

# THE TRECKER



Issue 81

March 2019

## Editor's Corner

As I welcome you to the first *Trecker* of 2019 I've been reflecting on how the old year ended and the new one started in the Heyes household. We had a lovely family Christmas, with both our new grandchildren around followed by excellent New Year celebrations down in Weymouth. Here we had a reunion with a group of old friends, some of whom we hadn't seen for several years.

There was a bit of a cloud hanging over me though. Those of you who know me well will be aware that last summer I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Luckily it was still early stage with various treatment options available. Encouragingly the amount of cancer found appeared to be small, so I opted for "active surveillance", meaning that nothing is done immediately apart from regular blood tests and further investigations if necessary.

However during an appointment with the consultant just before Christmas, I was advised to have a second biopsy and at the end of January I was given the news that the cancer was much more extensive than originally thought and that the time for playing a waiting game was over. Now the NHS may be far from perfect, but I have no complaints about how they handled my case - my prostate was surgically removed on 26 February and I am now recovering well at home. It's quite a serious operation and recovery does tend to go in fits and starts, with various setbacks along the way, but at least it seems to be going in the right direction. I've also been extremely lucky with the support I've had from Eileen and shudder to think what it would have been like without her by my side.

We spent the weekend before my operation among friends at the Baston Fen rally - much better than moping around at home worrying. It's still too early to know when we'll be able to attend our next one, but we hope it won't be too long.

Geoff Heyes  
PPO

## Chairman's Chat

I don't know what it's been like this winter where you are. but here on the island, the weather has been very mild and almost summer-like, promising a good start to the rally season. So warm in fact that some members at our local naturist club, VSC, have already had one or two days sunbathing in the grounds naked.

So it is time to dust off the motorhome, do all the checks and get ready for our first local Caravan and Motorhome Club rally on the 5 April at the Orchards Caravan site, which we agreed to run, wearing our clothes unfortunately. This is of course after we have attended

all the Lions Clubs Charter nights on the island (Ann is a club president so has to attend them).

What about Suntimeckers I hear you say. Well from 18 April to 24 April Ann and I will be at the Invitation Rally at Broadlands Naturist Club, along with Monty the rally officer. Why not book in and join us to greet possible new members, or encourage your friends to come along and experience the joy of camping in the natural state?

Then on 21 June we set off on Brittany Ferries to St Malo to join Suntimeckers on one of their French rallies, so we hope the weather continues to shine on us. We also hope to meet up with some of you over the summer, and of course at the AGM and Gala Rally.

Safe trekking to all of you, wherever your journey takes you and let's hope the sun will shine for you wherever you are.

Ron Twining  
Chairman.

## Rally Organiser's Report

Well here we go for another fun filled rallying year both here in the UK and in Europe. I'm not going to write about the usual frustrations of cancelled rallies other than to say that I'm looking for a volunteer to run Rally 56 at Liverpool Sun & Air in August, as the rally officers have had to pull out. Please contact me if you could take this on, otherwise I'll have to cancel it.

We are now holding an invitation rally at Broadlands Sun Club (rally No 10) over the Easter weekend. Our Chairman will be running the invitation side of the rally with rally officer Monty Toplis (who is also our continental rally organiser) running the rally side of things. Please give them your support and if you have friends who are thinking of joining Suntimeckers then urge them to come along and give us a try.

St Annes will no longer be in the yearbook as the site owner has sold the site and I am not sure what the new owners plan for the land.

So now I come to one of my favourite topics, the Gala Rally which for 2019 will again be held at Nunnery Farm in Rothwell. Something new we'd like to introduce in future (but not this year) is having an official photographer to take pictures for the 'members only' section of our website. This would be done in the same way as at BN events, where ralliers could opt out by wearing wrist bands. This is something we'll talk about during coffee mornings and then discuss during the AGM.

This year's theme is 'Easter' and the Ken Webster photographic theme will be 'weather'. Now you all know the gala rally theme then there can be no excuse for failing to decorate your caravans, tents and motorhomes - there will be a prize for the best dressed unit.

If any of you would like to host an event of your own making on Friday or Saturday afternoon or Sunday evening, then let Tess or me know, I'm sure it will make the gala an even more enjoyable occasion.

