

## CROCUS GROUP BULLETIN SPRING 1993

This is just a reminder to make sure you have these events in your 1993 diary.

### Saturday 13 February 1993

One of our members, Dick David, has invited us to see his (small) garden in Cambridge. Afterwards we can visit the nearby Botanic Garden and return to Highsett to eat our sandwiches.

In the afternoon we can visit Cambridge Bulbs, a nursery specialising in unusual bulbs, including crocus. (The owner, Mr J Stephens, is a frequent exhibitor at RHS shows).

Mrs Faith Raven, who lives at Shepreth, is also prepared to welcome the Crocus Group, and there is an additional small garden full of spring bulbs, nearby, well worth a visit.

Get yourselves to Highsett, and park, and someone will lead you to the other places.

Arrive at 50 HIGHSETT, CAMBRIDGE at 11 am (map attached).  
Please telephone 0223 350376 if you intend to come.

### Sunday 14 March 1993.

We have been invited to visit the garden of Dr & Mrs P J Watt at Winchester. These two doctors grow a large variety of bulbs of all kinds, so even if we hit a day when there are few crocuses, other things will be in flower.

Address:                   FOUR WINDS  
                              10 ANDOVER ROAD NORTH  
                              WINCHESTER, HANTS  
Tel:                         0962 880050

The crocuses are said (mid-January) to be coming out extremely early and may be over by March - it is a very peculiar year.

Arrive at 11 am and we can eat our packed lunches somewhere under cover when we have been round the garden. Map attached.

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Please remember to telephone if you intend to visit these gardens. If you have any interesting crocuses out yourself, please bring them for the rest of us to see.

**Tuesday 16 March 1993**

Annual Crocus Group lecture will be entitled "Crocuses of Turkey" and will be given by David Stephens (at 5 pm in RHS New Hall) who has been responsible for the new Seed Exchange. The lecture will be followed by our Annual Auction of Crocuses. Please support this as it provides the essential cash which keeps the group going. If you cannot come yourself, please try and send some spare corms to sell.

The Crocus Group has managed so far without an annual subscription, relying on auctions of corms generously donated by members. In view of the increase in costs of postage and photocopying, I am intending to ask future members to pay a 'joining fee' of £5.00 but see no need for an annual subscription.

**Primrose Warburg**  
South Hayes  
Yarnells Hill  
Oxford OX2 9BG  
Tel: (0865) 247883

#### NCCPG NATIONAL COLLECTION OF CROCUSES

Some of you already know that I am proposing to give up my National Collection. It has grown to a size that makes it very difficult to manage single-handed, particularly the annual repotting. I shall of course continue to grow many crocuses and indeed to intensify my attempts to propagate and distribute some of the rarer species. Two potential successors have been found, both members of the Crocus Group, but until they have been officially "adopted" by NCCPG it will be business as usual here.

Ray Cobb

## SEED EXCHANGE 1993

Thanks to everyone who participated, the 1992 seed exchange, the first in the history of the Crocus Group, was a great success.

We were able to offer over 70 different batches of crocus seed including many rare or scarce species such as *adanensis*, *antalyensis*, *biflorus nubigena*, *cambessedessii*, *kosaninii*, *nudiflorus albus*, *oreocreticus*, *pallasii dispathaceus*, *thomasii*, and a possible new species - *rujanensis*.

Seed was donated by some of our most notable members, and from such far flung locations as Australia and Japan. Let us hope our non-UK members have had a good season and can send seed for this year's exchange.

1992 was a very poor year for seed setting in the UK and consequently many donors reported that they had far less seed than they would normally expect. In spite of that fact, we still managed a good list for our first effort. Let's now all participate and try to encourage the sharing and growing of crocus from seed, particularly the more uncommon types.

Outlined below are details on how to join in the 1993 seed exchange, either as a donor or non-donor.

DAVID B STEPHENS  
JANUARY 1993

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There is no intention to make a charge for the exchange, the only cost will be for postage, except for overseas members, from whom no postage cost is required.

