



ANNUAL REPORT

June 2021

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1. A difficult year for campaigning

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly been a difficult period for naturism, many countries around the world are still facing daily ravages from coronavirus. Since March 2020 the UK has seen 'lockdown restrictions' of one sort or another. In brief periods 'a window' opened to hold face-to-face activities, including limited NAG campaigning. Many UK naturist groups had to close their club grounds and facilities: travel and social restrictions curtailed most naturist activities. Zoom social activities sprouted in many naturist bodies for those naturists online, whilst Zoom is used by NAG for essential meetings only. Several activities planned by NAG faced a long postponement. Now we are planning to hold many NAG open space campaigning activities again from July 2021.

You will be aware from our 2020 Annual Report that NAG is a totally volunteer body, does not employ paid staff and has no office overheads. A small Management Collective (Mancoll) makes policy and co-ordinates NAG campaigning action. Naturists around the UK give us campaign ideas and they volunteer to run NAG activities. We encourage this involvement. Over 60 volunteer naturists work to organise NAG projects and run key NAG activity groups.

NAG has both local actions, in which naturists band together on an area basis, and national project and campaign groups. NAG does not organise purely social activities. When NAG supporters meet it is usually in open air settings to further a specific campaign. That is NAG's way of working. Results indicate that most members of the public do accept naked bodies when it is not confrontational. Brief information is given in this Report, much more detail is on our website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk.

The review of NAG operations, started in autumn 2019, is now mainly concluded. We recruited four new volunteers to the eight-person Mancoll, whilst three others left after periods of tremendous work for NAG. All have worked extremely hard, holding Zoom meetings every 2 months which have been hosted by **Harvey Allen**. They develop new options and opportunities for NAG, each also co-ordinating more campaigning initiatives. For legal purposes Naturists Ltd is the holding company for NAG activities, its three directors are all members of the Mancoll.

In 2020 we created a NAG phone **0844 357 5196** for those not able to contact us online. A short call to that number will put your message to the relevant NAG person, so that they may call you back.

John Paine chair

2. Update on NAG projects

It has been an exciting year for NAG, a lot of campaigning activity which could be done online has continued. Key new projects have started, and gains have been made in our ongoing campaigning.

2.1 Law Commission and hate crime

In October 2020 we started to prepare a NAG submission to the Law Commission review of Hate Crime laws. A detailed 19-page submission was sent to the Law Commission on 21 December, available as *2020 NAG submission on Hate Crime* on our website. We used evidence gathered in our *Hate Crimes incident log*. That confidential *Incidents Log* is still open under that forum on our website. **John Wood** he can receive details john.kenneth.wood@naturistactiongroup.co.uk of relevant new incidents. All reports will strengthen the Log as a valuable data-resource.

John Paine

2.2 Police Guidelines Awareness Campaign

New Police Guidelines were published in 2018 by the College of Policing to clarify the way the police should interpret the law regarding naturism and public nudity. Among police forces many police officers and call handlers are not aware that the guidelines exist! Our **Police Guidelines Awareness Campaign** aims to change this through police forces making their relevant staff aware of the guidelines. Ideally, this will result in less police time being wasted in responses to innocent outdoor naturism.

To ascertain the current police training procedures 86 letters were sent to Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners in March 2021. Some replies have revealed intriguing information! The Campaign will continue for some time, involving a dialogue with police personnel at many different levels. Monthly updates can be found at <https://forum.naturistactiongroup.co.uk/index.php?board=38.0>

John Wood

2.3 Local NAG campaigning

NAG London Group

Over 10 years this Group has become a strong core of naturists who organise a variety of NAG activities in the capital. We did manage to hold a naturist picnic on 10 September 2020 at Hampstead Heath but other picnics planned, including at Beckenham Place Park, had to be cancelled. One aim is to hold monthly naturist picnics at various London locations from this July onwards. Two London issues, relating to the Police Guidelines, were taken up with the relevant police forces by Group members.

