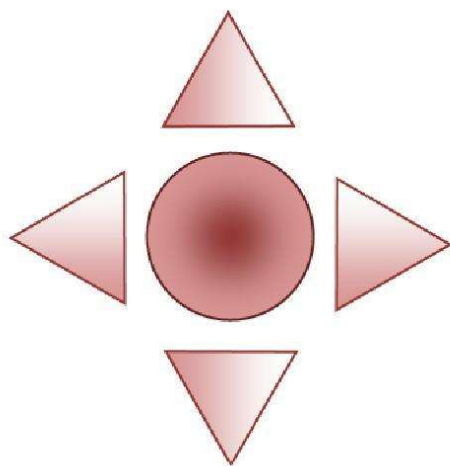




Naturist
Action
Group

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2020

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**NAG has been actively campaigning for
open naturism since 2010**

1. Ten years of campaigning

We must be doing something right! NAG is now in its 11th year of campaigning for a more open acceptance of naturism within the UK. NAG is a totally volunteer body, we employ no staff and have no office overheads. Over the ten years there have been many campaigning projects and actions in various locations. Each requires the support of enough local naturists to make them work. Sadly, that has not always happened as in Bristol, Cheltenham, and getting a naturist swim in south London. NAG did support and advise local naturists, so they did pioneer and try. Many initiatives in London by NAG, for use by naturists of open space, have been successful. Now similar work in Nottingham is at an early stage.

NAG does not organise purely social activities, we do arrange for NAG supporters to meet to further a specific campaign. Some NAG projects are national and take much determination, sometimes over several years, to reach success. NAG has also carried out numerous surveys on the acceptance of naturism. Results indicate that most of the public accept it and we have put energy into challenging mainstream media attitudes, see **Section 3.3** below. That is the NAG way of working. We have good links with naturists in other countries, as mentioned in **Section 5.** below. NAG has good relations with many UK naturist bodies and contributes articles and a regular column to H&E Naturism, Britain's only publicly available commercial monthly naturist magazine.

Have the NAG efforts over the previous ten years been worth it? A definite YES!

The naturists who founded NAG were frustrated by a lack of real campaigning for naturism, and use of open spaces, in the UK. Apart from walking group the Naked Ramblers, and their counterparts around England, all 'naturist' activities were secluded and happening behind fences. The exceptions were a few mass swims at 'approved' naturist beaches. The WNBR, which does not have naturist objectives, had started to bring naked bodies onto the streets in cities around the world. Many of its riders in London were young people, exhilarated by the body freedom and confidence they gained.

NAG saw far more acceptance of public nudity through naturism in other European countries. Many coastal local authorities accepted that naturism is not a sexual activity, instead it is a normal lifestyle. They had designated naturist beaches in Germany, France, Spain, Denmark and more. French naturist campaigners had formed APNEL and then in other European countries naturists followed NAG's lead.

NAG has influenced other UK naturist bodies to open up from their secrecy. BN now has a better campaigning profile than 10 years ago. During the past 6 months BN has moved to more co-operation with NAG in local activities. They have recently started a high-profile public campaign, for acceptance of naturism and for discrimination against naturists to be outlawed.

2. How NAG works

We are a small internet-based group of like-minded naturists. Our structure is deliberately low cost, hence no membership fees requiring a whole administrative workload. Instead we have 'NAG supporters' and receive donations to fund our work. NAG website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk is the main portal by which naturists can discover and keep up with what NAG is doing. There you can find updates and more detailed information on NAG's current and past work.

NAG has both local actions, where naturists band together on an area basis, and national project groups whose members mainly communicate by email and phone. NAG London Group, and a possible NAG Nottingham Group, operate by how local naturists feel is necessary in their local campaign actions for naturism. NAG national project groups focus on a specific issue. They liaise with, and report to, a small NAG Management Collective. For legal purposes Naturists Ltd is the holding company for NAG activities. The three directors of this limited company, Duncan Heenan, Pete Knight, John Paine are founder members of the NAG Management Collective. In 2019 they, with collective members Harvey Allen, and until recently Louise Ponting, were joined by Robert Brown.

