



THE SUNTRECKERS TRECKER



ISSUE NUMBER 70

www.suntrekkers.org.uk

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

My how time flies, it seems like only last week I was editing the winter edition and bemoaning the fact that we are short of volunteers ready to take up the cudgel of PPO, Treasurer and Equipment Officer and here I am again still harping on the same subject, well there is only one way to stop me whinging and whining and that is to put your best foot forward and join the committee in those important roles.



On the inside pages you will find articles of interest especially the continental musings from Fritz, informative articles regarding the Treasurer's role through to the gala rally and a special article relating to the sad deaths of Brenda and Clive Owen and an insight into their lives in particular with Suntreckers by Colin and Avril Gorham.

I'm not going to say anymore just sit back and enjoy the Trecker either through the medium of paper or its digital format.

The Chairman mentions that we should tell our friends and acquaintances and anyone else who may show the slightest sign of interest in our club about our great club, this has the added bonus of £5:00 off your annual membership subscription if they do join. So get chatting, get them to fill in an application form (it's in your Year Book), and add your name and number as the introducer.

Please let me have for the future Treckers any articles and photographs of your rallies and experiences with Suntreckers please email your articles photographs etc to: ppo@suntreckers.org.uk.

Trecker and E Trecker are produced by Suntrecker Members

Exclusively for Suntreckers.

Do not pass on information in Trecker or E Trecker to non members.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hi fellow Treckers,

Well the rally season is off to a good start, because as I write this the sun is shining here in Shanklin at last, with the spring flowers in bloom and bird song in the air, it seems spring is now with us. So with the first rallies of the season in a few days' time at Easter, all should be well in the Suntrecker world, watch out for the Easter Bunny.

So it is time to spruce up the van, and start enjoying the great outdoors. Our Rally Organiser and his team of Rally Officers, have a great range of rallies for you to enjoy. So let us make the most of them.

The team are always on the lookout for new Rally Officers, so that rallies do not have to be cancelled. So if you have never run one before, give it a go it can be great fun.

Think you know of a good site for a rally then please tell the Rally Organiser, you never know it might just be a good one. Also don't forget to tell your friends about us, spread the word, don't keep it a secret let others experience our great way of life.

Whilst on the subject of helping the club, why not join the committee? Our Treasurer Kathryn and Equipment Officer Terry have both said they would like to step down this year at the AGM. We are also in need of a Publicity Officer and a Webmaster, so if you feel like giving it a go, I am sure you would enjoy it.

Anyway, until the next Trecker enjoy yourselves in the spring sunshine with that great feeling of the sunshine and fresh air on your body, whilst enjoying good company at our rallies. Who knows Ann and I might cross the water and meet you at some, until then enjoy great Trecking, all of you.

Ron Twining Chairman.

RALLY ORGANIZER'S COGITATION



Just a short message from me in this Trecker, some of you might say thank goodness for that others of you might hang on my every word, but on reflection not even the wife does that. You should all have had the yearbook by now and hopefully booking the rallies you want to attend. All I would say in that regard is that if you don't use them you will lose them, a thought echoed in an article written by Colin Gorham.

On now to the Yearbook you may well see one or two mistakes or omissions, if so then please let me know as soon as possible and I can then sack my wife (again) because it was obviously her fault, it's hard to get good staff.

*With thanks to
Malcolm and Maureen
and their team
for Printing & Distributing
the paper version of Trecker.*

*Thanks to John for sending out
the electronic version.*

2015 RALLY ANALYSIS

SUMMARY

During 2015 around 67% of members rallied, a similar proportion as in 2014. This was in spite of only 68 rallies taking place, well down on the 75 in 2014. The number of rallies arranged was near enough the same but 24 had to be cancelled, mainly due to lack of rally officers which was regrettable. However, 213 members, 67% of the membership, attended at least one rally, a similar proportion to 2014. Continental rallies continued to be very popular with 18% of members going on a continental rally with 40% attending just one rally, the remainder attending between 2 and 5 with one member, Fritz, attending all 6. Winter rally attendance was lower than in 2014, probable due to the smaller number of rallies operating, but winter rallies have their devoted followers with 21 members supporting. Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne were top ralliers followed by David Poole. Terry & Kathryn were also top winter ralliers.

The average number of members on a rally was 10 and the average number of nights spent on a rally was 4.8. The total number of rallies attended was 679, in 2014 it was 757. The total number of nights was 3279, in 2014 it was 3651. The number of members attending at least one rally in 2015 was 213 and that meant that 67% of the membership attended at least one rally. In 2015 61% of ralliers were in caravans, 38% in motor homes, 1% in tents and trailer tents. In 2014 46 members attended 5 or more rallies compared with 59 in 2014.

Members attending a significant number of rallies and number of nights were as follows:

Most Nights on Rallies

Name	Nights
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	76
David Poole	65
John Barnett	61
Terry & Lesley Jackman	54
Fritz Henning	53
Ray & Patricia Moore	46
Sue Beck	46
John Delloyd & Neil Sutton	44
Bryan Bunce	43
William & Irene Campbell	42
Eric & Denise Webster	40
Dennis Mann	40

Cont.