We continue to explore new locations for open air sunbathing and swimming. Amongst new outdoor activities for July 2021 are a naturist cycle ride along the River Lea, and a naturist picnic at The Welsh Harp reservoir. Group trips out of London to two WNBR rides are also planned for July. Currently being explored are naturist rounders at Rainham Marshes and naturist sunbathing for women at Hampstead Heath Ladies Pond. All NAG London activities are posted on the NAG website.

Planning by the Group was through Zoom meetings, with a rotation of volunteers for chair and note-taking. **Ken Neville** was agreed by group members as the NAG London Group co-ordinator from 1 June 2021. Ken can be contacted on ken.neville@naturistactiongroup.co.uk **John Paine + Ken Neville**

NAG Nottingham

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 during 2020. They called on NAG for advice, following successful NAG naturist picnics in London parks. In February 2020 John Paine met the naturists, including site visits to two Nottingham parks. Four weeks later, Britain was plunged into coronavirus Lockdown. The group continued planning for the picnic, now to be held in July 2021. Members of the group also hold naturist walks in local places, details from me at john.kenneth.wood@naturistactiongroup.co.uk. **John Wood**

Other local NAG groups

We were pleased to be contacted by a naturist living near Glasgow, seeking local naturist activities. We discussed this with our naturist contacts in that area and, should the opportunity occur, it may lead to NAG developing a local group there. If you feel that NAG might be able to develop a NAG Group where you live please contact me at john.paine@naturistactiongroup.co.uk **John Paine**

2.4 Naturist use of beaches

Two types of beach issue have been worked on by NAG recently. At Fraisethorpe, East Riding of Yorkshire, a sign indicated that naturism could be illegal. NAG member **Phillip Green** raised this with the local council and the sign was replaced with one which had better wording. By his actions East Riding of Yorkshire Council are now better informed about the law regarding nudity in public places. Secondly, the naturist use of beaches used by others is another way of getting public acceptance of naturism as being normal alongside other cultural beliefs. **Duncan Heenan** is leading this campaign and welcomes you contacting him with similar examples of action on duncan.heenan@naturistactiongroup.co.uk

2.5 Naturist cycling

Whilst NAG London Group have been the pioneers of this naturist activity, we welcome similar initiatives by NAG supporters in other places. **Ken Neville** leads on this is ken.neville@naturistactiongroup.co.uk

2.6 Press & Media group

We continue to put energy into challenging mainstream media attitudes. Our team of enthusiastic and trained NAG volunteers around England includes some professional journalists. Led by **Duncan Heenan** they monitor their local press and media for misinformation and poor treatment of naturism and nudity in

local reporting and comment. Some notable successes have been achieved, with several invitations from editors to publish correcting articles, all of which were taken up.

Our *NAG Guidance note for Journalists and Editors* led to useful dialogue with journalists, editors and reporters. The *Guidance note* is on the NAG website under Campaigns. NAG also praises newspapers, such as the *Skegness Standard*, when they publish positive articles about naturism.

If you would like to know more, or may perhaps consider joining the Press and Media team of volunteers to help with your local media, please contact me at duncan.heenan@naturistactiongroup.co.uk

Duncan Heenan

2.7 Other NAG projects being explored

This January we asked for campaigning ideas. The WNBR rides, NAG supporters have been heavily involved in organising some of them, have been a great success. This led us to think of organising a **Naturist city march** in 2022. Initial planning has started with a city in mind, many details have still to be worked out. **Adam Scarborough** is co-ordinating the work on this. If you would like to help Adam please contact him at adam.scarborough@naturistactiongroup.co.uk. Some ideas can only be activated when people come forward to volunteer. **Naturist Wild Swimming Groups** is one that may appeal to you. If so, do let us know!

Children & Nudity Even before NAG was founded in 2010 we have wanted to change public perceptions on nudity. NAG believes negative attitudes in society, towards the human body and its shape, impinge on the greater acceptance of naturism. “*Not in front of the children*” is perhaps shielding in the wrong way. NAG has always felt the belief, perpetuated vociferously by some today, that seeing naked human bodies actually harms children, is wrong. We believe this to be misguided and without foundation. Parental concerns, influenced by social attitudes, have implications for children growing up. They shape a child’s view about, and attitudes toward, respect or otherwise for their body.

