

# THE TRECKER



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## Editor's Corner

In our neck of the woods (leafy Buckinghamshire) we seem to have had a pretty mild winter, but we haven't escaped extreme weather, with heavy rain and strong winds both being frequent occurrences. I don't think we've ever experienced the motorhome rocking about as much as it did on our last winter rally in Leicestershire.

The arrival of the new Yearbooks always seem to make life a bit more cheerful though, as we start to plan our summer and decide which rallies we'll be able to attend. All being well this will include some on the continent and at least we won't have to worry about new European travel regulations yet, as nothing is set to change until at least the end of 2020.

One event already in our diaries is of course the Gala Rally in July, but perhaps best not to get too excited about that yet, as by then we'll already be past mid-summer. Better instead to focus on April when the summer rallies start again. With luck, we may even get some sunshine.

Geoff Heyes  
PPO

## Chairman's Chat

Here we are again at the start of another year with a full rally programme. I hope that this meets with your approval and that we will see many of you at rallies both at home and abroad. I would like to pass on sincere thanks to both Steve Wagstaff for his work in organising this year's home rallies and Monty Toplis for organising the Continental rallies again. For those of you who don't know, Monty was coerced into organising last year's continental rallies and has been persuaded to do the job again for 2020 - it looks a very full and exciting programme.

This year sees us with a new style of rally book and I hope that this change meets with "Treckers" approval. It is different I know, and like most of you I am probably guilty of being resistant to change, but from a cost point of view the new style makes a lot of sense. Just don't throw your covers away at the end of the year, as in 2021 you will only receive new inserts and not a new cover.

For the first time in many years we have a full committee and I ask for your support and recognition of all the hard work that goes on in the background. Our club couldn't function without it. This year's Gala Rally theme is Harry Potter and gives ralliers a lot of scope to enter the fancy dress parade or to decorate your own Hogwarts caravan or

motorhome and help to make this a magical rally. (I know very little about him myself but I am sure that Jenny will be polishing up her Nimbus 2000 broomstick for the weekend.) I think I may stick to a game of boules as I feel that quidditch may be a bit beyond me!

As I am sure you know we are trying to encourage new members to join us by holding more invitation rallies and introducing a fast track system for new members. We hope this meets with your approval and helps us to increase our membership. So don't forget you can invite your naturist friends to come and try one of them in the hope they will like it and feel inclined to join us. I am sure that any prospective member will see what a friendly lot we all are, and feel that they will soon be part of our great naturist family. I do have to say though that I would have preferred to see more of our rally officers being willing to host an invitation rally.

Finally if any of you have ideas for anything we can do to enhance the whole Suntrecker experience for everyone, then please speak to a committee member. I hope you all have a marvellous rallying season and perhaps we will meet up on a rally somewhere.

Peter Chapman  
Chairman.

## **Rally Organiser's Report**

Well here we go for another fun-filled rallying year both here in the UK and in Europe. Let's hope for lots of sun, sea, sand and sangria but if not all those then there are plenty of club sites and beautiful field sites to grab your attention.

I'm not going to detail the cancelled rallies because this is a constant irritation to you, me and the site owners. Hopefully we will be holding more invitation rallies this year at sites both in the UK and on the continent so keep an eye on our Facebook group (if you are not already a member of that group then send either the membership secretary or me an email asking to join), or on the Suntrecker website.

I now come to one of my favourite topics - the Gala Rally which will again be held at Nunnery Farm in Rothwell. Terry and Lesley Jackman will be running the raffle for us so please make sure you buy your tickets.

The theme for 2020 is "Harry Potter" and the Ken Webster photographic theme will be "Travel", which should give all you budding and experienced photographers out there a substantial subject to get your teeth into. Our plans for the event include a get-together on the Thursday evening with wine and nibbles and the boules competition will start early on Friday morning. We're hoping that Dick Brice will be entertaining us on Friday evening, but this is not confirmed as yet. Saturday will see the boules competition continuing and we will have our usual great live entertainment in the evening. So please book up for the gala and enjoy what will be a fantastic night all supplied at no extra cost to you .

There will be something happening every day but if you want to do something different then let us know and we will accommodate you. We will also be having our normal cake baking competition so get your baking skills honed.

Now you all know the gala rally theme, there can be no excuse for failing to decorate your caravan, tent and motorhome. As always there will be a prize for the best dressed unit.

That's all the good stuff and I really do hope you will enjoy the coming season including the gala. The bad news is that I am seriously considering not standing for re-election at the AGM. I have been in the post of National Rally Organiser for close on 13 years and have also acted as a gala rally officer each year. I have enjoyed every one of them, bad weather and on one occasion a runaway cow included. But everything comes to an end

and the way things are progressing I think it needs a new person to carry it forward with new ideas.

So if anyone would like to take over from me then please let me or one of the committee know. My only word of advice to whoever wants to do it is get your partner on board as they will be invaluable when organising the rallies.

