

The Southern African Bulb Group
Newsletter No. 5
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The Southern African Bulb Group was initiated by a group of enthusiasts on April 4th 2004. The objective of the group is to further the understanding of the cultivation of Southern African bulbs, where 'bulbs' is used in the broad sense to encompass bulb-, corm- and tuber- possessing Southern African plants, including 'dicots' such as Oxalis. In the first instance the group will be run on an informal basis, with an initial subscription of £5 invited from participants.

Committee: Robin Attrill (Membership secretary and Newsletter editor), Margaret Corina (Treasurer), Stefan Rau and Terry Smale

Editorial

This issue of the newsletter contains details of the next planned meeting of the group, to be held in Crawley on 12th March 2006, the IBSA Symposium to be held in South Africa during August-September 2006, information on recent literature of interest to growers of Southern African bulbs, and an updated list of suppliers of seed and bulbs/corms of Southern African geophytes. With respect to the supplier list, please let me know if you are aware of other sources which should be included. As I have previously stated the group **urgently** welcomes articles, and suggestions, for inclusion in future newsletters – the lack of articles in this issue reflects a lack of material submitted for inclusion!. Contributions (hand/typewritten and electronic are acceptable!) are urgently required and should be sent to the newsletter editor at 17 Waterhouse Moor, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6BA (Email Robin@rpattrill.freeseve.co.uk) Publication of the next issue is scheduled for April/May 2006.

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Meeting on Sunday 12 March 2006 at Crawley Horticultural Hall

By Margaret Corina

Audrey Cain and I are very grateful to those members who got in touch with us about a venue for the next Group meeting. After much discussion with various people we have decided on the Crawley Horticultural Society Hall on 12th March 2006. A map is enclosed showing Crawley and marking the hall. The entrance to the hall is on the north side of Ifield Avenue. The hall is available from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, there is more than adequate parking and the hall will comfortably take 100 people. There are as many tables and chairs as we could possibly need. We do not have that many members but hope that as many as possible will make the effort to attend. I should point out here that the Group has no public liability insurance. The rent of the hall has come from Group funds and there will be no charge to the members attending. There is no charge for a sales table but donations to Group funds would be appreciated. The hall has a kitchen and tea and coffee will be available. I would suggest packed lunches unless anybody wants to venture into Crawley to find an eatery. The nearby Crawley Leisure Centre has many fast-food outlets and restaurants should they be required.

