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Summer 2016

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# Bulletin of The Heather Society

## volume 8 number 8

*Bulletin* Editor: Daphne Everett



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### DIARY 2016

28 May	Yorkshire Group at RHS Harlow Carr (see p. 6)
15 June	Council Meeting, London
tba June	Yorkshire Group at Harewood House (see p. 6)
5–10 July	RHS Hampton Court Palace Show (see p. 3)
tba	Yorkshire Group at Rose Cottage (see p. 6)
9–12 September	Annual Gathering & AGM, Perth, Scotland (see p. 1)
15 September	Closing date for Autumn 2016 <i>Bulletin</i>
25 September	Home Counties Group at RHS Wisley (see p. 6)
19 October	Council Meeting, London
31 October	Closing date for 2017 yearbook, <i>Heathers</i> 14.

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

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## Forewords

*As this is the penultimate Bulletin under my editorship, the Hon. Secretary (see Society news p. 3) has asked me to write a few words, giving an idea of what is involved in the hope, of course, that these encouraging words will entice a willing new editor to step forward. Seriously though – editing the Bulletin is not an onerous task by any means these days. There is virtually no typing involved, as everything comes in by email, and the final setting-up is now done by our Yearbook Editor.*

So:

- *I write a short Foreword.*
- *I remind our 'regulars' (chairman, group-organisers, etc.) to send their reports, when the next Bulletin is almost due.*
- *I edit, if necessary, all the conference news and reports.*
- *I gratefully accept articles from those lovely people who reliably find something of interest to write about – and don't curse me when I pester them so regularly.*
- *Oh – and I do a happy jig around the room when an entirely unrequested and unexpected article turns up (but this isn't obligatory).*

*Once that is done, everything is emailed to Charles to be put into the Bulletin's final format. Charles is also very good at sourcing photographs for the cover.*

**Daphne Everett**  
dandmeverett@gmail.com

## Chairman's piece David Edge

I note that there are over 30,000 different charities registered in the UK and whilst I query why so many duplicate their efforts and aims, I bear in mind that there is only one, our own Heather Society, **dedicated to promote and encourage interest in all aspect of heathers.** Conferences, bulletins, yearbooks, administration and secretarial work are all part of the make up of the Society that, put together, has allowed it to function successfully since its conception in 1963.

Having joined the Society in my younger years I look back and recall where the heathers and the Society have taken me, from South Africa to Canada, Ireland, Wales and Scotland, Germany, Holland and France. Years of interest have rewarded me and other members with a variety of visits, broadened our knowledge of heathers and, especially, given us all valued friends and contacts.

All the more reason I believe, to cherish and foster this unique society for, without its band of dedicated members and councillors, it cannot effectively function and, at times, a call has to be made to supplement the numbers. One of these occasions is now ... your society needs you! A knowledge of heathers is not essential, just the dedication to, and interest in maintaining the work of the Society.

This year the Society will again have a stand at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, to be held between 5 and 10 July 2016, displaying a range of cultivars with an educational aspect on the different uses of heathers in the modern garden. Do come and visit us (see p. 3).

On a lighter note, and not being a gin drinker, I have been puzzled by several recent requests for heather flowers for seasoning the beverage: some research brought the following response:

*The botanicals are steeped in the spirit for at least 24 hours; a process that improves their complexity within the gin. They are selected for lightness, flavour and fragrance, and enabled with the addition of natural heather. The result, a truly outstanding boutique Gin, dispensing with the addition of lemon, for a traditional G&T.*

Perhaps this makes for an ideal combination when visiting RHS Hampton Court Palace Show on a sunny day.

## Society events & news

### Annual Gathering 9–12 Sept. 2016

#### Royal George Hotel, Perth, Scotland

The arrangements are all in place for the Gathering. And now is the time to pay for your place. We would like payment by Saturday 9 July. This can be made either by sending a UK bank

cheque to the Administrator (made out to "The Heather Society"), or by direct electronic transfer to the Society's bank account (please contact the Administrator for the requisite details), or by PayPal (details on the Society's website).

