

Naturist
Action
Group

The (occasional) Newsletter

July 2011 Issue 2

<http://naturistactiongroup.org>

And so to No. 2...

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF OUR OCCASIONAL newsletter. Occasional, because we'd rather put our efforts into achieving something concrete on behalf of naturism than issuing empty words, but we think twice-a-year is about right... assuming we have something to say that is.

A lot has happened in the few months that have passed by since February when issue one was distributed, not six months I grant you, but nearly. We launched a new website, which I hope you'll agree is an improvement on the old – not that it was awful in the first place – and published a leaflet called *You and the Law*. Of course, we are still gathering evidence to support our assertion that the justice system treats naturists inconsistently and we continue to try and find an answer to the London Question. Not bad for an organisation that is not much more than a year old!

Only, we would like to do more but that will be impossible unless we replenish our resources and find more volunteers to help.

Even so, we do have new projects in the offing....

The foundation of a new group in the Cheltenham area, set to organise a swim and sauna session at a local leisure centre, and;

A new video project, aimed at informing the general public how unfairly the justice system treats naturists and, hopefully, gain their support.

You can learn more about both projects below or by contacting the relevant people.

Lastly, I cannot let you go without thanking you for your continued support. I know that some of you have already given time and/or money, for which you have our heartfelt thanks, but it is the nature of the beast that is NAG that I need to ask for more. Times are hard, we all know that, but please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

Reg

Wanted: A Video Production Team

NAG IS EVALUATING A POSSIBLE 'VIDEO' PROJECT RUN along side our ACPO Project, but slanted towards gaining public opinion and applying pressure on ACPO and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) that way.

Here is the idea, in brief. It is to make, using suitable volunteer help, a 30-minute television programme about the Law and Public Nudity, of broadcast quality and sold to a UK broadcaster. It will be necessary for all those involved to give their time and talent for free, and bear their own costs, at least initially. When the programme is sold, the money will be used first to reimburse participants' costs, if possible, with any surplus going to NAG for general funding. Currently, the timetable is roughly:

- 2011/12 - Ad hoc filming as events unfold e.g. trials, various interviews, World Naked Bike Ride, suitable naturist things happening, maybe touch on The London Question and Steve Gough; Gathering suitable volunteers to handle filming, editing, sound, etc;

Development of the concept and script; Initial marketing 'feelers' to various TV companies; Initial legal research and clearances (e.g. copyright).

- 2012/13 - structured filming, according to the script and as dictated by events; Editing to produce a finished product; Detailed discussion with interested TV companies; 2013/14 - Broadcast and accounting.

Duncan Heenan will lead this one, as he is already heading the ACPO/MOJ project. We will need considerable help from others and wants to adopt a collegiate style, if we can attract suitable volunteers. Ownership of the film will be NAG's, until sold to a TV company, though we might appeal for help through the BN forum,

What do you think? If you have any comments or would like to become involved then contact Duncan via treasurer@naturistactiongroup.org. We would especially like to hear from anyone with the technical skills needed to produce the film.

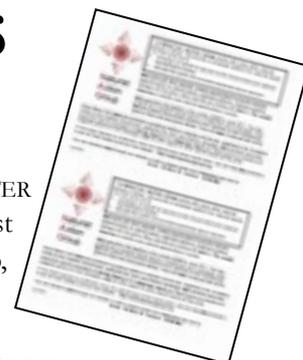
Interim Treasurer's Report

AT THE END OF OUR FIRST YEAR (MARCH 2011), NAG'S bank balance was just over £1,100. (See first issue for details.) However, it will not be a surprise that the *You and the Law* leaflet, published in *H&E Naturist* has cut deep into this and as donations have virtually dried up, other sources

of income are needed. Through the leaflet's publication, NAG has gained in name recognition and reputation, but it had also been hoped that it would stimulate more public donations. At the time of writing this has not happened. From its instigation, the Naturist Action Group had been conceived as a social enterprise and while proposals for other income streams have been made, to date none have been implemented.

Income		Expenditure	
Net Funds b/fwd	£1,139.32		
Donations	£40.00	Publication Costs	£660.00
		Campaign Costs	£50.00
		Total Expenditure	£710.00
Total Income	£1,179.32	Total Net Funds at 31 May 2011	£469.32

Spread the news



AS A SUPPORTER of the Naturist Action Group, you are already aware

that our efforts are centred purely on gaining a wider acceptance of naturism in the UK. As a young organisation, we are also battling to get our name better known among naturists and despite the regular feature in *H&E Naturist*, there are still those who haven't heard of us!

For that reason we have created an flyer that is a handy A5 size and recently updated, which helps to explain our aims and objectives, our current projects, to the public and other naturists. It can be downloaded from [HERE](#). Let me remind you: NAG has no members, we are entirely supported by donations provided by other naturists, financial and in kind.

