar are rose pink (H7), the foliage dark green, and the habit low and compact like 'Radnor'. It was raised in Germany, and is grown in Belgium for Marks and Spencer.

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**'Silver Beads'** Aug. - Sept.

This plant has white flowers and bright green leaves on arching stems, which produce a very compact prostrate habit. It was introduced by Knaphill Nurseries in 1972. (*Pocket Guide to Heather Gardening*, 1978, 4th Edn., p 32, as synonym of 'Alba Prostrata').

**'Summer White'** Aug. - Sept.

The double white flowers are borne on long inflorescences over bright green foliage. The plant has a tall, erect habit.

Obtained from W. Haddleston's nursery at Selby, North Yorks.

**'White Coral'** Ht 20cm Sprd 40cm Sept. - Oct.

This originated, in more than one place, as a sport on 'Kinlochruel' c. 1984. It shares the same double white flowers, and habit as that cultivar. The foliage however, is bright green all through the year. It was raised introduced by Kurt Kramer in 1990.

### ***Daboecia cantabrica***

**'Newberrii'** May - June and Sept. - Oct.

With wine red flowers, dark green foliage and an open habit, this plant is very similar to 'Waley's Red'. It originated with the Wains of Barton under Needwood. Large numbers were sold in the Lake District during 1991.

The name, being in Latin form, is illegitimate.

### ***Daboecia x scotica***

**'Ben'** May - July

A minute mound of very small, mid-green foliage with light purple (H10) flowers. It was found as a seedling in Mr and Mrs Lunn's garden at Crail House, Nottingham, and is named after their King Charles spaniel.

***Erica tetralix***

'Trixie'            Ht 20cm    Sprd 25cm            June - Sept.

This cultivar has the typical pink (H8) flowers, grey-green foliage and open habit of the species. In spring and summer the foliage has striking yellow tips, similar to those of many *Erica* hybrids.

It was found as a wild plant in Drenthe, Holland, by Mr J. Baron c. 1979. Mrs B. Johansson named and introduced it.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Personal and Geographical Names for Heathers. 11th Supplement.

*David McClintock, Platt, Kent*

The 10th supplement was in the 1991 year *Book*. Not all those below have been followed up, or followed up successfully, so help from members would be welcome. It would also be in assembling these lists. Much of what is in them derives from Jack Platt, Kurt Kramer and Herman Blum, to whom I am most grateful.

### Personal Names

'Arends Rosa' (*carnea*). Georg Arends, the great German hybridiser.

'Ben' (*Daboecia x scotica*). The Lunns' King Charles spaniel, b 1980.

'Bill's Special White' (*Erica*, presumably hybrid). Coehaven, Otaki, N.Z.

'Bill's White' (*Calluna*). Hutton c. 1975

'Bob Pickering' (*Calluna*). Mr. R. H. P. Pickering, organiser of NW Local Group, finder of seedling in his garden at Formby, Merseyside.