Most Rallies Attended

Name	Rallies
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	17
David Poole	15
John Barnett	12
Terry & Lesley Jackman	11
Eric & Denise Webster	10
John Delloyd & Neil Sutton	9
Bryan Bunce	9
John & Janet Wilson	9
Ray & Patricia Moore	9
Dennis Mann	9
Malcolm & Maureen	9
Stuart & Janice Dowson	9

In 2015 there were 9 winter rallies organised but 2 was cancelled leaving 7 that took place. Winter rallies accounted for 6% of the total number of rallies attended but only 3% of the total number of nights. 7% of the total membership went on a winter rally compared with 10% in 2014 possibly due to the smaller number of winter rallies in 2015. The top winter ralliers were:

Name	Nights on Rallies
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	17
Malcolm & Maureen Burland	14
Brian & Barbara Morgan	11
Eric & Denise Webster	8
Geoff & Eileen Hayes	6
Peter & Jenny Chapman	4

Name	Rallies Attended
Terry & Kathryn Gascoyne	6
Malcolm & Maureen Burland	6
Brian & Barbara Morgan	4
Eric & Denise Webster	3
Peter & Jenny Chapman	4
Geoff & Eileen Hayes	2

Cont.

In 2015, 6 continental rallies were organised and all took place. Continental rallies accounted for 16% of the total number of rallies, similar to 2014, but 27% of the total number of nights, the same as 2014. Around 18% of the membership went on a continental rally in 2015, again the same as 2014. The top continental ralliers were:

Name	Nights on Rallies
Fritz Henning	53
Sue Beck	44
William & Irene Campbell	42
Richard & Julia Farthing	32
Jed Cleary	31
George & Anne Rickels	28
Michael & Lynne Ward	28
Bill Benson	28
Malcolm & Hazel Brushett	26
Terry & Mary Cadby	24

Name	Rallies Attended
Fritz Henning	6
Sue Beck	5
William & Irene Campbell	5
Richard & Julia Farthing	5
Malcolm & Hazel Brushett	4
George & Anne Rickels, Ken & Glenice Dew, Terry & Mary Cadby, Jed Cleary, Bill Benson, Peter & Valerie Perkins, Michael & Lynne Ward, Harry & June Salmon	3

***Stats compiled by Pam Wilson from returns supplied by the Rally Officers and Kathryn, Treasurer
Report compiled by Ken Wilson.***

MEMBERS NOT RENEWING

For this Trecker, because it is the soonest after the most of the membership have renewed their subscriptions, a hearty 'thank you' to you all and hope you have a lovely year Trecking catching up with old friends and making new ones. I have decided to let you know those who have not renewed for their own reasons all of which are good and understandable (I'm not going to publish their letters some of which are personal) and I wish them all the best for the future and those who are able, we will welcome back if their circumstances prevail into the bosom of the Suntrecking family. Many of them sent their regards to all the friends and acquaintances they have met in Suntreckers.

Mick and Trina Gutierrez
Brian and Janet Starkings
Jean & Jeff Ogden
Fred & Maggie Harrison
Brian and Lyn Flanagan.
Margaret and John Wright
Jeff & Val Pearce
John Mercer, Lorraine Ellison
Derek and Shelagh Barnett
Ted & Brenda Palmer
Keith and Ann Warman
Roger Hall
Tim Higgs

Brenda & Clive Owen

OBITUARY: It is with great sadness that we report the death of Brenda who died on 22 December 2015 very soon after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. We saw her a few days before and were amazed at how calmly she had accepted her situation and able to have cheerful conversation with us. It was a blessing to learn that she passed away peacefully in her sleep.

The funeral was held at Southend Crematorium on 11th January and we were disappointed to learn that Clive was not well enough to attend having since been hospitalised at Yeovil, Somerset. Suntreckers were represented by 16 members from near and far with one having driven 150 miles to be there. Mention was made of the large part that Naturism and Suntreckers played in Brenda's life.

Our sadness was compounded when we were contacted by Clive's son on 4th February with the news that Clive had died shortly after suffering a stroke (just six weeks after Brenda). Unfortunately, as the funeral was at Yeovil Crematorium, the distance involved prevented most of their local friends from attending.

CELEBRATION OF THEIR LIVES: Clive and Brenda were amongst the very first Suntrecker members, in fact the 23rd members to join and they took a very active part until they had to give up caravanning two years ago. Even then they attended some rallies including the Gala Rally as day visitors. Clive served as Chairman during a critical period 1992 – 1996 and they both acted as Rally Officers many times, in particular for the 10th and 25th Anniversary Gala Rallies. One great memorable moment was at the former when the theme was "Arabian Nights". Clive dressed as Claudius was sat down in the centre of the marquee and Joy Saunders performed the "Dance of the Seven Veils" in front of him. The look on Clive's face was something to behold (We wonder how many members remember that?). No doubt more members will remember the Silver Jubilee Gala Rally at Pinvin in 2007 when floods had hit Wales and the West and the public were warned not to drive into the area. Clive and Brenda went in advance to inspect the rally field and phoned us back to say the field was pretty much under water, but the marquee had been erected so we should go ahead with the rally in an effort to cut costs. Although marshalling units onto the field wasn't without difficulty, the rally

was a great success thanks to the Suntreckers' spirit and determination to enjoy themselves.