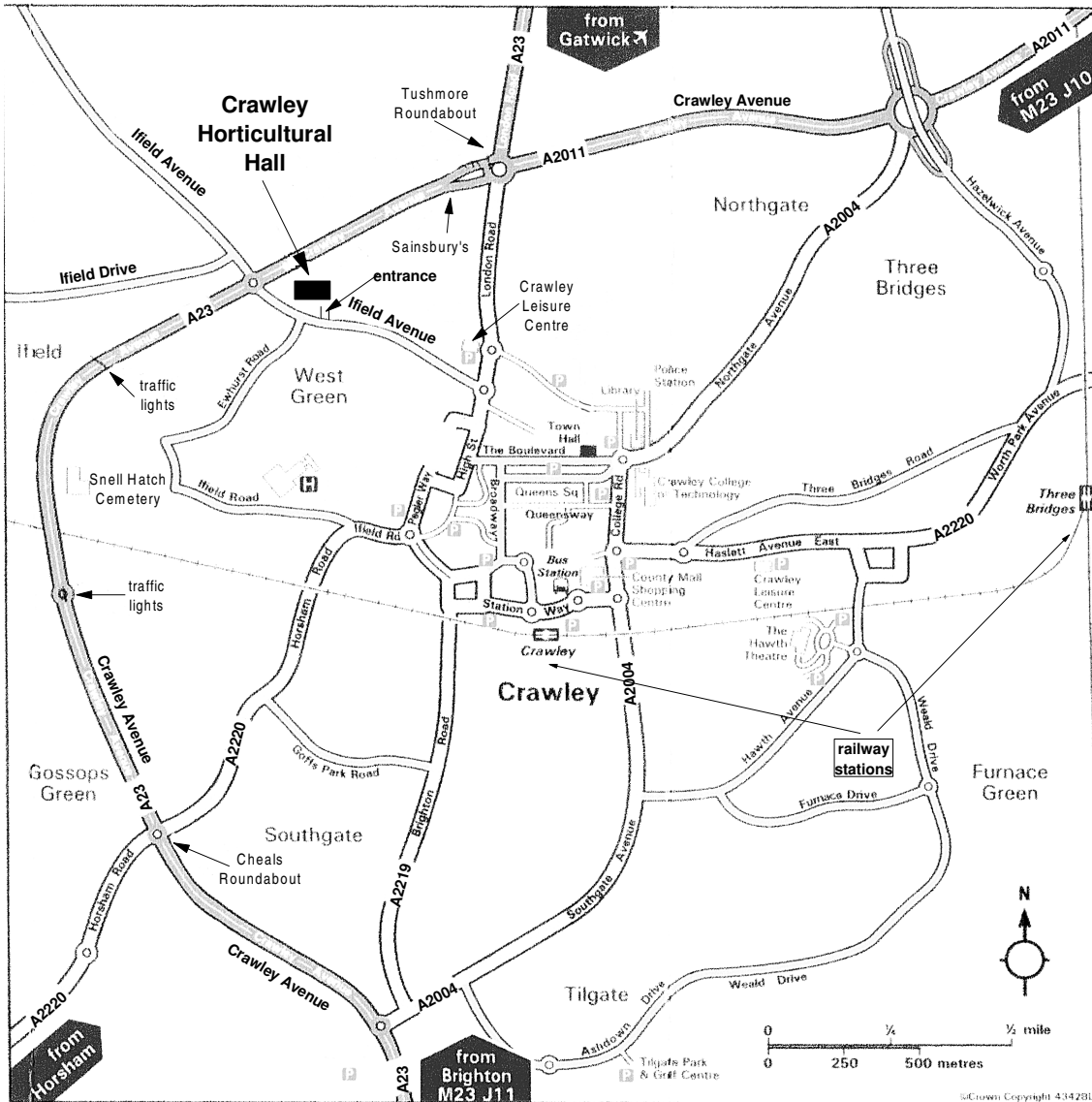
There is no formal speaker for this event. We are going to have a group day. I am bringing some slides I took in South Africa last year and hope people will identify the bulbs for me. There will be other short presentations. If you have a plant you are having problems with, then please bring it along and we will get the experts discussing it and trying to help. If you have a really super plant then bring it along to show us and brag about it. If one group of your plants is looking good then bring them and set up a small display. We want as many short informal presentations as possible. Hopefully this way we can all participate, all learn something and enjoy ourselves as well. Please bring slides, photographs and plants – we want lots to see and talk about. If anybody wants to bring a laptop computer we could always admire your digital pictures as well. (We do not have a digital projector, unfortunately!)

Would you please either notify Audrey Cain or myself if you are attending.

Audrey's email address is: - audrey@cain.net

Margaret Corina's phone number is: - 023 8077 9057

Editors note: This meeting is critical to the future progression of the group. Please make every effort to attend, and input your views upon how you wish the group to develop in future.



Advance notice of IBSA Bulb and Corm Symposium, Worcester, South Africa - 28 August to 1st September 2006

Most of you are probably aware of this meeting already, circulars having been distributed by IBSA and with the recent Silverhill Seeds catalogue. For anyone who has not received it please see the IBSA website at <http://www.safribulbs.org.za/> which has contact details for further information, or contact myself and I will send a copy of the leaflet.

A number of members of this group have already expressed an interest in attending, and this will doubtless be a topic for discussion at the forthcoming Crawley meeting, see above.

Updated list of Suppliers of Southern African Bulbs

An updated list of sources is given below. Once again I would ask that if you have experience of other reliable sources please send details for inclusion in a future expanded list.

