

# THE TRECKER



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## Editor's Corner

This time last year I was commenting on how wet the early summer had been and how we had still managed to attend nine rallies over the season. Very different this year when in spite of very little rain and four summer heatwaves, we've only got to two rallies so far, with probably one more to come. We just have to accept that sometimes problems with the van and family life get in the way.

Sadly, we also had to miss the Gala rally so I was really pleased to receive the rally report from new members Steve and Carole. At least I now know exactly what we missed. I urge you all to read it (page 3), especially if you've never been to the Gala and are one of those members who feel that this sort of thing is not for them. It just might help you to change your mind.

Geoff Heyes  
Editor

## Chairman's Chat

So here I am on a rally at Lower Poulza Post for the second time this year. The sun is shining and the sky is blue. The weather has been pretty good for most of the year so I'm curious to know why more people haven't been out and about on rallies. By the time you read this there will only be a couple of rallies left this year so make the most and get out there with your friends.

We've had a number of new members over recent months, helped by increased advertising and also the invitation rallies. It's just the start and we need to do more. We have some promotional plans in the pipeline and members have already come up with a couple of helpful ideas. Please do contact any of the committee if you have any thoughts about where and how we can promote Suntreckers more. Suntreckers is a great club we all need to take every opportunity to share and tell others so they can enjoy it with us. We must not be selfish!

### Don't miss an opportunity!

What do you do next when you have been talking to someone about Suntreckers, telling them who we are, where we go and all that? The answer is simple – give them a Suntrecker brochure with a membership application form. Don't leave them in a cupboard or drawer at home - take them with you on your travels in your caravan or motorhome. We have gained a few members this way recently but could it have been more? If you need some more leaflets please contact John at [mem.sec@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:mem.sec@suntreckers.org.uk). Don't forget to put your membership number on the form to get your referral discount off next year's subscription.

## Thank you for the Gala

Well the title is nearly right. I really wanted to say thank you to Sylvia who did most of the organising, as well as to the committee. I also want to thank the others who did their bit, however great or small, at the rally itself to get everything running smoothly. Finally, thank you to all of you who attended, as without you it would all have been for nothing. I'm sure you all had a great time and to those that didn't make it this year we hope to see you next time – don't miss out again!

Alan Ingram  
Chairman.

## Saturday morning Zoom chat

Monty and Trina have been away for a while, so unable to host the Zoom meetings. The Saturday Zoom meetings started again on Saturday 6th September. Start time is at 10.30am. To join the Zoom 'Coffee morning' hosted by Monty just click this link and wait for Monty to admit you to the meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75292163604...>

If that link does not work, you can try launching the Zoom client and joining the meeting with the following details: Meeting ID: 752 9216 3604 Password: 2020

## Rally Organiser's Report

Another year planning the rallies. As you can guess there are quite a few challenges. I'm currently planning a minimum of two rallies per week, but have taken into consideration how many rallies have been cancelled this year, through a lack of either rally officer or ralliers. I'm endeavouring to keep the rallies in area groups to reduce the amount of travelling required but it's not always possible.

I've already agreed dates for rallies at Greenhill Park and Woodside Field, as we need to get in early because of high demand from other groups. The Gala and AGM dates are similar to this year and we will be returning to Candy Farm. It's not the best time for me because of child-minding duties, but that's the way it is at the moment.

There won't be any rallies at Dolcoed next year, as the site is up for sale, but it doesn't stop members from trying to arrange a visit there themselves. It does leave Tything Barn out on its own though. It's worth mentioning that Apollo has a new, heated, outdoor pool which should entice some of you to go there to enjoy a naked swim.

Bank holidays do cause some booking problems, because club sites tend to get booked up by their own members – White Rose is one example of where I'm having to arrange different dates. The August Greenhill Park rally has also been moved to a date in September.

