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Editor:
MR. P. S. PATRICK, 11 Clerk's Acre, Hassocks, Sussex, to whom all communications relating to the Year Book should be sent.
A Message from the President

In reviewing the position of a comparatively small but steadily growing Heather Society it should be clearly understood that without the co-operation and team spirit of those responsible for the Society's work nothing can be achieved substantially. The team spirit has been well maintained and progress made in the last twelve months.

I wish to convey my thanks to: Mrs. MacLeod, our untiring and very active secretary and treasurer, for the admirable way in which she has fulfilled her duties; members of the committee for loyal support to their delightful Chairman, Sir John Charrington; Mr. P. S. Patrick for producing the 1964 Year Book which deservedly received wide publicity. There are others, too, who have helped in one way or another.

The Editorial sub-Committee came into action splendidly on the 1965 Year Book during the unfortunate illness of its editor (Mr. Patrick). We all wish him well.

Although the membership is rising it is still below 500. A target of 1,000 is what I would like to see reached by the end of 1968.

I appreciate the support of members, who are scattered widely in the British Isles and overseas, and to them I make this special plea: to foster heather growing in their locality and induce those who are interested to join us. I know this is being done—and done well—in some parts of the country, but a lot more remains to be accomplished in breaking new ground.

With my sincere wishes for the continued success of the Society.

I remain,
Fred J. Chapple (President).
THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

My usual statistics are being omitted this year, for the Membership lists give the full total of paid-up members and other information regarding the financial progress of the Society will be found in the accounts and Balance sheet which was presented at the Annual General Meeting held as before at the R.H.S. New Hall in Westminster on March 31st.

The speaker on this occasion was Mr. David McClintock who illustrated his talk on the naming of Heaths and Heathers by a collection of beautifully mounted pressed flowers and foliage.

Between March 31st and the three autumn events in the south which will be described later excellent work was being done by two enthusiastic members in the Nottingham area, Mr. Yates and Mr. Annabel. They began last year by using our colour transparencies to show to those members whom they invited to visit Mr. Yates's home and from such small beginnings their efforts culminated in a most successful display at their local Horticultural Show on September 11th. If we could persuade other groups to do likewise I feel sure that Mr. Yates would make his material available, for he provided a brochure of several pages and disposed of over 200 copies to the public.

In the south, the first late summer event was the party at the home of Mr. H. C. Ellis, Owl House, near Uckfield, on August 7th. In his excellently clear invitation sent to those who asked for it he described his garden as abutting on to Ashdown Forest. One could go on at some length to describe this "forest" now almost denuded of trees where once was a Royal "Chace", where now the three wild common species of Erica and Calluna flourish and where rarer wild flowers are to be found, but I shan't say what or where! One of our members arriving early for a picnic was shown them by a horseman who passed by. To most of us there was so much to see and to do in the garden of Owl House that Ashdown Forest remained just the perfect setting which we did not explore. Mr. Stevens and three helpers soon had us all busy taking cuttings for we had been told to bring a seed-box, a trowel and our own cutting material, all else being provided by our generous host. To him and to Mrs. Ellis for a wonderful tea, the 32 members and friends who accepted the invitation are deeply indebted. All that Mr. Ellis asks is that in the spring you will report on the success or otherwise of the cuttings you took.
Less than a month later on September 2-3, the Heather Display put on for the Society by the Aldenham Nursery attracted much attention and brought us a Silver Flora Medal. I must here thank those members who so kindly helped the committee to man the stand as we were “short-staffed” owing to illness and other commitments. Five new members joined and we were delighted when two of them came with us to Wisley Gardens the week after. This was an excellently attended function and it was especially pleasing to have with us visiting members from the U.S.A. The Trials garden has been reported elsewhere by Mrs. P. Harper and it only remains for me to say that even the one heavy downpour did nothing to depress either ourselves or the heathers. While herbaceous beds were sodden and splashed the heathers revelled in it and were a joyous sight. We were most fortunate in being taken round by Mr. Clayton who is in charge of the Heather gardens and who took some of us into the private section where the rooted cuttings in frames are to be found.

In conclusion, it has been suggested that we should publicise the lectures that several of our members are giving on Heathers. Some will take place before this year book comes out but I am glad to say that for each of them I have been asked to supply colour transparencies. Notice of the later lectures so far as they are known appears below.

C. I. MACLEOD

1966 Arrangements as far as are known on going to Press. Members are invited to attend.

**Nottingham**
10th February, 7.30 p.m. Parks Dept., Horticultural Education, Gas Demonstration Theatre, Lower Parliament Street Mr. J. P. Ardron.

**Norfolk**
17th February, Attleborough Horticultural Society Mr. C. R. Lawrence.

**Birmingham**
3rd March, 7.30 p.m., Alpine Garden Society, Birmingham Group, Norfolk Hotel, Hagley Road, Mr. J. P. Ardron.

**Leeds**
15th April, 7.30 p.m. Alwoodley Horticultural Society, The Community Hall, The Avenue, Alwoodley, Leeds 17 Mr. J. P. Ardron.

**Note**
At all these lectures our Heather Society colour transparencies will be used.
GARDENS conform to the pattern of the period; they have always done so. The garden is the mirror in which we see ourselves.

When the great country houses were erected the gardens too were conceived on the grand scale. Balustraded terraces overlooked sweeping lawns with perhaps a noble cedar at a vantage point, the green carpet stretching away to a half-hidden lake: this magnificence set in rolling park land, crossed only by a wide drive—a beech lined avenue—a dark green diminishing ribbon across the grass. Perhaps the screech of a peacock could be heard as he strutted around the house in unapproachable splendour.

Such was the artistic talent of the great 18th century landscape gardeners in Britain—William Kent, "Capability" Brown and Humphrey Repton—their creations so conceived that the great houses appear after a century and a half to have grown naturally and harmoniously with the surrounding landscape.

Then to the period of Summer Bedding and strict formality: a place for each plant and each plant in its place. Beds edged by the squat rosettes of Echeveria or perhaps the blue of Lobelia. Line upon line through various coloured Geraniums to Cherry Pie and Marguerites was the order of the day as were top hats, frock coats and the 8.30 to town. The stiff Victorian father insisted on strict regimentation in both house and garden. Gardens were I fear sometimes "show-off" places, status symbols, as indeed were the houses. So many gardeners, so many indoor servants.
From the turn of the century formal bedding began to disappear though only slowly at first. There were many contributing causes: increasing taxation, new and varied interests emerging which absorbed time and money, so that fewer gardeners could be employed and therefore less costly methods of running the garden had to be evolved. One of the first economies was to cut down the vast numbers of bedding plants raised and instead to plant permanent borders with shrubs and herbaceous plants. This led to many gardeners, even head gardeners, seeking employment in other fields.

With the passing of the head gardener the lady of the house had often of necessity to take a far greater share in the running of the garden. Whereas in the past she was only able to have what flowers she was given... and often arranged for her in the house... she now had a free hand to pick what she liked and perhaps even to advise on what should be grown!

Gardening emancipation was well on the way and when in 1914 came the Kaiser's war with it came the death blow to formal bedding. The young gardeners along with all British youth joined the forces in defence of their country while the aged and unfit battled against the German submarine menace by growing food on every available foot of soil. So ended what may be termed the formal bedding era. Like the period in which it prospered it was perhaps more than a little, class conscious, but gardens have always reflected the mood of the period.

To project a composite picture of a period one must of necessity generalise. The first, almost imperceptible, break which led to the informal gardens of to-day came when the prosperous Victorian led his wife and family to the sea or country for the customary summer holiday, a relaxation
much looked forward to throughout the year. To his family it was a symbol of freedom: country walks amongst wild flowers and ferns growing where they would stirred in the breasts of the ladies a strange urge to be free too. How lovely, they said, it would be to take some of these ferns home as a constant reminder of a wonderful holiday!

Trowels and baskets were obtained, the ferns lifted on the last day of the holiday and “home” they went. It was then however that they ran into trouble... where could they be planted? Smithers the head gardener was neither pleased nor helpful at first, but the combined charm of the young ladies thawed him to a compromise. No, there was nowhere in the garden they could go, but behind the stables? Yes! Behind the stables was an array of tree stumps, useless for logs and difficult to move... soil could be brought to half-bury them. There the ferns were planted. So was born the “fernery” a shrine to Victorian escapism, frequently visted by Miss Fanny and Miss Elizabeth, Miss Agatha and Miss Kate... a place to relive happy memories, and a place to sigh and try to forget...

As time passed, small flowering plants were dotted amongst the ferns, Creeping Jenny, arabis, primroses and bluebells. Bricks, rocks and lumps of concrete gradually replaced the rotting wood and as the fernery faded out, so the first glimpse of a “rockery” emerged.

The “fernery-cum-rockery” was now moved into the garden proper and into the sun and was referred to from now on as the “rockery”. It was at best a poor forbear of the rock gardens which were to come, the new homes of those exquisite alpine plants sent down from the roof of the world by such great collectors as Forrest, Farrer and Kingdon Ward.

Amongst the hundreds of true alpines grown in rock
gardens there was *Erica carnea*, the mountain or alpine forest heather, brightening up the rock garden when it most needed colour. The rock gardener could only be delighted with the burst of colour in winter and would wish to procure the other *carnea* varieties that had by then been collected and introduced. It would be clear to the gardener that these easily grown winter flowering heaths could be planted with advantage in other positions in the garden as well as amongst the alpines, and so the break was achieved. The heather garden was born and with it a new heather enthusiast, wishing to reach our further and further into the almost limitless possibilities offered by the heathers to be found on the hills and the moors.

Probably his next venture was to plant Scottish white heather though it had the undeserved reputation of being rare and difficult to grow. His success with *carnea* would give him the necessary encouragement for the enterprise. White heather had a background of popular superstition: it was “Lucky”. Sprigs of “Lucky White Heather” were hawked in the towns and offered by children on the roadside to holiday makers. A bride insisted on a sprig in the bridal bouquet. Literally, the man in the street did not believe that the tray of white heather displayed by the hawker was “natural”. As a boy, gazing in wonderment at this prodigality of good luck, I was given to understand by my elders that—of course—the flowers were bleached! Even then I harboured a suspicion of doubt as the foliage was still green. Anyone who actually grew this wonder in his garden acquired the reputation of being a worker of miracles.