Brenda and Clive must have been among some of the best known by the membership and particularly those overseas ralliers. Brenda loved the French rallies. She will be remembered as the lovely sociable person that she was and who in many ways epitomized just what Suntrecking is all about – playing her part in the organisation, making friends and socialising with them in the naturist lifestyle we are able to enjoy. Clive was more the quiet one, but did an awful lot behind the scenes and was a meticulous organiser. They served their time for which many Suntreckers, past and present, will have been indebted.

Personally, we shall sorely miss them but like many others we shall cherish all the happy memories of the times spent in their company.

Colin & Avril

On a personal note my memories of both Clive and Brenda are good ones, when I took over the mantle of National Rally Organizer the two of them offered me a great deal of advice at the time and have been unstinting in their encouragement throughout the years.

Editor.

21 YEARS RALLYING AT MARSH FARM



It was 1993, as a result of a 'round-robin' letter I sent to a number of farms in Essex and Suffolk, that I visited the owner of this site. My first task was to convince her that we naturists were quite normal everyday folk. Having Avril with me, and giving her an assurance that our members would not visit her farm

shop without their clothes on, was I am sure a great help in getting acceptance. In later years I was told "Your people are alright".

My next task was to persuade Ken Webster (Rally Organiser) that it was a suitable site. Ken was a fussy old so and so and meticulous in carrying out the requirements of our exemption certificate. The concern with this site was that there was no screening other than that provided by contours of the surrounding area. However, he sought and received approval from the local authority for Suntreckers to hold 5-day rallies there. The first rally was held in 1994 and was attended by Ken who declared it to be, in his opinion, the best Suntrecker site. Some of us still hold that view.

The site has no facilities other than the usual water and toilet disposal, but it does have plentiful electric hook-ups. The best feature is the location with open views across the countryside in all directions. Yet only a short distance down the track is the farm and a fairly large commercial site. Here there are numerous fishing lakes which we are free to wander around (clothed) when we wish to exercise our dogs or ourselves. On our rally site there is a picturesque small fishing lake with trees on one side (see picture). If one wishes to explore the area, Saxmundham with supermarkets is nearby and Snape Maltings and Aldeburgh are not far away and well worth a visit.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, like all our sites, we are in danger of losing them unless we can keep attendances up and it would be tragic if we lost this one. Another reason is to persuade those who have not done so, to try it for the first time and see what they are in danger of missing. Look out for it next May and if we are lucky enough to have Vince & Di as Rally Officers, they have a gigantic awning in which we can have a tipple and chat.

See you there,
Colin Gorham

CONTINENTAL WANDERINGS 2015 (PART TWO)

Dedicated to Bram and Anne – the best of friends

After Part One of these diaries, I was delighted to receive a fan mail which said it, 'was the best read since Milton's Paradise Lost'. I am most grateful to the writer and would like to assure her that I really will try to remember Mother's Day next year.

I spent 6 weeks enjoying a British summer. Brass bands in the park, village BBQ's and carnivals, Wimbledon, an amazing Ashes series, cricket on the green, crown green bowling and long sunlit evenings doing nothing in particular. But it's time to put these delights behind me and face the world of barbed wire and goon towers at Calais and the 'stack' – 74 miles of traffic jam on the M20. I am heading for the rallies in Clos Marot (Brittany), La Petite Brenne (Creuse) and Le Fiscalou (Tarn).



Every Sunday
music in the park



20 needed 8 wickets down



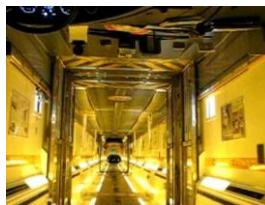
Trouble at Calais

Wednesday 19th August

It's time to get underway again. I turn left at the end of the lane and head for France.



Inside Le shuttle



In we go



Mont St Michael

I made it to the Aire de Behen (south of Abbeville) by following the lights of a lorry in front. I parked amongst the lorries which resulted in a very early wake-up call as they started their engines all around me.

Thursday 20th

I met up with Sue at our rendezvous in Brionne and we had an easy ride across to Caen and then down in the direction of Rennes. This was a new route for me but the place names were quite familiar as we were travelling through the Normandy battlefields. Approaching Avaranches the familiar silhouette of St Michael's Mount appeared out at sea. We lunched at an overcrowded motorway service station (getting split up in the process) and met up again on the approach road to our destination town, Saint-Aubin-de-Coumier. The camp-site was located by the side of a pretty lake which was to have its own early morning noise problem with the (all night) angler's voices drifting across the still waters. I managed to fill a bucket with mirabelles and blackberries. That will keep me well stocked for a week or so.



Saint-Aubin-de-Coumier



The beach at La Tourballe

Friday 21st

We drove around Rennes, past St Nazaire and La Baule heading for La Tourballe. It was dual carriageway virtually all the way until we had passed the old walled town of Guérande. There was plenty of traffic. Having failed to find a Lidl en route we were forced to use the Super-U in La Tourballe. Here mayhem reigned supreme as holiday makers, with siege mentality, and accompanied by a minimum of 3 offspring each, jostled and barged around.

