

Newsletter



From the Desk of the Chairman.....

First thing is yes I'm not here! Sunny Spain, I hope.

So what has changed this year? I think it's the shop that has. It's now a big part of our shows. Thank you Lisa for your hard work. She has had lots of help at the shows but has driven it to where it is now.

Lee as always has been the backbone of the club, thank you Lee from me and I think all the members. It should also be said what he has done for the FBH has made us all a very important club.

Yes Beth, the work that you have put in on the magazine with the help of Mick has been amazing. Keep it up, you two.

Since we changed the rules to allow more than one person from a family to be on the committee, this has changed the whole club. Before it would have meant that 2 very active members would have been lost to the committee. A massive thank you to the Hollman's.

Mick and Pat, it's a privilege to have you with us.... and the cake.

Dougal and Shirley, your work with the shops and wholesalers was terrific. The best raffle the club has had. Thank you.

Dan, what can I say, thank you.

To all that have attended the shows, the face of ESRAS, thank you. You should all try to come its great fun.

With 10 shows already booked we should have a great year.... again.

We are hoping to have some good talks this year so lots to look forward to.

This year it is 25 years since we were formed, and we are still going strong with new members each and every year.

Now think of me in a Mankini by the pool... sorry could not resist it, hope you can keep the cake down!

See you all next month, thank you all!

- Dave

Secretary's Report

The 2016-17 year has been a rather good one for the society, we have expanded our membership and welcomed some great new members to compliment the wonderful people we have as members already. This coming year we can only hope to further expand our membership.

This past year we have put on some amazing shows and displays at both some of our tried and tested venues, and at some very exciting new ones, and in the coming year we are already looking at our calendar filling up again.

Once again, our presence at STEM's Big Bang Fair South East in Ardingly was extremely well received and has led to other offers from people getting in touch for us to come along to their shows and events.

Our commitment to STEM is great and we enjoy their trust in us to put on an educational and entertaining shows. This coming year we have been afforded a stage at their Eastbourne event as they recognise what we bring to their events.

Our 2 newest events for the coming year are to be our biggest ever, with our show at The Cuckoo Fayre at Laughton in May being 3 DAYS long, then again attending the September Laughton Autumn show for 2 days. Last year in September, we had an amazing time and were very well received by all, including the organisers who took a chance on us.

The year ahead promises to be interesting for many reasons... One for what is going through government currently with the review of animal establishment licensing, and the repeal of article 2 and the affect it will have on the reptile shows like Doncaster.

So here is to another great year for the society, with hopefully more great members to compliment who we already have, and to putting on more great shows to show off and celebrate the amazing animals we all have such a passion for!

- Lee

ESRAS Secretary

Treasury Report

2016-17 was a good year for the society, with us being able to offer a subsidised trip to Doncaster to our members; plus the BBQ and the Xmas meeting all paid for by the society, owing to our great shows and our excellent merchandise, and the income from them.

Our finances are stable, and with the upcoming shows for 2017-18 our finances should be stood in good stead.

Due to problems with our bank this past year, we do not have a formal treasury report but with everything now sorted out, things will be back to normal for the 2017-18 year.

- Dan

ESRAS Treasurer

Merchandise Report

Firstly, a BIG thank you to the committee for letting me loose with ESRAS's money and for trusting me to turn it into a profit (which we have done every year since we started in 2014).

Secondly, a BIG thank you to everyone that has bought something from our now not so little shop. Members are the first customers to see the new stock, so we gauge your reaction to see how well the stock will sell at shows.

This year we went overboard on new stock, plushes, mugs, new keyrings etc.... We spent a total of £1216 on stock this year and we sold £1341 ending up the year with a profit of £125. We now have enough stock to take us well into the forthcoming year, so everything we make from now is pure profit.

