

TORTOISE DAY WAS A CRACKING SUCCESS

On Saturday 20th May the Wiltshire Tortoise Group, an informal branch of the British Chelonia Group, held their first Open Day at Sutton Benger Village Hall. The main attractions were the tortoises on display, especially the babies, with one particular hatchling timing his entry into the world perfectly. There was the opportunity to see more unusual breeds, such as Pancake, Egyptian and Burmese Brown.

Along with the tortoises were sales tables with 'tortoise friendly' plants, homes and equipment for tortoises, and all manner of tortoise goodies – soft toys, jewellery, soap and figurines. Even the refreshments included tortoise shaped biscuits.

Members of the group were around to answer any questions and, in the morning, vet Rachel Mowbray from Vale Vets in Dursley was there to answer more technical queries. She also had information on common ailments and it seemed the more gruesome the pictures the more the children enjoyed them!

Congratulations go to Ben from Swindon who won the cuddly tortoise.

The group meet five times a year at Sutton Benger Village Hall and have a variety of speakers and guests. The next meeting is Sunday 9 July when Dr Peter Richardson, from the Marine Conservation Society, will be talking about his work with turtles on the Turks and Caicos Islands. There is free parking at the hall and the entry is £2 per adult, children free.

If you would like more information on the group, or would like to see pictures of the Open Day, then please check out the Facebook page or e-mail Lisa :- lisatort@btinternet.com.