After the Scottish white heather as a popular garden plant came the flood. Variety after variety was collected and introduced and the heather garden indeed came into its own.
The “20’s” was the golden age of new varieties. Two reasons contributed to this fact. Firstly, never before had collectors gone out after the native heathers with so much enthusiasm and thoroughness and with so many new varieties coming along the production lines they could well afford to retain after trial nothing but the best. Secondly, as there were far fewer varieties in cultivation compared with the present day there were far more vacant gaps available to be filled.

Since then there have been many, many fine new varieties introduced, but one must in truth record the fact, also a lot of allegedly new finds that differ in little but name from existing kinds. Such senseless near-duplication is an embarrassment to the seller and the “sold”.

Now, let us look back further than the twenties—in fact, to the turn of the century and the few years before, to do honour to the firm of nurserymen who indubitably fathered the modern heather garden. I speak of Backhouse of York. They sent a member of the firm to collect varieties of *Erica carnea*. These they marketed and issued an ornate brochure containing a coloured plate of each of the Backhouse varieties. There is still a copy in the Royal Horticultural Society’s library at Vincent Square.

Unfortunately this fine firm did not survive the Second World War.

I am convinced that as a result of this enterprise heathers were raised from being just another section of small shrubs to become in due course one of the most important branches of the modern garden.
Winter-flowering Heaths
Sir John Charrington, Crockham Hill, Kent.

As my winter-flowering heaths are now (March 1965) at their best, and do make a delightful show, it may be interesting to put a few impressions on record.

'Springwood White' is a wonderful mass of white, but there would appear to be some mystery to 'Springwood Pink'. I have batches of this variety in different parts of my garden, and while one batch is of a good warm pink, and has made good growth, another is so pale that it looks like a white tinged with pink. In neither case can I feel that the pink form is anything like as remarkable as the white.

'Heathwood' has been a happy find. When some members of our Society visited Wisley in September 1963 I saw 'Heathwood' in the Trial Grounds. It looked to me like a good plant so I bought some, and I have been delighted with the show this year; there is a mass of bloom of a rather deeper shade of rosy-pink than 'King George' and nearer to 'Vivellii'. 'Loughrigg' has done well too in full sun on the face of a Rock Garden. 'King George' was the first to show colour, well before Christmas, and still makes a warm display.

'Arthur Johnson', 'George Rendall' and darleyensis, none of which is a carnea of course, all make good strong plants but the colour is rather wishy-washy, and the two former make untidy plants.

Perhaps it is because the rounder, more compact plants are easier to clip that I like them so much, but there is a special appeal to me in 'Vivellii', with its wonderful sheet of almost cochineal colour, and 'W. T. Rackliff', an
admirable white, but rather late to flower.

There are many others, nearly all pink or red, too many to refer to by name, but together they are making a truly delightful mass of colour when the rest of the garden looks so dull. What a pity it is there are so few days at this time of year when one's friends really want to be asked to see someone else's garden!

(There are of course two forms of 'Springwood Pink' catalogued, the usual form that most of us know and that received the R.H.S. Award of Garden Merit in 1940, and a Dark Flowered Form, much darker pink than the type. And I have seen another form, where foliage was of a pale green, and the flowers of a tinged pink, or washed-out white; it appeared that stock must have been taken from a "rogue" plant, and the resulting stock mixed with the true form, which should never have happened. It looks as if Sir John Charrington was one of the unfortunate customers.—Ed.)

Notes on British Heaths
2. Hybrids in Britain

by David McClintock, Platt, Kent.

It is frequently hard to say whether a given plant is a hybrid of two (or occasionally more) species, or a form of one or other putative parent. The decision indeed rests on various factors and considerations, including a personal assessment of what is to be included in a given species.

For those with a wide conception of a species, Erica hibernica (mediterranea) may be merely a variety of E.
herbacea (carnea), or vice-versa, when the intermediates will be considered no more than infra-specific. But recent assessments by Mr. R. Ross, of the British Museum, have reaffirmed that these two entities are sufficiently distinct to be regarded as good species, in which event the intermediates are regarded as hybrids, *E. x darleyensis* in fact. Hybrids are not usually fertile, but in so far as they are they can back-cross to their parents and produce what is called a hybrid swarm, showing all sorts of gradations between the parents. This is so in *Erica x Watsonii*.

It should be early stressed that that frequent catalogue title “*Erica hybrida*”, under which plants of diverse origin are often listed alphabetically, cannot be used for this purpose. *Erica hybrida* is a valid latin binomial. It has been used more than once since 1839, but always for hybrid Cape Heaths. If you look in the first volume of Nicholson’s Dictionary of Gardening, you will see a drawing of one of them. This name cannot be legitimately used in any circumstances at all for any of our European hybrids. If you want to, you may call them *Erica* hybrids, or Hybrid Heaths, or even, I suppose, *Ericae hybridae*, although a latin name for a plant is never in the plural. But they are best and most clearly set out under the latin name of their respective parentages. If the species or parentage of a plant is doubtful, there is always the legitimate alternative of calling it just, say, *Erica* ‘Rachael’, or *E.* ‘F. White’.

In this paper I am employing the usual name for each hybrid, when such a name exists. Actually the safer course is to describe hybrids under the names of the two parents, separated by an *x*, but a binomial when available—not all hybrids have been given latin names—is neater. I write “safer”, because hybrids between two species do not always turn out identically, quite apart from the complications of
hybrid swarms; and the original descriptions of the hybrids may have been drawn up in such detail that they apply strictly to one form and one form only. I have not yet been into the technical points of the extent of their validity.

Assuming, however, these names are valid for all progeny of the two parents, this does mean that, for garden purposes, each of the forms of the same parentage must have a separate cultivar name. Sixty years ago *E. x darleyensis* was an adequate name by itself, because no other hybrid was then known between its parents. Now however that we have 'Arthur Johnson' and several others, the original form needs a cultivar name of its own to distinguish it from the others, which all equally come under *E. x darleyensis*. It could be called 'Darley Dale', where the original came from, or whatever Smith's nurseries or anyone else likes to call it.

After these preliminaries, we can now go through the hybrid, or possibly hybrid, hardy heaths on record.

**E. x darleyensis Bean**

This originated at the end of the last century as a chance seedling in nurseries at Darley Dale, Derbyshire, when it was called *E. mediterranea hybridra, E. carnea hybridra* and other similar names. W. J. Bean (1863-1947) of Kew gave it its name in 1914. Recently Dr. G. L. Krüssman of Dortmund has considered that the parents are not good species and these plants should be considered as a form of *hibernica*, but this is not the view in Britain. Some of the cultivars of this hybrid are 'Arthur Johnson', 'Cherry Stevens' ('Furzey'), 'George Rendall', 'Knocknowne', 'Darleyensis alba' ('Hybridra alba'), 'Norman R. Webster', 'Silberschmelze' ('Molten Silver', 'Silver Beads', 'Silver Bells', 'Silver Star')—are my synonyms correct?
E. x Praegeri Ostenfeld (E. Mackaiana x Tetralix)

This, which is sterile with totally shrivelled pollen, was noticed by J. T. Mackay in 1846, but was named only in 1912, after that great Irish naturalist R. Ll. Praeger (1865-1953). It is a good intermediate. *E. Tetralix*, Dr. D. A. Webb of Dublin tells me, seems to be readily fertilised by *E. Mackaiana* and for up to a mile from where the latter parent grows the intermediate is plentiful. It can be told from *Mackaiana* by having pubescence on at least part of the sepals and on the upper part of the ovary—and the plant looks less hunched. I do not know how often *E. Mackaiana* has been collected for propagation, but it might be worth comparing the clones of it in different gardens to see if some at least were not tinged with hybridity, and some of us are cultivating a form of the hybrid unawares. I know I did this with a plant I collected in Donegal!

It may be that this hybrid is either more widespread than is suspected, or that *Tetralix* varies more than we realise. Certainly I have seen plants in places where *Mackaiana* was not known, that at first glance looked more like *Tetralix*, but which proved to have nearly glabrous sepals. I would be glad of opinions from more eyes visiting the west of Ireland, and elsewhere.

**E. x Stuartii E. F. Linton**

In the current "List of British Vascular Plants" by Mr. J. E. Dandy, *E. x Stuartii*, which is equally barren, is equated with *E. x Praegeri* and being, by ten years, the earlier name, is therefore used for the latter, frequent, hybrid, which looks quite different. In my view this treatment is untenable. The name *E. Stuartii* was based on a plant, one clump only, found once only, on the 9th August 1890, by Dr. Charles Stuart (1825-1902) of Chirnside, after
whom it was named in 1902. It has never been refound, despite special search for it. It differs markedly from *E. x Praegeri*, notably in its bi-coloured, pinched corolla, far smaller than in either putative parent. Single, unique, ununderstood and possibly monstrous plants like this need a special botanical name no more than, say, 'H. E. Beale' does: both are now solely cultivars and have no place in a list of British wild plants. Its only logical appellation is *E. x Stuartii*—without the *x*, if you do not consider that so sterile a plant is probably of hybrid origin. *Sagina* 'Boydii' is, I suggest, analagous.

Rev. E. F. Linton (1848-1928) of Bournemouth, when he named it, believed its parents were *hibernica* and *Mackaiana*. There are good reasons however why this guess is probably not correct. But then *Stuartii* has characters also lacking in either *Tetralix* or *Mackaiana*, which Mr. Dandy considers are its parents. *Ciliaris* has also been invoked as a parent. It is unlikely, Dr. Webb tells me, to be a simple mutant of *Mackaiana*. If only someone would undertake the fiddling business of attempting to cross its various postulated parents!

I should add that our garden *E. x Stuartii* is correctly named, tallying with the type specimen from the original gathering, which is not surprising because it was widely propagated, especially in Scotland, after its discovery.

