

#### **NORFOLK & COE TORTOISE CLUB - FEB 2009 NEWSLETTER**

**All meetings will be held at St Francis Church Hall, Rider Haggard Road, Heartsease, Norwich on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**

Our November meeting was well attended & Mandy talked to us about her tortoise & also educated many of us about the suffering of battery hens. As most of you will know Mandy ran the London Marathon & kindly donated half the proceeds to the Club & half to the Battery Hens Rescue – she brought along a very friendly rescue hen who wandered among us & provided entertainment & also some delicious cakes made with her free range eggs. I am sure many of us learned a lot & hopefully we will all think more carefully about the source of eggs & chicken meat we buy.

Many people were obviously busy on the night of the December meeting & therefore unable to come along which is understandable so near Xmas, however those that did manage to attend enjoyed a friendly evening with lots of food & we would like to thank all those who donated raffle prizes & all those who bought tickets.

Unfortunately Matt who was going to tell us all about keeping marginated tortoises at the January meeting succumbed to one of the seasonal 'bugs' that has been doing the rounds & so Dillon stepped in & entertained us with one of his informative general talks & we do hope Matt will be able to tell us all about the marginated tortoises very soon.

#### **Next Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 8.00pm**

This will be the very important 'preparing for wake up meeting' & of course the most important message to everyone is if your tortoise does not eat/drink promptly & you are in anyway concerned about him or her please contact a vet promptly and/or ring the Club for information about a reptile specialist Vet near you or to discuss your concerns. It is essential to raise any concerns promptly as delay can unfortunately prove fatal – you can bring your tortoise along to one of our meetings for advice, but please ensure it is in a box so as not to mix with any others (we provide hand gel & washing facilities) so as not to spread any infections.

#### **Note for 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009**

Many of you will remember Louise the Vet from North Walsham who came along & gave us an interesting evening she has now set up in practice in Horsford details as below & has invited everyone to her open afternoon on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

[all-creatures@btconnect.com](mailto:all-creatures@btconnect.com)

telephone: 01603 898984 or 897638

Address: Brackenwood, Sandy Lane, Horsford, Norwich NR10 3EB

New Vet Practice is All Creatures Healthcare Ltd

website [www.allcreatureshealthcare.co.uk](http://www.allcreatureshealthcare.co.uk)

#### **Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 8.00pm**

We have Dermot Malley BA MVB FRCVS coming to talk to us he provided the following information about himself & I am sure this will prove a very interesting evening & as usual there will be the opportunity to ask questions following his talk.

Graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1967 and founded his own practice in Wickford, Essex, in 1973 where he gradually built up a referral practice in exotic species and treated many tortoises. He retired from clinical practice in 2004 and is now Visiting Lecturer within the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, University of London. He is now kept fully occupied gardening and undertaking ineffectual DIY, constantly evading the exorbitant demands of his grandson's swear box.

#### **Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 8.00pm**

Barbara Ashford is coming to talk to us, she is a successful breeder of tortoises & among other species keeps horsfield tortoises & we look forward to hearing about her collection.

Eleanor has asked me to include the following information in the Newsletter regarding stands that the Club will have at the Showground this year & she would welcome any enquiries especially offers of help on the day – this is always enjoyable & if enough people volunteer there is always time to be at the stand & also have the opportunity to look around so don't be shy come along & help!

The Tortoise Club will be at the following events this year. If you are able to help for a few hours at one or all of these events please contact Eleanor via meeting, email or phone. Many Thanks [eleanorchubb@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorchubb@gmail.com) 07799688798. All volunteers will receive free entrance to event. Slots are normally organized in morning or afternoon shifts allowing time to see the event yourself. Shorter or longer slots upon request. Additional tickets for family members can be obtained through the Norfolk show ticket line or website. **Contact Details:** RNAA Show Office - 01603 748931 **Website:** [www.norfolkshowground.co.uk](http://www.norfolkshowground.co.uk)

**Spring Fling** – This fun filled day is aimed at children aged 4 -14 years. **When:** Thursday 16 April 2009

**Where:** Norfolk Showground **Opening Times:** 9am - 3.30pm **Ticket Price:** All Tickets £6 (babes in arms free) (includes Hog Roast / Veg Option & Drink)

**East Anglian Game & Country Fair** **When:** Saturday 25 April 2009 – Sunday 26 April 2009

**Where:** Norfolk Showground **Opening Times:** 9am to 5pm **Ticket Price:** Advance Tickets Adults £9 children 5-16 yrs £2 (under 5's free) Parking free [www.ukgamefair.co.uk](http://www.ukgamefair.co.uk)

**The Royal Norfolk Show 2009** **When:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and Thursday 2nd July 2009

**Where:** Norfolk Showground **Ticket Price:** Advance tickets £16, 5-16 yrs £5; seniors £14 (£1 more on the day) **Opening Times:** 8am-8pm

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 or Marion on 01603 783877.

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](http://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](mailto:derek22lynne@btinternet.com)**