

Newsletter

Issue #1 - April



Chairman's Foreword:

Off to a super start to our year!

At last, the web page has been updated! A very big thank you to Lee Hollman, for lots of hard work on the site and Facebook.

Beth with help from Lisa, are as you can see now running the news letter, may this be a start of many more.

If you can write a small (or big) piece for future news letters, it will be a great help.

How about:

- What you do to keep your pet happy (I don't talk to mine).
- What you feed, clean out, light, heat and help life enhance.
- If you find bits from the web or papers, please forward it to the editor.
- Funny things they or you do.
- List the top 10 questions at shows (the good and bad)

Try it out, you could like it and go on to write lots of books!

Wishing you all a very happy ESRAS new year.

Your loving Chairman,

Dave Breden

Welcome to the ESRAS newsletter!

Hello and welcome to the first of many ESRAS newsletters! These will contain top tips for shows, articles from our Chairman and our Treasurer as well as many others. We will also include run downs of the show calendar and keep you updated about FBH and APA news.

Beth

Top 10 show questions

1. Is it poisonous?
2. Can it eat me?
3. Sorry, is it poisonous?
4. Will it bite me?
5. If it bites me will I die?
6. That's poisonous, isn't it?
7. But aren't all snakes poisonous?
8. Why won't it bite me?
9. When they are that colour they're poisonous, aren't they?
10. Is it poisonous?

The Newsletter Rundown

Continuing on from Dave's foreword, I'd like to invite all members who feel they would like to contribute to the newsletter to send in any articles, anecdotes, stories or experiences etc. All submissions will be appreciated. Please feel free to contact me on the Facebook group, at meetings or shows, or via the following email.

esras.uk@gmail.com

Please take care to title your subject "FAO Newsletter Editor", so it will come to my immediate attention. - Beth

ESRAS & Our new Social Media Presence

Over the past few months I have been tasked with updating the current ESRAS website and Facebook group, plus designing our New Facebook page and launching us on Twitter, to give us a bigger presence on the Web but especially on social media, so we can offer a more interactive and accessible portal to the public and to our members.

The updated website now features a new look and updated pages with newer photos, details and descriptions.

- New Events page with updated diary with links to shows and their respective websites or locations.
- New Gallery page featuring Animals, Events, Amusing Photos and Exotic of the Month.
- Updated Links page.
- Updated and improved Contact page featuring all new numbers and Emails and a new Map of where we are, plus links to our Facebook and Twitter pages allowing people to access us from any of the three pages to any of the other pages.
- Exotic of the Month is another of the new features in which each month we will feature a new animal with a brief history and photos plus a comprehensive care sheet to download.

The New Facebook page will now become our public interface on Facebook with the now existing group becoming a Secret group with access only being granted to fully paid up members of the society.

The new page will still feature all upcoming events and shows so people can see where we will be exhibiting and come along to see us, plus a selection of photos from the shows, news and general area for chat.

The group as stated will be made Members Only and will be the only place where sales, exchanges and rehomes can be listed as any on the page will be removed as this is a benefit of being a fully paid up member.

As for Twitter this will take some time for us to establish our presence but we will get there and this can be used to live tweet from shows to let people know what we are up to, I can only ask that members help with getting the fact we are on Twitter out there into the public domain.

I would also ask that members try to make people aware of all of our online presence and encourage people to visit us here.

Let us hope for a great year and I ask that if anyone has any photos, Ideas for **the site exotics to be featured** that they please contact me directly via any method.

Lee.

Chairman's report 2013/14

It just does not seem a year since the last annual report.

What haven't we managed to achieve this year:

New viv's, still can't find the type we need. Nice to look at, strong, light and plastic. We are going to look at some made in Spain. We are only able to view them at the shows so we will look at them in Donny or Kempton Park.

Trip, the day out to Cotswold Wildlife Park, due to lack of interest. Maybe this year?

Things we have done:

The Big Bang for STEMfest in Crawley and Saltdean Lido Fun day. These were massive.

4th May Paradise Park Newhaven. Good day well attended.

18th May Deans Festival Woodingdean. Wow! What a day, such a super display. The day was voted the Best Sussex Community Event, but on the down side we had to share the hall with the 60 Texan Cheerleaders that had to do their warm up, right next to us!!! Life is hard at times at the shows. Had to change my top, dribbled too much, don't know why?

22nd May Southover School, Lewes, Science Week. We did 10 classes in one day, up to 60 at a time. It was a very hard day.

1st June Saltdean Lido fun day. Another good day, just under 1000 came to see us in a marquee.

2nd July STEMfest the Big Bang, Crawley. We had a big marquee and about 3000 kids visited. We had to be ready to go by 9.15 so this involved lots of hard work, but it was enjoyed by lots of budding scientist's.