**E. x Watsonii DC (E. Tetralici-ciliaris E. ciliaris x Tetralix)**

This is named after the pioneer plant geographer H. C. Watson (1804-1881) who was the first to find it, before 1839, near Truro, where it is still to be seen; and it occurs also in Devon. The earliest specimen I have seen of this hybrid from Dorset is only dated 1885 and the earliest printed record of it there is 1891. Yet it is in Dorset that one can see
this at least partially fertile hybrid and back-crosses most plentifully and readily. Both parents may or may not be glandular, and in this and in other ways the hybrids may vary. It is not surprising, therefore, that at least five forms of it are listed. In addition to the plain *E. x Watsonii* (which needs a cultivar name, such as ‘Truro’, in catalogues, because this Latin name covers all of them), other selected forms include ‘Dawn’, ‘F. White’, ‘Gwen’ (which I have seen mis-printed ‘Owen’), ‘H. Maxwell’ and *ciliaris hybrida*. This hybrid was at one time confused with *E. Mackaiana* (and still is by the R.H.S. Dictionary of Gardening) and also with its hybrid *E. x Praegeri*.

**E. x Williamsii Druce (E. Tetrax x vagans)**

(Please note the name for this plant is not *Williamsiana*, which has arisen, I know not how, and persisted in some gardening literature). This is the rarest of our native hybrids, and could be overlooked for Cornish heath. It was first found by Mr. R. Davey, M.P., in the 1860s, but was not brought to notice until a solitary bush was spotted by his nephew, Mr. P. D. Williams, the horticulturist, when he was out partridge shooting near Lanarch Farm on the Lizard peninsula in October 1910. It was given its Latin name by Dr. G. Claridge Druce (1850-1932) of Oxford shortly after, in 1911. The plant was next observed on the 14th October 1924 by his daughter, Miss Lavender Williams, in a place a mile from where the previous specimen came from. A fourth bush was discovered, still of course in the Lizard district, about 1940 by Miss Gertrude Waterer of Penzance near a farm called Gwavas. This was brought into cultivation and should be known as *E. x Williamsii* ‘Gwavas’. These hybrids having been formed independently, it is likely that each is slightly different—‘Gwavas’ for example has larger paler pink flowers than the one
cultivated as plain *E. x Williamsii* (which matches the type specimen). Is it known which gathering this latter plant derives from?—It needs a cultivar name such as ‘P. D. Williams’.

**E. x Veitchii Bean (E. arborea x lusitanica)**

This is of purely garden origin, although the latter parent has been established in Britain for 85 years. It arose about the turn of the century as a chance seedling in the Veitch’s Royal Nurseries at Exeter. So far as I know the plants we grow are all derived from this single hybrid.

**E. australis x darleyensis**

Krüssman records this cross, which he says is very like *E. x darleyensis*, but with flowers arranged like *australis*. ‘Wishanger Pink’ is the type, a plant I have failed to find anywhere and would much like to see. To those of us who consider *E. x darleyensis* a hybrid, this plant is an example of a triple hybrid.

**x Ericalluna Bealeana Krüssman (Calluna vulgaris x Erica cinerea) *\(^*\)**

Three named plants, two with corollas split to the base and one with them split half way, have been placed here and the first two are still generally described as hybrids in catalogues, although at least two of the nurseries concerned privately scout the idea of the plants being hybrids at all! Yet as late as 1960 this special hybrid genus was erected for them by Krüssman. The three plants are ‘Winifred Whitley’, confidently described in 1936 after its discovery as an inter-

*\(^*\)Since writing the above Dr. Krüssman has sent me a copy of his note in “Deutsche Baumschule” for the 1st October, 1965 (page 302) in which he has given enlarged drawings of the florets, etc. of both ‘W. G. Notley’ and *schizopetala* and adds some notes on them. He still sticks by his belief that both these plants are hybrids.
generic hybrid, 'W. G. Notley', found shortly after, also in Dorset, at Corfe Mullen, and the attractive plant hitherto generally known as *E. cinerea* var *schizopetala*, which seems very similar to 'Winifred Whitley' and has been noticed on about a dozen occasions in the wild since 1871.

The fable of this improbable hybrid seems to have begun in 1912. In that year the usual form of it was found at Ringwood in the New Forest, and the finder (T. W. Hazleby) wrote on the sheet of plants he collected, now at the British Museum, "I think it is a hybrid between *Calluna* and *Erica cinerea*. Specimens sent also to Mr. E. M. Holmes of the Pharmaceutical Society and Prof. Boulger and... they are inclined to my opinion." Curiously, the same plant seems to have been collected at Swanage only ten days later, and on the sheet of this, at Kew, the finder, (Mrs. W. W. Ellis) wrote: "Probably a hybrid between *E. cinerea* and *Calluna vulgaris*." The bringing in of Boulger's name was particularly unfortunate, because he it was who that same year gave the plant the name of var *schizopetala*, and when he did so, he specially wrote: "Neither foliage nor flower show any sign of hybrid origin"; and Dr. C. H. Gimingham of Aberdeen says of hybrids in *Calluna*: "None reported or likely."

It is curious that apparently only one *Erica* of British origin—Cornish heath—has ever had its chromosomes counted—those known of our species have all been counted on foreign plants. These counts, however, show that the basic number of *Calluna* is 8 and of *Erica* 12, which would not combine readily. I admit, however, that Krüssman has told me that, as far as he can see, although the stigma and anthers of var *schizopetala* are well developed, they are only rudimentary in 'W. G. Notley'—which is the one with partly divided corollas and which does look different. I
should like to know what the chromosomes of these three plants show, but I should be surprised if the number of var *schizopetala* was not identical with that of ordinary Bell Heather. *Calluna* has in fact recently been shown by Dr. L. Watson to be more closely related to *Cassiope* than to *Erica*.

If you still think var *schizopetala* is a hybrid, hide its flowers and those of ordinary Bell heather, and you will see that the foliage is identical; then slit a normal corolla into four and you will have exactly and precisely the flower of var *schizopetala*. Since I do not believe for a minute that this is a hybrid, I write more on it in my next paper, on variation.

So much for the hybrids definitely known or recorded. Others have been seen by wishful eyes. One such is *E. x Pickardii* F. A. Lees, a name to be found on a herbarium sheet at the British Museum of a plant said to be *E. cinerea x vagans*, collected on the 25th September, 1898, near Falmouth, but which looks to unprejudiced eyes to be merely fine *cinerea* and in no way intermediate: I do not know if the name was ever published. I also have an old note of *E. cinerea x Tetralix*, unfortunately without any indication who claimed it. Either would be the first cross known with *cinerea* in it.

Heather is the grand pasture for sentiment. It goes to the head of the ballad-mongers as surely as the roses round the door. It is the prey of English bards and Scots comedians. It runs amorous riot in Harry Lauder-dale and abounds in the kingdom of Will Fyffe. When it is purple it is bonnie, and the baritone can roll r's with avidity; when it fails to be purple it is lucky and a sprig will sell for a shilling. Heather can do no wrong for it flowers in time of holiday, colours the country from July in Surrey almost till October on the northern peaks and lives obstinately when plucked. More over it gives to the bees and their despoilers a honey which is not mere succulence unqualified, but trickles in dark glory like a mountain burn and tastes like the very bloom of the hills.

*Ivor Brown (The Observer)*
Report from the Midlands Branch

By G. Yates, Linby, Notts.

THE membership of the Society is so widespread that a start has been made in forming a Midlands Branch. All members of the Society living in Zones 3 and 5 have been approached and over 30 have replied favourably.

The objects of this Branch are to try and provide for any members of the Society similar opportunities of meeting other members, visiting gardens, exchanging cuttings and propagating heathers, as the Society offers in the London area. It is hoped that any members of the Society, wherever they live, who are interested in any activities which we organise will take part. The Society news sheet will give details of all meetings arranged.

Next year it is intended to organise visits to heather gardens at Harlow Car, Harrogate and Ness, Cheshire. Details of dates and arrangements will be announced later. In July a meeting will be arranged in the Nottingham area to give members a demonstration on propagation and an opportunity of taking cuttings.

Members living in the Nottingham area will be interested in a talk entitled "The Heather Garden" which will be given by Mr. J. P. Ardron of Sheffield in the Gas Demonstration Theatre, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham on Thursday 10th February, 1966 at 7.30 p.m. and this function will enable local members to meet.

During the past few months some informal meetings have taken place between members in the Mansfield/Nottingham area. A display of heathers and dwarf conifers was staged at a local fete in September near Mansfield, and considerable interest was shown by members of the public, who obviously never realised the wonderful range of colours and different forms, both in foliage and flower, that the heather family can offer.

It is hoped that these events will in some small way foster interest in plants and the Society.
Heather Growing in British Columbia

J. C. F. Gray, Vancouver.

The "Lower Mainland" of British Columbia, that is the south-western strip between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Range, offers excellent conditions for the heather garden, as does Vancouver Island. The soil is as acid (and as poor), except for the fertile Fraser Valley, as that of my native Hindhead, Surrey. The indigenous vegetation of both have much in common, although our conifers grow to king size. While, as in the rest of the continent, we have no true native heathers, the provincial flora boast a large variety of Ericaceae and include what are locally known as "mountain heaths", Phyllodoce empetriformis, and at least two Cassiopes. There are extensive carpets of these colourful plants in many localities, but never much below 2,500 feet. Both plants seem to object quite strongly to being transplanted to sea level; friends have had as much difficulty as I have in keeping indifferent specimens alive. Yet I am told that our Phyllodoce is successfully grown in England where it is sometimes marketed as the "Vancouver Heath".

Both the mean temperature and the range of heat and cold show little difference in the two areas named above. The annual rainfall is likewise markedly similar, though there is a slight variation in seasonal distribution; our summers tend to have longer dry spells during which sprinkling is necessary. The only pest of which I am aware is a brachyrhinus, which appears to have acquired landed immigrant status about the same time that I did, fairly soon after the war. At first addicted only to strawberry plants, the weevil's larvae now attack plants indiscriminately even
down to lawn grass roots and including heathers. The roots are usually quite far gone before the plants suddenly wilt, and I very nearly lost a whole clump of Serlei aurea before being alerted into taking counter-measures. I now dust every third year with Chlordane or Lindane.

Gardening is very popular here and the average home can be justly proud of its surroundings. Furthermore there are few gardens that do not have at least a few clumps of heather in rockery or border, while increasing numbers feature heather beds or extensive heather plantings. The Vancouver Parks Board have keen heather enthusiasts on their staff and provide many inspiring examples of what can be done with heathers grown in natural surroundings. In addition, local nurseries are turning increasingly to heather culture; one nurseryman friend of mine sells huge quantities of a few favourite varieties through the supermarket chains, where you can pick up half a dozen heathers with your groceries.

