

'EL SENILLAR'

Moraira Lagoon Project

The Lagoon Project is an activity group within the Moraira-Teulada U3A and is part of the 'Friends of Avinença' initiative which enables foreign residents to become more aware of the Valencian Region through the eyes of local conservation experts, and to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise, between foreign residents and local organisations helping to preserve the Valencian natural, historical and cultural heritage

For further details please visit our website: www.avinenca.es

The Moraira Lagoon Project was inaugurated in November 2010 with over 70 members opting to join one or more of the various sub-groups. To many it may seem that there has been little going on but behind the scenes there has been much activity and we have recently begun to reap the benefits of many hours spent at meetings and visits to various local and regional government departments, establishing contacts and protocols.

However, a number of the sub-groups have been active over the past months. Read a synopsis of their work below!

The local Ayuntamiento, initially issued the project team with a 'permit to work' valid to June 2011. So pleased are they with our efforts to date that the new permit extends our authorisation to **December 2012!**

The Regional Government, for their part, recently issued our team with a **certification of approval** for our ecological and conservation work at 'El Senillar'. The project group is being taken very seriously by the authorities and we are receiving support and guidance from a number of world renowned and respected, specialist departments.

Below are some of our activity groups. If you'd like to know more, email us at:
teulada.forall@yahoo.es

Bird Survey Group - Nigel Bentley and his team have been recording the bird life visiting and breeding in the unique location of the lagoon and environs. Their first report, submitted to the relevant authorities, indicates a wide variety of species. The survey is ongoing.

Flora Group - Joan and Tom Birch and their team are busy recording details of the indigenous and exotic plant species within the protected area of the lagoon. We are working with the authorities to remove the exotic species and will soon start a replanting programme to introduce additional native species.

Horticulture Group - Wendy Loxley and her team have been quietly waiting in the wings. During the last few months we have established contact with the Endangered Species Seed Bank and as soon as the season starts the team will be receiving seeds and seedlings for growing in preparation for populating the lagoon in the future.

Fauna Group - Julian Hambrook and his team are surveying the animal life within the environs. There are exotic species that will be removed, mainly Florida Turtles, but we stress ALL ANIMALS WILL BE RE-LOCATED, NOT DESTROYED. The local and Regional authorities have strict procedures for handling these animals. In the Lagoon there are two species of fish on the endangered species list and the team's efforts are concentrating on improving their environment and working in conjunction with the relevant Valencian authorities.

Water Survey Group - Colin McNae and his team have submitted plans on improving and enlarging the lagoon by raising and maintaining a stable water level. This will be an important part of the project.

Guardianship Group - Keith Yeulett and his team meet regularly to maintain the appearance of the lagoon. They are working with the Ayunatmiento team to remove the exotic reeds, clear dead undergrowth and 'spruce up' the site. There's plenty more to do and we are entering an exciting and rewarding part of the project. Why not come and join us!