

NORFOLK & COE TORTOISE CLUB - AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER
All meetings will be held at St Francis Church Hall, Rider Haggard Road, Heartsease, Norwich on 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The May meeting was very interesting with Louise the Vet from Horsford telling us about the best ways to treat an anorexic tortoise & many of us were pleased to hear about her newly opened practice to add to our list of specialist reptile Vets as when something nasty happens it is good not to have to travel too far for reassurance & fast treatment.

The June meeting was the on/off/on worming meeting & we are grateful to Dillon that he managed to get there despite his busy workload (although I am not so sure the tortoises enjoyed it)

The July meeting welcomed the popular extended family of one of our members Donna + her daughter Talulah – they are fast becoming an annual attraction all the members enjoy meeting some of her collection – she travels a considerable distance to educate us & we all appreciate her efforts & commitment to the club.

Jack one of our younger members who is fast becoming an expert (watch out Dillon) gave us a power point demonstration of his tortoise garden & its two very happy occupants – I understand he also did some time at our Stand at The Royal Norfolk Show which is much appreciated as many younger people interested in tortoise keeping will get the message that it can be an interest for all ages not just for those of us as old as the tortoises. We certainly need to encourage the younger members as we would all like to know that our tortoises will have someone to take care of them as many will outlive us.

The Royal Show was a great success & we spoke to hundreds of people & had an enjoyable time of course the good weather helped & the tortoises on display all appeared none the worse for their busy 2 days (even the greedy Sulcata who swallowed a bee & nearly caused a medical emergency) after a rest in the shade he was soon back to eating again.

Two other members of our Club who wish to remain anonymous kindly raised £100 at Hempnall School Fete by running a Tom bola – the funds are much appreciated & in addition to other things help towards vet costs etc., for sick tortoises signed over to the club.

Eleanor decided to pull out of the Holkham Festival because of bad weather & she also had transport problems & so apologies to any of our members who were due to help & we hope that the messages got through to everyone on time.

Next Meeting Wednesday 19th August 2009 John Hounslow from the UK Cites Management Authority from will be coming from Bristol to update us on the paperwork & cost etc., involved in breeding/importing & of keeping tortoises.

Meeting on Wednesday 16th September 2009

This is probably the most important meeting of the year as it is the preparation for hibernation meeting which seems to come around all too quickly – if you are worried about your tortoise's weight please bring him/her along in a secure box & there will be ample time to discuss any concerns.

Meeting on Wednesday 21st October 2009

We are still waiting for confirmation of who will speak at this meeting but I will ask for a note to be posted on the website or you can ring me for information on 01603 438050 nearer the date.

We may be having a stand at the Gala day at the Costessey Showground on 6th September but please ring if you would like confirmation nearer the time.

Should you wish to receive our newsletter **quarterly by post** the annual cost is £5 to cover postage etc., please contact Daphne on 01603 435723, Lynne 01603 438050.

Should you have any queries or need any advice, please ring the above & if we cannot help we will try & direct you to somebody who can.

Information is always available on the website www.tortoiseclub.org but if you do not have access to a computer & would like a newsletter or care sheets etc., please contact us.

NOTE:

I have the e mail addresses of several club members & am sending this newsletter direct – if you would like to join this list please let me have your details – email me on derek22lynne@btinternet.com

Some of us are also members of the British Chelonia Group who publish details of our meetings in their newsletter & I have details of their October Meeting held at Chester Zoo on Saturday 17th October & if any members are in that area at the time it is always an interesting day, meeting tortoise keepers from all over the country, interesting speakers & good buffet lunch & free entry to the Zoo when the meeting ends.