The choice of heathers generally grown is much more restricted than in England. Tree heaths are unobtainable while E. cinerea, ciliaris and tetralix are seldom seen, though some varieties of cinerea and tetralix are available at at least one nursery. The reason is undoubtedly the difficulty of adapting them to our conditions. They seem to resent our winters much more than they do the British cold season, and I normally mollycoddle mine quite a bit by throwing sacks over them at temperatures of, say, 12 to 20 degrees above zero, which we may experience for a week or two every second or third winter. It seems strange to me that they should find our conditions more arduous than those, surely very similar, which prevail in the Old Country. The great favourites are to be found among the Callunas, Erica vagans, the carneas, the summer and winter flowering
hybrids, and the Daboecias. The economics of mass production and minimal climatic risk have considerable influence where a not over-sophisticated, though highly appreciative and enthusiastic, gardening public has to be served.

My own urban garden is strictly limited in size and, were I starting to plan now, I would drastically cut down on the slightly over a hundred varieties which are represented. As a tyro I made the common initial mistake of planting too many small clumps of different varieties. Perhaps about half of my initial stock was acquired locally, the rest coming from England largely before the Canadian Department of Agriculture starting insisting on bare washed roots on all European imports except from Holland, with the added threat of possible fumigation on arrival. This precaution is designed to prevent the introduction of your “Golden Nematode”. It was astonishing to me how many young plants survived even these rude attentions on the two occasions that I received air deliveries after this ruling came into force some seven or eight years ago. The roots of one group were wrapped in damp wood shavings, resulting in a mortality rate of over 50%. The other lot was packed in wet peat moss after the required root washing. The peat was frowned upon on arrival but was passed on condition that I burnt it; the losses of this lot were very low indeed. I have also received unrooted cuttings by air mail with quite fair results.

This last winter nature took a hand in correcting my over-diverse plantings. In mid-December the thermometer dropped suddenly to an official reading of 2 degrees above zero, while the insulation of snow was denied us until 48 hours later. By the end of January a total of 54 inches of snow had fallen, the weight of which wrought further havoc
on frost-split stems. A few of the dwarfs which I knew to be resentful of our winters were saved by sacks thrown over them when the frost first hit hard; E. vagans nana, C. vulg. Foxii nana (a favourite of mine which never seems to appreciate conditions here and usually has a "burnt" look), 'Mrs. Ronald Gray', 'Sister Anne' and a few varieties of E. cinerea. But sickness prevented the greater attention which could normally have been expected of me.

By spring-time the garden was a sorry sight. Of the three Tree heaths which I grow E. arborea alpina alone seemed happy, except for young ones which had been killed; all specimens of E. australis and the variety 'Mr. Robert' were apparently dead, as were those of my only variety of E. mediterranea, 'W. T. Rackliff'. Erica terminalis surprisingly only showed frost bite in the upper branches, but all varieties of E. vagans looked dead except for one single plant, of 'Lyonesse', which, inexplicably, was untouched. All varieties of E. cinerea, E. ciliaris and E. tetralix appeared equally defunct. The Daboecias were moribund with only the odd green tip to an occasional low-lying stem, and that curiosity 'Winifred Whitley' seemed to be beyond all hope. Of the Callunas a good many looked as 'H. E. Beale' traditionally does by the end of a long winter, but only a few appeared to be dead or in danger, notably elegantissima, 'Mrs. Pat' and minima. The summer-flowering hybrids were in reasonable shape with most frost damage showing in Williamsii. The carneas and the winter-flowering hybrids had all come through unscathed except for snow damage to the latter.

What is the situation now at the end of May? The bulk of the wreckage has been removed and in most cases the apparently dead plants were cut back earlier almost to ground level. Today remarkable signs of revival are almost
everywhere apparent, far beyond my fondest hopes. Every adult *E. australis*, except one, is shooting vigorously from the base; this strikes me as perhaps the most noteworthy survival. Two *E. med. ‘W. T. Rackliff’* have started hesitantly to put out new growth; virtually all the *E. vagans* are producing strong new shoots, and the *Daboecias* are striving to emulate them, including *bicolor*, the last one to show signs of life. Perhaps two-thirds of the *E. cinereas* are coming back, including one specimen of the ever-reluctant ‘Golden Drop’. *E. ciliaris* are almost a total loss, but I hope to rescue one plant each of ‘Stoborough’, ‘Mrs. C. H. Gill’ and ‘Wych’ for later striking. My plants of ‘Winifred Whitley’, whose ancestor grew wild in the garden of my English childhood, must be written off, and of the *E. tetralix* there appear to survive only *alba mollis*. Alas! neither ‘L.E.’ nor ‘Con Underwood’ is obtainable here unless they appear from south of the border, in which case I may have to penetrate the disguise of some exotic or grandiloquent second baptism. It seems that some names are too prosaic for modern selling techniques, for I have more than once purchased heathers bearing exciting new names only to recognise old favourites at flowering time.

All in all, viewing the scene in March one could hardly have hoped for anything approaching the mass rebirth which is now apparent in May.

Linnaeus, in his “Flora Lapponica”, tells us that in parts of the northern countries of Europe heather is so plentiful that on some of his travels it was almost the only plant he saw, and that the Swedish Laplanders had an idea that two plants would finally overrun and destroy the earth, the two plants referred to being Heather and Tobacco.
Heather Names Translated
Compiled by A. Paterson, Bisley, Surrey.

INTRODUCTION

We have been asked by some members who find the names of many of the varieties difficult, to give an explanation of them. We hope that the accompanying glossary will help.

Names of originators, places of origin and commemorative names are indicated by the suffixes—ae e.g. ‘Praegerae’, discovered by Mrs. Praeger, wife of the famous Irish botanist; -i e.g. Serlei; -ii e.g. Hammondii; -ensis, e.g. darleyensis; -iana e.g. Lawsoniana and -eana, e.g. Maweana discovered by George Maw in Portugal in 1872.

Many other heathers have been given the names of their discoverers or raisers while others take their names from the nurseries in which they were raised.

List of Names Translated

**Gr. Greek. ** L. Latin.

**GENERIC NAMES**

*Calluna* . Gr. Kalluno, to cleanse, from the use of heath and heather branches as brooms.

*Daboecia* . St. Dabeoc’s Heath.

*Erica* . Gr. Ereika, to break; heath or heather.

**SPECIFIC NAMES**

*arborea* . tree-like.

*australis* . southern (Spain); no connection with Australia.

*azorica* . from the Azores.

*carnea* . flesh coloured.

*ciliaris* . fringed with small hairs (L. .cilium. .eyelash).

*cinerea* . ashen, grey.

*lusitanica* . Portuguese.

*mediterranea* . mediterranean, not the sea but L. .medi. .middle, terra .land).

*multiflora* . many flowered.

*scoparia* . thin branched (like a broom).

*stricta* . upright.

*umbellata* . like an umbrella.

*vagans* . wandering or widespread.

*vulgaris* . common.
CULTIVAR NAMES

*alba*. white.

*albo violacea*. white, plus violet.

*alpina*. Alpine.

*argentea*. silver.

*atro*. dark, e.g. *atrorubens*.

*aurea*. golden.

*bicolor*. two coloured.

*canabrlica*. from Cantabria, N. Spain.

*carnea*. flesh coloured.

*cevenennsis*. from the Cevennes Mountains, South of France.

*coccinea*. scarlet.

*compacta*. compact, dense growth.

*cuprea*. copper.

*darleyensis*. from Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

*duwosa*. bushy.

*elata*. tall, stately.

*elegans*. elegant.

*elegantissima*. most elegant.

*elongata*. much lengthened.

*erecta*. erect, upright.

*flore pleno*. full or double flowered.

*floribunda*. many flowered.

*glauca*. glaucous, bluish-grey.

*globosa*. globe shaped.

*gracilis*. slender, graceful.

*grandiflora*. large flowered.

*grasmeriensis*. from Grasmere, Westmorland.

*herbacea*. non-woody.

*hibernica*. from Ireland.

*hirsuta*. hairy.

*hybrida*. hybrid.

*hyemalis*. of winter.

*hypnoides*. moss-like.

*incana*. hoary, grey.

*lilacina*. lilac coloured.

*major*. larger.

*minima*. smallest.

*minor*. smaller.

*mollis*. soft or tender; velvety.

*multicolor*. many coloured.

*nana*. dwarf.

*pallida*. pale.

*piosa*. hairy.

*plena*. full.

*polifolia*. many leaves.

*praecox*. early.

*prostrata*. prostrate.

*pumila*. dwarf.

*purpurea*. purple.

*pygmaea*. pygmy.

*pyramidalis*. pyramidal.

*pyrenaica*. from the Pyrenees.

*rígida*. rigid; stiff.

*rosea*. rose coloured.

*rotundifolia*. round leaved.

*rubra*. red.

*rubrifolia*. red leaved.

*salmonoides*. somewhat salmon coloured.

*schizopetala*. split petalled.

*scoparia*. having thin branches; broom-like.

*spicata*. spine like.

*splendens*. splendid, brilliant.

*stricta*. upright.

*superba*. superb.

*tenella*. frail.

*tenuis*. slender.

*terminalis*. terminal; at the end.

*tomentosa*. closely covered with down.

*torulosa*. having small swellings at intervals.

*tricolorifolia*. having three colours in foliage.

*typica*. the type, or original.

*verticillata*. whorled; flowers arranged in a circle or whorl round the stem.

*viridiflora*. green flowered.
Books on Heathers

Dr. Ronald Gray

I HAVE been asked by the Editor of the Heather Society Year Book to write on any literature I have come across on the subject of heathers. He mentions three books: D. F. Maxwell, 'The Low Road', 1927; A. T. Johnson's 'Hardy Heaths', 1952 and 1956; Fred J. Chapple's 'The Heather Garden', 1952, 1956 and 1964, and asks: "Are there any others?"

The early monographs, although almost entirely devoted to Cape Heaths are illustrated by beautiful coloured engravings and do describe and illustrate the few species growing in the Western Hemisphere. The most interesting Monograph (with plans and coloured plates) is *Hortus Ericaceae Woburnensis*, 1825, and a catalogue of Heaths in the collection of the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey. This portrays the greenhouse for the Cape Heaths and a plan of the Parterre for the Hardy Heaths which shows them in geometrical patterns cut to make the heaths as un-natural as possible.