England get a hammering in the final Ashes test at the Oval. But as one sign said, 'Don't panic we've already won!'



The impressive bridge across La Loire estuary at St Nazair



The walled city of Guérande

Monday 24th

Well the weather here at Clos Marot has been very mixed with plenty of hot sunshine and lots of heavy rain. I've been in the pool several times and managed a good forage for blackberries. There are some 15 units with a few more expected. We had a jolly evening with the other campers, as well as club members, on Saturday evening. After a pleasant 4 course meal and free flow wine, we belted out a series of English and French songs at top volume. Le patron appeared at frequent intervals to gleefully update us on the score in the France v England rugby match. Later, as we caught up (nearly), he appeared a lot less exuberant.



Camping at Clos Marot



Wild flowers by the pool



The pretty town of Piriac-sur-Mer

Wednesday 26th

I cycled into the pretty little seaside town of Piriac-sur-Mer with Rosemary and David. It was market day with plenty of people around, but all unhurried. Several units had left earlier, looking for sunshine further south. This included Sue who managed to get stuck in the mud; it took much pushing, shoving and screeching to get her back onto terra firma. I've invited Stewart and Wilma around this evening to eat and natter.

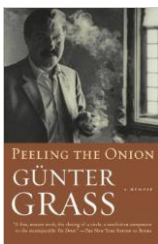
Thursday 27th

It rained heavily all day. It's not often I've been cooped up, but there is plenty to keep me occupied. After an extra leisurely breakfast and battle with a particularly difficult 'greater than' killer Sudoku, it's time to set up the urn for coffee morning. Then it's washing up last night's dishes. At 10.30, I wander over to the marquee to meet up those that are left on the site – not too many – but quality not quantity. I spend a half hour checking up on my emails. I'm a bit too far from the antenna to do this in my motorhome so I plod along to the reception area to get a better signal. Now for an early lunch and a book. I'm currently reading Gunter Grass's memoir's 'Peeling the Onion' – I would recommend it!

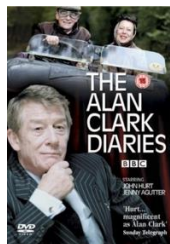
I set up my painting kit. I want to get some vibrant colours onto the canvas. So far all my colour mixing invariably ends up as dull sludge. I haven't yet fully embraced 'painting' as a hobby but it does give me pleasure and I'm not totally displeased with the results. It's too early to think of my evening meal so I resort to the good old standby of a few games of spider solitaire, free cell and a crossword puzzle. I then feel energetic and decide to give the van a good tidy up, it's (not) surprising how difficult it is to keep such a small area clear of this that and the other. Most things go into the overhead cupboards, which are a mess – but out of sight!



A colourful canvas



A good read



A good watch

In the evening I watch (again) an episode of the Alan Clarke Diaries which I have recorded via You Tube. And so to bed! The time has passed quite quickly. And still the rain beats down, but tomorrow is another day.

Saturday 29th

Friday evening's BBQ went well. There were plenty of new faces around the tables (new to me) so the conversation was interesting. A teaser was thrown into the equation – name an English word ending in MT. Nobody got it, so we will all have to dream on it. We have a paella dinner booked for tonight and the forecast for today is bright and sunny. Tomorrow I'm on my travels again. Then it's off inland over the Loire bridge and across country to the rally at La Petite Brenne near the pleasant town of Argeton sur Creuse. The forecast is friendly so I'm looking forward to it all.

Mike and Sue were thrown in at the deep-end to run the rally. They are a lovely couple and did a splendid job – many thanks!

Monday 31st

Suddenly there is a glut of apples. There were barrow loads at the entrance to the rally site. The hedgerows offered up a bountiful supply of blackberries. I shall stew some up for Terry and Mary, they have always done kind things for me.

I first came to this site some 15 years ago with tent. It was then a new site having only recently been purchased from a French farmer. The trees they first planted are now providing much needed shade and there are a couple of swimming pools; a maze; a lake for boating, fishing and swimming; mature orchards; static mobile homes to rent; and, 4 log cabins which I (once briefly) helped to build. Carel and Anja greet me warmly (they probably think I still have a say in organising the rallies), but they are a nice couple who work hard at making their campsite a pleasant place to be. We once put on a concert here with Carel and Anja opening the show playing some jazz. Our major contribution was the Benny Hill sketch, which brought the house down, a memorable evening. In the height of summer, the site is full of Dutch who arrive here in droves. But now the site is pleasantly half full/half empty. We are currently 12 units with a few more on their way. Ivor arrived earlier and looks in fine fettle!



Carel, Charlotte
and Anja



Restored farmhouse



Pool

Tuesday 1st September

I'm sitting at the T-junction in the local village watching the very occasional car drive past. The village comprises a few houses, mairie, church and a long empty garage come repair workshop. In front stands the war memorial with its figure of a French soldier in full red and blue uniform. When I first sat here all those years ago I dreamt of converting the empty garage into a bijou residence but of course nothing came of that. And the building still stands empty. I also felt saddened (and still do) by the war memorial. In my earlier diary I suggested that mothers gave up husbands and sons to an enemy and cause of which they knew nought. But (another) Sue, a history teacher, said that that wouldn't have been the case. The French would have been very aware of their traditional foes, the Germans. They would have marched off to war eager to avenge their forefathers. I like my version better, but I fear Sue is right.



