



Annual Report 2019

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Forward

Welcome to the fifth Annual Report from National Action Group, giving an overview of events in the year starting 1st March 2018.

Despite the tremendous advances we have made in the last 12-months or so, we haven't seen any evidence that Naturist Action Group is out of a job, just yet. While the efforts of Malcolm Boura, Duncan Heenan, and Peter and Christine Wright in encouraging the Crown Prosecuting Service and College of Policing to clarify matters has been, still is, greatly appreciated there are still individuals and organisations out there that are yet to be convinced. This will be the focus of our efforts in the future but we also need to make sure we understand what the majority of naturists think and do in order to represent them properly. The Survey of UK Naturism will help, but the management collective will also need to do some smart thinking of their own too.

Reg Barlow
Chairman, Naturist Action Group;
March 2019

Financial Report

The financial outcome of the year to 28/2/19 is summarised below, together with the results of the previous year for comparison:

	<u>18/19</u>	<u>17/18</u>
Opening funds at 1st March (£)	1,015.07	1,068.03
<u>Income:</u>		
Donations	95.00	305.00
Donations in kind	1,030.80	583.63
Website advertising	0.00	0.00
Publication fees	300.00	65.00
Photo Competition	0.00	92.12
Total income	1,425.80	1,045.75
<u>Expenditure</u>		
PayPal costs	-1.77	-17.47
Website costs	-112.62	-19.19
Campaign costs	1,510.85	-1,077.77
Photo comp. costs	0.00	0.00
Sundry	-13.00	-13.00
Tax	0.00	28.72
Total costs	1,638.24	-1,098.71
Surplus/Deficit	-212.44	-52.96
Closing Funds (£)	802.63	1,015.07

NAG has spent more than its income for a number of years, and does not operate to accumulate large reserves. However an increased cash income would help with some aspects of campaign work, though NAG relies mostly on the voluntary generosity of its supporters in this respect.

As in previous years the large majority of NAG's 'income' has been donations-in-kind by volunteers bearing their own costs on campaigning work. These amounts are included above in both the 'Donations in Kind' and Campaign Costs headings. Almost all of these donations-in-kind have come from the members of NAG's management collective, and this reflects to a large degree the campaigning activities engaged in. Though the moral support of NAG supporters is welcome, active campaigning support would be even more welcome, and NAG's future will depend on this being forthcoming and sustained in time to come. Comments about active volunteering elsewhere in this annual report reflect this need.

Duncan Heenan
Treasurer, Naturist Action Group
March 2019

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, and established the Press & Media Group.



National Projects

Casual Naturism Survey

In late 2018, and after the publication of the College of Policing's new guidelines, it was decided to stop collecting new reports for this survey from our supporters. We have collected a lot of evidence from a variety of UK locations on how the public react when coming across naked walkers or sunbathers. As expected, the majority of ordinary citizens were not upset by seeing naturists in a natural environment. This evidence is now awaiting analysis and once completed, we shall issue a report that may help those naturists in need. It will also give an insight into the variety of types of terrain used by naturists for outdoor enjoyment.

Naturism and the Police

Following a decade long campaign by NAG, often jointly with British Naturism, last year brought a significant success, as evidenced by the College of Police issuing their "*Briefing note - Public nudity advice and decision aid*". Taken with the previous guidance to prosecutors by the Crown Prosecution Service, this makes it quite explicit that innocent nudity is legal and should not be prosecuted unless there are aggravating factors to the incident. The results of this publication have yet to seep down fully to every operational level in the police, but things already seem to be calming down with fewer prosecutions of genuine naturists. There is still a lot of education needed, but it is gratifying to see that a long and hard campaign can bring results.

The situation will continue to be monitored by NAG and, though no further action is planned, if needed, it will be taken.

Children & Nudity/Psychology Project

NAG has, behind the scenes, been trying to interest the academic world in the question of what is the effect of adult nudity on children. This interest is sparked by the refrain often used by opponents of social/public nudity: 'Think of the children!' This assumes simple nudity is shocking and bad for children's minds, without any actual evidence to support this view. NAG feels that quality, impartial research would address this argument.

However, academic research is dependent on funding, and sources are yet to be found. The search continues, and one approach (jointly with other agencies and a UK university) is currently being discussed, though due to its confidential nature no further details can be given at this time. Any help or advice from volunteers who have experience or contacts in this sphere would be very welcome. Contact us via the NAG website.

NAG Press & Media Campaign

Late in 2018, NAG called for volunteers to form a panel to address a problem of reporting and perception which has held back the acceptance of naturism for too long. That is the poor treatment of the subject by the press and media, who seem badly informed and who treat the subject variously as a scandal, a joke, or an amusing triviality. In early 2019, our panel of volunteers started work.

We aim to try to educate the press & media into a better appreciation of naturism, and a more serious, accurate and respectful approach to reporting it. We are doing this by direct proactive approaches to journalists, editors, publishers and broadcasters; and also by reacting to items in the press and media. This is not wholly negative towards the press and media, and where we find good practice we shall say so, and encourage more of it. As well as commenting on the communication aspects, we shall also encourage reporters to try naturism for themselves, to get a true first-hand experience, rather than relying on hearsay and people with axes to grind.