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- 'Bronze Hamilton' (*Calluna*). Later name for 'Gold Hamilton'.
- 'Daniella' (*Calluna*). Ingvar Danielsson, finder c. 1985
- 'Daviesii' (*multiflora*). Presumably Duncan and Davies, N.Z. nurserymen. Also spelt 'Davesii'.
- 'Diana Hornibrook' (*vagans*). Only child of Murray Hornibrook, the dwarf conifer specialist, b. 1914.
- 'Ellen' (*Calluna*). Wife of H. van der Lip of Hazerswoude, Holland.
- 'Eylas' (*Calluna*). Elizabeth Mentipty, corrupted to Elise and to this. Employee of Bob Brien.
- 'Hamilton Bronze' (*Calluna*). Also a later name of 'Gold Hamilton'.
- 'John Bone' (*perspicua*). Raiser, of Oamaru, N.Z.
- 'Gold Hamilton' (*Calluna*). Sport of 'J. H. Hamilton' c. 1988.
- 'Isabell' (*carnea*). Fantasy name for one of Kurt Kramer's white crosses.
- 'Marlies' (*Calluna*). Sport on 'Marleen', 1991
- 'Nancy' (*Daboecia x scotica*). Mrs John Proudfoot, wife of finder, 1985
- 'Newberrii' (*Daboecia cantabrica*). Ex Wain's Barton under Needwood, Staffs, c. 1990.
- 'Odette' (*Calluna*). Esveld, Boskoop, 1991 Catalogue.
- 'Ostler's Variety' (*Calluna*). Ostler's Nursery, of Mabblerley. (Strictly, an illegitimate name).
- 'Pat Turpin' (*x stuartii*). Maj.Gen. P. G. Turpin, C.B., O.B.E., b 1911, Chairman since 1978.
- 'Patricia Maginess' (*cinerea*). Daughter of Daphne Maginess of Broadstone. 1991.
- 'Ralph's Pearl' (*Calluna*). Sport on 'Ralph's Red', 1991.
- 'R. A. McEwen' (*Calluna*). ? 1991.
- 'Rosabel' (*Calluna*). Fantasy name. Sport on 'Annabel' with Kurt Kramer. 1991.
- 'Rosalie' (*carnea*). Another of Kurt Kramer's fantasy named hybrids, 1991.
- 'Roswitha' (*Calluna*). Wife of Leo Meurs of Bedburg-Hau, Germany, 1991.

'Sabrina' (*Calluna*). At Marks and Spencer's, Liverpool ex Germany, 1991.

'Trixie' (*tetralix*). Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

### Geographical Names

'Eskdale Gold' (*Calluna*). Home of D. Richards in Cumbria, 1991.

*vetonicae* (var. of *erigena*). Country of ancient Vettones in Estramadura, Spain.

'Knaphill' (*Calluna*). Ex Higher Heathers 1991

### Ameliorations

Amend (p 40 of 1991 *Year Book*) three times David Hagemanns to read Hagenaaers.

Red Marleen is strictly 'Rote Marleen', the earlier, discarded, name for 'Roswitha'.

## Cultivars Registered During 1991

### *The Registrar*

100 registrations reached at last, with a very suitable No. 100. But it has taken no less than 22 years to achieve this total, and during this time, there must have been nearer 500 new cultivars introduced. Despite the efforts of Herman Blum no plant has yet been registered from that prolific source, Holland. Indeed only Germany and Sweden outside the British Isles have registered any. The forms have been improved and reprinted. Please use them!

91. *Erica tetralix* 'Phyllis'. A seedling. Differs in its white, faintly tinged pink corolla. Registered by Dr D. Barker, late of Hopleys Plants, Much Hadham.
92. *Erica cinerea* 'Pink Velvet'. A sport on 'Velvet Night' in 1978 in the garden of Mr L. F. Tunnicliffe at Winehill, Cheshire, differing in its pink. Red Purple 74C (H11, Lilac Pink), flowers. He registered it.

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93. *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Cleggan'. A seedling found at Coorhoun Lough near Cleggan, Co. Galway, in 1975, by Miss Maura Scannell. It has yellow-green, 104A foliage. Registered by D. McClintock.
94. *Erica cinerea* 'Patricia Maginess'. A seedling found by Mrs Daphne Maginess in her garden at Broadstone, Dorset, who registered it. It has a very pale, almost white, corolla with pink stripes.
95. *Daboecia x scotica* 'Ben'. A seedling at Crail Nurseries in 1989, distinctive in its compact, very dwarf, small-leaved habit. Registered by Mrs Diana Lunn.
96. *Erica carnea* 'Wintersonne'. A late seedling with 'Myretoun Ruby' as one parent, in 1984. It has redder foliage and flower buds than 'Vivellii'.
97. *Erica carnea* 'Isabell'. A late seedling from 'Snow Queen' and 'Springwood White' in 1984. It is more vigorous and erect than 'Snow Queen'.
98. *Erica carnea* 'Rotes Juwel'. A seedling in 1984 with 'Myretoun Ruby' as one parent. Its flowers are redder than 'Winter Beauty'. Earlier than 'Myretoun Ruby'.
99. *Erica carnea* 'Rosalie'. A seedling in 1985 with 'Myretoun Ruby' as one parent. It grows more upright than 'March Seedling' and has larger, brighter flowers.