This year's continental rallies proved troublesome, with only one of the four planned rallies actually taking place. One of the cancelled rallies failed to attract enough ralliers, whilst the others were lost because of personal problems cropping up for the rally officers or lack of a rally officer altogether. Regarding next year, I've put a post on the Suntreckers Facebook page, asking for some proposals. I've not contacted any sites yet so if you have ideas about where you'd like to go, please contact me directly at [rallyorganizer@suntrecker.org.uk](mailto:rallyorganizer@suntrecker.org.uk)

Finally we had no winter rallies during the 2024/2025 season. Now that Greenhill Park closes at the end of October there is no longer opportunity to have a Christmas rally there. If anyone is prepared to run a winter rally then please let me have the details as soon as possible.

I'll be sending out the emails to the rally sites soon to get things moving.

Martin Hodgson  
National Rally Organiser

# Gala Rally and AGM

## Our first visit to a Suntimecker Gala

Hi one and all, we are Steve & Carole and we became Treckers for the first time this year. As an introduction, we have been naturists on and off now for many years with more “off” than “on”, as raising a family and hectic work duties took up the majority of our time. However, as the kids married and the grandkids grew older, our family commitments became less demanding so we managed to squeeze out a bit more leisure time and joined some clubs, but visits were still pretty sparse.

This year was different. With the youngest grandchild now at school we finally had more time to ourselves. Additionally, for the last few years since retirement, we have been fortunate to own a campervan and have been enjoying holidays around the UK when we could and we came across Suntimeckers from a Facebook link last year.

Suntimeckers seemed an ideal way to combine the fun of camping with the tranquillity of slowly basting ourselves in the sun so this year we joined up. We have now been to three rallies and it has certainly been different to what we envisaged in a good way, if I may elaborate.

As some of you will be aware, when camping at a campsite, the most that campers converse is a “nod” or “good morning” of acknowledgement and that’s about it. But we discovered the warmth of the folks on Suntimecker rallies such an unexpected contrast. We found, without exception, that everyone was friendly and welcoming and went out of their way to include us in their chats, all with smiles of greetings. Such a pleasant experience.

I must note however, that the first two rallies were pretty small. As we are both quite shy, when we read the itinerary for the Gala rally we very nearly didn’t go! The thoughts of morning meetups with large groups, games, competitions, fancy dress was all so “not us” that we initially skipped over this one and just said, “Not for us”.

We can however, blame Eddie and Pat for our change of heart. I am sure a lot of you know this lovely couple. We met them for the first time on our second rally at Broadlands, where they were the acting rally officers. Both of them made us feel right at home from the very start and gave us many a belly laugh with some of their tales of the past during the frequent get togethers during the rally.

It was during one of these chats that Eddie sang the praises of the Gala rally at Candy Farm and how we should really try to experience it. So back home and perusing the rally book for our next rally we re-looked at the Gala rally and thought, why not!

After all, if the coffee mornings were too overwhelming, we could just stay in our van until they were over and we could watch the games from a distance to see what was going on rather than show our ignorance. The price was unbelievably good, so we decided to see at first hand what a big rally was like. So we booked up, received our instructions, unpacked our clothes and trotted off to Candy Farm in our camper.

Typically, after all the hot weather we had been enjoying the good weather broke, but that didn’t deter the campers. Apparently, there were 42 units and 75 people at the rally, impressive!

We were rather apprehensive at the start of the first coffee morning. A crowd had gathered in a circle already and was growing as we watched. Putting on a brave face we grabbed our chairs and walked over to join the group. It wasn’t as bad as we feared! We had the same smiles of welcome as we had experienced at the smaller rallies as we approached. People moved their chairs backwards a little to allow us to fit into the circle, and our new neighbours all said a welcoming “Hi” and chatted away. Nice!

Over cuppas and bickies we listened to Chairman Alan update the group on plans for the day ahead and any important notices, often accompanied with some friendly banter and some gentle ribbing from some of his friends. This made the coffee mornings more enjoyable and nothing like the ordeal we had dreaded. We began to look forward to our group cuppa with bickie dunking, especially as one cup usually turned into two, accompanied by lots of friendly chatter. A highlight came after the judging of the cake competition, when to our delight, the cake entries were shared out to the group. We enjoyed a couple of indulgent slices each - yum, yum!