It is very early days for this project, and it is likely to continue indefinitely as circumstances demand. It is not the sort of project where results are easily measured, but it is hoped that by influencing the influencers we will help to influence the general public into a better understanding, acceptance and respect for our lifestyle. More suitable volunteers will always welcome.

Local Projects

NAG continues to support local campaigns in England. In Clacton, Essex, the establishment of a naturist beach led to a support group, ensuring that unwanted sexual activity, which may lead to its withdrawal, does not happen there. Plans for a possible Essex Naturist Festival have also been mooted, but these are yet to come to fruition. Meanwhile, the MP for Lichfield, Hampshire, has suggested a naturist bike ride in aid of charity. This too, is yet to happen.

NAG in London

It has been another busy year for NAG's London group that has seen a good deal of progress on various initiatives, with more volunteers actively involved. Details of our future meetings will be posted on our website, if you wish to join us. What follows are summaries for the different London projects worked on by our volunteer supporters.

Hampstead Heath

A major success when in September 2018, following the publication of the College of Policing decision aid (see above), a small delegation discussed it and the CPS guidance with Hampstead Heath management, who conceded that genuine naturism should be accepted.

Following that meeting, it was suggested that this new attitude towards naturism should be tested in an informal way; further details will be published nearer the time.

Hampstead Heath's Ladies Pond Initiative

Working with *Women Naturists* (www.naturistwomen.org) to promote naturism at the Ladies Pond, a female supporter visited it last summer, before the meeting with management, and learned the attendants there were against nudity. At the meeting with management, they said new instructions will be issued to the attendants. As with the heath in general, further visits to the Ladies Pond will be made to see if the new instructions have taken effect.

The same supporter who liaised between us and *Women Naturists*, continued her involvement with them and organised two successful women's only days and has another planned for late 2019.

Picnics on the Hampstead Heath

These have become a regular event over the years. In June 2018 naturists met at Kenwood House before moving on to Cohen's Field for a group picnic. Sometimes these picnics have been combined with either a photo-shoot or a NAG London meeting.

Open Space Naturism: London's options

Since 2010, NAG has checked 25 London parks and other recreational open spaces for their potential to host discreet naturism. Since the publication of the College of Police Guidance has made naturism more likely, the search for space that would allow it to happen without conflict has become more urgent. All of London's open spaces are heavily used by different activities, making somewhere to enjoy being discreetly naked difficult to find. Volunteers are needed to find them.

We have a list of seven places to explore during 2019, ranging from Gunnersbury Park in the West to Rainham Marshes in the East, and several points in-between. These include Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common, and Epping Forest, 6,000 acres of ancient woodland and formerly a royal hunting forest now under control of the City of London Corporation. Restoration work carried out at Beckenham Place Park in early 2019 included the lake, which may see it being used for more water sports. However, NAG London plans to assess its potential for naturism sometime during the summer.

London National City Park

This is something NAG has been watching over the years and have even promoted naturism at their information events. This major project has now received sufficient support from London boroughs for a formal launch to take place in July 2019. NAG will continue to watch this project with interest.

Country Land Conservation

On our behalf, one of our supporters has contacted Country Land Conservation (<http://www.countrylandconservation.co.uk>), as their aim is to restore land to its natural state and encourage wildlife. We have asked them if they would support naturism, as it is in line with their general aims.

NAKED Pub Days in London

In March 2018 NAG organised its first Naked Lunch and pub day, at the Blue Lion Inn. It proved so popular that we held a second. Both events had a good mix of naturists, including some from overseas. Exploratory work is now under way for possible venues for a third naked lunch, probably around November 2019.

Naturist swims in London

The Sunday swim organised by *Naturist London* (<https://naturist.london/4SundaySwim.php>) attracts capacity attendance. London is a notoriously difficult place to organise naturist events, and NAG London has explored the potential for a new weekday swim in the past, and we continue to do so. A Friday night swim in Dulwich looked promising but was abandoned when it didn't meet the approval of London's naturists.

World Naked Bike Ride - London

Strictly speaking, WNBR London (<https://wnbr.london>) is a protest to save the planet by reducing our dependency on fossil fuels, among other things, with a tag line of 'bare as much as you dare' and doesn't really have anything to do with naturism. Still, as several of our supporters also play a leading role in organising this hugely popular event, we thought we'd make an exception. In 2018, it was reported that 2,500 riders took part, riding through the streets of central London and plans are in hand for the 16th London WNBR set for June 2019, with a large 'after-event party' for riders being considered for the first time.

NAG and International Links

Whenever possible, NAG maintains links with naturist organisations in other European countries. We have had two missions; to Munich, Germany and Paris, France, in 2013 and 2018 respectively. Both missions were to help NAG pick up ideas of how to get political support for naturist activities, mostly in London, but elsewhere too.