A change of job in November led Reg Barlow, another NAG founder, to step down from being actively involved in the collective. We appreciate the tremendous amount of work which Reg contributed to NAG over 10 years. Louise Ponting also left the collective in February, when a job change with extra responsibilities needed more of her time. Louise brought exciting new ideas to the collective, she led

work on activities specifically for women naturists.

The Collective members live around the UK and meet twice a year: to review progress on NAG initiatives, formulate relevant new policies (GDPR was one example) and consider how initiatives suggested by NAG supporters may be progressed. Since autumn 2019 NAG has been carrying out a review of its operations. This is ongoing and will inform and develop plans for future NAG activity.

Amongst several NAG supporters who have attended NAG management collective meetings, by invitation, over recent years are Nick Mayhew-Smith, Sam Hawcroft, Tim Forcer, Allan Kidney, Andrew Callow and Ray Ward. Each person brings to a meeting specific naturist experiences which can inform the decision-making.

Over 60 volunteer naturists are currently active in NAG actions. We always welcome supporters to participate in our many activities. We have opportunities for more NAG supporters to carry out key activities, including on the management collective, as mentioned in the **Sections** below.

3. Update on current NAG projects

In common with nearly all voluntary and naturist groups our ability to operate a full range of activities has been severely curtailed by coronavirus restrictions since February 2020.

3.1 NAG London Group

This Group has a strong core of naturists who co-ordinate a variety of activities in the capital. Several successful picnics have been held, at Hampstead Heath and Richmond Park, new locations for open air sunbathing were explored. In May Keith Palmer arranged a nude visit to the Royal Academy 'The Renaissance Nude' exhibition. Keith arranged for NAG members to participate in this BN event. National media coverage resulted. Many NAG supporters are involved with running the London WNBR, including as start point organisers.

For women naturists NAG promoted sunbathing at the Ladies Pond on Hampstead Heath. Planning a naturist picnic there this summer became a victim of the coronavirus. NAG also promoted women-only days organised by Louise through www.naturistwomen.org. A range of workshops and activities took place in 2019 with 24 women at Wood Green in March, at Clapham there were 21 in October, whilst 9 women enjoyed a naturist day at Brighton Beach in July.

Setting activity dates takes place in two planning meetings each year. A person then agrees to be co-ordinator for an event. The NAG London Group welcomes more naturists becoming involved in the discussion. In February a full programme of 2020 activities was decided – then coronavirus struck! The Group will pick up on those activities, as soon as government restrictions are lifted to allow safe meetings in the open.

Opportunities for NAG supporters to meet, and comment on activities, have included Naked Pub Days with a Sunday meal. Other naturist groups put on similar events in London with good attendances. Unfortunately, our planned date in November 2019 was the third that year and did not get enough advance bookings to enable it to be held. We are currently looking for other London venues and options, which have a lower financial risk for NAG.

Harvey Allen + John Paine

3.2 Nottingham initiative

In November 2019 a small group of NAG supporters started to plan for a naturist picnic to be held in a large park in Nottingham city this June. They called on NAG for advice, based on our success in holding several naturist picnics in London parks. John Paine met with them in Nottingham in February, including site visits to two parks. The group has continued with advance planning for the picnic, likely to now be held in summer 2021.

John Paine

3.3 Press & Media group

NAG's Press & Media group has been active throughout the year, monitoring the press and media for misinformation and poor treatment of naturism and nudity in its reporting and comment. Some notable successes have been achieved, with several invitations from editors to publish

correcting articles (all taken up), and useful dialogue with journalists, editors and reporters. It is difficult to quantify progress, but it has been evident that in the last year or so there has been a discernible reduction in the number of prurient and inaccurate articles appearing, and a general improvement in the quality and accuracy of journalism when covering naturism or items involving nudity. This project will continue.