War Memorial

Garage/workshop waiting to be converted and la mairie on the hill

Wednesday 2nd

It started off wet today. We've been lumbered with putting on a show this evening! What began as a little 'round the camp fire' sing-along, has been billed as an 'international concert' in the big hall. I've been busy rehearsing and persuading people to contribute, and I'm duty chef for the OF's this evening as well. In between times I have to play a boules match – this is meant to be a holiday! But good news from Shelagh that Derek has now had his hearing implant so he can be part of a wider world again.

I've just come back from compering our little show which was well received by our multinational audience. This morning we only had a few rudimentary acts and no programme, but give people their heads and they all strive to make something out of it – well done everyone! Oh and I won at boules and my curry was tasty – quite a day!

Thursday 3rd

So what is it that attracts me to camping – or at least to the ‘motorhome’ life that I have been engaged in for some 3 months every year for the last 15 years. Well firstly it is the friendship and companionship that comes from being with a (largish) group of like-minded friends. Many of these have become ‘best friends’ and are not to be given up lightly. Then there is the sense of adventure, finding out new places and rediscovering old. Motor-homing is a real home from home, you have all your belongings with you, it’s not living out of a suitcase; they are your possessions and furniture. I also like the planning - the anticipation - which takes place in the dark cold winter months back home.



Aperitifs at
Laulurie-en-Perigord
BBQ on Krk



Socca Valley



Slovenia Sunset

Many campsites are in the most delightful of areas – it’s a joy to be there. And then there is the fun and games we get up to: boules tournaments, quizzes, communal meals, shows, cycling, quiet times, BBQ’s, swimming, and gossiping. And one shouldn’t forget the security that comes from being with others both in terms of health and vehicle and equipment mishaps. Downsides? Well I can’t think of many (any). Obviously you miss home and the family but ‘absence makes the heart grow fonder’. With modern technology it is easy to keep in touch. The weather is never really a problem as you can always move on. So I’m still struggling to find a downside.

Saturday 5th

My quiz went down well last night. The usual moans and groans and nonsense comments - audience participation it's called. A ploughman's supper this evening courtesy of Len and Ann. I'm contributing large bowls of blackberries and small sweet grapes plus pouring cream. I'm not sure that ploughmen took such fare into the fields with them but they will make a nice accompaniment to the savoury food. The boules final this afternoon, will I have an off or on day? Oh help, a friend has booked me into her local art class – every Wednesday morning in the scout hut, dib, dib, dob!



Ploughman's



Small sweet grapes



Even Rembrandt
had to start somewhere

Modesty does not prevent me from saying that I won a good boules final.

Tuesday 8th

A lovely meal in the restaurant, good food and company. Carel once ran a restaurant in Amsterdam and it shows. We unplug and head off to Lidl's to replenish our larders. It's been a warm sunny day – most pleasant.

Thursday 10th

I'm back at the medieval town of Martel with its puzzling memorial (see Part I). There are plenty of caravans and motorhomes scurrying in all directions and making the most of the good weather – which is not going to last. I'm heading for the Tarn/Garonne region and a new rally site, Le Fiscalou. According to the rally book I'm in charge – help! For a change we used the toll motorway to avoid a rather hairy climb out of Souillac, south of the Dordogne.

Saturday 12th

We have been promised a grandmother of all thunderstorms, but the day begins well. I'm expecting 8 more units today and all will need to be sited. Fortunately, it's a free-for-all so I can't be blamed if 'they' get it wrong. I woke at 4.30 wondering whether I had enough pretzel sticks to feed the 5,000 and whether the fly-catchers I had for 2nd prize in the boule competition were adequate. There's more to this rally officering lark than merely having your name printed in the Year Book.



Anne et Pascal



Camping in the woods



Pool

The site is most pleasant, run by a French couple, Ann and Pascal. It's a touch ram-shackled but none the worse for that. Our group are all conveniently together and there are enough facilities to keep us amused. We're right on the borders of the Tarn and Tarn/Garonne regions and the surrounding areas are dotted with 'most beautiful villages in France'. We shall see. I have a welcome party planned for this evening but the weather might not be up for it.

Monday 14th

We're having problems with the electrics, too many units chasing too few amps. When we all put our kettles on in the morning it all blows up. But with some repositioning and lots more cables we make do! There was a farmers' market on site this morning – some lovely local produce – and I go foraging. The blackberries are finished this far south, but I come back with a bag full of hedgerow grapes and plenty of ripe figs. The weather needs to perk up!

Tuesday 15th

A group have gone off to tour a vineyard. I stay back to catch up with domestics. Yesterday we were entertained at happy hour by an interesting assortment of songs, jokes (?) and monologues. As everything was fading away Angela started singing a haunting lament – what is she up to? Lo and behold Tony appeared on the horizon responding to her call (and hamming it up monstrously) - most unexpected. Well done!