After the first coffee morning of the rally, the Mõlkky games started. We had no idea what this game was but soon picked up the basics with help from some of our new-found friends. Our fears of being shown up vanished straight away when we discovered most of the participants were in the same beginners class as us, with lots just playing for fun alongside lots of laughter and cheering from the onlookers egging them on.

The Pétanque games were similar and everyone seemed to be having a great time either playing or spectating. Bad weather reared its head at times and changed some of the planned timings, but the participants all managed to complete their games.

Candy Farm has some nice walks that you can go on if you want some peaceful solitude and that is something that we both enjoy, so at times when the weather was nice enough we took the opportunity to have some quiet time and just enjoy the sun and our own company. Carole found some wild blackberries on our walks and gathered enough to go on her breakfast each morning - such a tasty treat.

The Gala organisers they did an awesome job - not only setting up the rally, but ensuring we were all well entertained and well fed. We had scones with clotted cream and jam as an afternoon tea treat, with the inevitable discussion on jam or cream first and we also had a hog roast evening with accompanying salad toppings. One evening the fish and chip van came in and I enjoyed a "whale" and chips with the obligatory mushies. The battered cod being so big I nearly burst! The van even sold ice-cream. How cool is that?

The nightly evening entertainment was top notch. We had singers, bands, a guitarist and even some comedians over four nights. Nibbles were always present on the tables and topped up if they looked a little low and you could take your own drinks or partake in a complimentary glass supplied by our hosts on the first night. Absolutely spot on and thoroughly enjoyable.

Alas, other commitments meant we had to leave the Gala early on Sunday morning before the AGM and missed the prize giving. We did manage to delay our departure long enough for one last bickie-dunking and watch the raffle prizes being won with an excellent £400 plus raised for charity.

Overall, we must give a big applaud to the rally organisers and helpers. We had a great time and even the odd showers didn't dampen the proceedings. After our initial misgivings, now that we have experienced our first big rally we certainly will be back for next year and plan on winning that Mõlkky prize as well.

Thanks for reading

Steve & Carole

# Long Service Awards 2025

## 10 Years

Roger	Coggan	
Robert & Pauline	Finney	*
Alan & Christine	Porteous	
Alan & Margaret	Taylor	
Paul	Underwood	
Steve	Weston	
David & Noreen	Whitaker	*
Steven & Carol	Wilkes	

## 15 Years

Brian & Sylvia	Caldicott	*
Joe & Karen	Grun	
Harold & Christine	Owen	
Malcolm & Betty	Wiltshire/Bryan	

## 20 Years

David	Poole	
David & Margaret	Rose	

## 25 Years

Malcolm & Maureen	Burland	*
Roger & Libby	Cook	

## 30 Years

There were no 30 year awards this year

## 35 Years

Howard & Carol	Claridge	
Donald & Linda	Clark	
Mike & Janice	Goodall	
Alan & Jackie	Ingram	
Ray & June	Jones	

## 40 Years

Ron & Ann	Twining	
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\* Service awards presented at AGM. All others posted

## Best-dressed van

There were four entries for the best dressed unit and we happily won. The theme, as you know, was Sport. So, we thought the early Greek Olympics, where the athletes were naked, would be fun to do.



I painted it all on the kitchen floor and the whole display cost a fiver to make. So hopefully it will encourage more entries next year.

Many thanks  
Ed and Margaret

## Gala Rally Raffle Prize Winners 2025

Item	Winner
£80 Cash	Monty Toplis
Ultimate Moments Gift Box	Ed Pruen
Collapsible Camping Set	David Hough
How To Grow Vegetables DVD	Jeff Pearce
2 Pens	Ray Moore
Tea Light Pincer	Geoff Mason
Noel CD	Pat & Eddie Silk
Bottle Pinot Grigio	Noreen Whitaker
Bottle Merlot	Monty Toplis
Royal Worcester Mugs (X2)	Carol (Candy Farm Owner)
LC 3D Glasses Box of 4	Irene Sayers
2 LC 3D Glasses	Steve Wagstaff
Horse Print Scarf	Mary Filtness
Witch	Lyn Furley
4 Egg Cups	Geoff & Eileen Heyes *
Playing Cards & Dice Set	Geoff & Eileen Heyes *
Historic London Plate	Terry Cadby
Bug Zapper	Val Pearce
Love Hearts Mug	Maureen Fox -Dowden
Case Of Toiletries	Jack Padgett
Pruning Saw	Tony Macinnes *

