

# Crocus Group Bulletin No. 43 : Summer 2014

Patron	Brian Mathew MBE VMH	Members	211
Committee	David Stephens	Home	112
	Alan Edwards	Overseas	99
Hon. Sec.	Tony Goode		

## Time for a Change

The Crocus Group is at a crossroads. While membership remains buoyant, our newsletter and more importantly, the seed exchange are stagnant. Unsolicited articles for the newsletter have dried up recently while David Stephens ran the seed exchange in 2013 based largely on his own seed banked from previous years. David has asked to relinquish his role as Seed Exchange Manager and quite independently I would like to pass on the role of Newsletter Editor due to increasing work commitments. I am happy to continue as Membership Secretary.

### Can You Help? .... Yes, You!

OK, so you don't all need to rush at once. However we do need volunteers to take on these two posts. As an independent group with no affiliations, the roles are not unduly difficult or time consuming. To a large extent you can make of them what you want. The seed exchange manager will receive seed, prepare a list, distribute the list (this could be done as part of the newsletter) and then packet and distribute the seed. With a small membership, this is not a large scale operation although I know that David enlisted the help of a couple of fellow members to make up the packets and complete the orders. I prepare the newsletter in Word and convert to pdf for distribution by email. The whole process can be completed in half a day.

### What next?

This is the newsletter for 2014. I will be receiving seed for this or a future seed exchange and storing it. If a volunteer/s come/s forward there may still be an exchange in 2014 however **we also need seed** as well as someone to organise it! I am open to suggestions as to where the seed is sourced from. An exchange suggests that the members should be contributing it. Do any of us have contact with other growers or institutions who hold a collection of crocus? Can we source some seed from outside our membership? If you are one of the few members who live within the wild distribution of the species can you collect for us? Please contact me if you have suggestions or can take on one of the roles that are necessary for the continuation of the group. [tonyg@thealpinehouse.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tonyg@thealpinehouse.fsnet.co.uk) OR [crocusgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crocusgroup@hotmail.co.uk)

David wondered if it is time to 'put the crocus group to rest,' I prefer the concept of cold storage. I will bank all seed donations (in cold storage!) and continue to co-ordinate the group. There is an amount of cash in the bank which would be enough to run several future seed exchanges when enough seed is available to make the exercise worthwhile. To the small number of members who joined in 2013 or 2014 I can make a refund of your membership fee if you wish.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Tony Goode. 3 Woodland Road, Hellesdon, Norwich. NR65RA UK

Janis Ruksans sent me a superb article on New Crocuses which was published online in The International Rock Gardener, the Scottish Rock Garden Society's excellent monthly magazine. You can download it here <http://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/index.php?log=international> APRIL 2014 edition.