This issue badly needs an authoritative academic study. Previous work by NAG and BN, on projects with London’s Regents University and with Goldsmiths University, was helpful but lacked sufficient funding. We know that other naturist groups share our belief that a serious academic study is needed. **Duncan Heenan** maintains a watching brief on this issue and NAG will further the project when any opportunity arises. If you perhaps know of academics, or their institutions, who may be receptive to research in this field, please contact Duncan at duncan.heenan@naturistactiongroup.co.uk. This issue is of significance to naturists internationally and NAG would seek to work with other naturist bodies on it.

Ad-hoc Surveys are something which NAG has undertaken over the past eight years. We know the value of internet-based surveys of naturists’ opinions, needs and attitudes. We have a database and the software but, currently, not the human resources to carry out new surveys! Any new data would inform both the naturist debates and the wider world. Other naturist-related issues may crop up where a quick survey would be valuable. If you have the necessary IT and analytical skills and would like to explore this, please get in touch with **Duncan Heenan** at duncan.heenan@naturistactiongroup.co.uk. Your help would be much appreciated as a part of our general campaigning effort.

John Paine

3. Website and social media

Our NAG website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk is the main portal by which naturists can discover and keep up with what NAG is doing. The website has a series of forums which cover 221 topics in which there have been 316 postings. We take security of our online facilities very seriously since we had to build a new website in mid-2020. In November there was an indication of a possible very serious infiltration by malicious ‘bots’. **Robert Brown** and **Harvey Allen** then developed and tested a new Registration Application Form, which requires a real human to fill it in.

Our new website had 301,932 ‘hits’ in its first few months, the Hate Crime forum alone received 3,694 visits in 8 weeks. At one stage an incredible 772,734 hits per month were recorded, it then calmed down to around 132,000 per month. Since December 2020 NAG had been No.1 on search engines, where people seek ‘naturist’.

The NAG website constantly carries new information, both on NAG events planned and on key NAG Campaigns. Most days it carries new information, particularly as more people are now organising NAG activities in many places. The home page has both a rolling Newsflash, and frequently changed NAG Announcements panel. If you have picked up this Annual Report in some other way then you may like to visit the NAG website - hopefully what you discover there may impress you!

Robert Brown, Webmaster Harvey Allen, Web Administrator

Social media

Since our 2020 Annual Report we have made big progress in operating our social media platforms. We use **facebook** @GroupNaturist and **twitter** @naturist_action. Since **Alan Henderson** took it over the NAG Facebook page is doing well. By January 2021 we had 2562 likes, and 2773 followers. In March 2021 a post about Sam Smith, convicted of harmful acts against Clacton WNBR riders, gained a total of 1,510 people reached and 424 engagements. That topic was shared 10 times and that month people reached was 1,870 - up by 306%. Page engagements at 461 in March was up by 1,607%. In June 2021 there were 3,339 followers and one post attracted 3,100 likes.

The previous NAG twitter account had fallen into disuse. Our current twitter account @naturist_action was created in November 2020 and quickly gained 235 followers by end of January. At end of June 2021 this had grown to 12,000 followers. If you have a particular skill in using social media, and would like to help NAG with this, please contact **Rob** or **Harvey** at admin@naturistactiongroup.co.uk. For security reasons we will need to discuss what is involved with any NAG supporter who shows interest in helping.

Alan Henderson, Social media co-ordinator

4. Finance and fundraising

2020/21 saw campaigning activity reduced due mostly to the Covid-19 restrictions. The lack of publication fees in the year impacted badly on income, and the main source of funds remains 'donations in kind', which is volunteers paying their own expenses for campaigning work. Website costs are high as a result of work on the website, necessitated by a cyber-attack, plus the construction and launch of NAG's new website. Though NAG remains solvent, there is a continuing need for funding if our various campaign objectives are to be achieved.

