

# Crocus Group Newsletter

## Spring 2004

<b>Patron</b>	<b>Brian Mathew</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Ray Cobb</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>155</b>
	<b>Alan Edwards</b>	<b>Overseas</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Ann Borrill</b>		
	153 Lime Tree Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0TG UK		
<b>Hon. Sec.</b>	<b>David Stephens</b>		

### Hon. Sec. notes

The *Crocus* Group issues two publications a year. The main Bulletin, which has a sequential issue number, is sent out in the late summer each year, and the spring newsletter, which does not have an issue number is sent out in January to UK members only, as a reminder for the spring visits and seed exchange. **S.**

To mark the fact that this is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year (roughly) of the founding of the *Crocus* Group, the Summer Bulletin will be featuring articles on the history of the Group. Brian Mathew has written a splendid piece, which describes the early years and explains why I have used the word 'roughly' in brackets above. Would members, particularly those who have been in the Group for a long time please contribute a paragraph or two. Anything will do, a memory of Primrose perhaps, or a garden visit in the pouring rain, or any other anecdote from the long history of our worthy little group. **S.**

### Spring visit 2004

We will visit the garden of **Pattie Peck** on the **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2004**. Pattie's garden is at **Maynell Cottage, 95 High Road East, Felixstowe, Suffolk**, arrive about 1100. Other than *Crocus*, Pattie also has many *cyclamen* and snowdrops and as she has a small nursery, plants will be available for sale. When you get to Felixstowe, follow the signs to Old Felixstowe/Sailing Centre There are three roundabouts - the first one is very large where "Dock Gate No. 1" direction is marked up. Bear left and carry on a few hundred yards until another roundabout is reached. If you turn right here go straight down a couple of hundred yards to a cross-roads with traffic lights, turn left. Carry straight on and you will come to a big brick hotel "The Elizabeth" opposite the roundabout. Go straight over in the direction of the Sailing Centre. 3/4 mile along that road, which is High Road East and nearly straight, just past the second cross-roads, Rosemary Avenue will be on the left and Picketts Road on the right, you will see some bollards in the middle of the road. The Montessorri Nursery is on the right (big brick building) and my house is on the left of these bollards. It is a detached house painted cream with mock Tudor gable and a low brick wall round the front garden, with a double drive and garage on the left.

If you get lost or want to let Pattie know you are coming, her phone number is **01394 670840**.

### Seed exchange 2004

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 31.7.2004

**Rule 2.** If you are not going to be a donor but want a seed list, send a SAE to me before 31.7.2004 (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**