As the popularity of the Cape Heaths declined they met with the same fate as did England when it entered the period known as the Dark Ages, with little or no literature and few records. But in the early part of this century when botanists and nurserymen began to take more interest in the dozen or so hardy species of the Western Hemisphere they found almost endless varieties of colour of foliage, colour of flowers, flowering period and habit in the *Ericas* and more especially the *Callunas*. This led to the publication of the three books first mentioned. To these I should add "Calluna", a monograph on the Scotch Heather, 143
quarto pages entirely devoted to this single species *Calluna vulgaris*, giving the microscopic structure, physiology and chemistry of the plant by W. Beijernich, Amsterdam, 1940, written in English.

A most comprehensive document.

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**From the Secretary**

*Note 1.*

**TWO NEW BOOKS**

In addition to the three modern books mentioned, two other books are due to be published in the Spring of 1966.


*Note 2.*

**OFFER OF CAPE HEATHS**

With reference to Dr. Gray’s article those members who are fortunate enough to possess the 1963 Year Book do not need to be reminded of the fact that in addition to owning a beautiful garden of hardy heaths and heathers, he has kept up his deep interest in Cape Heaths. Recently he wrote to me that with increasing years he was devoting more time to his greenhouse work. He had been able to give about forty-eight plants to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, and a dozen or so to the Director of Kew. Even so he still had a surplus of plants which he would like to offer to any member who could comply with two conditions: (1) Own a greenhouse which could maintain a
minimum of 35-40 degrees. (2) Make an appointment to go to his home to collect the plants. These comprise about ten or so species in some quantity and about twenty species for the first applicants. They have been grown from seed or cuttings and are in "60" pots.

Obviously, this offer must be of limited appeal and scope, but as Dr. Gray puts it: “Now that the hardy heaths are grown by so many, I thought I might stimulate some members of our Society to grow Cape Heaths.”

The plants will be available in the Spring of 1966. Dr. Gray would give verbal answers to any questions about his experience of these plants.

In a collection of some 60 different species of South African Heaths, protected by glass, the houses heated by electricity and the thermostat set to cut off at 40° F. a record taken on the 15th, of each month showed:

*Buds showing colour or open flowers:*
January 23, February 17, March 17, April 24, May 23, June 7, July 12, August 8, September 21, October 15, November 18, December 15.

If any members are interested, either apply to me or direct to Dr. Gray, whose address is Southcote, Hindhead, Surrey.

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I cried, “Come, tell me how you live”  
And thumped him on the head,
He said, “I hunt for haddocks’ eyes  
Among the heather bright,
And work them into waistcoat buttons  
In the silent night”.

*LEWIS CARROLL (Through the Looking Glass)*

Vervain, and flexile Thyme, that breathe  
Rich fragrance; modest heath, that glows  
With purple bells; the amaranth bright  
That no decay, nor fading, knows.

*T. L. PEACOCK (Rhododaphne)*
A Report from the Morris Arboretum

Mary M. Martin

The following are extracts from an article by Mary M. Martin in the “Bulletin” of the Morris Arboretum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, U.S.A. It was sent to the President of the Society, who has given me the opportunity to make these extracts from it.

I saw heathers for the first time in a garden in Lower Bucks County. It was mid-January and the garden was all white and varying shades of grays, browns and greens. Struggling up through the snow was a tiny plant displaying the brilliant red winter foliage of E. cin. ‘Golden Drop’. My interest was sparked and a year later I offered to overwinter several heather varieties at the Morris Arboretum greenhouses in exchange for one of each of the varieties.

Borderline hardy plants often do better on north or east facing slopes because temperature fluctuations are not so severe and late winter and early spring damage is usually less. Our heather garden is planted on a south facing slope. This particular site was chosen for much the same reason that most garden areas are selected...there was no other place to put it. This first infraction of heather planting rules seems to have worked out very well.

The soil beneath a rather poor turf was a hard packed clay which was essentially a fill material pushed into a retaining bank below a flagstone terrace. The turf was peeled off by a small bull-dozer and the contour of the existing steep to gentle slope was modified only slightly by the addition of top soil. The garden itself is approx. 50 by 20 feet. There is no retaining wall at the lower end of the
bed but rather a line of stones to define the bed. Admittedly this creates a grass clipping and weeding problem but since our aim was to create a gradual transition from lawn up the slope to the heather area, this was to be preferred to a retaining wall of any significance. A few large boulders from a local construction area were random placed, sunk into the soil to about half their depth. Small rocks and stones were scattered through the garden to give the appearance of a rocky slope.

In his chapter on 'Soils' in 'The Heather Garden' Mr. F. J. Chappie says: "Too many fallacies on this subject (soils) have been allowed to spread into the mind of the average gardener; they have, on the whole; done more harm than good and deterred many from cultivating heathers." Had we relied upon the information gotten from many gardeners and most books we would never have attempted a heather garden because our soil was and is so different from that recommended and thought to be absolutely necessary. When we go to extremes in trying to duplicate soil conditions we often simply deny ourselves the pleasure of growing a great many plants.

While they (heathers) can be grown in beds of pure peat in climates of high humidity, the watering problems that pure peat impose in our area are considerable. For this reason it is important not to plant them in soil that has not been well mixed.

Pennsylvania peat moss and half-rotted wood chips were rototilled into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil and the heathers and other heath family plants were planted directly into this mixture. The plants were watered well and the entire garden was top-dressed to a depth of 2 to 4 inches with a commercial mulch made of shredded pine bark to which we later added pine needles.
Heather and Shrub cover a Bank, Fernhurst Research Station.
We find mulch to be highly beneficial to heathers, and for all garden plants for that matter. As every gardener knows this past summer was exceptionally dry. Our water supply is limited and we could not water our garden. The soil in unmulched beds became hard packed, dry, and individual plants were lost. The soil beneath the mulch was cool in most areas and retained a fair degree of moisture throughout the summer. While the combination of pine needles and pine bark was seemingly satisfactory, we found that the run-off from the few showers we did have was excessive. Next year we plan to add more rotted wood chips since they soak up rainwater more effectively than any other summer mulch material that we have used. Peat moss alone is probably the least effective summer mulch and in some instances is harmful to the plant.

Winter mulch is beneficial since it tends to keep root temperatures constant and not subject to frequent thawing and freezing. We have used salt hay piled loosely around and partially over the plants. Salt hay will mold and rot plants very quickly, especially during the first warm days of spring, and for this reason it must be fluffed up and not be permitted to pack around the plants. The very impressive heather garden at Longwood is winter-mulched with pine boughs and needles and has been found to be very effective. All winter mulches should be removed promptly in the spring to allow the soil to become warm at the same rate as the air temperature. We have not yet applied a winter mulch as we are hopefully waiting for the fall rains and for the ground to freeze.

The foliage of plants growing in full sun should still be cool to the touch, and it is often easier to determine the condition of the plant by feeling the foliage than by poking at a perhaps recently watered root area. The natural trans-
piration of water keeps the foliage cool, and when the water in the root area has been exhausted the foliage becomes warm to the touch.

A surprising number of varieties and species are available in this country. All of our plants were obtained from New York and Oregon. We did attempt to import one group of plants from Great Britain, and while our experience turned out to be unfortunate and our losses were exactly 100 per cent, I hasten to point out the fault did not lie with Plant Importation, that much maligned Federal Agency in Hoboken. We found the Importation authorities to be completely cooperative and efficient. The fault lay in our ordering late in the spring, and then having to be away when the plants arrived. They were allowed to dry out, and they simply will not tolerate casual treatment in this regard. When we have exhausted the supply of varieties in this country, we intend to import them from Europe and Great Britain.

* * *

[Then follows a list of 66 varieties grown in this garden on the East side of the U.S.A.: 7 carneas, with a note “cold hardy, and tolerant of lime soils”; 2 ciliaris, one variety ‘forma’, not known here; with the note “bloom in summer, borderline hardy, said to prefer acid soil”; 8 cinerea (bloom in summer, possibly not as summer hardy as other Ericas); 2 Tetralix; 6 vagans; 8 hybrida; 2 Tree Heaths, lusitanica and stricta (both stated to be “tender in our area”), and 31 Calluna, stated to be “generally hardy” and including 2 varieties not known to me, ‘crispa’ with white flowers, and ‘Mayfair’, a lavender.

It is to be hoped we shall increase our contacts with heather lovers on the other side of the Atlantic. It has been found the best way to get “plants” across, either way, is by sending cuttings—Editor.]
REPORT OF WISLEY HEATHER TRIALS

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The Royal Horticultural Society

The collection of varieties of Calluna vulgaris, first started in the spring of 1959, was continued during 1963. The collection is being grown at Wisley for purposes of identification and nomenclature and awards are made to the most meritorious plants. Sixty stocks, each consisting of twelve plants, were grown in 1963 on a site near the Maintenance Buildings to the west of Battleston Hill.

The collection was inspected by a sub-committee of Floral Committee B at Wisley on July 31st and August 30th, 1963, and one plant was sent to London for examination by Floral Committee B at the meeting held on September 24th 1963, and on its recommendation the Council have made the following awards to varieties of Calluna vulgaris:

MAIR’S VARIETY. (Sent by the Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 3.) First Class Certificate, August 30th, 1963. Flowering from July 23rd, 1963. (Award of Merit, 1961.)


MULLION. (Sent by the Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and Mr. Frederick Street, West End, Woking, Surrey.) A.M. August 30th, 1963. Flowering from August 18th, 1963.
1964

Seventy-two stocks were grown at Wisley in 1964. The trial was inspected by a sub-committee on July 22nd and September 3rd, 1964, and on its recommendation the Council made the following awards.

HIRSUTA TYPICA. (Sent by the Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.) F.C.C. July, 22nd 1964, as a grey foliage plant.

RIGIDA. (Sent by Mr. F. Street, West End, Woking, Surrey.) A.M. July 22nd, 1964. Flowering from July 17th, 1964.

ERICA CARNEA

Thirty-seven stocks of Erica carnea were received for trial at Wisley in 1961. Twelve plants of each stock were planted on October 18th, 1961.

