



Naturist Action Group

Annual Report 2018

Welcome

This is the fourth Annual Report produced by Naturist Action Group to tell you what we have been doing between 1st March 2017 to 28th February 2018. NAG has been in operation since 2010 but has only produced annual reports, giving a round-up of our campaigning activities, in the past few years.

During the year, we learned that hard work by naturist campaigners in Paris resulted in political support to achieve their goal for an area designated for naturism in the *Bois de Vincennes*; similar to acceptance of naturism in the *Englischer Garten* in Munich, Germany. You may recall that we made a fact-finding mission to the *Englischer Garten* in our quest for naturist opportunities in London's Hampstead Heath, and other large open spaces.

We have also had a success in the law courts; well – a success for us, a huge relief to the individual concerned, who was acquitted of all charges. The case related to driving his car naked. It goes to show however, that despite the Crown Prosecution Service having a page dedicated to 'nudity in public', which should have led to fewer court appearances where the law had been misapplied, both the CPS and the police still get it wrong.

It only goes to show that NAG is needed more than ever. Your continued interest in our efforts is greatly appreciated and we, that is the other members of the Management Collective and I, look forward to its continuing. Our primary aim in NAG is to provide a platform for YOU in your quest to get a wider acceptance of naturism in the UK.

This report gives details of NAG work on such campaigns during the past year, and we always welcome YOUR ideas for more campaigning activity. Our website carries information on new and ongoing naturists campaigning activities, as well as archives of previous work. In addition, we get reports published in the naturist press. Both the NAG twitter and Facebook social media attract a lot of comments.

Naturists giving their time and enthusiasm are our biggest asset. Much of what NAG does is at minimum financial cost due to this. However, please don't forget, NAG can only do what we do because people like you have been kind enough to support us both with their time or by donating the odd £Pound, \$Dollar or €Euro. All donations are welcome and we thank you.

Campaigning

Strategic Campaigning

Public Nudity and the Law

A major success was achieved when NAG assisted a naturist who had been arrested for being naked in a public place. He was charged under the Sexual Offences Act, but at trial he was acquitted. He nevertheless suffered great stress and cost, and the case highlighted that there is still a big job to be done in educating the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) about the law and naturism. BN agreed to join NAG in supporting the accused and it was a fruitful piece of cooperation between us. After his acquittal, the naturist concerned tried to generate interest in holding a protest march in a city centre. Despite some initial interest, there was insufficient support from our supporters and other naturists to turn words into action. This meant that the idea had to be abandoned.

There have been no opportunities for further follow-up on the campaign to educate the police and CPS. This is largely because of financial constraints in public spending, which means there is no room within their training budgets to accommodate subjects they do not see as a priority. This is good news in that it indicates that conflicts between naturists and the police are a rarity, but bad news because it means that until some proper training is provided, myths and misunderstanding will continue.

Children and Adult Nudity

A watching brief has been maintained in the academic world regarding sociological and psychological studies regarding naturism and its effects. However, no new initiatives have been possible due to lack of funding. The academic research world is driven by funding, and proper research is expensive. Though interest exists within the academic community, little can happen unless substantial funds can be attracted. Work on this will continue, but it will be a protracted process. Last year the International Naturist Federation (INF) voted to allocate funding for research work, but nothing has been forthcoming so far, and no plans from INF are known in this respect.

Any naturist who has contacts in the academic world, which could lead to such a project coming to fruition, should contact NAG.

The First "National Be Naked Day" held

In August 2017, a proactive initiative was launched entitled *National Be Naked Day*, which encouraged non-naturists to try being naked in whatever way suited them, for as much of the day they wanted, just to experience simple nudity. Though this was administered through BN's infrastructure, it was a NAG initiative and proved to be of limited success, although it resulted in many radio interviews giving us an opportunity to explain the acceptability and benefits of naturism. At the time of writing BN has made no decision on whether to repeat the project in 2018.

A general campaign target has to be combating an increasing amount of prudishness in society related to simple nudity. Exactly how to tackle this is a serious challenge, but one which should not be avoided. Ideas and practical help from all volunteers are needed to make this and other campaigns effective. Please let us have your suggestions!