**Double** occupancy: *per person* £260  
(£520 for a couple)

**Single** occupancy, single room: £290

**Single** occupancy, double room: £320

The rate includes accommodation, meals, coach travel, entrance fees, lunches and tips.

We hope to have a plant sale, but this also needs some pre-planning. If you have a rare heather, please propagate it now and bring the young plants to Perth.

Beautiful Perth will be hosting our visit to the Riverside Development. This will probably be the highlight of the weekend. A dedicated team including some of our own members have been planting and caring for a huge collection of heathers which have replaced the plantings at Cherrybank.

On Sunday after the AGM we will visit Drummond Castle for a conducted tour of the gardens.

Our speakers are Mark Hopkins (Senior Officer with RSPB) and Euna Scott (Perth & Kinross Council).

You will all have hopefully submitted your entries for the photographic competition. Judging will take place during the weekend.

Open Forum will be held on Saturday evening. For this to succeed we need audience participation and would like you to bring your questions or a topic for discussion.

If you are still thinking about joining us, please contact me by email or via the Administrator. We may still be able to arrange a room for you. Or, it is possible to join us as a day visitor. For this option please contact me at the above email address or by phone (00353 95 43575). Should you decide to come, a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person is required.

Council is looking forward to welcoming you to this event and we hope to have better weather than last year in Connemara.

**Susie Kay:** susiek@gofree.indigo.ie  
Conference Manager

### **Will you be the next *Bulletin* editor?**

The Autumn 2016 *Bulletin* will be the 82<sup>nd</sup> edition edited by the Society's longest serving *Bulletin* Editor, Daphne Everett. After the Autumn edition, Daphne will retire from the position and, consequently, the Society invites a volunteer from the Society membership to take on the job of editing the 2017 Spring *Bulletin*, and *Bulletins* thereafter. In her Foreword in this, the Summer *Bulletin*, Daphne describes what being the Editor entails and if you are interested in the position then I invite you to look at that "job description" and see if you could take the position on. Please

contact me if you are interested in the position, using my contact details printed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Daphne for her work over many years in bringing you the news from the Society, three times a year, since the Autumn of 1989. During that period Daphne has overseen several changes in the format of the *Bulletin* and latterly has overseen an electronic variant for those members accessing the Society's website. Daphne - thank you for being a stalwart servant to the Society.

**Phil Joyner** (Hon. Secretary)

### **A request to help at the 2016 RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show**

The Heather Society has put on a display, with sales stand, for the last three years at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show within the Floral Marquee. The display has been designed and erected by the Society's Chairman, David Edge, and his nursery staff, and has been manned with the support of his staff and a few members, mainly councillors.

The Society's application for a stand at the 2016 show has been accepted. The dates are 5–10 July. In order to run the stand and give a break to those members manning the stand, a minimum of three persons are required, two to man the stand at any one time and one person to go off and have a break. The Society is allocated

free entry tickets on each of the six days, so this is an opportunity for free entry to the show and an opportunity for a look around the site during the breaks. This may be especially appealing to those members within easy travelling distance of Hampton Court Palace and so I request contact from interested members who will be willing to put their names forward so that a rota can be created to cover the six days. The manning of the stand involves chatting to members of the public about growing heathers and the selling of plants. Don't be put off if you think your knowledge is limited as you have your own experiences to relate. The opening times, to the public, are 10am to 7.30pm (4.30pm on Sunday) although members manning the stand can enter the site earlier.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping using my contact details printed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. Please indicate which day(s) you would be able to attend.

**Phil Joyner** (Hon. Secretary)

### Back issues

James Mackay has offered a long run of back issues of both the *Bulletin* and yearbooks. If any member would like to have these, please contact the Administrator.

