

Crocus Group Newsletter

Spring 2001

Patron	Brian Mathew	Members 158
Committee	Ray Cobb	Home 121
	Alan Edwards	Overseas 37
	David Stephens	
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Editorial

The autumn and winter *Crocus* flowered very well here. The trouble is, so did quite a lot of spring taxa. Looking back over the years, the dates of the spring *Crocus* Group visits are getting earlier and earlier. Fairly soon we will probably get one homogenous flowering season starting about September and finishing in late January. This would not be too much of a problem if the spring flowering taxa could be persuaded to enjoy the dank, wet, sunless yet unseasonably warm conditions of December and January when most now come into flower (well, in southern UK anyway) If you still get real winters where you are, I envy you. Perhaps for the future *Crocus* should also adapt to be aquatic!!! **DBS**

Crocus Group visit on February 11, 2001 to Chris Brickell

Finding new venues for Group visits is not an easy task. I know that several members would like to open their gardens but are constrained by lack of parking space, garden size etc. Happily, Chris Brickell has come to our rescue with an invitation to see his garden and spring collection of *Crocus* and other bulbs. Since Chris is well known for his catholic interest in early bulbs I am sure we shall find plenty of horticultural delights to revive our winter wearied eyes. I half suspect there may be the odd snowdrop or two on parade!!!

Chris and his wife Jeanette are also determined to keep us well refreshed by providing coffee on arrival at 1100 followed by a light lunch, so a very pleasant day is promised. **Please remember to telephone (01798 813170) if you wish to attend.**

Chris lives near Pulborough in West Sussex and he suggests that the best approach is via the A29 to Pulborough then a short distance down the A283 to Nutbourne. The address is **The Camber, Nutbourne, Pulborough, West Sussex**. The house is on the main road through the village, about 6/7 houses beyond the Rising Sun public house.

Seed Exchange 2001

Another year, another seed exchange. I don't 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 31.7.2001

Rule 2. If you are not going to be a donor but want a seed list, send a SAE to me before 31.7.2001 (overseas, an IRC)

That's it. Obviously, this is a seed exchange, so 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 pretty 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**