The entertainment on Saturday evening this year will be supplied by *Sounds Familiar*, fronted by Paul the site owner and back again by popular request. So please book up for the event and enjoy what will be a fantastic night all supplied at no extra cost to you.

Steve Wagstaff  
National Rally Organiser.

## Changes to Yearbook

1. Rallies 9,31,52 and 73 at Hyde Farm. EHU £3.50 not £3.00
2. Rallies 15 at Willows Farm and 75 at Tything Barn - Steve Wagstaff has a new email address: [steve.wagstaff70@gmail.com](mailto:steve.wagstaff70@gmail.com)
3. Rally 16 at Heather House Farm. There has been a typing error the rally officer shows his surname as Coggin and should be COGGAN. Please ensure any cheques you send shows the correct spelling.
4. Rally 20 at East Midlands Sunfolk. Shows cancelled in the yearbook now being run by Terry Gascoyne. Booking and contact details please use Steve & Tess as per Rally 15.
5. Rallies 23 & 63 at Yorkshire Sun Society. Site fees for a tent, caravan or motorhome - fully serviced pitch (limited number available) £14 per night + £7.50 per person per day visitors fee. Without EHU - £10 per night + £7.50 per person per day visitors fee.
6. Rally 25 at Bassetts Farm and 28 at Abbess Hall Farm - please use new email for rally officer [john.hobrough@outlook.com](mailto:john.hobrough@outlook.com)
7. Rallies 26 & 66 at White Rose. The site fee should read £21 PN including temporary membership and not £24.
8. Rally 37 at Nunnery Farm. Has been cancelled by the site owner, he unfortunately double-booked our rally with a previous booking.
9. Rallies 49 & 61 at Greenhill Park. The site fee has been reduced from £10 to £8.
10. Rally 56 at Liverpool Sun & Air - the rally officers have had to pull out. If anyone can take this on please contact Steve Wagstaff, details as per Rally 15. Otherwise it will have to be cancelled.

## Webmaster

The website has been functioning well bar the occasional hiccup. Most of the 2019 rallies are available to register online which is a quick and convenient way to book your Suntrecker adventures. The booking system is displayed slightly differently to last year with the benefit that response time is a lot quicker. It's already been used quite a few times and I hope it will continue to grow in popularity. Amendments to the yearbook are published above and they can also be found online by following a link on the "Rally List" page on the website.

Its taken a while but the website has recently undergone some organisational changes. Firstly the news posts which were on the homepage are now available from a new tab on the header menu. The homepage is now more directed to prospective members than to existing ones. The forum page which contained posts going back several years and had very little recent use has been mothballed. At the top of the website is a Facebook link and we are now encouraging people to join the group to get discussions going there. It is a secret group so if you wish to join then you will need to friend an existing member of the group to get added (you can contact a committee member if you don't know anyone in the group).

At the time of writing the website changes are at an early stage and further developments can be expected as I have further ideas and receive suggestions from members.

Alan Ingram  
Webmaster

## Winter rally update

### Greenhill Park

Following autumn rallies at Watlington and Pinvin, the start of December saw the usual pre-Christmas gathering at Greenhill Park near Stratford-on-Avon. A good turnout enjoyed entertainment so ably organised by Terry and Lesley Jackman, where Friday was Christmas Eve, Saturday was Christmas day (lunch with all the trimmings) and Sunday was split between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve, with the chimes of Big Ben pealing out somewhat before midnight to allow ralliers to get away early on Monday if they wished.

### Kingfisher Farm

Those of us who were able to finish 2018 and start 2019 at Kingfisher Farm had a really "Good Nude Year". It was great to see 10 units, the most at a New Year rally for some time - and so pleasing that a few more members are realising that just because it's winter the 'vans don't have to be mothballed. Our well seasoned rally officer Eric and fiancé Crystal welcomed us as soon as we arrived - and in return we were delighted to welcome Crystal as a new member of Suntreckers.

Evenings were spent with site owner Terry in the warm club room, chatting and catching up with friends and enjoying a quiz which only produced a few squabbles and had plenty of laughs. The Sunday coffee morning was followed by a tour of Terry's engineering projects for some, a trip to Skegness for others and a longish walk for our dog Meg.