Concession code SU16#uV5
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## Tippitiwitchet Log Charles Nelson

### New members

We welcome the following members who have joined (or re-joined) since the start of 2016:

Peter J. **Watts**: Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Joy **Stadler**: Neydens, France

Laura Gabriela **Balderamos**: Lerwick, Shetland.

### Online resources

We appreciate the responses received from members who were contacted about the use (or non-use) of the Society's website. We remain concerned that email notifications of availability of the new issues of the *Bulletin* sometimes are not received by members and this is a conundrum; we cannot tell if members who have email addresses, open and read the Society's emails.

Once again, can we encourage you to avail yourself of the website, please? (Mind you, if you are reading this on your computer/tablet, you have logged on – thank you!)

To log on, go to the Members link on the home page, click on the white "arrow" to the right to release the drop-down menu, and then click on the first option. On the right of the page that opens is the log on form, enter your email address (the website

will amend this to a username automatically – don't panic!) and then enter your password. If you have forgotten the password, enter your postcode or zip and you will be asked "Lost your password" – the website will generate one which will be rather too complicated. You can reset your own password to something simple and memorable (ignore the bullying messages from the website saying a password is weak (they are part-and-parcel of the system) – *hint*: you can always strengthen a password by adding an exclamation mark!) The Administrator can also reset your password – just send me an email: [admin@heathersociety.org](mailto:admin@heathersociety.org)

And, any member who recently acquired an email address is encouraged to contact the Administrator promptly so that the address can be entered in the membership database – and then you will have electronic access to future *Bulletins*

We have now placed all back issues of our *Bulletin* on the members-only side of the website. You can browse them or download them at leisure.

The members-only pages also include the cuttings swap – now's the time to have a look and get some "new" heathers for your garden.

### ***Bulletins past***

As announced elsewhere, Daphne Everett has decided to retire as *Bulletin* editor. She has been responsible for

editing since Autumn 1989 issue no 8 in volume 4. As Daphne wrote in that issue,

*In the 22 years that the Bulletin has been published it has had only two editors, Diane Jones who, for the past 12 years, has combined the job of running a heather nursery and being a J.P., and Constance MacLeod, the Heather Society's first Hon. Secretary, whose brainchild the Bulletin was back in 1967. I know therefore what a great deal I have to live up to.*

Indeed, Daphne also combined running an excellent heather nursery and later a much-admired garden (open to the public with all that that entails) with editing the *Bulletin*, and she retires having been in charge for more years than her two predecessors: 27 years. She will have edited 82 issues. They also grew in size, from 8 pages in 1989 to more than 20 pages. And, their appearance also changed, from a simple xeroxed typescript, to issues with printed card covers featuring elegant illustrations by Brita Johansson, to the present style with colour photographs.

The *Bulletins* are a window into the Society, its members, past and present, and its activities. Readable, chatty, informal, witty (Daphne sometimes filled in space with extracts such as "An alternative glossary" from *The Tresco times*: see volume 7 no. 1 Summer 2007), her *Bulletins* form a

remarkable record of devotion to The Heather Society.

### **2017 yearbook *Heathers* 14**

Contributions for the 2017 yearbook will be very welcome at any time – the deadline for submissions is, as always, 31 October.

... and finally,

### **"All Change" or "Mind the gap"**

I indicated to Council my intention to retire as the Society's Administrator at the end of September 2016, and so I will be stepping aside from the job after the Annual Gathering. There will be changes therefore in the Society's contact details, except its principal email address. Please continue to use

**admin@heathersociety.org**

for contacting the "main office" as that will be directed to the new administrator, Allison Fitz-Earle, when she takes over. We will provide new postal and telephone details in the Autumn *Bulletin*, as well as on the website, and do everything to ensure a gap-free transition.

I am not relinquishing all my jobs! I will continue to act as honorary editor of *Heathers* (*Yearbook of The Heather Society*), and also honorary registrar for cultivar names.

In passing on the administrator's role, may I thank all members of the Society, especially the Officers, for their patience and tolerance.