[The last four all arose in the nursery of Kurt Kramer at Edeweicht-Suddorf, and were registered by him].

100. *Erica x stuartii* 'Pat Turpin'. A long-flowering seedling of *E. mackaiana* x *E. tetralix* 'Foxhome' raised by Kurt Kramer, and grown on by D. Small, who registered it.
101. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Peace'. 'Battle of Arnhem' x 'Long White' achieved by Kurt Kramer in 1987. Being multi-bracteate, it is the latest of the white-flowering Lings with open flowers.

## Recent Writings on Heathers, 1991

Anon. "Blooming Success", *Cherrybank News*, 5th January 1991.  
Two awards for this "magnificent" heather garden.

Anon. "Ground cover plants", *Amateur Gardening*, 19th January 1991, p 24

"Possibly the most valuable plant group for all-the-year round colour" - *Erica carnea*

Anon. "Going for Gold", *ibid.*, 8th June 1991, pp 10 - 11  
Praise of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Gold Haze', 'Golden Feather' and, with a fine photograph, 'Beoley Gold'.

Anon. "Take *Erica* cuttings now", *Garden News*, 2nd July 1991, p 19.

Good brief advice.

Anon. "Multiply your assets", *Amateur Gardening*, 14th September 1991, p 36

Advice on propagating.

Anon., "Winter Heaths", *Practical Gardening*, Nov. 1991, p 65  
Offers 12 different cultivars, including *Erica carnea* 'Challenger', for £13.95, with explanatory text.

Anon. Winter-flowering Heather Collection, *Gardeners World*, Nov. 1991, p 8

Ten plants for £12.50. Pictures of *Erica x veitchii* 'Exeter' and *E. carnea* 'Pink Spangles'.

Anon. "Heaths and Heathers", *Amateur Gardening*, 5th Nov. 1991, pp 25 -32

A comprehensive account for gardeners.

Allen, O. E., *Gardening with small plants*, Houghton Mifflin, 1987, pp 66 - 77

Chapter five is devoted to a practical account, but mentions only a few species and cultivars. Dorothy Metheny and Jim Cross had been his advisers.

Allerdyce, C., "Heathers suggest flowering moorland romance", *Devizes Gazette and Herald*, 12th Sept. 1991

A reasonable encomium for heathers.

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Aira Rodriguez, J., Ramil Rego, P. and Saa Otero, P., "Identificación polínica de Ericaceae en mieles gallegas", *Acta bot. malacita*, 1990, Vol. 15, pp 27 - 32

The dominant pollens from 14 honeys from the Lugo and Orense regions were of heathers, chiefly *Erica cinerea* and *E. australis*

Auld, M., "Action for Heathlands", *Birds*, 1991, Vol. 13, No. 6, pp 39-40

The RSPB campaign.

Batten, A., *Flowers of Southern Africa*, 1988, p 158.

A fine depiction by her of *Erica bauera* in two colour forms, plus text.

Brivet, F., "Quand Bruyère ..... rime au Hiver", *Jardins de France*, Dec. 1991, pp 6 - 9

A welcome, if sketchy, account with a list of ten French heather nurseries. But 'Estrella Gold' is no *E. x veitchii* and "Fersey Cherry Stevens" is a new combination!

Cardon, D., *Guide des teintures naturelles*, Delachaux & Niestlé, 1990, p 89

Instructions on how to obtain a golden yellow dye from *Calluna* shoots just before flowering. Lists the flavinols it contains. Uses similar for other heaths.

Davis, B., *The Good Plant Guide*, Penguin, 1991

Lists some 23 *Callunas*, 4 *Daboecias* and 75 *Ericas* as being "most widely available". Many names garbled, eg *E. vagans* 'Dianne Hookstone'.

Dörfler, H. P. and Rosselt, G., *Dictionary of Healing Plants*, Blandford, 1989, pp 64 - 5

Herba *Calluna*, and how to harvest and use it.

