

## NAG meeting on London projects Saturday 28 October 2017

This meeting of the NAG London Group was held as an indoor naturist picnic in the Belsize Park area of London, attended by 6 naturists, with 5 apologies given.

### 1. Updates on London locations

- **Chingford Plain.** Harvey had found that it was heavily used by the public and not suitable for naturist options.
- **Richmond Park.** A preliminary check for potential naturist opportunities had been made by Steve who would do a more thorough check in summer 2018. The possibility of holding a naturist picnic there was suggested.
- **Walthamstow Marshes.** Harvey reported that a new park had been created by the reservoirs. He would explore for potential naturist opportunities.
- **Thames river bank at Ham.** This site has been used by naturists, mainly male, for several years. Steve and Mike to check it out.

### 2. Updates on new London swims

- **Dulwich pool naturist swim?** Steve reported the management company website showed that they operated naturist swims elsewhere and he would check with them in Spring 2018.
- **Kentish Town pool naturist swim?** Lynda would check with the management of this local authority pool in Spring 2018.

### 3. Hampstead Heath Naturism Project

In May NAG had generated good media coverage and held a 'vox pop' survey of HH users in June. Both female and male NAG supporters asked people 5 questions. The majority of people were happy with the idea of naturist use on the Heath. It was known that naturists continue to casually use HH and that the Park Rangers were aware of discreet naturism at Cohen's Field area but took no action. During discussion it was agreed to:

- (i) continue with the HH naturism project (now 7 years old)
- (ii) explore holding another naturist picnic in summer 2018 (Luigi had previously suggested that a video be made of a naturist picnic as well as still photos)
- (iii) seek more media publicity for the HH Naturism campaign

- **A new HH Project Group was set up** with Carlie as convenor. As well as planning another HH photoshoot and a naturist picnic the Group were asked to explore NAG running an event at Hampstead Heath if a national 2018 *Be Naked Day* happens.

### 4. Paris fact-finding mission

The 2017 trial period of an experimental naturism area in Bois de Vincennes, east Paris, was very successful and ended with a big naked picnic on 15 October. It was anticipated that the naturist area would be approved for use again in summer 2018. Steve was continuing to liaise with APNEL (the French equivalent to NAG) who were in the consortium of three French naturist bodies dealing with the Paris authorities. Alain D, a French naturist living in Manchester and a NAG supporter, was providing useful support to us. It was noted that over 200,000 French citizens lived in London and that there would probably be a sizable number of naturists amongst them.

The NAG management collective had agreed that we organise a summer 2018 *fact-finding mission to Paris* similar to the NAG 2013 *Mission to Munich*. Discussions would

take place with the French naturists on how they ran their campaign and negotiated with the Paris authorities. We would expect to pick up ideas for our *HH campaign* in London. Several NAG supporters had indicated that they would join a NAG visit to Paris, to show solidarity with the French naturists. John Paine to be mission co-ordinator, assisted by Steve, Mike, and Alain.

The current concept is:

- a 4-day week-end visit to Paris in summer 2018. Optional dates would be Saturday 19 May or Saturday 25 August.
- A delegation of ten NAG people, other naturists may also join. Each person would pay their own costs.
- Travel out Saturday morning from St. Pancras, via Eurostar, and leave Paris late afternoon Tuesday, staying for 3 nights in a hotel in east Paris.
- Bois de Vincenne is on a *Metro* line. There is also a naturist swim at a leisure centre nearby and a naturist restaurant has opened in central Paris.
- Other naturists would be given the basic details of the NAG Mission travel and accommodation plans. They may wish to make travel arrangements to Paris from other parts of the UK to participate.

## 5. NAG naturist dinner

The new management at *The Oxford* pub in Kentish Town Road does not welcome a naturist booking. Everyone wants there to be a NAG Naturist Dinner, perhaps in spring or autumn. It was agreed to ask NAG supporters in London to explore other venues, possibly small restaurants and cafes which may have a secluded room.

## 6. Other London naturist activities

- **2018 London WNBR.** The London organising collective would start planning in January 2018. On the basis of previous years this event may take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June.
- **Greater London National City Park.** Ray reported on slow progress of this project over the summer. The NAG management collective had suggested that with so many green pathways in London perhaps a naturist walk could be organised on one of them. Mike to raise this with the Naked Ramblers arm of SOC. Ray to continue to keep a 'watching brief' on the *Greater London National City Park* project.
- **London bodypainting day.** A huge amount of work had been done over the past 3 years and 47 possible sites checked out, in conjunction with New York artist Andy Golub. Unfortunately, no public or private site management were prepared to support a naked bodypainting activity in a public location. It was agreed not to pursue this concept any further.

## 7. Date for next NAG London meeting

This be held at 2.00pm on **Saturday 10 February 2018**. Progress reports would be given on the HH Naturism Project, new Swims, visit to Paris, a NAG naturist dinner.

**John Paine** NAG London co-ordinator