That's all from me now folks, I hope to see some of you at the rallies in the near future.

Steve Wagstaff  
National Rally Organiser.

## Membership

Apart from the deaths of several long-term members last year, as usual there were a number of non-renewals, with some people giving reasons, usually "age", "health", "rallies too far away" or "did not get to enough rallies". A couple of long-term members have not renewed and they wanted to extend their best wishes to all of their Suntrecker friends and fellow ralliers, namely Ivor Jones (28 years) and Stewart and Wilma Swinton (24 years).

Stewart & Wilma also sent this message:

"We would wish the Suntreckers every success in the future and would welcome anyone visiting Scotland to drop in. We can offer a hard standing and hookup and we are only a quarter mile from a major road (A68)".

John Furley  
Membership Secretary

## Website

You all should have received your new 2020 yearbooks with this year's rallies, but what if you want to see the rallies don't have your book to hand? Simple, all the rallies are available to see for those registered on the Suntreckers website. Also, you can book many of the rallies online making it quick and convenient to book your place – no paper, envelope, stamp or cheque.

Finally, if you find anything on the website not working as it should, any errors etc or just need some help then please contact me [webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk)

Alan Ingram  
Webmaster

## The Role of a General Member

I am one of the three General Members on the committee and I have often been asked what I do. There is no set job description as such, we help when we can and we take on responsibility for tasks arising at committee meetings where necessary. One of the things I have done as GM1 is note any issues or concerns brought to my attention by members and raise them at committee meetings. These can be sent to me anytime by post or email [gm1@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:gm1@suntreckers.org.uk), or you can speak to me at a rally and if you prefer I will not mention your name. I also help the Membership Secretary with sending out the Yearbooks each year - a lovely way to spend a weekend in January or February.

Speaking of the Yearbooks, how do you like the new version? The committee would love to get some feedback be it positive or negative. The old spiral bound version is very costly to produce each year. By having the punched inserts and keeping your folder we will save money in the future. The first year is obviously more expensive but then the costs will go down for the next and subsequent seasons. It will make one of my tasks

easier when we come to the end of the season when I help to securely destroy any leftovers. Instead of dealing with spiral-bound copies, I will only need to shred the inserts. Also our task of sending out the new books will be easier the following year when we will only have to send out the inserts and membership card for the folder that you have kept. The Yearbook is proof read, but that does not mean there are no mistakes. Please let me know if you spot major errors – site facilities, directions etc. We can then correct the next Yearbook and not reproduce the errors if using that site again.

We would also welcome any suggestions for improving the club membership and we do appreciate that some non-renewing members contact the Membership Secretary to say why. It helps us see if we are going wrong somewhere – we can't help with you getting older, no longer able to drive the caravan/motorhome etc but it might be something we can look into in order to change things for the better, and hopefully keep you a member of the club. Remember if you recruit someone you can get £5 off your next renewal, if your name/number appears on their joining form. There is no limit now on how many members you can recruit up to your £30 renewal fee.

Enjoy this year's rallies – hope to see some of you.

Lyn Furley (GM1)

## Change to the Facebook Group

The Suntimeckers' Facebook group has now been changed from Private-Hidden to Private-Visible. I have posted the following on the Facebook page:

“As discussed and agreed, this group has been changed from Private-Hidden to Private-Visible. The group can now be found on Facebook, but the membership and content is still only visible to members of this group.”

Any Suntimecker member can request to join the group and must provide a valid Surname, Postcode and Membership Number.

John Furley  
Membership Secretary

## Winter Rallies

### Greenhill Park

After a successful if rather wet rally at Watlington in Oxfordshire in October we next met up at Greenhill Park at the beginning of December for our annual pre-Christmas event, organised by Terry and Lesley Jackman. Persistent heavy rain over several days in



“Greenhill Park Lake”



A rather waterlogged “Chicken Shed”

November almost caused this one to be cancelled and the accompanying pictures look more like a lake than a campsite. However when it finally stopped raining, site owner Andy did an amazing job of mopping up and even managed to get the “Chicken Shed” (our meeting room) dried out sufficiently for us to carry on as normal. As usual the highlight was the Saturday (Suntrecker’s Christmas Day), when our coffee morning was followed by a few games before our mid-afternoon Christmas lunch. Secret Santa, competition judging and more games kept us entertained for the rest of the day.

## Kingfisher Farm

New Year at Kingfisher Farm in Lincolnshire has become a regular event, with a rally hosted again by Eric and Crystal. A lot of effort had gone in to decorating our meeting room in a Hawaiian theme, ready for the party on New Year’s Eve, with a few games, music and of course a drink or two.

After a leisurely start on New Year’s Day, most of us adjourned to a local pub, where a late ‘breakfast with a pint’ was on offer at a very reasonable price. Site owner Terry joined us for this one and several of us were treated to a ride in the Trojan, one of his many unique vehicles.