Dome, A. P., "Late summer and fall blooming heaths", *Washington Park Arboretum*

pp 2 - 4



An interesting contribution, with his fine photograph of *Erica cinerea* 'Eden Vally'.

Dostal, J., *Nova Kretena CSSR (Flora of Czecho-Slovakia)*, pp592-4  
*Calluna*, *Erica tetralix* and *Andromeda* in that country.

Dueck, Th. A., Van den Eerden, L. J., Beemsterboem, B., and Elder son, J., "Nitrogen Uptake and allocation by *Calluna vulgaris* and *Deschampsia flexuosa* exposed to  $^{15}\text{NH}_3$ . *Acta bot. Neerlandica*, 1991, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp 257 - 267.

The rapid transition of Dutch heathlands dominated by *Calluna* to grass heath.

Ennet, D., *Bi-lexikon*, Heidekraut, Leipzig, 1990, pp 236 - 7

Full details of the drugs in Herba Callunae (syn. H. ericae).

Everett, D., "Erica arborea, the pipe-makers dream", *Hortus*, Dec. 1991, pp 85 - 8

An excellent and knowledgeable dissertation by the Editor of our *Bulletin*.

Fisher, S., "Heather ready for the big time", *Horticultural Week*, 13th Dec. 1991, pp 18 - 25

A comprehensive report from the point of view of production and marketing. Photographs of *Erica carnea* 'Whitehall' and 'Jean'; and of *Calluna* 'Robert Chapman'.

Futak, J., *Flora Slovenska III*, p 344, 348

*Andromeda* and *Calluna*, with drawings.

Hamet Ali *et al.*, Suomen puw-ja pensaskagvio (Woody plants of Finland), 1989, p 136

Map for *Erica tetralix*, with a single dot for its sole station.

Hester, A. J., Miles, J. and Gimingham, C. H., "Succession from Heather Moorland to Birch Woodland" *J. Ecol.*, 1991, Vol. 79, No. 2, 1 pp 303 - 315; 2, pp 316 - 328; 3, pp 329 -344

The various factors discussed, notably shading and seed availability.

Jorgensen, A. R. J., "El lynglandskab i en sjaellandsk have", *Haven*, Dec. 1991, pp 602 - 5

A Danish heather garden, with photographs of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Silver Queen', 'Foxii Nana', 'Gold Haze', 'Silver Knight' and 'Beoley Gold', all taken by our member Emil Lütken.

Langeland, K., Tidlig var i lynghagen, *Norsk Hagetidend*, 1991, No. 4, pp 214 - 6.

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*Erica carnea*, mentioning Eileen Pettersen.

"Søt I Surt Miljø", *ibid* 991, No. 9, pp 493 - 5

On *Calluna*, also mentioning Eileen. Pictures of 'Spring Cream', 'Allegro', and what purports to be 'Spitfire'.

McClintock, D., "The Ericas of Turkey", *Karaca Arboretum Magazine*, 1991, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp 6 - 9 *Erica arborea*, *E. boquetii*, *E. manipuliflora* and *E. sicula*, plus *Bruckenthalia*,

Margrave, C., "National Heather Collection". *The National Plant Collections Directory* 1992, pp 19 - 20

Not quite as accurate and satisfactory as it might have been. Photographs of *Erica carnea* 'Newark Lilac' (the label by the plant clearly says *E. cinerea* 'Newick Lilac') and *Calluna* "Rosalind (Crastock Heath Var.)".

Mitsche, L., et al, *Flora des Kasseller Raumes*, 1988, Vol. 1, p 69; 1990 Vol. 2, pp 523 - 4

Distribution maps for *Calluna*, frequent, and *Erica tetralix*, known in three localities only since 1984 and not native.

Moore, P. D., Webb, J. A. and Collinson, M. F., *Pollen Analysis*, Blackwells 1991, 2nd Edn

Various references to heathers, notably on p 88 in the key.

Negus, J., "Plant of the Week. Cornish Heath", *Amateur Gardening*, 21st Sept. 1991, p 13

Only three cvs mentioned.