The trial was inspected by a sub-committee of Floral Committee B on February 10th and 27th, 1964, and on its recommendation the Council have made the following awards to cultivars of Erica carnea, after trial at Wisley:


HEATHWOOD. (Raised, introduced and sent by Mr. J. H. Brummage.) Highly Commended, February 27th, 1964. Flowering from January 1st, 1964.


1965

Thirty-eight stocks of Erica carnea were grown, the majority planted on October 18th, 1961, and inspected on February 26th, 1965, and on the committee’s recommendation the Council made the following awards:

VIVELLII. (Sent by the same firms as noted in 1964 report.) F.C.C., February 26th, 1965. Flowering from January 30th, 1965. (Note: Over 3 weeks earlier than the previous year.)


Heather trials at Wisley

Mrs. P. Harper

For one reason or another I had not seen the heathers at Wisley for two years and I found much of interest during the Society’s visit on 11th September. A full report would
take many pages so I will confine these notes to the plants which most drew my eye—primarily, of course, the Callunas at this time of the year.

My eye was first caught by two beds marked Erica carnea ‘Winter Beauty’ growing side by side, of which one bore the brown buds of that variety but the adjacent bed contained quite different plants which were, I suspect, our old friend ‘King George’—so often supplied under the former name.

Beds marked Calluna vulgaris ‘Sister Anne’ (syn. hirsuta compacta) and C.v. humilis compacta respectively appeared to be identical. If there is a difference it is so slight that no-one would wish to grow both.

A member recently asked the difference, if any, between C.v. hirsuta typica and C.v. ‘Silver Queen’. I was not then familiar with the former but having now seen it at Wisley I can recommend it as a very attractive grey-foliaged variety. The flowers were non-existent. ‘Silver Queen’, on the other hand, I have seen flowering profusely. There appears to be no other difference.

Among the older Callunas which have stood the test of time and still compared favourably with nearby beds of newcomers were Serlei, ‘County Wicklow’, ‘H. E. Beale’ and ‘J. H. Hamilton’. Of the newish varieties, now available, C.v. ‘Elsie Purnell’ and ‘Peter Sparkes’ were outstanding, both having flowering spikes eighteen inches long. A bed of C.v. ‘Ruth Sparkes’ showed only too clearly the tendency of this plant to revert to green and a bed of large plants presented a messy appearance. In its unreverted form this is a lovely plant and any member having reverting plants will welcome the generous offer of Mr. Lead in the Correspondence Section.Unless the non-
reverting form can be assured, ‘Gold Haze’ might be a better proposition.

Whoever christened ‘Humpty Dumpty’ deserves congratulation. No more appropriate name could be found for this little Calluna, the individual stems of which grow to different lengths resulting in a little bumpy hummock of parsley-green foliage. I found just one tiny, white flower, which bears out the reference to “shy blooming” in its catalogue description. My own single plant of this variety is very young and still compact. At Wisley a bed of older plants showed a tendency for the stems to splay out, showing bare patches between the “bumps” and there seems to be a risk that ‘Humpty Dumpty’ may meet his traditional end, though careful pruning may succeed where the King’s horses and men failed.

And now to the beds which created most interest, the new golden foliaged Callunas. Of these I believe only ‘Joy Vanstone’ is as yet available. The young plants were pretty, with golden foliage and pink flowers. Watch out too for ‘Prostrate Orange’, colour and habit being self-explanatory, the flowers again pink. ‘Beoley Gold’, however, has white flowers and this may prove to its advantage. Only the most “advanced” members of the fashion world team pink accessories with an orange outfit and the same sartorial rules apply to heathers. Whereas young plants of the tawny ‘Robert Chapman’ sell on sight, a bed of older plants in full bloom wore a decidedly blowsy appearance. Time spent in removing the flowers would, I think, be well spent. ‘Sunset’ well describes the foliage colour of the plant so named. I made no note of flower colour and perhaps it bore no flowers.

And so we come to the “heather of the year”. Probably no two people think alike but several members waxed lyrical
about C.v. ‘Golden Feather’ and I heard no dissenting voice. So apt is the name that no further description is needed. If, in maturity, it fulfils the promise of youth, this will be the best yet of the golden varieties. The few tiny flowers revealed by a careful search appeared to be of a deep lavender colour but whatever its flowering properties the beauty of so distinctive a plant could not be thereby enhanced.

By the time we reached the heather garden itself frequent heavy showers prevented a thorough inspection. I did notice that several plants of those carnea x mediterranea hybrids known severally (though to all intents and purposes identical) as ‘N. R. Webster’, darleyensis alba and ‘Silberschmelze’ (syn. ‘Silver Beads’ or ‘Silver Bells’) were beginning to flower at this exceptionally early date, and an established bed of elegantissima looked particularly graceful, but tea-time came too soon and I shall try to visit Wisley again before the heathers finish flowering.

Tree Heaths at Home
Valerie Proudley, Aldenham

ALTHOUGH tree heaths have been grown here for a number of years many people seem surprised to learn that there are heathers which grow to a height of more than a foot or so. Of course the people I refer to are not yet keen “Heather Gardeners”. They have yet to discover that, as a background to their mass plantings of heathers or as single
specimens in the shrub border, there are few plants to equal tree heaths both for amount of flower early in the year and the delicate evergreen foliage.

To see them growing really tree-like one must go to Spain which we did last autumn. Here I must add that we did not go primarily to see the heathers otherwise we would have gone in March when they are at their best. There are many large plants in England but in their natural home they really reach giant proportions. Many of the specimens we saw growing among the cork oaks and olives in ground which appeared to be either pure sand or solid rock were from fifteen to twenty feet high. These were *Erica arborea* which in England produce their greyish-white bells in profusion during March and April. They are not as hardy here as the variety *Erica arborea* 'Alpina' with a more upright growth and the same sweetly scented flowers.

On the camp site where we stayed, awnings had been erected to protect the tents from the hot sun. These were thatched with long leafless branches of *Erica scoparia*. This plant again grows to over six feet but is not much use in the heather garden as the flowers are of no account. However the variety *Erica scoparia* 'compacta' we find a most interesting plant: as it only grows to about two feet it can hardly be termed a "Tree Heath", looking rather more like a small conifer.

Wind seems to be one of the worst enemies of the taller heathers and even in Spain the more vigorous plants were to be seen where they received some protection from the taller trees or where they were grouped together.

One of the hardiest and certainly one of the most beautiful varieties is the later flowering Spanish Heath—*Erica australis*. This will grow to about five feet here and although
growing upright like the rest of the tree heaths it is most distinct with its long tubular rose-red flowers in April and May. The pure white counterpart *E. australis* 'Mr. Robert' is another fine plant I would not like to be without.

The Portuguese Heath *Erica lusitanica* is one of the first to flower and in a mild season will start opening its pink tinged bells to reveal the pure white interior from Xmas onwards. Usually rather later is the lovely hybrid between this plant and *Erica arborea*—*Erica x Veitchii*. Introduced to cultivation some sixty years ago this plant should be placed where the delightful fragrance can be appreciated. So floriferous is this Heath that during February and March the branches appear to be laden down with the weight of the snowy blossoms.

Young pot grown plants are best put in during October or March and will require a small stake until the roots are established. If they are spaced out correctly from four to six feet apart pruning should not be required unless the branches are broken by the weight of heavy snow in which case they will grow away quickly if pruned back hard.

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**A New Zealand Convert**

Jean Young, New Zealand

About five years ago I was indulging in one of my favourite pastimes—namely browsing in the garden section of our local bookshop.

I took down a book entitled “The Heather Garden”, and, attracted first by the cover photograph of a thatched house
melting into the heather garden around it (I always feel the ultimate has been reached when house and garden become one identity), I dipped into the contents. My attention was riveted by the information that here was a plant which actually liked an exposed position, resisted frosts, and among the species, provided something of interest all the year—and did this with the minimum of attention. I bought that book and it has been in constant use ever since, as I have gradually allowed heathers to replace so much of what I tried to grow in my windy garden.

I live in an area of New Zealand where, I believe, the climate approximates to that of parts of Southern England. Thirty miles inland, we can record frosts of up to 22 degrees, and being near Foveaux Strait, experience the whip edge of the winds which drive through this waterway. Our summers can give us temperatures of 80 degrees, and our average rainfall of 37 inches is well spread throughout the year.

It so happens that there are numerous peat bogs in this part of the country so one of the first essentials for successful heather growing is right at our back door. I have been able to borrow the farm truck (and sometimes a farm boy to go with it!) and bring in peat in large quantities.

I began my first planting rather diffidently, not really believing that I could produce heather gardens like those in Mr. Chapple's photographs. Local nurserymen do not list many varieties, but I bought what was offering and planted an extensive newly-made rock garden—heathers on the sunny exposed side, and dwarf rhododendrons on the shady side. So quickly have the heathers taken charge that they are now scrambling among the rhododendrons, and need to be severely cut back to protect some of the treasures.

That original garden was such a success that soon I found myself extending the rock garden (with heather plantings) to
flow across the garden until it reached the *Hebe* collection—a shrub which I find blends perfectly with heathers, but not one which is often suggested as a harmonious background. *Hebes*, being native to New Zealand, are becoming more and more popular as garden shrubs, and have the added advantage of being easy to propagate, either by cuttings or seeds.

Now to the varieties I grow. I find our conditions do not allow me to grow some of the lovely South African ones. I have had reasonable success with 'Winter Gem' (*Oatesii*) and *rubens*, but they have not really rewarded me for all the extra care required.

Space will allow me to enumerate only a few of my favourites. Prime among these are the *carneas*—'Springwood White', 'Springwood Pink', 'Eileen Porter', *praecox rubra*, not forgetting *Vivellii* which never fails, though slow growing. Along with *darleyensis* which borders the drive giving a bright welcome to visitors through grey winter days, these varieties are the mainstay for winter colour in the garden.

A new addition, 'Rosslare', is proving an excellent winter subject—a hybrid of *mediterranea*, it grows to three feet, and smothers itself with amaranth rose bells. This combines well with the white flowering 'W. T. Rackliff'.

The *Daboecias* are happy in our conditions. *D. Praegerae* with its clear pink bells has proved to be a much admired variety. This plant is rare in New Zealand, and mine has provided numerous cuttings for nurserymen and friends alike. My one plant of *D. alba* flourished mightily and then suddenly collapsed, much to my sorrow.