Item	Winner
Pair Toe Socks	Geoff Mason
PaperMate Pens	Nick Payne
Instant Mesh Screen	Kevin Filtness
Cockburn Port	Alan Ingram
Nose Wax Kit	Mary Filtness
Tool Bag	Geoff & Eileen Heyes *
Kubb Set	Rachel Thompson
Pegasus Toy	Alan Ingram
Umbrella	Geoff & Eileen Heyes *
Foot Warmer	Gail & Billy Smith
Museum Mug	Lyn Furley
Candle	Alan Ingram
Electronic Measuring Spoon	Ray Moore
Wizard Ornament	Nick Payne
Purse	Val & Jeff Pearce
Go Naked Mug	Maureen Fox-Dowden
Thermal Mug	Hilary Pratt *
Mains Hook-Up Lead	Rachel Thompson
Picnic Set	Tony Macinnes *
Cherry Blossom Hand Care	John Barnett
Colouring Pencils	Jack Padgett
Thorntons Chocolates	Olly Alston
Peacock Border Stake	Lesley Jackman
Fine English Breakfast Tea	Maureen Burland
Our Glorious Queen Jigsaw	Pauline Finney
LED Lantern String Lights	Not known
I Love Great Britain Jigsaw	Lyn Furley
Caston Extra Dry	Steve Wagstaff
Multi-Purpose Grater	Alan Ingram
Needle Felting Kit	Mary Filtness
Beautiful Blue Tit Nest	Pauline Finney
Celebrations Chocolates	Pat & Eddie Silk
Celebrations Chocolates	John Barnett
Celebrations Chocolates	Terry Jackman

\* Posted

## Other Rally Reports

### Rally 24 - Carbeil

Garden gnomes, fairies, birds and a tortoise all joined our rally.



Can you spot the ralliers?? - on the boat escaping to France!



Making and eating pasties



One rallier tried to escape at 6am saying he was walking the coastal path! He was soon captured and returned.

Carbeil is a great site with a bar, pool and hot tub and within walking distance of Donderry for a pub and restaurants, as well as buses to Looe and Liskard etc.

10% discount for Suntreckers

We will be back soon!

Noreen Whitaker

## Rally 41 – SWOC with first-timer Rally Officers

When staying at the South Western Outdoor Club (SWOC), with no access to electricity, everything depends on the weather, but the weather was kind!

In addition, the club had completely lost their winter collection of rainwater due to a fallen tree. So, we all had to ensure that we were careful with the water we had brought with us and that the club kindly shared.

However, neither of the above prevented any of us from having a wonderful time. The first of three coffee mornings was enhanced with the gift of a large cake from a SWOC member, and soon the boules competition was under way, resulting in two prizes. In addition, Suntrecker and SWOC members discovered the joys of croquet. With table-top quizzes and a fire-side quiz on the Saturday evening in the club house, the five days together produced a lot of laughter and the deepening of friendships.

Five of us walked to the nearby Franciscan community at Hilfield Friary. Those of us who made it to the early Sunday morning Communion service were invited to join them for a healthy breakfast. It is good to know that the monks esteem their naturist neighbours and are always there to support them should they ever need a tow out of the mud.

On the Sunday afternoon, SWOC provided a slap-up tea followed by a raffle towards their funds. For two couples, this was their first Suntrecker rally for several years and one couple from SWOC decided to join.



The photo shows that a good time was had by all.

Ed and Margaret

## Rally 46 – White Rose

Not a bad rally this week. The weather started off fine but deteriorated a bit over the week becoming colder, but that didn't dampen the spirits too much and a good time was had by all. We had six units on the rally containing eight members overall, with two of the units being new members on their first rally. It was also Tim's first go being a rally officer and we all agreed he did a sterling job.



*Nicely pitched up at White Rose*

As well as the normal introductory coffee morning Tim had a few plans stored up for us. Saturday was movie night with a fish and chip dinner. Tim had bought along a mini projector and screen so that we could watch either Jaws or Kes.