Although the new stock is more expensive, we will be keeping on the 'Pocket Money' range as I feel this is very important and I am also looking for more stock for this range with sand animal's toys at the top of my list at the moment.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone that has helped with the shop throughout the year, with special thanks to Pat without her support I would not be able to get the shop set up in time and for her fresh ideas on products and making the stall more attractive. Also to AJ for making our life easier by buying us a clipboard and making the shop look more official.

Really excited for our (not so) little shop and cannot wait to start selling!!

- Lisa

Web/I.T Report

2016-17 has been another year of growth for our online presence, with our public Facebook page attracting more visitors and more likes with each passing month. We are now at 360 likes, and we have had more interaction and sharing of our posts - and even enquiries for shows and events via the page. Feel free to like and share the page to your friends.

Our website continues to attract around 50-100 visitors a day on average and we have had peaks as high as 300 with people looking around more of the site and staying longer. It is also generating bookings for us also and a few membership enquiries and we are the #1 result when looking for anything to do with reptiles in East Sussex.

This coming year I am looking to expand our online social media presence in different ways with the intent to grow our society and its reach.

- Lee

ESRAS Web & I.T

Newsletter Report

This issue is our three year AGM anniversary newsletter and what a great year it's been! We've had lots of pieces written for us over the past few months; with some celebrity interviews and important FBH announcements, to name but a few.

Last year, our total online downloads had just peaked at 1200 – a number that was frankly staggering then. Flash forward one year later, and we have hit the enormous figure of 3000 downloads.

I have, as always, enjoyed making this with my amazing co-editor Mick, and I really hope you all enjoy seeing the end product as much as I do.

I'm rather proud at what we've made with your support and suggestions, as without your pieces and advice our newsletter would not be what it is today. As always - que the groans - I would like to remind you that all pieces are welcome and I'm hoping for quite a few more before our next AGM, so beware all members that have escaped from writing for the newsletter yet!

- Beth and Mick



I am delighted to inform you all that we will be welcoming Amanda Miller from Hurstpierpoint Bat Hospital, part of the Sussex Bat Group, along to our meeting on 3rd May together with some of her mammalian flying friends, to give us a talk about bats.

Amanda will also be bringing along some 1Lb jars of local honey (£5 each) and 1oz bars of pure beeswax (70p each) available to purchase on the night. All proceeds from these sales go toward the running of the bat hospital.

If you would like to place a pre-order for either the honey or beeswax to avoid disappointment please contact Dougal Ansley, either on Facebook or at the April AGM meeting. Pre orders must be in by 22nd April.





FINDING HOMES FOR LIFE

How it works

How FBH Reptile Re-homing works

Animals will be posted on the Facebook page from member clubs and societies with details of the animal including a picture, a full description and details such as age and sex [if known] and any outstanding health issues, plus contact details for the club/society offering the animal for potential re-homers to liaise with them.

All animals promoted on the Facebook page will fall into one of three categories A, B or C. Category A animals are available to anyone to adopt free of charge with the requirement that they join a participating club or society before receiving the animal, this ensures that new keepers have access to expert advice for at least the 1st year of ownership.

Category B animals are only available to existing members of affiliated clubs and societies & Category C animals are only available to specialist keepers with suitable facilities or recognised institutions.

FBH Reptile Rehoming categorisation schedule

- **Cat A species**
 - Lizards: Bearded Dragon, Leopard Gecko, Crested Gecko, Blue-tongue Skink
 - Snakes: Corn Snake, King Snakes (*getulus* spp) and Royal Python
 - Amphibians: White's Tree Frog, Fire-bellied Toad, Axolotl
- **Cat B species All species not on schedule A or C**
- **Cat C species**
 - Constrictors capable of exceeding 4 meters
 - Lizards capable of exceeding 1 metre
 - All Crocodylians
 - All venomous species, including rear-fanged
 - All Annex A species (excluding Mediterranean tortoises)

Links to our Website and Facebook pages

www.fbh.org.uk/fbhrr



www.facebook.com/rep.rehome