Summer brings the *vagans*—'Mrs. D. F. Maxwell' and 'St. Keverne' make an unfailing picture.
Autumn—and the delight of *Calluna* ‘H. E. Beale’ with its silvery pink plumes. Latest of all is *elegantissima*—a lilac froth of bloom, and so aptly named.

Among the carpeters, ‘Sister Anne’ with its distinctive foliage and habit of growth is the only one with which I have had success. *Foxii nana* I have tried more than once and each time it slowly pines away. Likewise with ‘Mullion’.

Many of the other dwarf varieties listed in English catalogues are not available in New Zealand—and this applies to many of the newer hybrids offering.

There is a noticeable increase in interest in heather growing in this country, and the demand will encourage nurserymen to import newer ones. Even with those available I have had it proved to me that the heather is invaluable for open situations—just as Mr. Chappie promised.

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**Shrubs for the Heather Garden**

*Pamela Harper, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.*

In our small front garden grow about 100 heaths, mainly *carneas*, but also some 20 shrubs. Under the original lawn lay a conglomeration of brick ends, flints, the odd tin can, clay and subsoil, and many hours were spent replacing this with the nearest approximation to loam which the garden could provide, plus generous quantities of peat and leafmould.
I am inclined to order shrubs without first considering where they are to grow and their subsequent arrival (always in the worst possible weather) finds me wandering desperately round the garden seeking a home for the latest acquisition. Thus many have come to rest in the well prepared soil of the heather garden.

One specimen tree is there by intent, the golden variegated *Chamaecyparis obtusa Crippsii*, planted during a snow storm late in 1962. It came to no harm in that killing winter perhaps deriving some protection from the house only ten feet away. Now eight feet high, it is a source of great pleasure the whole year through. Hugging its skirts is a smaller member of the family, *Ch. obtusa nana* with fan-shaped branches of bright green, seven years old but only two feet tall.

A variegated shrub of great distinction is *Elaeagnus pungens aureomaculata*. Any green twigs which appear should be promptly removed or it will gradually revert. To give of its best it needs an evergreen background and in my case this is provided by a bush of the common gorse. This originated as a seedling in the garden and has been strategically placed to discourage short cuts by the paper boy and coalman. When grown in good soil the gorse is fully garden worthy, little resembling the starved and leggy specimens seen in the wild.

I clip my *carneas* hard after flowering and the same treatment suits the low growing shrubby veronica, *Hebe pagei*, lathered with tiny white flowers during June but valued most for its cushions of glaucous foliage throughout the year, blending perfectly with the heaths.

Most barberries mix well with heathers but I have space for only two miniatures. *B. Thunbergii atropurpurea nana* is
deciduous but its reddish leaves add colour to the heather beds from April to October. The evergreen *B. stenophylla corralina compacta* needs more careful placing. I put it next to *Erica carnea* 'Eileen Porter' but coral and carmine don't agree and in fact it shouldn't be within shouting distance of any coloured *carnea*. The clear pink flowers of the dwarf Russian almond, *Prunus tenella (nana)* 'Firehill', struck an equally discordant note but this and the little barberry both live at peace with the *Callunas*, where the flowering periods do not coincide.

*Bruckenthalia spiculifolia* is virtually indistinguishable in foliage and habit from the *carneas* but its flowers come later and resemble more those of the ling in miniature.

*Euonymus radicans* is a most versatile plant. I think mine is the variety 'Silver Queen' but it came as a cutting from a neighbour's garden and neither of us is sure. The new growth is bright green and gold, paling with summer to cream and darker green and in winter edged with pink. It climbs a low retaining wall behind the heaths but could equally well be grown as a small bush.

An ideal companion for the *carneas* is *Daphne mezereum*, providing the scent which *Ericas* lack. The surrounding drift of 'Springwood White' gives colour contrast, whilst its overhanging sprays hide the tiles giving root protection to the Daphne. Last year I was delighted to be given the white form and this I have placed behind a grouping of *E.c.* 'King George'. Both come easily from seed and the white comes true, but protect the berries or the birds will beat you to it. I find a piece of nylon stocking ideal for this purpose.

*Rhododendron praecox* was on my "wanted" list for years. Now, backed by clumps of *E.* 'Silberschmelze', its dainty mauve flowers are a pretty sight in March. Coming so early
in the year they can be nipped by frost and I keep a cardboard box handy for popping over its head when the sky is clear at night.

One small wildling I almost forgot, for it planted itself. *Mahonia aquifolium* is a cheerful, grow-anywhere shrub with glossy, pinnate foliage, sometimes turning red in winter. Spikes of yellow flowers are followed by purple berries, said to be good for jam though I haven’t sampled this.

The boundary wall behind the heaths faces south-west and offers a little protection to two shrubs not entirely hardy in my garden. *Caryopteris clandonensis* (grey leaved with mauvish flowers) and *Ceratostigma willmottiana* (bright blue flowers and spotted leaves) both bloom in August and September. So does *Hypericum 'Hidcote'*, with golden yellow blooms three inches across, but its flowering period also takes in the earlier months.

On our road boundary is a half standard *Prunus triloba* (a lovely sight in those few Springs when sparrows do not wreak havoc with the buds) and under it I planted C.v. ‘Peter Sparkes’. They declined to thrive in this rootfilled spot and have been replaced with *Potentilla fruticosa* ‘arbuscula’, probably the best of the shrubby Potentillas. Those who have visited Windsor Park Heather Garden will know how well this shrub blends with the *cinereas* and *Callunas* and it is just as effective combined with other members of the heather family. No shrub I know has a longer flowering season. The first buds open in Spring and by the time the last petal falls the *carneas* are showing colour and another year will soon begin.

☆
Comments by an American Heather Grower

Dorothy Metheny, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

The late, great Alfred Rehder, who was a professor in the Botany Department of Harvard University and Curator of the Herbarium, Arnold Arboretum, devised a life zones plan for the hardy plant growing area of North America. Very much simplified, it is something like this chart.

The Roman numerals indicate zones whose average annual minimum temperatures are as follows:

I exceeding $-50^\circ$F.,
   (the treeless zone in Northern Canada)
II $-50^\circ$ to $-35^\circ$
III $-35^\circ$ to $-20^\circ$
IV $-20^\circ$ to $-10^\circ$
V $-10^\circ$ to $-5^\circ$
VI $-5^\circ$ to $+5^\circ$
VII $+5^\circ$ to $+10^\circ$

From this map it can be seen that Seattle falls in Zone VII-VIII and Boston between Zones IV and V.

The Pacific coast of the United States and Canada has its climate modified by the Japan Current as Britain's is modified by the Gulf Stream. The zone lines on the west run nearly north and south because of the chains of rather high mountains (8-9,000 ft.) which parallel the west coast and shut off the continental climate from it. The same situation, with a considerably lower mountain chain, applies to the Atlantic coast, where the zone lines only slant a bit to the north.

These two coastal areas, generally, have acid soil. A check of our Society's membership as listed in the 1964 Year Book tells the story. The members' addresses run from Massachusetts (Boston) down through Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia and to North Carolina on the east coast; and in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon (Portland) on the west coast. In the San Francisco Bay area Cape Heaths are a long-established garden feature and hardy heathers are also grown by those willing to supply enough moisture.

It is difficult to really know the extent of distance over land unless you have travelled it. From Seattle, Washington, in the north-west corner of the United States, to Boston, Massachusetts, in the north-east, is approximately 3,000 miles. This is about the same distance as from London to some 550 miles beyond Moscow. Some Callunas are reported to be grown successfully, if somewhat precariously, in the Morton Arboretum near Chicago; but generally speaking this great continental area has not been one for heathers. This leaves the two hardy heather-growing areas of North America pretty widely separated—by those 3,000 miles, in fact—and explains why a Seattle heather grower may not be well informed about details of gardening on the Atlantic coast.
The Pacific Northwest, where I have the pleasure of doing my gardening, enjoys a climate similar to Britain’s. The first thing I learned about gardening there was that the applicable reference works were British, not those written for the east-of-the-Rockies U.S.

We do not have indigenous “true heathers” in the Northwest; but as the Australians have their “Australian Heath” (Epacridaceae), we have our Ericaceous “Mountain Heather” (Cassiope) and “Mountain Heath” (Phyllodoce). These plants clothe vast areas of cloud-washed, winter-snow blanketed subalpine meadows at upwards of 5,000 ft., but they are not amenable to ordinary garden conditions at anywhere near sea level. We must import the European hardy heathers for our gardens. The importing is a somewhat precarious procedure because of the fumigation to which our Bureau of Plant Quarantine subjects the plants. Cuttings are a more reliable method. Nevertheless, admittedly an avid collector, the writer has been able to assemble about 130 varieties of Calluna, Erica and Daboecia. They have, of course, mostly passed through the hands of several wholesale and retail growers and nurserymen before they reach my garden; and if they do not exactly match the written descriptions in the library, I am not sure if it is the name, the plant, or the growing condition which is responsible for the variance. However, so far as I can tell, most of our varieties answer to the same names as their cousins in Britain.

I know of only seven or eight serious amateur heather growers in the Seattle area (population about 700,000), but the number of heather plants to be seen in all the residence areas would be beyond calculation. The Northwest coastal cities are all hilly, “rockery” and hillside plantings are the rule, not the exception, and heathers are suited to these
conditions. For us *ERICA x darleyensis* starts flowering in October and keeps right on till May (just as it probably does in Britain). It has been furiously popular, though not always fortunately placed. By now, I think it has definitely relinquished first place to *ERICA carnea* 'Springwood White' which, if all gathered together, would surely cover square miles. In all fairness, many other Calluna, Erica and Daboecia varieties are commonly seen also.

Given the requisite drainage and with more or less peat dug in (granulated is the only kind available to us), these plants do well for us. *CALLUNA vulgaris* seeds itself with reckless abandon in my garden and *ERICA vagans* almost as freely. We have no trouble with *DABOECIA cantabrica*, *ERICA mediterranea*, *E. arborea alpine*, *E. stricta*, and an old plant of *E. x veitchii* in the University of Washington Arboretum has reached about 10 ft. in height and 12 ft. in diameter. My garden, because of its proximity to Puget Sound, is more favoured than many in the vicinity, but even so my beloved *E. australis* is periodically frozen to the ground. It was at 8°F. in December, 1964. So far it has bravely recovered from each freezing. *E. a. Mr. Robert* was barely touched by the same freeze. My little *E. umbellata* was hard hit, but not killed. Whatever our form is of *DABOECIA azorica*, it withstood the onslaught without turning a hair.