## **Group News**

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

### **Home Counties Group**

There will be a Heather Society event at RHS Wisley on Sunday 25 September involving a walk around the National Collection. We will meet at the entrance between 10.30 and 10.45 am. In the afternoon Molly and John Hall will entertain members with the talk on the discovery and cultivation of *Erica cinerea* 'Molly Rose' that they gave at the Workshop.

**Barry Sellers**

### **Yorkshire Group**

A small portion of this group met at RHS Harlow Carr on Easter Saturday, and I hope a larger number of us will make it there on Spring Bank holiday Saturday afternoon. We are allowed the Jubilee Room (where we had our meeting during the Thirsk Conference) free, on two afternoons per year. Currently they always offer us a Bank Holiday weekend, which is not necessarily best for our team, so I shall have to try for an alternative next season. Families tend to get together at Bank Holidays so it is not easy for members to meet with us, and sometimes we have to take second place to the dancing group!

Fortunately we had a visitor from Southern Germany this Easter to help

with numbers: a family visitor rather than a heather enthusiast but every little bit of training with the plants helps. We missed seeing the Plumridges' photos, which we always look forward to.

I shall report on our meeting on Saturday 28 May in the next edition of the *Bulletin*. We do not organize a speaker as there are so few of us but with four enthusiasts and their partners we always find lots of heather related incidents to talk about.

Following that, in early June we intend to visit the Himalayan Garden at Harewood House, which I understand is a partner garden of the RHS. The date will be settled at our next meeting. We are fortunate in this part of Yorkshire to have lots of gardens to visit, full of spring colour, as rhododendrons and azaleas thrive here as well as camellias do in Cornwall.

The group hopes to visit Rose Cottage in late August or September to see the *Callunas* in colour. This is a long journey from Leeds and some of our members do not travel well, so it requires quite a lot of planning.

The talk amongst gardeners in the north of England of course is the awful winter we have had in 2015/2016. It is the worst we can remember. It is much easier to cope with serious ice and snow than all the rain. It is now the middle of May and there are still thousands of acres of potatoes waiting to be planted. Mike has just planted

his in the allotment this week. He is a month later than usual. His family who are farmers could not plant their winter corn because the fields were flooded and they have not yet been able to plant spring corn because they are still flooded. It is getting too late now but what about income? The television made a lot of the floods in Cumbria, York and the Calder Valley, and donations have been good for home owners and communities who have lost their cricket clubs or village halls, but the farmers tend to be forgotten somewhat.

**Jean Preston**

#### **North East Group**

No one will be sorry to wave the miserable winter goodbye, but, having said that, our heathers were just "busting out all over". They were a riot of colour and cheered us up no end during those dark, dreary, wet and windy days. Let's hope we are rewarded with a good, fine summer. Our spring flowers did well too, even if they were confused by the calendar!

Snowdrops were early, then came the crocuses and hyacinths. But the daffs were late and by the time they were in bloom the gales had gone and, for the first time in many years, we were able to enjoy them standing tall, instead of lying wet and bedraggled on the ground.

Sometimes one wonders, should we bother? Answer: YES, because it is

so rewarding working with nature.  
Have a lovely summer.

**Dorothy Warner**

## Plant guardians Barry Sellers

The Plant Guardian scheme is operated by Plant Heritage (formerly NCCPG: National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens). The scheme allows people across the UK to become actively involved in the conservation of cultivated plants from their own back garden, greenhouse, allotment or even windowsill.

If you have a rare or threatened heather (species or cultivar) you can register as a Plant Guardian. This means that Plant Heritage will assess whether your plant is rare in cultivation. If the plant is rare, they will list the name of the plant on their website, so people searching for it know that it is being kept safe by one of their members. Even if you do not think the plant you are growing is rare, it could be an unfashionable variety that has disappeared from the trade, or be at risk in its natural habitat. A good starting point is to check whether it is available on the *RHS Plant Finder* web site.