Please, if you attending a naturist – or even a naturist friendly – event, spread the word about the Naturist Action Group by printing and handing out the flyers to your fellow patrons. Or perhaps your club will allow it to be placed among some other display material? Without the support of other naturists, campaigning on issues that effect you, will be greatly reduced.

ACPO: slow and steady

THE RESEARCH FOR THIS PROJECT IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN TERMS OF ATTENDING and/or supporting Richard Collins and Alex Purser at their separate trials on charges brought under S5 of the Public Order Act, for merely cycling naked. Richard Collins' trial is yet to be concluded [at the time of writing], with the possibility of an appeal; hence the lack of detail or comment. On the other hand, Alex Purser was found guilty, but he intends to appeal. For NAG, both cases are an evidence gathering exercise, with other cases of police and court reactions to public nudity being tracked. We are hampered to some degree, however, by the reluctance of people to come forward, as any involvement with the police, or the justice system, is traumatic enough. In itself this validates the need for research, but it means that progress will be slow, unless a researcher, or researchers, comes forward willing to attend court or to trawl through court records. In the meantime we do not expect to be in a position to make any formal approaches for at least a year, possibly more, with little to report in the meantime.

Cheltenham Sauna

FOLLOWING ONE OF THE MEETINGS ABOUT THE LONDON QUESTIONS, STEWART Hamilton asked John to assist with creating a new swim and sauna session in Cheltenham. The initial work has gone well, but Stewart would like to invite other local naturists to help him to set up a group to take the scheme forward. As the saying goes: many hands make light work.

If you live in the Cheltenham area and would like to help with organising this new naturist activity then please contact Stewart direct by email stew37ham@yahoo.co.uk or by phone, 01242 519439 or John Paine.

The London Question

THE LATEST UPDATE ON THE LONDON QUESTION HAS been uploaded to the website and can be accessed from [HERE](#), if you haven't already done so.

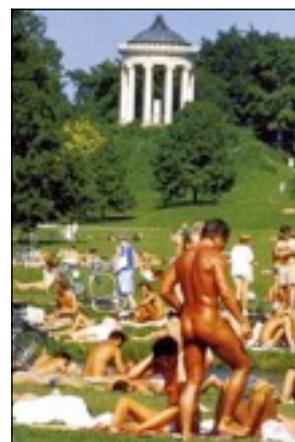
Since October last year, more than 50 people of both genders have given their opinions about The London Question to John Paine and through them, NAG has discovered that discreet naturism already happens in a number of parks all over London. That is fine, but why can't we act more like the Germans? Discreet behaviour to some can be seen as furtive by others and give the impression of something illegal – or immoral – being committed.

The next stage in developing the answer to the London Question is a fact finding mission to Munich, Germany to find out how they manage to have nude sunbathing in a mixed – that's naturist and non-naturist – environment, like the English Garden.

Supporters of the Naturist Action Group are invited to join John on the trip, scheduled to take place between 10th and 13th September (Saturday to Tuesday), flying from Gatwick Airport and staying in the Herzog Hotel. Sadly, those who go will be asked to pay for their own travel costs.

You can obtain more details about the trip from either our chairman (Reg Barlow) or from John himself after 1st August. NAG is also seeking comparative information from other European countries (Spain for instance) and would like to hear from anyone with first hand knowledge.

If you would like to join John on his fact-finding mission or have information about other European Cities, please let NAG know before the end of August.



The English Garden, Munich

And finally... WNBR 2011

LONDON'S LEG OF THE WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE TOOK place on June 11 this year and NAG took the opportunity to meet up in person. Finally, we were able to put some faces to names for the first time and it was great seeing everyone who came along and made themselves known.

While Duncan Heenan rode, John Paine and Reg Barlow supported the riders from the side. Reg had ridden in the ride three years ago and as he hasn't been a bike since, considered himself too much of a hazard, to himself and other riders, to join in. Other well-known (perhaps better known would be more apt) attendees included Andy Crawford, Mike Houlsby, Lady Godiva and Richard Collins, among others.

The organisers had hopes for 1,500 riders or more this year. It is difficult to gauge numbers, especially when they are strung out in a long chain, but our estimation is that it was certainly one of the bigger rides they have staged, with 1,000 plus riders?

A much larger number of the participants were nude this year, including many more women of all ages, which may be an indication that public nudity is not the taboo it once was.

This year's ride coincided with the SlutWalk protest march and the two met at Trafalgar Square. It was interesting to watch those who wanted to dress in a certain fashion watching naked bike riders.

NAG hopes to be there again in 2012. So, see you then!



Duncan Heenan standing outside the Royal Courts of Justice.

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Cheques should be made out to **Naturists Ltd**

The Naturist Action Group is the operating name for Naturists Ltd. the directors for which are: Duncan Heenan, John Paine, Peter Knight and Reg Barlow