Some desirable new forms of heathers have already turned up in the gardens or nurseries of North American growers and I think more are on the way. So, although our numbers are relatively few up to the present time, we shall, so to speak, hope to grow in grace and add a share to the well-being of the good company of heather lovers.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

From the President of the Society, Mr. F. J. Chapple:

I received a letter from Miss Gertrude Waterer informing me that the bank on which she first saw cin. Eden Valley growing had been swept away to make a cart track. . . .

The foliage in five of my H. E. Beale plants changes colour to gold from April to early October when it tones down to light green. In winter it almost reverts to normal with a touch of gold. The gold is pronounced in July. I have noticed that one or two of the remaining seven in the group are gradually changing and it would not be surprising if the whole lot were affected in this way. I have taken cuttings to see how long they retain their new colour and what future plants produce.

“Our heathers are propagated from cuttings half an inch to one inch long, in a compost of sand and peat.” (From an English catalogue.)

“We propagate the hybrid Darleyensis from cuttings twelve inches long, 10,000 at a time in electrically-heated frames.” (From an American catalogue.)

How long does it take the English to catch up with the Americans? (I think they are catching up: more and more nurserymen are using Mist Propagation in electrically heated frames.—Editor.)

From Mr. W. L. Lead, 22 Imperial Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham.

Some ten years ago the late Mr. Norman Webster sent me from his Scottish garden some new heathers, among which was a plant of “Ruth Sparkes”. This grew well in my garden and charmed all who saw it with its wonderful golden foliage and pure white double flowers.

During the years cuttings have been taken and grown on and in no single case have we seen any sign of reversion. We were therefore quite surprised to find a form of this variety that did revert, being grown in so many famous gardens. Cuttings have been sent to Mr. Hulme at Ness (Liverpool University Botanical Gardens), to Mr. and Mrs. Letts at Windlesham, and Mr. Sparkes at Beoley, and we hope the non-reverting type will remain constant.

If any Heather Society members have plants of this variety that do revert and would like to change their stock, we shall be pleased to send them cuttings of our type in the spring. (Stamped, addressed envelope, please.—Editor.)

From Mr. J. P. Ardron, Sheffield 10.

What fertilisers have been found to be of benefit on soils where Heathers do not grow very well in spite of being at least neutral and with added peat and top-dressing?

The enclosed letter of 28.10.60 from Mr. Fletcher of Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden is interesting in this connection—but I have not found J. Innes base notably invigorating to growth. Maybe I haven’t used sufficient.

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"I have your letter of 24th October. The fertiliser I mentioned for treatment we give to Heathers in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, is John Innes Base, which, as you know, is hoof and horn, superphosphate and sulphate of potash. In this base the only organic material is hoof and horn. The response in Edinburgh to using this fertiliser is very striking indeed, and in our soil, which is deficient in nutrients, we can almost obtain two years of normal growth in one year. Moreover, there is no question of the growth being unduly soft since the plants withstand transplanting very satisfactorily. When, however, we are using heavy dressings of highly humified peat the nitrogen supply is then adequate and we merely provide a more suitable nutritious balance for the plants by adding superphosphate only."

ERICA UMBELLATA IN LANCASHIRE

Fred J. Chapple, Isle of Man.

One would hardly expect to find E. umbellata doing well near the heart of industrial Lancashire. It is growing there as freely as a daisy in a meadow. Mr. J. Lever and his son, Keith, live at Harwood, about two miles north-east of Bolton, the back of their well-constructed, self-made, informal garden pleasantly overlooking a countryside of green hills.

Quoting from Keith's letter:

"In your book you state that E. umbellata is of doubtful hardiness and is a lime lover. When I purchased my plant of this species these facts were unknown to me. For some years the plant grew along with numerous varieties of cinerea and Calluna in a very exposed position open to all winds. During this time it remained healthy but failed to produce any flowers. The plant survived the extreme winter of 1962-3 and came through without a blemish. (Some of the lowest temperatures in England and Wales were recorded in Bolton and district.) It flowered in 1964."

Keith goes on to say: "I have propagated from this plant and I am forwarding a twelve-year-old one which has been in a pot outside in an open frame throughout the winter."

The plant he sent me was perfectly grown in a large ball of peat and sand; it flowered magnificently a week later.

One cannot but admire the tremendous enthusiasm of the Levers, who as amateurs have built up an extensive collection. They have specimens of some 120 heaths and heathers, ninety-odd varieties of dwarf conifers, and in addition more than two and a half thousand rooted cuttings, including eighty-one umbellata. It gave me much pleasure last summer when I saw the garden and enjoyed their company.

I have gone to some length in recording the success at Harwood partly because it is of particular interest and also to encourage the growing of heather in Lancashire.
LIST OF MEMBERS
OCTOBER, 1965

* Indicates members willing to show their gardens by appointment.
† Indicates Nurserymen.

Group I. Scotland

† ABERCROMBIE, J. G., The Scottish White Heather Farm, Toward, Dunoon, Argyll.
† ANDERSON, G. B., Millibues, 41 Gogarbank, Edinburgh 12.
† BURNETT, F. R., Enterkin, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire.
† CAMERON, Miss E. K., Caldermill Hill, near Strathaven, Lanarkshire.
† CRABBIE, D., 82 Inverleith Place, Edinburgh 3.
† DAVIDSON, Dr. J., Linton Muir, West Linton, Peebleshire.
† DOBSON, W. S., 20 Barnshot Road, Colinton, Edinburgh 13.
† DOBSON, W. S. (JUN), The Hill, Broomieknowe, Lasswade, Midlothian.
† DUNCAN, Lady, Jordanstone, Alyth, Perthshire.
† FOULIS, D. A., Cuil, Easter Belmont Road, Edinburgh 12.
† FRAME, J. F., Braeside, 614 Queensferry Road, Barnton, Edinburgh 4.
† HALKETT, A. C., Kevock Lea, Kevock Road, Lasswade, Midlothian.
† HUNTER, Mrs. E. N., Shieldaig Cottage, Gairloch, Ross-shire.
† KELLY, L.T.-Col. H. A., Oliver & Hunter, Moniaive, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire.
† LEIPER, Miss I. M., Douchlage, Dalrnon Station, by Glasgow.
† LYLE, R., Delaney & Lyle, Grange Nursery, Alloa, Clackmannanshire.
† M'CINTOSH, Miss M., White Heather Farm, Kames, Tignabruaich, Argyll.
† MACLEOD, REV. D. A., Hazelwood Manse, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.
† MACROBERT, Mrs. H., Durisdeer, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire.
† MARKS, B. McK., 17 Banchory Avenue, Inchinnan, Renfrewshire.
† MARSHALL, A., Ryvoan, Pathfoot Drive, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire.
† MERRY, Mrs. E., Phoineas, Beauty, Inverness-shire.
† MOUSSEY, E. R., Rough Knowe, Barrhill Road, Dalbeattie.
† PATTERSON, G. D., Glen Dhuall, Cove, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.
† PATTENDEN, H., Kirkbank, Glenlochar, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.
† PONTEN, J. R., The Gardens, Kirknewton, Midlothian.
† SCOTT, T. M., Clonburn, Resaurie, Inverness-shire.
† SHAND, W. A., St. Edmonds, Milngavie, Dunbartonshire.
† WHITSON, Mrs. E. M. (Address changed. So far unknown.)

Group 2. Ireland

COLVILL, Mrs. M. B., Cloghereen, Baily, Co. Dublin, Eire.
† LATCHFORD, F. H., Luggala, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Eire.
† PREECE, Mrs. N., Kells House, Kells, Co. Kerry, Eire.
† SMITH, A. W., Agricultural Office, 32 High Street, Antrim.
† THOMPSON, Miss B., 18 Fairway Avenue, Upper Malone Road, Belfast 9, N. Ireland.

Group 3. Northern

* ARDRON, J. P., Fulwood Heights, Harrison Lane, Sheffield 10.
* BICKERSTAFF, C. E., Dyffryn, 2c Norfolk Hill, Grenoside, Sheffield.
* BOYD, Mrs. D. E., Mooredge, Warren Lane, Elwick, Bingley, Yorks.
* BREEZE, R. O., Summerfields, Beach Road, Port St. Mary, Isle of Man.
* BROOK, D. N., Wales Rose and Turkey Farm, Wood Lane, Penyfford, near Chester.
* BAKER CRESWELL, Miss K., Preston Tower, Chathill, Northumberland.
* CAMPBELL, Mrs. F., Rothley Lake House, Morpeth, Northumberland.
* CASSWELL, Mrs. H., The Gables, horncastle Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincs.
* CHAPPLE, FRED. J., Maeafeking, Bradda West Road, Port Erin, Isle of Man.
* DAWSON, J. O. H., Sutterby, Riding Mill, Northumberland.
* EARLE, J., 346 Liverpool Road, Widnes, Lancs.
* ELLIS, G. E., Ivy Cottage, Pedley Lane, Congleton, Cheshire.
† HAMER, G. M., Sunnymount Nursery, Glossop Road. Chisworth via Broadbottom, Hyde, Cheshire.
† HARPIN, D. A., Little Croft, Birkby Hall Road, Huddersfield, Yorks.
† HILL, M. A., 20 Green Walk, Timperley, Cheshire.
HOWELL, C., Alphin Park Lane, Greenfield, near Oldham, Lancs.
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ERRATA

p 10 para 2 line 11. For “although” read “because”.

p 11. After E x darleyensis Bean, add “(E. herbacea x hibernica)”.

p 11 last line but 9. Read “Dr. G. Krüssman”.

p 11 last lines but 3 and 4. Read “‘Darleyensis alba’ (‘Hybrida alba’)”

p 12 last line but 9. Delete “E. F. Linton”. Read “E. x ‘Stuartii’”.

p 13 para 1 line 9, and para 3 line 1. Read “E x ‘Stuartii’”.

p 14 line 9. Read “‘Ciliaris hybrida’”.

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