*Saturday night at the movies*

Alas the projector was not man enough for the task and the picture was too dim in the daylight, so with a good bit of lateral thinking Tim demolished the TV setup in his van and placed the TV on a tripod, hooked up to a speaker and a DVD player. He then shot off with a fellow member to take our orders to the chippy. Once back we settled down to munch our fish and chips (with mushies of course!) and watched Kes.

We did plan on watching Jaws but I guess someone got carried away with the vinegar and Jaws didn't play anymore! So Kes it was. After the movie we retired to the bar for some much-needed refreshments to wash the fish down!

Bar prices were another big smile. A pint of cask bitter and a double spiced rum set me back exactly £5. Wow, that's good value! They also had music with some great retro songs and it turned out to be an excellent night.

On Sunday afternoon Tim surprised us once again. As we lazed in the sporadic sunshine idly swatting the odd wasp, he came around with a tumblers of iced Pims, along with some nice healthy iced buns. You know the type, the ones that help you gain weight if you even look at them! It all went down a treat with lots of lip smacking and clinking of ice and of course a few top ups. After the Pims had all gone and the sun settled, it seemed only right that we should retire to the bar to wash the ice buns down. I've heard it helps the digestion.



*Sunday afternoon treat!*



*Pool looks inviting*

The pool is very nice at White Rose, solar heated and not at all cold, The missus went in quite often and even I had a quick dip along with the obligatory high-pitched squeal when I first submerged. It's around 45 feet long so plenty of room for a good swim.

There is a sauna on site too for (I believe) £1 a session. One of our members loves saunas and had at least two a day. I was never quite sure if he had overdone it in the sun or his crimson look was due to being "done to a turn" in the oven! But I'm sure the ice creams in the fridge next to the honesty box helped cool him down.



*Epic pool game!*

As the weather got a bit colder, sunbathing was out of the question and it was even too chilly to sit outside so we retired to the club house for a few games of pool. It quickly became apparent that none of us could play so we switched to doubles before the onlookers fell asleep waiting for us to pot something.

Steve

## A warm welcome

Let's give a warm welcome to the following members who've joined us recently.

Terry & Ruth H	South Gloucestershire	09-Jun-25
Tony & Pamela N	Leicestershire	16-Jun-25
Mike S	Aberdeenshire	18-Jun-25
James & Alison M	West Midlands	21-Jun-25
Art D	Dumfries & Galloway	26-Jun-25
Adrian & Michelle B	Staffordshire	01-Aug-25
John G	Dorset	01-Aug-25
Geoff C	Kent	02-Aug-25
Chris & Caroline W	Somerset	03-Aug-25
Mark F	Bristol	08-Aug-25
Ian T	East Yorkshire	10-Aug-25
Ian P	Cheshire	12-Aug-25
Graham S	Devon	15-Aug-25
Richard M	Bristol	15-Aug-25

## BareCamp

Just a very few words about the recent BareCamp event at Thorney Lakes in Somerset. It's not a Suntreckers rally, but Lyn and I have always been there for the week to organise the daily Suntreckers sponsored Petanque sessions and a pairs knockout competition on Saturday. It's open to everyone and this year we had 52 people signed up for the competition. Lyn and Will Rees were beaten in the semi-finals by the previous year's winners, Gary & Sue (non-Suntreckerers) who then won the overall competition and received two engraved glasses with the Suntreckers logo. This year, Suntreckers also sponsored a naked tenpin bowling session at Barnstaple and I presented prizes to the winners. Hopefully, actively participating in these sorts of events will raise the profile of Suntreckers and we can get the membership numbers rising again.

John Furley

Membership Secretary

## And finally...

Members' contributions for *The Trecker* are always welcome, as are photographs, which should be sent as separate files and not embedded in a document. Please remember that you need permission from everyone in your photograph.

Please send all contributions to [thetrecker@suntrecker.org.uk](mailto:thetrecker@suntrecker.org.uk)

Thank you to John for sending this newsletter by email, as well as to John and Lyn for printing and sending out the paper version. Also, thanks to Alan for putting it on the website.