

## NORFOLK & COE TORTOISE CLUB - NOVEMBER 2008 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 well attended & we had general discussions about tortoise welfare, feeding etc.

At the September meeting one of our members Tasha gave us a fascinating incite into keeping Aldabran, Sulcata & Leopard Tortoises all of which need very specialist care & everybody thoroughly enjoyed the presentation & learned a lot. Tasha & her family are obviously dedicated to the care of these creatures & are also willing to try & help others who have questions regarding these very large high maintenance tortoises.

The October meeting was very popular as it is nearly hibernation time again & around 72 people came along 2 ladies travelled from Skegness to ensure that they were doing the right thing for their 2 tortoises. Dillon gave his usual advice & many tortoises came along to have their weight etc checked to make sure they were fit enough to cope with the long sleep ahead.

### Next Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm

Mandy will be talking to us about her baby tortoise & also the Battery Hen Rescue & the chickens she has - she ran the marathon this year & donated the money raised equally between the hens & the tortoises.

There will also be opportunities to raise any questions about your tortoise or bring them along if you need them checked or identified.

If you have any unwanted items suitable for the Xmas raffle/tombola please bring them along.

### Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm

This will be our Xmas get together & all are welcome & it would be appreciated if you are able to bring along something edible. As always of course tortoises are still our main priority & anyone with any queries (or tortoises still awake) can come along.

### Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 at 8.00pm

Matt has volunteered to tell us all about keeping marginated tortoises & I am sure we will all be pleased to learn about these tortoises which are less common than the usual ones we see, but understand they are being successfully captive bred & so we will probably be seeing more as time goes on & Matt's experience will be very useful.

I have been a member of the British Chelonia Group for many years & as usual we made our way to the Northern Symposium which is held every year at Chester Zoo - It sounds very grand but is in fact a chance to meet up with old friends from all over the country & catch up on what is happening to their tortoises.

One of the speakers this year was John Hounslow head of UK Cities MA Licensing & Enforcement - he was very informative & details of the proposed changes detailed in his talk will doubtless be available on the BCG website & in their newsletters.

He also spoke about micro chipping & the concern was raised regarding micro chips being a relatively new invention & that nobody knows how these will survive in the body of something that could potentially live for over 100 years & it seems that many people have been thinking about this & discussions are to take place as to whether there are better ways of identifying our tortoises such as the finger printing system that the BCG have advised on for many years & is widely used in Germany.

Henny Fenwick who has written books on tortoise care & has been a breeder/keeper for many years has kindly agreed to print details of our meetings in the BCG newsletter, she also gave me several of her care sheets & an example of her latest booklet Tortoise Friendly Gardens which I will bring along to the next meeting - copies are available from Henny direct for a very small charge.

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 newsletter or care sheets etc., please contact us.