Casual Naturism Survey

This initiative continues to gather information on how members of the public react when coming across naked walkers or sunbathers in open spaces. The project is developing a data-base of perceptions from around the UK, with personal sources kept confidential, that can be used to refute spurious and uncorroborated claims which naturists sometimes face in court cases. The LOG Report form can be complete either online or in hard copy. An analysis of the perceptions gathered will be made available to a naturist's defence team on request.

Local Campaigning

NAG London

It has been a busy year, with many NAG initiatives in London co-ordinated through the NAG London Group. It is pleasing that during the past year more female and male naturists have joined in this work, and progress made. More possible outdoor locations for casual naturism are still being explored. *Naturist London's* Sunday swim

attracts capacity numbers and NAG has continued to explore new weekday swim possibilities in Camden and Southwark, having previously explored Islington. Thanks to one of our volunteers, NAG also continues to keep naturism as an activity 'in the frame' when discussions on creating a *Greater London National Park* take place.

Hampstead Heath

To carry forward the work on getting acceptance of naturism on Hampstead Heath we obtained media publicity in Spring 2017, with BBC radio interviews by Harvey plus several of our supporters contributed to newspaper reports. In Spring 2017, two surveys were carried out; an online 'vox pop' by the local newspaper: *Ham & High*, followed by our own series of 380 face-to-face interviews by volunteers on the heath itself in June. Our thanks go to all those who participated in collecting the interviews. The online survey recorded 83% acceptance of naturism on the Heath, while our own survey recorded 84% acceptance. We also took care to ensure that a high proportion of the people participating in our survey were actually Londoners (83%). More recently NAG has started to explore ways of building links with the community groups involved in the formal management process of Hampstead Heath.

In October 2017, NAG London formed a sub-committee to continue the Hampstead Heath work, capable of using opportunities, such as the media interest earlier in the year, as they arise. They report directly to the NAG London and are beginning to make useful links with the heath's management.

Paris

In summer 2017 the *Mairie de Paris* officially sanctioned a naturist area in the *Bois de Vincennes* in the east of Paris. As there are similarities with our efforts to gain acceptance for naturism on Hampstead Heath, NAG is liaising with our colleagues in APNEL (the French equivalent of NAG), *Naturistes de Paris* and FFN, a 4-day fact-finding mission, is planned for 25 August 2018. Details for booking are on the NAG website.

Bodypainting

After trying for three years to find a site manager willing to allow a London naked bodypainting day, run by New York artist Andy Golub, NAG has admitted defeat. London is apparently not ready for a naked bodypainting event on its streets, unlike Amsterdam, Brussels and Berlin! We spent many hours and checked out 47 different possible locations – so this is a really disappointing result.

World Naked Bike Ride

The WNBR is popular with many naturists, with its 'as bare as you dare' form of street protest, with many people attending the ride in London. For the 2017 ride, NAG donated funds to London WNBR so they could hire radio communications able to cope with the tall office blocks of central London.

Finance

NAG's financial year runs to the end of February, and the latest accounts are summarised below, with earlier years shown for comparison.

Accounts Summary for year ending 28th February 2018

	<u>17/18</u>	<u>16/17</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>
Opening funds at 1st March	1,068.03	1,256.96	1,144.05	1,147.06
<u>Income:</u>				
Donations	305.00	209.00	545.32	296.00
Donations in kind	583.63	573.60		
Website advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publication fees	65.00	115.00	260.00	500.00
Photo Competition	92.12	10.00	99.90	0.00
Total income	1,045.75	907.60	905.22	796.00
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
PayPal costs	-17.47	-3.49	-10.79	-12.06
Website costs	-19.19	-197.94	-177.39	-31.14
Campaign costs	-1,077.77	-853.50	-387.53	-755.81
Photo comp. costs	0.00	0.00	-30.60	0.00
Sundry	-13.00	-13.00	-186.00	0.00
Tax	28.72	-28.60		
Total costs	-1,098.71	-1,096.53	-792.31	-799.01
Surplus/deficit	-52.96	-188.93	112.91	-3.01
Closing Funds at 28 th February	1,015.07	1,068.03	1,256.96	1,144.05

Donations in kind consist mostly of volunteers covering their own expenses in campaigning. This has happened throughout NAG's existence but was not recorded in the accounts until last year.