UK based suppliers

- **Jim & Jenny Archibald** ('Bryn Collen, Ffostrasol, Llandysul, SA44 5SB, Wales, UK)
(Seed of selected species. catalogue online at <http://www.jjaseeds.com/>)
- **Rupert Bowlby** (The Bulb Nursery, Gatton, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0TA)
Bulbs &corms of selected species. Catalogue available on request from Rupert at Rupert.Bowlby@care4free.net . Website <http://www.rupert.bowlby.care4free.net/>
- **Great Western Gladiolus** Email: clutton.glads@btinternet.com
Listing includes a number of South African taxa.
- **Monocot Nursery** (St Michaels, Littleton, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6NT, UK)
(Seed and bulbs of selected species)
- **Terry Smale** (28 St. Leonards Rd, Epsom Downs, Surrey, KT18 5RH, UK)
An interesting selection of Southern African taxa offered by a member of this group - Catalog online at <http://www.smale1.demon.co.uk/index.htm>
- **Springbank Nurseries** (Springbank Nursery, Winford Rd, Newchurch, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 0JX)
A considerable range of hybrids, and a few species, are listed in the catalogue.

South African suppliers

- **Silverhill Seeds** (PO Box 53108, Kenilworth, 7745, Cape Town, RSA)

(Extensive range of seed, catalogue online at www.silverhillseeds.co.za Please note that the paper catalogue has been continued after all, but the nursery is suspending sales during the mid winter months. The focus of the listings will, in future, place more emphasis on Western Cape taxa). The most recent catalogue was circulated in December 2005.

- **Rust-en-Vrede Nursery** (PO Box 753, Brackenfell, 7561, RSA)
(A very good list of seed and corms)
- **Gordon Summerfield** (PO Box 5150, Helderberg, Somerset West, 7135, RSA)
(A fine list of seed and corms, many with provenance data). Catalogue is available via Email as a Word attachment. The Email address is summerfields@xsinet.co.za
- **African Bulbs** (P.O. Box 26, Napier 7270, RSA)
(Catalogue of selected Eastern Cape and Western Cape bulbs and seeds online at www.africanbulbs.com/ Formerly known as The Croft Wild Bulb Nursery)

USA suppliers

- **Telos Rare Bulbs** (P. O. Box 4147, Arcata, CA 95518, USA)
This US based nursery has recently advertised that it is resuming overseas shipments. The catalogue, which contains an extensive range of Oxalis, is on the web at <http://www.telosrarebulbs.com/index.html>

In addition to the above a number of society seed distribution schemes, including those of the International Bulb Society, the Indigenous Bulb Association of South Africa, the Alpine Garden Society and the North American Rock Garden Society can be productive sources of material.

A formerly useful source, the Botanical Society of South Africa, has withdrawn seed distribution to overseas members. Purchasing from the Kirstenbosch seed list is still possible but the range of species available is limited

Recent literature of interest to growers of South African bulbs and corms

by **Robin Attrill**

A recent issue (vol 58) of *Herbertia*, the Journal of the International Bulb Society (see <http://www.bulbsociety.org/>) contains several items of interest including two new *Crinum spp* from Madagascar by David Lehmillier (pp111-122), three articles by Charles Craib on *Nerine huttoniae* and *N. laticoma* (pp127-130), *Nerine pancratioides*

(pp131-136 and *Strumaria hardyana* (pp 137-140) respectively, and an interesting technical article on *Massonia pustulata* by Karl Zimmer (pp169-173)..

In addition the journal contains a comprehensive listing of global geophyte literature for 2003, which includes material of relevance to this group.

Also of interest is a recent article in *The Plantsman* (New Series, vol 4, part 4, pp220 – 226) by Graham Duncan on *Haemanthus* and their cultivation. Unfortunately no key to the winter growing species is included, but the article is otherwise excellent with splendid illustrations.

If any member comes across useful literature relevant to the subject matter of this group, please let me know so that I can include it in the newsletter.