Nelson, E. C., *The Burren, a Companion to the wild flowers*, 1991, Boethius Press, Ch 13 "A Wealth of Heathers"

Embellished by elegant colour sketches of three, calcifuge species of that limestone area. An excellent book.

Nuttall, B. S., "Harlow Carr Medals", *Northern Gardener*, 1991, Vol. 45, No. 3, pp 11, 27

An encomium of Albert Julian, with his photo being awarded the Harlow Carr medal.

Oliver, E. G. H., "The Ericoideae (Ericaceae) - a Review", *Contributions from the Bolus Herbarium*, No. 13, pp 158 - 208

A masterly survey with numerous references to European heathers

Parker, S. J., *Parker's Manual of Trees, Shrubs and Climbers from Queensland*, pp 29 - 30 and 76 - 77

Includes many Cape Heaths and "*E. rubra* 'Gwavas'."

- Perry, D. J., "Society that helps you with heathers", *Devizes Gazette and Herald*, 12th Sept. 1991.  
 A useful letter by our member amplifying the article above by Allerdyce.
- Prins, A. H., Berdowski, J. J. M., and Latuhihin, M. J., "Effect of  $NH_4$ -fertilisation on the maintenance of *Calluna* vegetation". *Acta bot. Neerlandica*, 1991, Vol. 49, No. 4, pp 269 - 279  
 "High stress sensitiveness of *Calluna* due to nitrogen deposition may accelerate the opening of the vegetational canopy and make way for grasses."
- Rameau, J. C., Mansion, D., and Domé, G., *Flora forestière française*, 1989, pp 379, 431, and 439 - 449  
 Admirable accounts, a species to a page with delicate detailed drawings opposite of *Calluna*, *Daboecia*, *Erica ciliaris*, *E. cinerea*, *E. tetralix* and *E. vagans*, with brief mentions of *E. lusitanica* and *E. erigena*.
- Scharf, P., "Heidekräuter in botanischen Gärten Pötsdam". *Beiträge zur Gehölkunde*, 1991, pp 85 - 92  
 A not faultless survey.
- Shaw, G., Leake, J., Baker, A. J., and Read, D. J., "The Biology of the Ericaceae XVII. The role of mycorrhizal infection on the regulation of iron uptake by ericaceous plants", *New Phytol.* 1990, Vol. 115, No. 2, pp 251 - 8  
*Hymenoscyphus ericae* is the species discussed.
- Small, D., "Lucky heath from Portugal", *Amateur Gardening*, 5th Jan. 1991, p 8  
*Erica lusitanica*.  
 "Old and past it", *ibid*, 2nd Feb. 1991, p 31  
 Life spans.  
 "Spring Haircut", *ibid*, 2nd March 1991, p 8  
 Pruning, with a picture of *Erica carnea* 'Beoley Pink'.  
 "Planting time", *ibid*, 20th March 1991, pp 34 - 5  
 Planting.  
 "Deliberate Crosses", *ibid*, 27th April 1991, p 34  
 Including *Erica x darleyensis* 'Kramer's Rote and *E. vagans* x *E. manipuliflora* 'Valerie Griffiths'.  
 "Trees from Spain", *ibid*, 1st June 1991, p 41  
*Erica australis*  
 "The Watsons", *ibid*, 8th July 1991, p 41  
 OK.

## THE HEATHER SOCIETY

"Cut Flowers", *ibid.*, 10th Aug. 1991, p 43

Good advice. The photograph labelled (*Calluna*) 'Applecross' looks like 'Tib'.

"Cheers" *ibid.*, 14th Sept. 1991, p 36

Heather wine.

"Short and Flat", *ibid.*, 19th Oct. 1991, p 40

Dwarf plants. Picture of *Calluna* 'White Lawn'.

"Winter Fragrance", *ibid.*, 22nd Nov. 1991, p 37

*Erica x veitchii* with a picture of 'Exeter'.

"Winter Jewels", *ibid.*, 21st Dec. 1991, p 71

Planning a winter heather garden. Photo of *Erica carnea* 'Walter Reiser'.

Soderberg, M., "Ljungexpertern Arthur Persson", *Hemträdgården* 3.