Canwetrysomemore of the red pleeash



On the way back a rather splendid pigeonier

Before the BBQ we held an auction of all the odds and ends which had been cluttering up our cupboards and drawers. The lowest admissible bid was $\frac{1}{2}$ a raffle ticket (50p). We managed to raise £43.

Wednesday 16th

I'm looking anxiously at the 10-day weather forecast. Nowhere is particularly settled - even the Med – but we are getting towards the end of September. Where to head for on Saturday? If it's all much of a muchness, I think I'll start heading north to the Dordogne and Loire. It will mean being by myself but it may be good to have a bit of peace and quiet after 4 weeks of fun and frolics. Perhaps I can do some more painting. I'm quite pleased with my latest attempt, but it is still largely 'painting by numbers'.

We were promised sunshine and warm sun today, but it's started off with rain. An American supper is planned for this evening and before that the boules final. Somehow I've lost the (Poundshop) medals which were to be presented to the winner. Oh dear it will have to be the fly-catcher!

Thursday 17th

The scenery around here is quite varied. Sometimes I am reminded of the Black Forest and sometimes of the rolling hills of Tuscany. It is all very pretty. John won the boules and yesterday's American supper was well received. My puds are still feeding the 5,000! Tonight we are eating in the restaurant – duck – and tomorrow sees the start of the rugby world cup with the hosts England playing Fiji.



The fortified hill town of Puycelci



Safely within the ramparts

Friday 18th

It's almost the end of the rally, just one coffee morning and one Happy Hour to go. Ken berates me that we have not had a quiz. I suspect that most of his fellows are quite relieved. The restaurant meal last night was very good – a most pleasant evening of good food, wine and company. We presented Anne and Pascal with a rally plaque only to be told we had misspelt the site name. Back to the drawing board Ken!



We loved the duck and then Pascal took photographs with everyone changing to the other side of the table

The FIFA scandal rumbles on with the suspension of the Secretary General and the charging of Sepp Blatter.

News filters through that the toll free road up from the Med (the A75) which crosses the Millau Bridge has been blocked by a landslide; that will cause difficulties for those wanting to return home via this popular route.

And so on the morrow we will depart, some heading south, some north and some staying put. It's the end of a season of 6 continental rallies – all very good – and the winter beckons. See you next year!



Millau Bridge



Market Square



St-Antonin-Noble-Val

Sunday 20th

A lovely Sunday. Ken and Jean were kind enough to take me to the large market at St-Antonin-Noble-Val. We travelled through some magnificent scenery. The market was large and attracted people from far and wide. The town itself had been voted 3rd most beautiful in France last year (?). It was full of narrow little streets and passages and an array of fine architecture. I bought some leek seedlings to plant back home. Those together with some garlic should do nicely over the autumn and winter. The afternoon was spent sunning ourselves around the pool. GB get through to the Davis Cup finals for the first time in 30 odd years. Japan beat South Africa in the rugby world cup. WOW.

Tuesday 22nd

It's good to get underway again. I've really enjoyed my time in the Tarn region, but it's time to head for home. I point the motorhome in the direction of north. The rain is really heavy as I approach the Lot, so I decide on the long haul to Maud's on the Loire. I have a couple of stop off places in mind but I turn up trumps when I find a lovely aire just south of Loudun AND it has free electrics AND some nice juicy blackberries.

And so to Maud's.

As I pay my bill I learn from Frederick* that the site, as we know it, will be closing as a naturist venue in a couple of days. Maud and Maxine have long departed (moved away) and (as I understood it) there is a dispute amongst the squabbling inheritors what to do with the site, chateau and adjoining lands. But new vines have already been planted in the field below the chateau, so some decisions have been made. The campsite itself needs a huge investment to bring it up to anything half decent. So I have a nostalgic wander around, remembering many incidents from the past 14 or so years that I have been coming here – a shame!

*The 'conversation' was rather one-sided with me contributing a few oui's, non's, oohhhh's, cette impossible's and lots of head nodding and shaking. The main thrust though was that the 'new kids on the block' don't want to have anything to do with naturists - God forbid! So Maud's green wellies stand forlornly by the entrance and her rusting bike now a flower basket.



Camping in the woods



The pool
now uncovered



The Moulin
at the crossroads

The sun is shining and I sit all alone (one Dutch couple in the far corner) the last one to use this site with his kit off!

Postscript

Having enjoyed all six rallies, my greatest fan (thank you mother) confided to me that undoubtedly my rally ticked all the right boxes and she has no hesitation in putting it at the head of her all-time best holiday list. But as usual she hedges her bets, and I learnt later that she told both Len/Ann and Sue/Mike (and those that ran the earlier rallies) exactly the same thing. Mother!!

It is almost October; the Christmas Sales are in full swing back home. Time to turn my attention to reaching page 2 of Paradise Lost - Потерянный Рай to those of us reading it in the 1767 Russian version – I fear I might not make it!

AN UPDATE ON HERPINIERE

Hi folks. In case you have not heard, it appears that Herpiniere has gone textile for next season.

Apparently Maud and Max have moved to a nearby village and the two sons, who took over, have had it designated textile. It is advertised on the Camping France site as a textile 1 Star site. There had been some improvements over the last two years, cafe, bar etc, perhaps with going textile in mind? If you Google camping France domaine Naturea Turquant you will see the details.

