

Annual General Assamblage 2014

The **Annual General Assamblage** took place on the 17th May 2014 at Arco. As always, friends and members were welcomed. Chas Longhurst welcomed new members and interested friends two of whom travelled from Velez Rubio and one from Germany to attend. Hermann Schleich spoke of the developments at the Centre during the past year and there were huge thanks and acknowledgements made for the support and generosity of time given by participating members. Several members and friends contributed tapas which were enjoyed with drinks after the meeting.



The sudden death of **Terry Gildert** in January has left us all shocked and with a big gap to fill at ARCO. He had a huge input over the last eighteen months. We shall miss him. Terry was finally laid to rest in El Pilar, Lubrin, near to his home. Many friends got together at the beginning of March in Uleila to celebrate his quite extraordinary life with music and food, two of Terry's passions. More details please find on special issue on our website, too.

A quiet winter passed with not much happening. However, the **Marmoset monkeys** surprised us with a **baby born** (photo below left) during the night of the 13/14th February. The youngster is doing well and becoming strong as you can see from the photographs taken to show growth rate. During the first week of April, when the baby would be approximately 2 months old, it was observed being taken by the mother and left on the roof of their heated winter casita. Here it was left totally alone. At first it was quite unsure of what to do and then, as the photo shows, it became more confident and started to explore.



Sadie, Judy (photo to the right) and Sylvia took a table at the **Ecomercado in Lucainena** to promote Arco. The display of books about Amphibians and Reptiles of Almeria and some home made preserves was set up during gale force winds which made it very difficult for all the stall-holders. However the wind relented as the day progressed. Books and preserves were sold

and donations collected. The market ran once a month up to and including June and has become a popular event, taking place in the Salón Social close to the public swimming pool in Lucainena de las Torres.

In March, El Bar Almendro in La Mela hosted a quiz night in memory of Terry. This was well attended with lots of questions centred around the christian name "TERRY".

A donation of €55 was received by Sylvia on behalf of Arco.

Our **website is completed**. Please take a look at **www.arco-spain.org**. We have Catherine Arthur to thank for establishing this. Her expertise and patience has made this web site possible.

Arco Nepal

The visit to Nepal in February by Hermann was a success. He received a very warm welcome and the Turtle Rescue & Conservation Centre in Jhapa district is making progress in its development. Even first egg laying can already be reported of Roofed turtles. More information on this important conservation project one may find by the newsletters at the website: www.arco-nepal.de



Help from volunteers (Adriano Catalan and friend) being much acknowledged especially for this hard work of cleaning the ponds and catching fishes and turtles as well as for refilling and replanting



Otros trabajos son preparaciones para hibernar (gracias a Henk por su apoyo) o conseguir y dar comida casi diariamente durante todo el verano

El census de los animales va junto con la limpieza de las charcas y balsas cada par de años y las tortugas terrestres ya deparasitamos cada año junto con su census

During the year much help and support was given in areas of veterinary (Jose Maria Rodriguez Linde), maintenance (Bill & Sylvia), fundraising and promotion, including the website. All of which Arco needs to continue with its important conservation work.

Future

The centre is growing and it is obvious full-time help has become necessary. The work of a volunteer biologist, Esperanza Rodriguez, during September was an enormous contribution and highlighted the need for this. Arco-Spain is benefitting from the continued enthusiasm of Esperanza, who is undertaking to fundraise and promote Arco-Spain through social media.

An increase in **Membership** would enable more to be done. If every existing member could recruit one other person to join, then Arco-Spain would be closer to achieving a viable centre for conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

Finally, Hermann Schleich guided a group around the ponds and enclosures. From experience, we now realize May is not the best month to have the annual meeting as it is a busy month for communions and other events, thus trying to realize next meeting in April or early June.

We look forward to 2015 and more achievements and progress, none of which could be attained without the great collaboration of members, friends, volunteers and the enthusiasm of our committee.

Acknowledgements



Ray Perkins and Len Toop representing the Albox Computer Club came to visit our Instituto y Nucleo Zoológico to donate two laptops for ARCO. We greatly acknowledge this support!

Photo: Bill & Sylvia Geldeard, Len Toop

Sylvia Geldeard, secretary

And last but unforgotten, most cordial thanks to all volunteer members, helpers and friends who made the year successful!

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