In late 2017, the *Mairie de Paris* officially sanctioned a naturist area in the *Bois de Vincennes*, a park to the east of the city. NAG heard from members of Association des Naturistes de Paris (ANP), APNEL (Association Pour la Naturisme En Liberte) and FFN of how they won over the Mayor of Paris, Anne Higlado. Key to getting that political support was the naturist use of *Piscine Roger le Galle* in the 14th Arrondissement.

In September 2018, a small delegation from NAG met with French colleagues and on the second evening we had dinner in *O'Naturel*, a naturist restaurant, and later, on Sunday, we were among 300 other naturists having a picnic in the *Bois de Vincennes*.

Later this year, another delegation will be returning to Paris to join up with our ANP colleagues again. We shall learn about their plans for a second area, this time in *Bois de Boulogne*, to the west of Paris, in the 16th Arrondissement. Later we are planning to join naturists at the *Piscine Roger le Galle* and celebrate Paris Naturist Day with ANP, APNEL and several hundred naturists with a picnic in *Bois de Vincennes*.

The major costs for all of these international visits have been, or will be, covered by the participants, and as in the past, a report on what we discover will be posted on our website.

John Paine & Duncan Heenan
March 2019, Naturist Action Group

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 co-ordinates the work of NAG London Group.



Duncan Heenan



Chairman's Statement

This annual report covers the period 1st March 2018 to 28th February 2019, and the overall assessment for the year is that naturism has had a good one. As mentioned elsewhere, the College of Policing has released a decision aid to help law enforcement in England and Wales to decide if an incident involving public nudity requires further investigation. Sitting beside the guidance already published by the Crown Prosecution Service, it has seen the number of needless prosecutions fall, and therefore, a saving on the public purse, but I'm afraid, it does not end there.

NAG (nor British Naturism for that matter) has never argued for a change in the law, just for the current law to be interpreted differently so context is also considered and that naturism is not immediately outlawed. Both aids do just that. Sadly, not everyone is on board with this new approach yet, so our work to change minds and alter behaviours has to continue.

Using the combination of CPS guidance and College of Policing's decision aid, colleagues in London have been able to persuade management for Hampstead Heath that their previous public stance that anyone found naked on the heath is committing a crime and would be prosecuted is wrong. So, while this is without doubt a victory, it is perhaps not the victory we wanted originally. For that, more work is probably needed but lets see what summer 2019 brings before we, with our London colleagues, decide what to do next. And not only in London, other towns and cities with large open spaces may also be subject to 'discreet' nude sunbathing and perhaps it is time that this was brought out into the open, with the aid of groups of volunteers. Secrecy, in our opinion, has been naturism's own undoing for decades, ever since the desire for an all-over tan became prevalent and it is still tying us up in knots now.

One of NAG's successes later on in the year was the Survey of UK Naturism and it is believed to be the first time that the UK's estimated 3.5 million naturists were asked what they thought. We got replies from more than 390 naturists living in the UK, and we are very pleased with this result, but of course, we wanted more. We are still working through the results but a couple of preliminary findings seem to be unusual; the most popular place for naturists to be nude in is their own home or garden followed by the beach, and the most popular pastime is swimming, either in a river or off the coast. Clubs came in a lowly fourth. Another finding suggests that we prefer our naturism between spring and autumn; hardly surprising given our weather but we are prepared to take our clothes off whenever the mood takes us, with many respondents saying they did so with friends. It appears, therefore, that naturism no longer occurs at a fixed time or place, becoming a much more fluid concept.

Naturally, this is just scratching the surface and a much more considered report will be published in time.

Meanwhile, another success in early 2019, as far as NAG goes, was the creation of the Press & Media Group; its purpose is to challenge editors and journalists, when the articles they write grossly misrepresents naturism. By educating them about the lifestyle, asking them to justify their words then hopefully we shall not see too many incidents like the one in Blackpool recently when BN advertised a family swim event. Thankfully, that seems to be mostly a social media storm, and is now the electronic version of chip paper, but the damage has been done and we are yet to see the consequences.

As always though, we never seem to have enough resources to fulfil our ambitions and at times I feel like Oliver: 'Please sir, can I have some more!'

Reg Barlow
Chairman, Naturist Action Group
March 2019

Reg Barlow

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



There is one other director for Naturists Ltd, who may not be as active, but still makes a valuable contribution nonetheless.

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 British winters, Peter divides his time between Gloucestershire and Thailand.



Two other people who regularly contribute to the Management Collective meetings and email discussions but are not directors; ***Andy Crawford*** and ***Harvey Allen***. Until early 2019, Andy somehow fitted helping us with our website while doing his proper job. Harvey is a retired lecturer, among other things, adds his ‘tuppence worth,’ while drawing on his experience as collective member for London WNBR and his voluntary work with Oakwood Sun Club. Thank you both.

Afterword

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any comments about it, or what we are trying to do, you can email the chairman direct: reg.barlow@naturistactiongroup.org.

If you would like to keep abreast with our actions then please register at our website: <http://naturistactiongroup.org>, following the instructions given in the right-hand panel, and you will be notified of future developments.