In party mood - Eric or Erica?



Geoff, Eileen and site owner Terry with the Trojan.

## Telford Naturist Club

Terry Gascoyne hosted this rally over the weekend of 24 - 26 January and eight Suntrecker units enjoyed the usual hospitality from this convivial club, where all were well fed and watered. Although the pool was not in use for this weekend our ralliers were able to make use of the sauna and hot tub.

One of the activities organised by the club during our stay was a games evening where a Trecker team scooped first prize, after showing off their skills at darts, bagatelle etc.

## **Stanton Lakes**

Malcolm and Maureen welcomed us to a new site for Suntreckers, albeit next door to the one we have used several times for Guy Fawkes night rallies. This attractive site has an excellent bar and restaurant, allowing us to combine the usual Saturday coffee morning with a late breakfast. Storm Dennis battered us throughout the weekend, with particularly strong winds from Saturday onwards. Several of us braved wet, muddy walks, some out of necessity to exercise their dogs and others just for the fun of it! At least it gave us something extra to talk about in the bar afterwards.

The plan for Sunday was for us all to have lunch at the nearby Mill on the Soar and set off for home immediately afterwards. Unfortunately the weather had other ideas. By the time we arrived, the car park was beginning to resemble a lake, and the kitchen had already experienced a couple of power cuts, with a strong possibility that they would't be able to serve any hot food. Most of the ralliers cut their losses and started their journeys early, leaving a few to return to the campsite for lunch in the restaurant instead.

## **Looking Ahead**

### **Rally 09 - Manchester Sun and Air Society**

There will be a full programme at this popular club site. There will be a fish and chip supper on the Friday and on the Saturday evening the club will be organising fancy dress - 'Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves', with a prize for the best Suntrecker outfit.

Sunday will see the usual BBQ (bring your own food), followed by the fire pit gathering (bring your own drinks) and the rally officers will organise something for Monday evening.

Ken & Wendy Warburton

### **Continental Rallies**

Monty has again been busy organising a full programme of Continental Rallies, four in May and June (one in Spain and three in France) and another two in September, both in France. Full details are available in the new Yearbook and on the website, from where you can book online.

As far as we know there is no need to be concerned about the effects of the UK leaving the EU on continental travel this year. Quoting from a statement on the Camping and Caravanning Club website: "There is a transition period until at least the end of 2020, so no rules have changed for personal travel or pet travel. EHIC's are still valid as is your driving licence, passports, pet passports, Insurances etc."

There is a similar, more detailed statement on the Caravan and Motorhome club website:

- British passports will still be valid. There is no need to have six months remaining on your passport although it does need to be valid for the whole trip.
- European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) will still be valid, although we do always recommend that members have suitable travel insurance due to the limitations of EHIC.
- Visas will not be required.
- UK driving licences can be used without the need for an International Driving Permit or Green Card for your vehicle insurance.
- If you have a pet passport, it will still be valid for travel before the end of December 2020.
- Mobile phone 'surcharge free' roaming regulations should still apply.

## Crit'Air Stickers for driving in France

One thing we will need to be aware of before setting off for the continent this year is that environmental regulations are being made more stringent. France introduced low-emission zones (LEZs) in 2017, making it a legal requirement to display a Crit'Air vignette on all vehicles driving in central Paris. The scheme has since been extended to include many other cities and during last year's heatwave temporary environmental zones were introduced in several regions, where the vignette was also mandatory.

The Camping and Caravanning Club is currently advising all members planning to take their vehicles to France to buy a Crit'Air sticker for their windscreen. They can be ordered online from [www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/en/) at a cost of 4.21€, including postage to UK. The sticker is then valid for the life of the vehicle. Driving in a low-emission zone without one could result in a hefty fine. You will need to provide information from your vehicle registration document (V5), as well as attaching an image of the document to your application.

Spain has also introduced low emission zones but as far as we are aware, these only apply to parts of Barcelona and Madrid, although this could change. Please be aware that all information regarding European travel in *The Trecker* is given to the best of our knowledge at the time and members should always check for themselves before making arrangements for foreign travel.

## Down memory lane

The picture below was sent to us at the end of last year by Alan Judge. It shows a piece of fabric signed by a large group of Suntimeckers. Alan believes it to be at least twenty years old. Please get in touch if you can shed more light on this - [ppo@suntrecker.org.uk](mailto:ppo@suntrecker.org.uk)



## **Some sad news**

### John Delloyd

Shortly before Christmas we heard about the death of John Dellloyd. His funeral, which was held at Woking Crematorium on 6 January was attended by several Treckers. John had been an active member since 2004 and had acted as rally officer on many occasions.

### Lilly Whittles

Although we don't have any details we believe that Lilly Whittles has passed away. She was a member from 1998 until 2012. Her her husband Don died in 2011.

## **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.