If it has more than five entries in *Plant Finder* it is unlikely to be considered by Plant Heritage to be 'threatened'.

Only by propagating plants and making them available to others can uncommon species and cultivars be made readily available. With the demise of many heather nurseries and the lack of availability of heathers at many trade outlets there is a considerable reduction in the choice of species and cultivars available to the general public.

The scheme is designed for small numbers of plants only. If you have a large garden with many 'threatened' heather plants it may be more appropriate to consider applying for a National Plant Collection, or to use their Plant Exchange to conserve and distribute the plants.

The Plant Guardian scheme is intended as a way for members of Plant Heritage to conserve small numbers of rare plants. It is open to members only. Membership costs £30 per year for individuals. However, Plant Heritage has offered the Heather Society the possibility of Group membership, which would cost the Society £75 per year.

Plant Heritage confirms that, along with the normal benefits of membership for Plant Societies, up to 50 plants can be registered by their members into the Plant Guardian Scheme, through that Society. That may be ten members with five plants each or 50 with one plant – however it works out for any Society in a given year.

Plant Heritage would need someone in that Society to be a single point of contact, and who would be prepared to register plants on behalf of the members, under the Society membership number.

Before the Council is able to consider such a venture it was considered the proper course of action would be to consult the membership to ascertain what their views are. So if you feel the Society should pursue this matter please let us know.

**Barry Sellers**  
(sellersbarry@aol.com)

## A disaster at Speyside Heather Centre

On Wednesday 4 May, the *Strathspey and Badenoch Herald* reported a major fire at the Speyside Heather Centre. The flames were reported to have reached 30 to 40 feet in the air and there was a massive pall of black smoke.

The Speyside Centre was run by the Lambie family and was established in 1972 when Betty, David and their two young sons, Craig and Iain, moved from Carmunnock in Lanarkshire to Skye of Curr. Since that time the business grew extensively to become one of the Highlands' leading attractions.

It was home to a gift shop and boutique, the Cloutie Dumpling Restaurant, a garden centre, the Wee Whisky Shop, the Whisky Tasting

Lounge, an antiques and collectables centre, a unique "Heather Story" exhibition as well as wildlife viewing stations.

I am sure members who attended the 2004 International Conference will remember the wonderful welcome we received from the Lambies. Especially memorable was the lunch they put on for us at the Centre, when some of our male members were dragged away to they didn't know where. They reappeared dressed as Granny Clouties, to serve the rest of us with the Lambie speciality, Granny Cloutie Dumplings.



The centre has been completely gutted, but in a reply to an email, Betty said "It is not over – we will start

again". We can only send our sympathy and wish them well.

## Media Watch

Richard Canovan reported that Alan Titchmarsh's "Plant of the Week" in *Waitrose weekend* (3 March) was *Erica carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby'. He gave useful tips for its cultivation and aftercare, and also recommended *E. × darleyensis* 'Furzey' and *E. carnea* f. *alba* 'Whitehall'.

The Spring edition of *Plant Heritage* magazine featured our celebrated youngest member, Molly Hall, with an illustrated article on the saving of the last surviving plants of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Trinklet' and 'Mikkle Dikkle'. There was also a full page photograph of Molly, with her down-to-earth advice on the taking of heather cuttings and their aftercare.

*The Caledonian garden* 2016, pp 13–19. "Perth's Riverside heather garden" is a nicely illustrated account by Jenny Williams (Senior Greenspace Officer, Perth & Kinross Council) of the creation and development of the Riverside heather garden that members will be visiting in September during the Annual Gathering. "Now that the garden is almost finished and locally available stocks of *Calluna*, *Erica* and *Daboecia* varieties almost exhausted, the odd task left to complete is the design of the signs, leaflets and website pages ...". No

doubt we can add to the collections from time to time.

