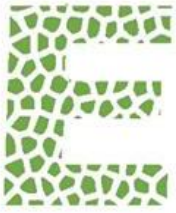


Newsletter

AGM Issue



Well fellow members, we are back here again, how time flies. It only seems a year since the last one. We once more have had a good year; new members, shows and meeting new people.

I will start with the sad news that Daren is stepping down from the position of vice chairman and from the committee. If it was not for Darren, we would not be here today. Over stating? No. I really believe that this man was the savour of ESRAS. Daren, a massive thank you from me and the club.

We have a trip to Donny coming up, with a club table. We are in the club area, so we can have a nice chat with all of the other clubs.

Our involvement with the F.B.H is at the highest it has ever been, this is down entirely to me! OK, I have LENT them my Lee for the Hands Off Our Hobby, FBH Reptile Re-home site and the web site, plus lots of other things that Mr Newman can see fit to send Lee's way.

This, in the long run, is good for ESRAS as a club and the future looks bright.

I would also at this point like to thank the rest of the committee for their tireless efforts and hard work in every aspect of the running of the society, without whom none of this is possible.

Things we need to do, we need talks at club meetings. With meetings on a Wednesday, it's very difficult due to travel arrangements. If anyone can get hold of a speaker, please let us know.

I will try to get some holiday photos sorted - no not the ones with me in a tankini, sorry! - But lots of reptiles, amphibians, insects and arachnids. Let me know if you want to be bored.

At the shows we always need help, you don't need to be an expert, just able answer easy questions.

It is still a privilege to be Chairman of our club and I would love to continue.

Thank you,

- Dave

Secretary's Report 2015/16

Hello everyone, Lee here, your ESRAS secretary.

2015/16 has been quite a good year for the society and although member numbers this year were down on last year's, memberships were not that short and we have over 60 members with many of them being new members to the society.

We have had some new venues this year for shows and events, including St Lukes School which was very well attended, along with some of our regular venues including this year's STEMfest which was attended by more than 7,500 people. This is 2,000 up on last year and this coming year's event is forecast for even more!

All of the shows we do are great fun and we love doing them.

It has been fantastic to see so many of our newest members at the shows having fun and joining in with the showing of the animals and education of the people who attend, also getting the same satisfaction from doing the shows as those of us who have been doing them for a while now regularly do. Of course, not everyone can or wants to help out at the shows and events that we put on and attend, but if you are someone who would like to and want to know what is involved, then please feel free to talk to one of our committee members about it to learn more.

Both of our socials this year went really well with the BBQ and the Xmas meetings being really well attended. I would like to thank everyone who helped with these and to everyone who turned up to make them such memorable evenings.

I would also like to thank Patricia, Nicky and Dan's Auntie for their donations of the cakes for the meetings, which has helped us raise money for the FBH.

If anyone else would like to contribute to this please let me know.

I can only hope for a much better 2016/17 where we go from strength to strength and add many more members to our ranks.

ESRAS Secretary,

- Lee

Treasurers Report

Hello everyone, 2015/16 has been quite a good year for E.S.R.A.S with the club making more than we spent again, even though some of our larger shows this year weren't as well attended as we have had in the past. We have had some very good new shows come along this year, which have really pulled in the crowds.

For the second year running, the merchandise has performed tremendously breaking what we made last year and is getting better year on year. Things are looking great going forward with new lines being looked at all the time.

Deposits for this year have totalled £2480.85 with expenses totalling £2000.18 which means we are £480.07 up for the year, even with the purchase of some major equipment for shows and new signs and banners.

Looking forward to 2016/17, we are in a very strong position and the bookings are already starting to come in from old and new sources which bodes well, and with the merchandise performing better year on year we are certain that this year we should do even better for the club.

Web and I.T. Report 2015/16

This year has been a good year for the society online, with the website now into its 2nd year, now recording much better visitation figures with an average of 120 hits and 400+ pages being viewed every day.

Our Facebook page is still growing but now up to 330 likes which is amazing and we get many contacts through the page wanting advice or bookings and also rehomes which we also get through the ESRAS email also.

Recently ESRAS has taken the lead role in the Setting up, Design, Launching, and Running of the brand new FBH Reptile Re-homing scheme which was launched on the 18th of March after a lot of hard work which aims to be the biggest free re-homing scheme in the country for reptiles and exotics as we grow.

For 2016/17 I hope to improve our online presence even further, also I want to improve and bring up to date all of our handouts and educational materials, including a new display board for the shows.

- Lee

Newsletter Report

This issue is our two year AGM anniversary newsletter and what a great year it's been! I have really enjoyed making this with my lovely co-editor Mick, and I really hope you all enjoy seeing the end product as much as I do. We've had lots of pieces written for this over the past few months; about our shows, some celebrity interviews and important FBH announcements, to name but a few.

With over 1200 downloads and counting, 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, 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 us yet!

- Beth and Mick

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2016/17

2016/17 is going to be a big year for our hobby with many things going on, and struggles and battles to be fought.

E.F.R.A. Animal Welfare Inquiry

On February 4th 2016 the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee (E.F.R.A.) announced a series of short inquiries on animal welfare, concerning The Animal Welfare Act to be conducted over this parliament - the 1st is focusing on domestic pets including Dogs, Cats and Horses. There will also be one on Exotic pets to come.

In the UK, about 1 in 2 households owns a pet. The Animal Welfare Act places a legal obligation on owners and keepers of animals to care for them properly. The inquiry will examine the effectiveness of the Act and its enforcement with regards to domestic animals. The inquiry will also examine whether that Act and other existing legislation remains fit for purpose in the age of the internet with regards to the sale of domestic pets online.

The Federation of British Herpetologists (FBH) along with the Reptile and Exotic Pet Trade Association (REPTA) are fighting our corner every step of the way and doing everything they can do to influence the way that this inquiry goes, so that the antis do not get their way and that sensible legislation is introduced.

F.B.H. Reptile Re-homing Scheme

The 18th of March 2016 saw the culmination of 12 months of hard work with the launch of the FBH Reptile Re-homing Scheme via Facebook. The scheme hopes to become the UK's biggest free reptile re-homing scheme ever run by the FBH and its affiliate clubs, and is aimed at rehoming animals with keepers backed by an FBH affiliated club that come the wealth of knowledge we all know resides within them.

Rehomes will be posted on the FBH Reptile Re-homing Facebook page and people can register either at the time, or they can pre-register, before and help re-home animals from all over the country, hopefully making it much easier to rehome the animals and quicker on the whole. Also the animals although may be going to novices (from Category A) they will have to join an affiliated club and so will have access to real keepers and real knowledge also.

You can register by going to the FBH website (<http://www.fbh.org.uk/fbhrr.html>) and going through to the FBH Reptile Re-homing page and downloading the Re-homers Pack.





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



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