Would interested members please follow the procedure outlined below:-

- 1 We wish to distribute seed as fresh as possible, so ask donors to send seed by July 31st latest. This should allow for late flowering species and high altitude late collections.
- 2 Although all species, subspecies, forms and varieties will be welcomed, we ask donors not to send seed of commercial forms of *vernus*, *tommasinianus*, *speciosus* or *chrysanthus/biflorus* cultivars. It is not felt that members of such a specialized group would desire these. Wild collections of these are of course welcome, as are unidentified collections (*Crocus* sp.).
- 3 We most earnestly request overseas members in Crocus growing regions to send seed of their native species. These would be particularly welcomed in the UK where sometimes only one, or a limited number of clones are available of less common species.

their choices before non-donors. In the case of rare species in short supply, the lucky recipients will be chosen by lot until the supply is exhausted.

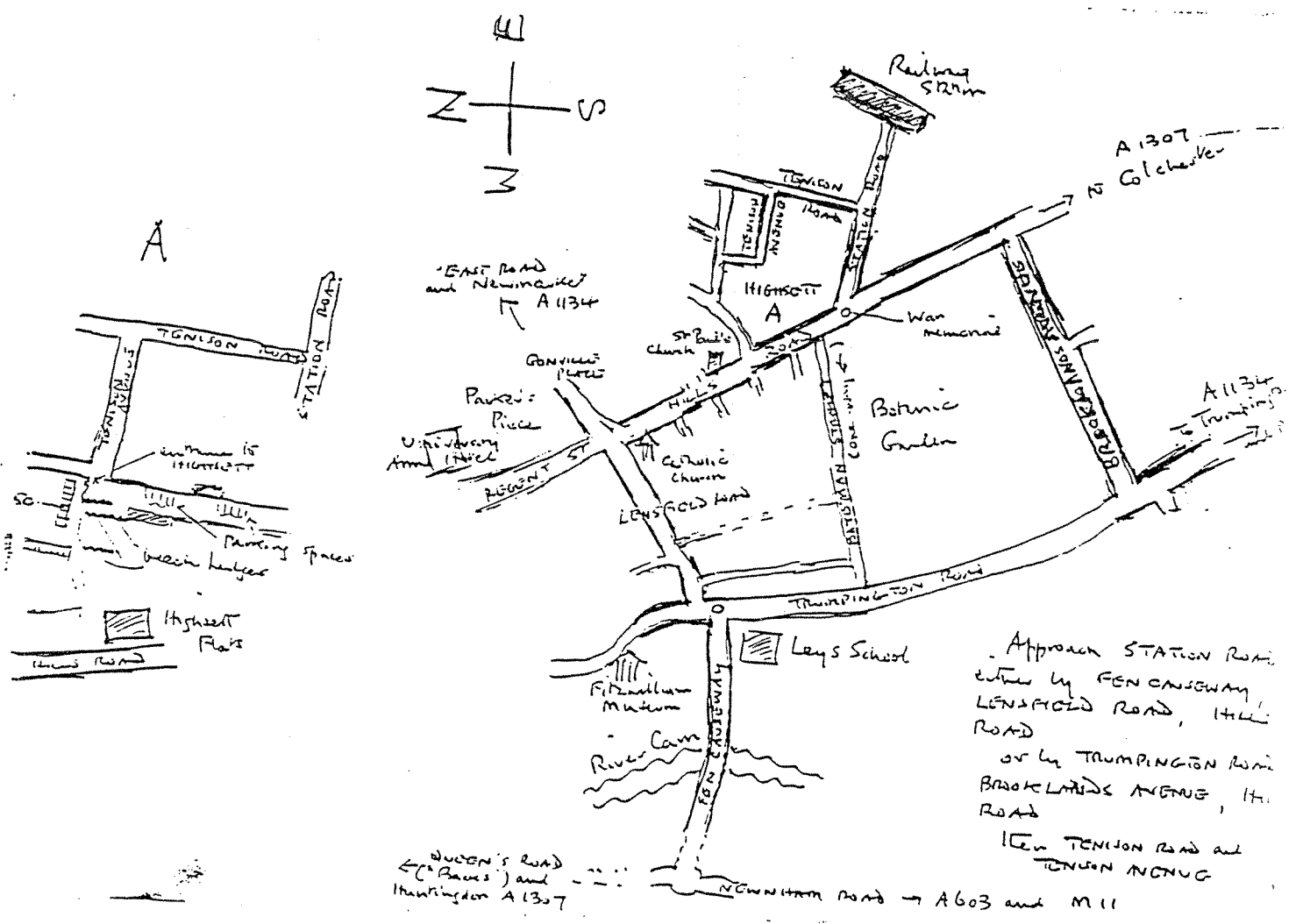
- 5 We ask all members of the Crocus Group to donate seed, even if they do not wish to avail themselves of the seed exchange. What is commonplace to some may be of interest to others.
- 6 For wild collected seed, or seed of known provenance would you please add field notes, collection numbers and other details.
- 7 Would donors please send seed as soon as possible to:-