Bit of a blow for those of us regulars who so enjoyed the relaxed informality of the place but another one bites the dust! Perhaps you could pass the word on to any who may be affected.

Eric and Angela

DOMAINE LA GAGERE RALLY REINSTATED INTRODUCING TONY & GLENIS THE RALLY OFFICERS

Domaine De La Gagère, France Tues 14/6/2016 – Thurs 23/6/2016
Domaine De La Gagère is a naturist campsite in the beautiful Morvan National Park in the Burgundy Region of France. We stayed there for a fortnight in 2013 and having joined Suntreckers last year, we planned to revisit in 2016 for our first rally!

Allow me to introduce myself – my name is Tony, I am 64 years old, retired at 60 and my other half, Glenis (so G&T – ha ha) is a couple of months younger and retired 2 years ago. We have been caravanning for 25 years or so and coming to France for our main holiday most of those years and usually in a touring caravan. Having first experienced naturism at Polgaver beach in Cornwall in the early eighties (Frame tenting days with young family), we soon sought out the Naturist campsites in France. Although there are many good textile sites, the naturist campsites tend to offer beautiful settings, less traffic noise and a more relaxing convivial atmosphere. La Gagère is no exception to this rule!

Enjoying as we do the ad hoc gatherings of fellow English speaking naturists at soirees in La Couderc, Domaine Laborde, Le Columbiere etc we thought we would take our touring experience that stage further and join a Suntreckers' Rally in France in our first year as members.

Having noticed that La Gagère was listed for 2016, we pencilled it into our ten-week tour as stop number 2 after our regular first stop at La Columbier in the Vendée. As the year book wasn't available when I needed to firm up dates, I contacted the membership secretary John who put me on to Ken who told me that the rally was waiting for a Rally Officer to come forward. Glenis suggested that I put my name forward, but being ex RAF in my younger days, I was a bit trepidatious about volunteering for anything! Anyway, throwing caution to the wind, I did volunteer, and Ken has been very supportive since. He put me in contact with a couple of 'Treckies, George and David, who have given me the benefit of their experience and enough confidence to take this forward. So what can I tell you about La Gagère to whet your appetite if you haven't been already?



It has spacious pitches and you get stunning views, even if on washing up duties! The sanitaire block on the right of this picture overlooks the valley as you can see from this next pic:





Our sorties from La Gagère took us to various places including Nevers. On visits to the naturist campsite L'Eglantiere in the Haute Pyrenees, we love to visit the Grotto of Massabielle at nearby Lourdes. Did you know there is a shrine to Ste Bernadette of Lourdes in a Convent in Nevers? The

peace and tranquillity of this place compare starkly to the hustle and bustle of Lourdes but nevertheless has a similar reverence. (that's Glenis seated)

There are other places of interest to discover at Nevers and so too Dijon east of La Gagère. In fact, Dijon especially so, there is much to see in this historical capital city of the Burgandy region. In the Hills of Morvan we came across an archeological site at the Bibracte-Mont Beuvray (the French just love their history) – it's well worth a visit.

The nearest town to La Gagère, Luzy, has a very good Market on Friday's – lovely to just walk around and soak up the atmosphere. If you're like us though you'll probably buy your fruit and veg at the Lidl store on the way back to site!

The campsite has good facilities which are listed on its website at www.la-gagere.com – pool is good, restaurant, bar etc. Not a boules player myself, but judging by the many enjoying this pastime at La Gagère, this facility will be enjoyed by many ralliers, I'm sure.

Whatever your interests, I'm sure you'll love La Gagère and this region of France.

Hope to see you there!



Tony

Gala Rally 2016

Date: Thursday 21st July - Monday 25th July 2016

Theme: PIRATES

Ken Webster photograph theme: Wild Birds

Saturday Nights Entertainment: Ancient Mariners

You will by now have read the review of this year's Gala Rally, next year we want to do something different.

This year we want to do something different.

In the past we have asked for volunteers to run the Gala rally but no one has come forward so we have decided on the following.

The committee will arrange for the marquee to be erected and decorated, the field pegged out in readiness and all signage to be in place, we will also purchase all refreshments.

What we are asking for now is volunteers to:

- 1) Run a night's entertainment, this can be in any form **such as:**
 - a) Open mic night
 - b) Quiz
 - c) Revue with sketches, songs, jokes, panto, monologues etc.
 - d) Dance - Disco, Barn, Ballroom
 - e) Games night
 - f) Music quiz -Guess that tune?
 - g) Night at the cinema

Cont.

- 2) Run a Table top event on Friday afternoon with the theme: A Gala Village Fete. This could be showing, making or selling a particular craft, for example:
- a) Greeting card making
 - b) Cross stitching
 - c) Wine making
 - d) Sugar craft
 - e) Jewellery making
 - f) Knitting/crochet
 - g) Painting/drawing
 - h) Photography
 - i) Plants

Perhaps two or more of you would like to get together and organize between you? The activity would need to be suitable for indoor or outdoor.

We have decided not to have a 'white elephant' or car boot type stalls as this would impact on the annual auction.