It is carried out by a team of enthusiastic and skilled volunteers, which includes some professional journalists. NAG has both guidelines for volunteers and information for local editors. Details available, and you can contact me, via www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk

Duncan Heenan

3.4 Social Media

NAG currently has a limited social media presence through our www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk website, on Facebook, and on Twitter. We use these platforms to promote NAG campaigning work with people interested in naturism. We also share information with, and about, other naturist bodies and their work. It is not our policy to share general chit chat, gossip, frivolous news items, on naturism. We also do not show gratuitous nude photographs, especially in the light of the terms and conditions of Facebook.

We discourage unnecessary attraction to the group's social media outlets by various unseemly visitors. NAG's main aim is to stay focused on campaigning and the furtherance of the rights and freedom of naturism and naturists. Below we indicate areas in which you may be able to help with this work. We have procedure and training policies that we can discuss with you. If you would like to know more contact us through the website to arrange to speak with Pete Knight.

The NAG Facebook account www.facebook.com/NaturistActionGroup/ needs to be publicised a little more. It currently has 32 followers, an average of 120 likes per month, and 150 views per month. The nature of Facebook is very much an open discussion group, open in as much as visitors are able to contribute posts and comments. Our administrators are able to block any unsavoury contributors which, fortunately, are few and far between. As with the website NAG is actively seeking volunteers to help with the role of social media administrator, ideally we could take on several, so that at least one administrator is available at any time.

The NAG Twitter account (twitter: @naturist_action) is used more and has 13,200 followers. This Twitter account is more difficult to manage because the platform itself allows all manner of dubious activity. Much time is spent safeguarding NAG by checking the intent of new followers. This results in more blocking than those allowed to remain as followers! Current policy is to avoid gratuitous nude photographs, we leave that to other forums and the like, whilst NAG focuses on its prime objectives. Again, we are seeking a little more help from, perhaps an extra ten, volunteer administrators for the NAG Twitter account. More volunteers can effectively control the unsavoury element and keep the NAG Twitter account active.

NAG associates on social media with other naturist groups and shares information with them. These include NAKTIV, H&E, BN, WNBR, Naturist Women. This is not an exhaustive list and we are open to other groups with similar aims to NAG being included. Again, you can contact us through the website if you have other bodies to suggest.

Pete Knight

3.5 Children & Nudity

Whilst NAG sees this as a continuing issue in acceptance of naturism in wider society, circumstances have prevented much real progress. A joint initiative with BN and Regents University did not take off as hoped. Though there is ongoing work on the psychological aspects of naturism by both Regents University and Goldsmiths University, it is limited and slow mostly due to lack of funds. Also the subject areas are moving away from the Children issue, and though the current research is useful, it is not as relevant as we would have hoped. NAG will maintain a watching brief on this issue and will use any opportunity which may arise to further the project. If you have any constructive suggestions please contact me via the website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk

Duncan Heenan

3.6 Ad-hoc Surveys

This was a project started by Reg Barlow, but 'put on a back burner' when he resigned from NAG's management collective during the year. The idea was to hold a series of internet-based surveys of naturists' opinions, needs and attitudes as and when suitable issues arose, to inform both the debates and the wider world of the findings. An initial database and software was constructed, but we have not had the human resources to carry it forward – yet! If any NAG supporters would like to carry this project forward and have the necessary IT and analytical skills, please get in touch via the NAG Website. Your help would be much appreciated as a part of our general campaigning effort.

Duncan Heenan

4. Website

NAG website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk is the main portal by which naturists can discover and keep up with what NAG is doing. Set up originally by a previous NAG supporter it has undergone several changes over the 10 years. During 2019 the NAG website suffered problems, which included being hacked and attacked with a malicious virus. It is operating safely again, after we contracted an IT firm to fix it. During the recovery process some of the former interactive features had to be disabled.

As new information on NAG initiatives becomes available it is posted on the website. There is also a large catalogue of detailed information about NAG projects over the years. As the busy volunteer webmaster I hope to revamp the look and operation of the website during this year, when my other time commitments allow. It is worth keeping an eye on it!