Monday was of course New Year's Eve and at lunch time several of us visited the local cafe and discovered that the new owners provide excellent food at very reasonable cost. Then after another very chilled out afternoon we gathered for our 'jungle' themed party. Like all good parties there was plenty of food, booze, a bit of dancing by the more energetic, in excellent company. We all joined in Auld Lang Syne and some kept going for the usual silly Agadoo, Hokey Cokey etc. but the Can Can became the Can't Can't!

We said 'good bye' to some on Tuesday and the rest of us packed up and went home on the Wednesday after a very enjoyable few days in the usual wonderful Trecker company.

Thanks to all concerned in making it happen, especially of course our host Terry and rally officers, Eric and Crystal. Sorry there are no other pictures to share but we were all too busy enjoying ourselves, but here's Maureen's costume as a monkey and mine as a zebra.



I'm sure all Suntreckers will join us in sending Eric and Crystal best wishes for their wedding on 1 May.

### Baston Fen

What a difference a year makes. Last year we endured freezing temperatures and icy winds as the 'Beast from the East' prepared to roar in. This year we had the Sunday afternoon tea outside in warm sunshine - in Lincolnshire in February! Another enjoyable



rally with a fish and chip supper on Saturday evening and an excellent carvery lunch on Sunday. The only downside was for English rugby fans, as we watched Wales snatch a late victory in the 6 Nations!

### Smeaton's Lakes

The blackthorn was in full bloom for our last winter rally at Smeaton's Lakes when the weather truly lived up to its "Blackthorn Blow" for the Friday and Saturday. Unfortunately John & Jill had to cancel at the last minute as there were 50 - 60 mph gusts where they live and quite rightly they decided the weather was too bad to take their caravan out. Seven units arrived on Friday and we found a row of trees that served as a bit of a wind break. The toilet door to the gents had been blown off its hinges so we all had to use the ladies - just like being in Croatia!

We were really pleased to have the use of a well-heated hall for our Friday night get together and Saturday coffee morning. After doing our own things, 9 of us went to the swim at South Forest and again had an enjoyable time socialising/swimming/warming in the sauna etc. After saying cheerio to Tom and Angie on Sunday morning the rest of us



enjoyed a really yummy Sunday lunch, followed by afternoon tea back at the site - rather cosy in our motorhome!

A lovely level site, very reasonably priced with plenty of walking and dog exercising areas for those who want it. Newark is walkable if you've got half an hour to spare but the bus from the campsite gate is preferred!

The winter rallies have been very well attended this year and we have already provisionally booked some sites for next winter. The programme will be along similar lines to the last couple of years plus we are hoping to include a Burns Night rally at Telford. If you know of any suitable locations where you could help to run a winter rally, please get in touch.

Malcolm & Maureen

## **Continental Rallies 2019**

There are some wonderful locations arranged for the Continental rallies this year and while Brexit may be a consideration it should not pose any undue reason not to book and go and enjoy the European countryside. So, get planning and booking sending in your Rally booking forms as soon as you can. Full details of all sites are in the Yearbook and on the website.

Monty Toplis

## **Boring but important - safety recommendations from BN**

Some of you may have seen in the press that Naturism has been on the radar of several vigilante-style groups who are attacking our core values and threatening the future of

Naturism by trying to make it illegal for U18s to visit naturist clubs and events. Most of their activity has been online but small groups of protesters have turned up at a few naturist swims and hassled attendees.

This has prompted BN to contact all naturist clubs including Suntreckers with recommendations to protect the safety of individuals. On reflection it would appear that we are already following these guidelines anyway, as we don't include members names or contact details in public areas of our website and we don't have any pictures of children. However in such times it's even more important that we all keep our Yearbooks safe and don't allow them to fall into the wrong hands. **You are all reminded of your obligations not to divulge the content of your Yearbook to non-members and to destroy all obsolete issues.**

## Plans for Suntrecker article in BN magazine

We have an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of Suntreckers by submitting an article for publication in the summer issue of BN magazine, which will have a feature on UK holidays. Plans are afoot to send a suitable account of our activities but we still need some photographs to illustrate the article. These must of course be naturist, as the magazine doesn't normally include pictures of people wearing clothes. If any of you are willing to have your photographs published, please send them as soon as you can to [ppo@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:ppo@suntreckers.org.uk), not forgetting that you must have permission from anyone else appearing in the picture. As I said, **as soon as possible** please as the deadline for submitting the article is 15 April.

