

## NORFOLK & COE TORTOISE CLUB - November 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.

The August meeting was saved when Donna kindly stepped in when John Hounslow from DEFRA had to postpone his visit & as usual she entertained us with a good variety of animals including of course tortoises & I am sure we would all like to thank her for the valuable time she gives to the Club, she travels a long distance to be with us & has helped out at all the Shows etc., this year & is always willing to help & give advice whenever she can.

The September meeting was the preparation for hibernation & was well attended & if anyone has ongoing concerns especially in view of the prolonged warm weather please do not hesitate to contact one of the members for advice & Daphne 01603 435723 always has a list of who to call.

John Hounslow made it along to the October meeting & gave us an amusing insight into the complicated world of certificates & the legal issues involved with tortoise keeping & we all appreciated him coming from Bristol on such a wet day & we now have a friendly contact at DEFRA should anyone need to contact them with any queries.

We had a stand at the Gala day at the Costessey Showground on 6<sup>th</sup> September & as usual a restless Sulcata was a crowd puller every time things went quiet he just strolled out onto the grass & drew everyone in – 2 of our members arranged a very popular tombola & raised approx £100 for the club funds & we hope some of the information we managed to hand out will benefit the many pet tortoises out there.

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](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.

The British Chelonia Group who publish details of our meetings in their newsletter held their annual meeting at Chester Zoo which was as always very interesting & a chance to meet tortoise keepers from all over Britain & also look at the tortoises at the Zoo which have a good indoor enclosure but at the moment no outside space. One speaker Tom Garner a teacher from Dudley, was promoting the Galapagos Conservation Trust which runs a Tortoise Club for Schools – I am hoping to invite him to one of our meetings.

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

Andy will be talking to us about his Indian Star Tortoises & also selling cacti suitable for tortoises to eat & as always there will be time to ask questions & seek advice about any of your tortoises.

### **Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm**

This will be our usual Xmas celebration you are invited to bring along some food & any items you may wish to donate to the raffle & as always tortoise queries can be discussed & this will be an opportunity to get to know each other.

### **Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm**

Matt is hoping to be able to give us the long awaited talk about keeping marginated tortoises which he

was unable to do last winter.

Finally we have had the following request from Toni -

**Wanted empty spice jars.**

Odd request I know but these are much needed by the Priscilla Bacon Lodge support group as once filled provide a cherished jar of memories of a loved one lost.

How it works: The children are encouraged to place a layer of coloured sand in their jar every time they have a memory. When the jar is full this is given to them as their very own 'jar of memories'. It is a simple idea but one that helps at this very difficult time.

Rather than throw your jars in the recycling please could you give them to Marion (Chief of the Teas!) and she will pass them on to this very worthy cause. Many thanks for your support