*Lakeland gardener. Journal of the Lakeland Horticultural Society* 22 (3): 8-11 Spring 2016. In "**The *Daboecia* collections**" Brenda Leese (one of our members) reports on the work continuing on the recently designated National Collection® of *Daboecia* being formed at Holehird. "Most people's reaction when Holehird's new National Collection of *Daboecia* is mentioned, is to look blank and puzzled", notes Brenda who adds "[the collection] can only help in the wider promotion of heathers as colourful and attractive garden plants."

## Cover stories

The heathers in the photographs (**front cover**) have stories attached to them.

**[Upper right]** This striking Cape heath was photographed by Olindia Bresser of Kleinmond, who has kindly given permission for its use. Olindia had sent the photograph to our honorary member, Dr Ted Oliver, asking: "May I please borrow your knowledge again? I have searched in every book I could get my hands on, but could not identify this beautiful flower. I have discovered the plants early October in the Cederberg, near Eselbank relatively high up in the mountains. I believe the area to be part of the Koue Bokkeveld." Ted identified it as *Erica plumosa*, and has provided the following commentary.

This showy heath is confined to the western parts of the southwestern Cape where the climate is distinctly of the winter-rainfall regime and can be very hot in summer. The habitat is sandy quartzitic soil from coastal plains to high altitude mountains which sometimes receive snow. It used to belong in the separate minor genus *Grisebachia* among a very variable group of 17 species which are now just regarded as one species. It flowers from (southern hemisphere) midwinter to early spring.

**[Left upper & middle]** Deliberately planting exotic plants in wild places, far beyond any garden, is not a new practice. Indeed this sort of "Forging" of "Nature's Signature" has been criticized for decades. Today, this activity is perhaps rare and the few instances that come to light may have been done without having been thought to be wrong. Meanwhile, "accidental" escapes from gardens continue to enlarge the "natural" flora of Britain and Ireland.

Clare Heardman (BSBI Vice-county recorder for West Cork H3) contacted me in April asking for help to identify an unusual heather which she had spotted at the side of a road west of Glengarriff, growing alongside bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) and blue moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). She had correctly determined it as mountain heath (*Erica carnea*) (**upper left**) which is not native in Ireland or Britain. How this heather came to be growing in West Cork is hard to explain except as a garden throwaway. There are *Buddleja davidii* plants nearby.

On 27 March, Bob Merritt spotted an unusual heather (**middle left**) on Balcary

Point, south of Castle Douglas in Dumfries & Galloway. The solitary plant was on sloping, rocky ground above the shore-line among various grasses, including blue moor-grass tussocks in damper seepage areas, plus patchy heather and various short herbs. He thought it might have been Irish heath (*Erica erigena*), but the plant was low-growing and probably is *E. × darleyensis*.

Prompted to look more closely, Bob returned to the site to take some more photographs. "Just as I was about to leave", Bob wrote, "I spotted a tiny cross stuck on a rocky ledge above and behind the plant. It was inscribed to a "SPECIAL HUSBAND"...". A well-intended act, no doubt, but not something that should be encouraged. (My thanks to David Hawker (BSBI recorder for VC73) & Bob Merritt, for these particulars.)

For more on "naturalized" exotic heathers, see for example *Heathers* 13 (2016) and "The enigma of the alien heathers in Britain, especially *Erica × darleyensis*" (*BSBI news* no. 95: 12–14 (January 2004)).

**[Bottom left]** My brother, Dr Brian Nelson, identified this bumblebee which I had photographed visiting the flowers of a tree heath growing in north Norfolk on one of those lovely mild days we enjoyed in early March. It is a relatively new inhabitant of Britain and Ireland. *Bombus hypnorum*, Tree Bumblebee, is a native of continental Europe and Asia, and is distinguished by its ginger thorax, black abdomen and white tail. How and why it has expanded its range into these islands is a mystery: for more information, see <http://www.bwars.com/>.

