

# Crocus Group Newsletter

## Spring 2003

<b>Patron</b>	<b>Brian Mathew</b>	<b>Members 199</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Ray Cobb</b>	<b>Home 148</b>
	<b>Alan Edwards</b>	<b>Overseas 51</b>
	<b>David Stephens</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ann Borrill</b>	

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### Editorial

Sadly, since the last Bulletin was issued, one of the founder members of our Group has died. A larger than life character, Richard Nutt was well known for his interest in many genera of bulbous plant other than *Crocus*, most especially *Galanthus* and *Colchicum*. S

### Spring visit 2003

It's been quite a while since we visited Mike Salmon's nursery. Since we last went, he has moved the whole establishment. How you do something like that and remain sane astonishes me; just moving house with a normal plant collection is fraught enough. To move a nursery, a lot of which is planted out must have been a major campaign. For those of you who remember the old nursery, the new one is quite different. For probably the first time in his career, Mike and his plants live on the same plot.

He has kindly agreed that we can visit him at his new nursery in the West Country this spring.

It is always difficult to know when to time visits, particularly spring visits. A large percentage of the spring *Crocus* taxa flower during January and early February these days and if left much later dates start clashing with other events. Even without *Crocus* there is always something to see at Mike's, not least being the *Narcissus*. Bring any flowering *Crocus* with you so we can all see them.

We have decided on **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2003** arriving at 1100.

Mike's address is **Monocot Nursery, St Michaels, Littleton, Somerset**. TA11 6NT Tel. 01458 272356

If you get to the area via the A303, the nursery is on the B3151 about a mile north of Somerton towards Street. Large sign on entrance on the right hand side of the road but not easily seen from a distance. S

### Seed exchange 2003

Just a reminder to hand pollinate your *Crocus* so that you can participate in the next seed exchange as a donor.

I do not need to tell most members that our seed exchange is one of the best of all those run by single genus specialist groups. There is indeed no other way to get hold of some of the taxa we have distributed over the years. It is also one of the easiest to join in.

**Rule 1.** If you are going to be a donor, send seed to me before 31.7.2003

**Rule 2.** If you are not going to be a donor but want a seed list, send a SAE to me before 31.7.2003 (overseas, an IRC)

Obviously, donors always get first choice and very rare seed in short supply invariably goes to them.

However, non-donors always receive a fair proportion of what they ask for and always get a good deal. As some of the plants that used to be rare become more available, the chances for non-donors have improved dramatically. It is certain that our seed exchange has significantly added to the general availability of more taxa of *Crocus* so keep it up.

**David Stephens, Sherwood, Bunce Common Road, Leigh, Surrey, RH2 8NS. UK**