

Frank Bowles



Older members of Lothian Amphibian and Reptile Group will probably remember Frank Bowles, who died recently.

Frank moved from England to work in Glasgow and subsequently settled in Dundee, where he taught graphic art at the local FE college.

I've been privileged to know Frank for more than 15 years, from when he was instrumental in establishing the Lothian ARG, but he was at the centre of developments in Scotland for much longer than that, initially as area representative to HGBI (to become ARG UK) and also as Scottish Groups Liaison Officer for BHS.

Frank contributed significantly to early work by R. Bustard with Natterjack toads on the Solway, as well as his own "projects" around the Dundee and Angus areas, work which, as far as possible, he continued until some three years ago. He had extensive knowledge of amphibians and reptiles in Scotland, information which he readily shared with others, and was active in encouraging and facilitating the establishment of a number of Scottish ARGs.

Frank was the absolute epitome of the enthusiastic, expert, amateur herpetologist, who looks for no reward but is unstinting in his support and encouragement of others. I have fond memories of looking for adders with Frank in the Lammermuirs Hills.

In 2010, on behalf of ARG UK, I was honoured to present Frank with the inaugural Julia Wycherley Award for his outstanding contribution to herpetology, something which Frank accepted with his usual grace and humility.

Frank Bowles will be sadly missed.