Like all aspects of NAG work the involvement of NAG supporters is crucial. As a member of the management collective I am the webmaster and have an assistant webmaster. Three administrators can upload information onto the website, all items to post have to be submitted to us, which ensures that it is relevant for NAG.

We are always on the look-out for additional helpers. If you think that you may be able to help and would like to know more then please contact me via the website.

Robert Brown

5. International Links

Over the years NAG has attracted supporters from around the world. We have explored with some developing specific projects jointly with NAG, or possible joint international naturist projects. Some members of the NAG management collective have been fortunate in their travels and able to meet campaigning naturists in Germany, France, USA, Spain, Thailand.

During 2019 NAG members made three visits (at their own expense) to Paris, including for Paris Naturist Day in June, in September for WNBR Paris (cancelled by the police the day before but a naturist picnic was still held) and the INF Swimming Gala in October. Personal ties were strengthened between NAG, APNEL, ANP, and INF members from various countries.

Internet conversations and dialogue have continued with them and with colleagues in other overseas naturist bodies. These have included BoP in New Zealand, NAT Naturist Association of Thailand, and with activists in Australia, Spain, USA and Canada.

NAG still considers the International Naturist Federation to be unfit for purpose, but as NAG is not a member of INF it is not currently in a position to do anything about this directly.

John Paine & Duncan Heenan

6. Finance

I hope the following accounts summary (with comparatives) is self-explanatory. As in previous years the bulk of NAG's 'income' is donations in kind by volunteers meeting their own campaigning expenses themselves. Website costs were higher as a result of the need for professional help in recovery from a hacker attack, and the change of Internet Service Provider which this necessitated. If you have any questions, contact me via the NAG Website.

Duncan Heenan, Treasurer

NAG accounts summary at 29.2.20

	<u>19/20</u>	<u>18/19</u>	<u>17/18</u>
Opening funds at 1st March	802.63	1,015.07	1,068.03
<u>Income:</u>			
Donations	99.32	95.00	305.00
Donations in kind	586.00	1,030.80	583.63
Website advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publication fees	540.00	300.00	65.00
Photo Competition	0.00	0.00	92.12
Total income	1,225.32	1,425.80	1,045.75
<u>Expenditure</u>			
PayPal costs	-0.54	-1.77	-17.47
Website costs	-336.19	-112.62	-19.19
Campaign costs	-635.00	-1,510.85	-1,077.77
Photo comp. costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundry	-8.00	-13.00	-13.00
Tax	0.00	0.00	28.72
Total costs	-979.73	-1,638.24	-1,098.71
Surplus/deficit	245.59	-212.44	-52.96
 Closing Funds - cash	 1,048.22	 802.63	 1,015.07

7. Thanks to our supporters

Whatever NAG does is entirely due to what energies, and support, our marvellous supporters put into the work described above. The Report can only briefly indicate this work, you can find more detailed information on the NAG website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk. There would be no NAG – literally – without this involvement of so many naturists. Some may be actively involved in the various projects, some suggest ideas for new developments or key contacts for NAG to approach, some help behind the scenes, some give money donations. All help make NAG to be a progressive campaigning organisation for naturism.

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank some key NAG people. Firstly, all the members of the Management Collective previously mentioned, who guide NAG and its activities. Each also carries specific responsibilities as indicated in this Report. We appreciate the valuable contributions made by Reg Barlow and Louise Ponting, both of whom stepped down recently.

In the NAG London Group a special thanks to Harvey Allen, Steve Harrison, Carlie Newman, Louise Ponting, Ray Ward, Michael Gill, all have played an important part. Thanks also to the many NAG supporters involved in the running, and work of, the various NAG project groups.

We hope that you have been stimulated by this report and will want to be more involved with NAG. To be aware of latest developments or to contact us our website is at www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk

John Paine

Chair of NAG since January 2020