If any of you would like to volunteer your services please contact either Lyn Furley on 01242 576650 or e mail gm1@suntreckers.org.uk or Kathryn Gascoyne on 01773 880762 mobile: 07969 348924 or treasurer@suntreckers.org.uk

This years' entertainment is by a group called the "Ancient Mariners" a rock group but who play all sorts of music especially when they have had a beer or two and I'm confident you will find them enjoyable (at least they will be close to our age group).

For those of you who have never been before (shame on you), there is ample room on the field and the marquee will be heated or cooled depending on the weather, which by the way I have ordered so it should be wall to wall sunshine so get your booking forms in.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

TREASURER'S ROLE

As you are all probably aware I am definitely standing down as Treasurer at this year's AGM after being persuaded, last year, to continue for another year.

I will have been Suntreckers Treasurer for 4 years, after temporarily(!), taking over from Liz Stewart whilst she and husband Rod went travelling in Europe for a year. Well they are still travelling, but I do feel the need to step down.

The Treasurers job is not too difficult, but does need someone who can keep accurate records of all money coming into the club and also expenses being paid. There is a system in place, based on manual records but to enable the ease of producing accounts at year end, those records need to be entered onto a computer spread sheet.

The spread sheet just needs data entry, it was created by a member that was an accountant so all formulas are automatic and password protected so can't be amended in error by the operator.

If anyone would like to know more about the role I would be happy to show them the records I keep and talk them through the tasks.

I have created a detailed help file, and would be willing to 'mentor' someone, from the end of a telephone/computer, for the first few months or until they felt confident to continue without help.

There are several roles within the committee that the club can't manage without, one of them is the Treasurer, so if you feel you would like to take on this role, please contact me on either 01773 880762 (there is an answer machine if I am not available), or by e mailing me at treasurer@suntreckers.org.uk

Kathryn Gascoyne

RULES / SUNTRECKER CODE OF CONDUCT AMENDMENTS / CHANGES PAGE

PHOTOGRAPHY INCLUDING ELECTRONICALLY PRODUCED IMAGES (ORIGINAL RULE)

The photographing (including any electronically produced imaging) of adults may only be undertaken with their expressed permission. The photographing of children under the age of 18 years may only be undertaken if the parents or guardians are present and have given their permission to do so. Such photographs shall not be used for any purpose likely to bring the naturist movement into disrepute and photographs of children shall not be electronically transmitted or passed on to third parties. Photographs taken at rallies may only be used for publication in publications approved by the National Committee and are subject to the obtaining of a completed release form signed by all recognisable individuals included in the photograph.

PHOTOGRAPHY INCLUDING ELECTRONICALLY PRODUCED IMAGES (AMENDED RULE IN HIGHLIGHT)

The photographing (including any electronically produced imaging) of adults may only be undertaken with their expressed permission. The photographing of children under the age of 18 years may only be undertaken if the parents or guardians are present and have given their permission to do so. **The photographing of vehicles (including cars, caravans and motorhomes) may only be undertaken with the expressed permission of the owner/user of that vehicle.** Such photographs shall not be used for any purpose likely to bring the naturist movement into disrepute and photographs of children shall not be electronically transmitted or passed on to third parties. Photographs taken at rallies may only be used for publication in publications approved by the National Committee and are subject to the obtaining of a completed release form signed by all recognisable individuals included in the photograph.

FIVE DAY RALLIES (ORIGINAL CODE OF CONDUCT)

Exemption Certificate rallies on farm field or other similar sites can extend to a maximum of five night's duration usually shown in the programme as Friday to Wednesday. However, it must be accepted that a lot of members who are in work are likely to leave Sunday or Monday morning. The rally is officially designated as five nights to allow retired members to enjoy a further 2/3 days of relaxed naturism but there is unlikely to be any organised rally activities. If you do not wish to be left alone or with a small number of others, you must ascertain the position from the rally officer either before the rally or immediately on arrival.

FIVE DAY RALLIES (AMENDED CODE OF CONDUCT CHANGE IN HIGHLIGHT)

Exemption Certificate rallies on farm field or other similar sites can extend to a maximum of five night's duration usually shown in the programme as Friday to Wednesday. However, it must be accepted that some members may wish to leave Sunday or Monday morning. The rally is officially designated as five nights to allow **(THE WORD 'RETIRED' NOW REMOVED)** members to enjoy a further 2/3 days of relaxed naturism but there is unlikely to be any organised rally activities. If you do not wish to be left alone or with a small number of others, you must ascertain the position from the rally officer either before the rally or immediately on arrival.

YEARBOOK AMENDMENTS & CHANGES

1. Rally No: 61 Mill Bank dates should read Friday 12/08/16 – Friday 19/08/16 and not Wednesday to Wednesday.
2. I have been informed by the new rally organiser at Mill Bank that Suntreckers site fee will be increased from £9 per unit per night to £11.
3. Rally No: 24 Marsh Farm, Vince & Diane Lewis have unfortunately informed me that they can no longer run this particular rally (they hope to be able to run the September rally at Marsh Farm) John & Aileen Hobrough have commendably stepped in the breach their details can be found in the yearbook at rally No 46.