Chairman's Report

NAG has always been run as a low-cost online body. We are run by a small management collective of six naturists. Since our inception, Naturist Action Group has relied on the kindness of others to fund whatever plans we develop to further the cause of naturism, but we made a conscious decision not to have a membership. The administration of a membership system is both time-consuming and costly. Instead, as an online body we opted for the simple definition of Supporters – those who contact us and support our objectives. We decided to seek the support of all those who wanted naturism to have a higher profile, some of whom may have a British Naturism membership. We remain confident that our Supporters will continue to provide sufficient income through their work and their financial donations to fulfil our plans.

Back ~~then~~, **in 2010** our primary aims were:

- To campaign on behalf of naturism, by talking to the government and other national representative bodies, and;
- To educate the public, promoting awareness about naturism.

And they are still our aims. Previous editions of our Annual Report have outlined past achievements, and you will have read in this Report the continuing NAG achievements.

To generate income for NAG we launched a biennial photo competition in 2013 with the theme of *Living Naturism*. Unfortunately, the competition has not caught the imagination as we had hoped. With a small number of naturist entries in 2013 and 2017, the Management Collective decided to suspend this project until further notice. Philosophically, we know that you win some and you lose some.

Money isn't the only resource we require, of course. Like many organisations, NAG relies on volunteers, not only for management but for running our projects, old and new. At the outset, we decided NAG would work nationally and strategically. Over the years we helped local naturists to create largely semi-autonomous groups in Cheltenham and Bristol. Sadly, neither attracted sufficient support from other local naturists to sustain their activities under our "banner". London has been extraordinarily successful with a development input from NAG leading to the NAG London Group. In recent years BN has been very successful in setting up many local 'meet & greet' groups. The NAG Management Collective would still welcome ideas from local naturists elsewhere to develop, with our expertise, campaign groups in other parts of the country. We need to further naturism as another lifestyle pursued by people; just like being a vegetarian.

I am fully aware that we need to examine how NAG can better involve its thousands of 'supporters' nothing can stand-still forever. YOU might like to join us and embrace the change and see it as an opportunity. I shall be gathering ideas about what that dynamic change should be. We would welcome YOUR views on how NAG operates so they can be-discussed by the Management Collective, so please do not keep them to yourself; write a comment on the website or email the Chairman direct (reg.barlow@naturistactiongroup.org).

John Paine
*Written on behalf of the Chairman,
Spring 2018.*

Who Are We?

NAG is the trading name of Naturists Limited. Directors for Naturists Ltd listed in alphabetical order.

Reg Barlow

NAG's chairman and co-founder; Reg produces the News from NAG column for the magazine H&E Naturist and posts for the NAG website. He lives in West Yorkshire and, at the time of writing, is seeking new employment.



Duncan Heenan

Treasurer and co-founder; recently moved to Worcestershire, Duncan is a retired general manager and accountant, Duncan also oversees two of our current projects: The Police and Naturism and Children & Nudity. He also 'invented' the National Be Naked Day.



Peter Knight

A co-founder of NAG, Peter has taken many different employment opportunities over the years following his service with the Royal Air Force, including a stint as a logistics manager for MSF in East Africa. No lover of our winters, Peter divides his time between Gloucestershire and Thailand.



John Paine

A co-founder of NAG and one of our project leaders. John is a retired Neighbourhood Development Officer for the London Borough of Islington, and now lives in Oxford. John has 40 years development work experience and co-ordinates the work of NAG London Group.



There are two other people who are on the Management Collective but are not directors; ***Andy Crawford*** and ***Harvey Allen***. Andy somehow fits helping us with our website while doing his proper job and Harvey, a retired lecturer among other things, adds his "tuppence worth", drawing on his experience as collective member for London WNBR and voluntary work with Oakwood Sun Club. Both gentlemen provide invaluable insights for us.

Postscript

We have come to the end of yet another Annual Report and hope you found it informative. As always, if you have any questions or want to make a comment, you have the opportunity to put them to us through our website or direct to the person concerned.

If you prefer pen and paper, and you haven't already done so, please note our address has changed to:

Duncan Heenan
Naturists Ltd
c/o The Risings,
Kington Lane,
Kington,
Worcestershire,
WR7 4DH.

If you still use them, donations by cheque should be made out to Naturists Ltd and sent to the address above or via our PayPal account: paypal@naturistactiongroup.org.