Any photos from a gala rally would be especially useful and whilst on that subject it's worth mentioning that in future years we are thinking of having an official photographer to take pictures, mainly for the 'members only' part of the website. Members not wishing to be photographed would be given the chance to opt out by wearing wristbands. We'll be talking about this during gala rally coffee mornings and at the AGM.

## Nudefest 2019

Some of us have already booked to attend this flagship Naturist event in Somerset in July and, as we did last year, we'll be organising pétanque sessions as part of the entertainment and to promote Suntreckers. Quite a few Treckers enjoyed the event last year and it would be really good if we could increase the numbers this year to fly the flag for our club <https://www.nudefest.co.uk>

## Officers and committee members due for election at the 2019 AGM

Full details for the nomination procedure are published on page 5 of the 2019 year book and the list of officers due for election is:

- Chairman - not standing for re-election
- Company Secretary - resigning after 2019 AGM
- General Member 3 (previously Equipment Officer) - position vacant.
- General Member 1
- PPO
- Treasurer
- Webmaster

Please note that both the chairman and company secretary will be standing down at this year's AGM. It is vital that members put themselves forward to fulfil these essential roles - Suntreckers could not continue to exist without them. Nominations for these and any other posts must be submitted to the company secretary by 3 June.

## **Clothing and regalia**

An impressive range of high quality, Suntrecker branded clothing and regalia can now be ordered from RowanOak Creative. Both the catalogue and an order form can be viewed and downloaded from the website <https://www.suntreckers.org.uk/regalia/> and printed catalogues have been sent to all rally officers for showing to members at this year's summer rallies. Normally all items will be embroidered with the Suntreckers logo, but products can also be personalised on request, with up to 14 characters for the same price.

Once ordered items will be posted out to members by RowanOak Creative at no extra cost to members.

## **Goodbyes**

It's time to say goodbye to the following members who have decided not to renew for 2019:-

John and Elaine White - "We are sorry but we will not be renewing our membership this year due to health reasons. We didn't manage to attend any rallies last year but we enjoyed our time with Suntreckers and wish you all the best."

Eddie and Viv Ogden - "Many thanks for your renewal invitation however we regret to inform you that we will not be renewing for the foreseeable future. Thanks again for the wonderful times we have spent with you."

Chris and Janet Fleuty - "We have a full schedule next year, and will therefore not be renewing our membership."

Peter and Liz Walsh - "With regret, and due to too many demands on our time, we have not renewed our membership in 2019. We have enjoyed rallying over the last 8 years both in the UK, but most often on the Continental and treasure the many friendships made. We have not yet stopped caravanning and still intend to go abroad to naturist sites in France for as many years as health allows. We look forward to meeting up with Treckers attending rallies at LSAS where we are members."

Jean and Kenneth Riley - "We have decided not to renew our membership this year. This is because that we primarily use Suntreckers for foreign trips but these have become too difficult because of the driving involved."

Lynda and Barrie Smith - "Regrettably age is now restricting our activities and consequently we are unable to continue our membership."

Peter Bray - "I have decided to go solo this year. I have a small job on a campsite in France for the summer and will be staying for approximately 6 months, hopefully bumping into some of the Treckers."

Chris and Linda Wiggin - "Not enough sites with facilities for us."

## **Gala raffle**

This year's gala raffle will take place at Nunnery Farm on 28 July, shortly before the Suntreckers AGM. You can see a couple of the star prizes in the poster on the last page of this issue of *The Trecker*.

Don't miss out, tickets will be on sale at the Gala Rally, at various rallies or by mail order - details can be found on the website at:

<https://www.suntreckers.org.uk/2019/03/07/gala-raffle-2019/>

## **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 [ppo@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:ppo@suntreckers.org.uk)

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

**SUNTRECKERS**

# 2019 GALA RAFFLE

**1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE**

**£100 CASH**



**2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE**

**DOUBLE DUVET & £40 VOUCHER**



**A Fogarty Hollowfibre All Season with Luxuriously soft cover. Consisting of a 10.5 tog and a 4.5 tog, can be put together to create a 15 tog duvet, complete with a Dunelm Voucher for you to buy a cover of your choice.**

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