David B Stephens  
 "Sherwood"  
 Bunce Common Road  
 Leigh  
 Surrey  
 RH2 8NS  
 U K

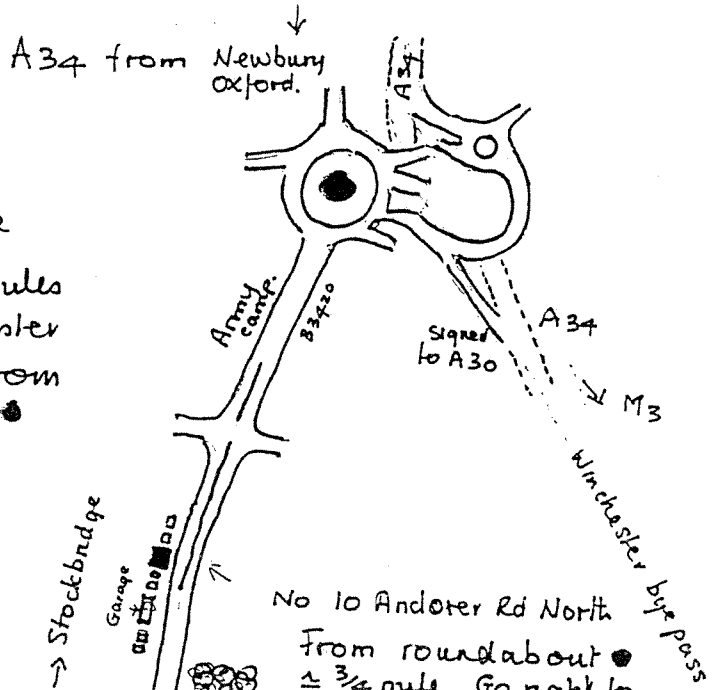
by July 31st 1993 at latest.

- 8 Would members, including donors, desiring a seed list, send a standard size stamped addressed envelope (SAE) to the same address, as soon as possible, but at the latest July 31st 1993. Overseas members should not stamp the envelope.

## HIGHSETT, CAMBRIDGE



Peter & Penny Walt  
 10 Andover Road North  
 Winchester



Not to scale  
 No 10  $\approx 1\frac{1}{4}$  miles  
 out of Winchester  
 or  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from  
 roundabout ●

No 10 Andover Rd North  
 From roundabout ●  
 $\approx \frac{3}{4}$  mile Go right to  
 end of dual camage  
 way & loop round, No 10 is  
 2nd house down  
 No gate, car port on side

↑ Low  
 ↓ A3  
 M2  
 SOUTH  
 COAST

WINCHESTER. ONE WAY SYSTEM FOLLOW SIGNS B3420  
 GENERALLY KEEP BEARING R  
 COMING FROM LONDON via M3 SUGGEST A34 → roundabout ●.