A nice account of the 300 cvs grown by this enthusiast in Sweden.

Springer, P. "Ein neuer Stern am Calluna-Himmel", *Zierpflanzenbau*, 1991, No. 20, pp 806 - 7

An enthusiastic account of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Roswitha', the darker sport on 'Marleen'.

Stace, C., *New Flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press, 1991, p 348

Five of the British species illustrated, plus *Erica x darleyensis*, planted in Suffolk, and since died out!

Stebbins, G., "New stunner goes on show", *Garden News*, 23rd Oct. 1991, p 32

The plant that attracted most visitors ..... was *Calluna* 'Dark Beauty', here depicted.

Tamony, K., "Master of the Heath", *Home and Garden* (W. California), March 1991, pp 58 - 61

The Thompson's "spectacular heather garden on a rugged section of the Mendocini coast."

Van den Eerden, L. J., Dueck, Th. A., Berdowski, J. J. M., Greven, H. and Van Dobben, H. F., "Influence of NH<sub>3</sub> on heathland vegetation", *Acta bot. Neerlandica*, 1991, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp 281 - 296.

"Heathland is currently being threatened by nitrogenous atmospheric deposition". Ammonia and ammonium stimulated shoot growth in *Calluna*, but increased its sensitivity to drought and heather beetle.

Van de Laar, H. J., "Tentoonstelling Herfstweelde 1990", *Dendroflora*, 1991, Vol. 27, pp 61 - 2

Medals awarded to *Bruckenthalia* 'Balkan Rose', *Calluna* 'Perestrojka', 'Ralph's Red' and 'Red Star'.

"Vakbeurs Plantarium '90", *ibid.*, pp 73 - 4

Medals for *Calluna* 'Dark Beauty', 'Emerald Jock' and 'Redbud'.

Van de Meijden, R., Plate, C. L. and Weede, E. J., *Atlas van de Nederlandse Flora*, 1989

Distribution maps for the Netherlands for *Erica cinerea* (1: 106), *E. scoparia* (1: 105) and *E. tetralix* (3: 68).

I am grateful to the very, very, few members who sent contributions. Do please tell me of any suitable references, here or abroad, preferably with a cutting or copy.

I do not list the many useful papers in our contemporaries, *Ericultura*, *Der Heidegarten*, *Heather News* and *Heather Notes*. But not enough members see these, daunted or not by Dutch, German or American. Perhaps we should organise a Reading Circle for them?

\* \* \* \* \*

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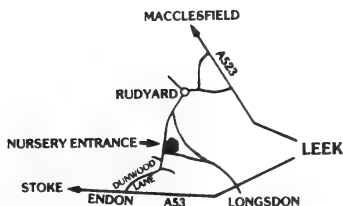
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How to find us: On the A21 approaching Hastings (about 14 miles away) pass through Hurst Green village and take first left turning, following signs for Bodiam and Bodiam Castle. The nursery is just across the river from the castle.

**Bodiam Nursery, Ockham House,  
Bodiam, Robertsbridge, East Sussex  
TN32 5RA**

**Tel: Staplecross (0580) 830811/830649**

## Rooted cuttings for the heather enthusiast

We have  
the new

*Erica mackaiana* 'Shining Light'

Large white flowers, Jul-Sept, with mid grey green foliage. Far more floriferous and vigorous than 'Dr Ronald Gray'. A new cultivar with a great deal of promise.

The old

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Gold Haze'

White flowers, Aug-Oct, with pale yellow foliage throughout the year. Upright habit.

and the unusual

*Erica vagans* 'Viridiflora'

Green feathery bracts, Aug-Oct, serve as flowers making for an intriguing attractive curiosity. Very occasionally real flowers are produced which are pale pink. Mid green foliage.

Just three of over 550 cultivars in our frequently updated list which gives details of our rooted cuttings, 1 and 2 year plants for mail order or collection, retail or trade, home or abroad. For our catalogue please send £1 to

David Small

### **Denbeigh Heathers**

All Saints Road, Creeting St. Mary, IPSWICH,  
SUFFOLK, IP6 8PJ

Telephone: (0449) 711220