6th July Glebe Primary School. Not good this year. They put 3 bouncy castles so you didn't know we were there! I don't think we will do it this year.

13th July Rodmill fun day. Small, but fun. Once again, not this year.

20th July Middle Street Primary School. Small but about 50 meters from the head office of the APA.

August our trip to Kempton park, table at the show and One, the retic, got the best snake in show.

25th August Newtown Social Club in Bognor Regis. Just a small show, with Dan and me. The club was paid £130 for the day.

September and the FBH, AGM and IHS show in Doncaster. First in show for the club again, for Daren and Dan's rhino rat snakes.

27th September talk to the Green Triangle Burgess Hill. Exotics, re home and invasive species...

This year we have already done the Brighton Science festival. With about 2000 visitors a bigger area than last year was required, so two good size classrooms next to each other were made available. We were voted top in 2 categories; best and scary display.

We have at last got the web page updated. Lee is also doing Facebook and he has opened a Twitter account (@ESRAS_UK) very big thank you to Lee for this. Beth, with help from Lisa, is taking over the newsletter/magazine. If you can write, even a small piece it will help with the next magazine. All I can say is what a family.

The committee has had some changes with 6 new press-ganged into it I hope you will all vote for them/us for next year.

Daren has been doing the 2 jobs with the most work, Treasurer and Secretary, so a very big thank you from me and, I hope, all of you. We tried to get a Secretary and have failed twice, so it was the only way forward, torture members till someone gave in. We and you were lucky! The first one we went for gave in (too easy I think). I would like you all to make this post permanent well for the next year. Vote for Ann Teague.

So your committee is at the moment as follows:

Chairman. Dave Breden

Treasurer. Daren Trafford

Secretary. Ann Teague

IT. Lee Hollman

Magazine. Bethany Spence

Magazine. Lisa Hollman

Glenda Law

Martine Smith

Andy Teague

Dan booker

This is, I think, the biggest committee ESRAS has had, but as we get more successful I think it's required.

Lee with help from others has revamped the rehoming forms, take a look and see what you think. The Crown re home can't be changed, if you get or have an animal from them you have to follow what they say!

The APA has once again stopped two shows. If they win on this, it will be the beginning of the end of our hobby. They don't care about animal welfare. It's making a name for themselves and lining their pockets!

Back the FBH. The club has two members on the main committee. Let's try to do more. We also have a good rapport with other clubs, this is in part to having a club table at shows.

Last year was very successful, let's hope things keep getting better.

Dave Breden

Chairman

Show Review – Bright Sparks Sat 15th – Sun 16th Feb 2014

On Saturday I turned up at Hove Park School not quite sure what to expect as I have never participated in one of our large shows before, jumping straight in, helping clean and setup the vivarium's, set out and house all of the animals in both rooms, with an amazing team effort we were finished in time for a cup of tea before we needed to open the doors to the public.

The day started off slow with people trickling into both rooms but after a while the pace quickened and soon enough it seemed as though there were people and reptiles everywhere you looked with everyone having a great time, in the end 800+ people came to the event which was probably affected by the weather and the Brighton Marathon that weekend.

I am quite new to reptile keeping, so the shows for me are as much about learning new things about the animals for my own knowledge as they are helping other people with their knowledge and fears, although the most common questions seem to be "Will it Bite?" and "Will it eat Me?!".

Half way through the day lunch was provided for us which was very nice and a welcome break to sit down for a few minutes.

On Sunday the day went very much the same way but it was lovely and sunny so we had more than 1000 people at the event that day, so over 1800 people over the 2 days which was amazing.

I really enjoy participating in the shows, I love seeing the children's and adults faces when they hold a snake or lizard for the very first time and I love being able to help people over their misconceptions and fears of reptiles or just generally talking about them. Most of all I like being part of a team trying to teach and make a difference.

When Sunday came to an end and all the vivs, equipment and animals had been packed away, waiting to be collected and be stored away again. I think we all felt it was a tiring but extremely rewarding time.

I personally cannot wait for the next show to come around.

Lisa.

Upcoming Events:

Paradise Park

10th May 10am-4pm

11th May 11am-3pm

These shows are done out of rubs.

The Deans Festival

17th May 10am-5pm

Eastbrooke Primary Fete

14th June 14:00pm–16:00pm

Raystede Summer Fair 2014

29th June – times unknown.

The Big Bang 2014

1st July – times unknown.

**EVER WANTED TO LOOK THIS
GOOD WITHOUT BEING DAVE ?**



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AVAILABLE FROM DAVE OR
DAREN FOR £5**