NAG's accounts for the year to 28.2.21 (with comparatives)

	<u>20/21</u>	<u>19/20</u>	<u>18/19</u>
Opening funds at 1st March	1,048.22	802.63	1,015.07
<u>Income:</u>			
Donations	55.00	99.32	95.00
Donations in kind	195.30	586.00	1,030.80
Publication fees	0.00	540.00	300.00
Total income	250.30	1,225.32	1,425.80
<u>Expenditure</u>			
PayPal costs	-12.09	-0.54	-1.77
Website costs	-212.88	-336.19	-112.62
Campaign costs	-201.40	-635.00	1,510.85
Sundry	-13.00	-8.00	-13.00
Total costs	-439.37	-979.73	1,638.24
Surplus/deficit	-189.07	245.59	-212.44
Closing Funds - cash	859.15	1,048.22	802.63

As NAG activities expand we need more income. Cash donations may be made when attending a NAG event. Cheques, payable to **NATURISTS LTD**, can be sent to: Naturist Action Group, The Risings, Kington Lane, Kington, Worcestershire WR7 4DH UK. You can also donate via the website and Paypal https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=donations&business=paypal@naturistactiongroup.co.uk&item_name=Naturists%20Ltd¤cy_code=GBP

Duncan Heenan, Treasurer

5. International Links

NAG has good relations with many UK naturist bodies. NAG articles, and a regular NAG column, appear in **H&E Naturist**, which is the world's only monthly naturist magazine on sale in commercial outlets. Other naturist magazines in the UK and elsewhere also carry items on the work of NAG.

NAG has good links with naturists in other countries around the world. In Europe our friends in **APNEL** and **ANP** in France, also activists in Germany and Spain. Our links further afield include **BoP** in New Zealand, **NAT** Naturist Association of Thailand, and with activists in Australia, USA and Canada. NAG also works with **INF** members from various countries. We even have our very own *Esperanto* speaking correspondent, **Philip Fahey** in London.

The **Naturist Travel Awards** were started early in 2021, NAG quickly gave support to that international initiative. It is likely that by participating in the Awards process more naturists will learn about the many opportunities to enjoy naturism, both in the UK and the world. Customer satisfaction ratings are also likely to increase, or maintain, good standards in businesses catering for naturists.

NAG members have suggested that we should visit our Paris colleagues again, to celebrate Naturist Day with them in summer 2022. It will be the third NAG visit to Paris. Each time we find out more about the naturist opportunities there and the campaigning work done by our French colleagues. **John Paine**

6. Thanks to our supporters

Whatever NAG achieves is entirely due to the energies our marvellous supporters put into the work described above. We thank each one of them. There would be no NAG – literally – if there were not so many naturists involved. Some supporters may be actively involved in projects, some suggest ideas for new developments or key contacts for NAG to approach. Others help behind the scenes; some give money donations. All help make NAG a leading campaigning organisation for naturism. This Report can only briefly indicate our full range of campaigning work for naturism, more detailed information is posted on the NAG website www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk

It would be remiss of me if I did not thank some key NAG people. Firstly, the hard-working members of the Management Collective who guide NAG and oversee its activities:

John Paine – Chair
Duncan Heenan – Treasurer
Robert Brown – Webmaster
Alan Henderson – Social Media
Harvey Allen – Data Protection Officer
Ken Neville – London Group co-ordinator
John Wood – Nottingham Group co-ordinator
Adam Scarborough – Naturist city march

They live in various parts of England and each one also carries other specific NAG responsibilities, some of which are shown in this Report. You may also know individuals through their work for other voluntary groups. We particularly owe a big thank you to **Rob, Harvey, Alan** for their essential work with the NAG online communications. Without their inputs we would not have had the **Section 3**. Success.

We would love to have women on the Management Collective again. Louise was a big help with many ideas and actions. Since her job responsibilities increased, leading to her not having adequate time to continue as a member of the Mancoll, we have really missed her valuable input. Louise is still able to work hard for naturism in other important ways.

Secondly, a huge thank you to all the volunteers who organise NAG campaigning activities and to the members of the Press & Media team around the country.

We hope that you have been stimulated by reading this report and will want to be more involved with NAG. To find our latest developments, or to contact us, go to www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk.

John Paine
Chair of NAG