**Charles Nelson**

**Back cover:** (upper pair) Blithewold Arboretum and Garden, Rhode Island.

Being an early bird before the NAHS's 2014 Conference, which was hosted by the NEHS, Ella May Wulff kindly drove me to the Blithewold Garden and Arboretum in Bristol, Rhode Island. The weather was glorious yet with low humidity so ideal for exploring the trees and plants. The mansion is imposing but we did not have time to look round it. Like most mansions on Rhode Island the estate had some outstanding trees and the gardens were relaxing yet full of interest.

The mansion was built in 1896 by Augustus van Wykle and his wife Besse Parde but was destroyed by fire in 1906 and reconstructed. They, and their family, developed the garden and arboretum with many rare plants incorporated. Importantly, their daughter, Marjorie Van Wickle Lyon left her garden estate to the Heritage Trust of Rhode Island. It is now on a sound financial footing, with community and horticultural support, and numerous events.

I was surprised that after such a severe winter as 2013/2014 there was only one dead tree. Some were truly impressive. I particularly liked *Franklinia alatamaha* (franklin tree), which was in flower, each snow-white blossom with a core of bright yellow anthers, a weeping kadsura *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, and the giant redwood *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. Others caught my eye such as *Viburnum sieboldii*.

After looking at the display garden, walking down the long path towards Narragansett Bay, we passed the rock garden. This was an oasis of calm and a

couple of months later would have had vivid fall colours, but it is vulnerable to flooding after heavy rain and also to tidal flooding plus salt in big storms, so with the severe winters and baking summers the trees, shrubs and plants have proved their hardiness and tolerance of extremes. Along the path was a design feature with *Erica carnea* seemingly happy, so clearly tolerant of both very low and high temperatures and humidity. I think more use could be made of *E. carnea* for spring colour away from the trees. In such an extreme climate bulbs are important and there were excellent dahlias, lilies and other colourful plants. The use of camas (*Camassia quamash*) as ground-cover was restful, yet interesting. Of the dahlias, HAPPY SINGLE PRINCESS was striking. In spring, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips are attractive.

The North Garden was in some ways a truly English set of borders, but one huge golden Plantain Lily, thought to be *Hosta* 'Sum and Substance', took the eye and was out of scale or needed a smaller plant of yellow foliage in the bed to balance it.

It is well worth a visit for those going to Rhode Island with some spare time, but especially in early autumn.

**Richard Canovan**

**Back cover:** (centre and lower right) Heathers in Benita Lambert's garden on Haida Gwaii (formerly Queen Charlotte Islands), western Canada, in 2015. Photographs by courtesy of Benita Lambert via David Wilson.

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**Group Organizers** *Everyone is very welcome at any local meeting or visit*

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tel: 07985 444266; email Sellersbarry@aol.com
- North East (UK)** Mrs Dorothy Warner  
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- Yorkshire** Professor John Griffiths  
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**Administrator (until October 2016), Hon. Yearbook editor, Registrar**

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Back cover. Above Blithewold, Rhode Island, USA (R. Canovan); centre left, *Erica australis* 'Riverslea', Haida Gwaii, Canada (Benita Lambert); below right, golden foliage and white flowers on *E. lusitanica* 'George Hunt', Haida Gwaii (B. Lambert); lower left new shoots (April 2016) on *Calluna vulgaris* 'Hammondii Rubrifolia' (a sport from 'Hammondii Aureifolia' introduced by Maxwell & Beale, Broadstone, Dorset, in autumn 1938) growing in Toothill, Wiltshire (R. Canovan).

Front cover. Left column (from top) *Erica carnea* with dandelion photographed near Glengarriff, County Cork, Ireland (C. Heardman); probably *E. × darleyensis* planted on Balcary Point, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland (R. Merritt); Tree Bumblebee in north Norfolk (E. C. Nelson). Right *Erica* (formerly *Grisebachia*) *plumosa* in Cederberg, South Africa (O. Bresser). For more information and discussion, see "Cover stories" (pp 10–12) inside. © all photographs reproduced by permission of credited photographers.

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