

# THE TRECKER



# Suntreckers

*The UK's Largest Naturist Camping, Caravan & Motorhome Club*



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## Editor's Corner

I find myself in good spirits as I sit down to write this, having just returned from our first rally of the year at Carbeil in Cornwall. Maybe some of you were a bit disappointed to learn that Covid restrictions will have to remain with us for a bit longer yet and sadly, this has again led to cancellation of the Gala Rally. The AGM will now be a virtual Zoom meeting, as it was last year.

The overall outlook though is much more positive. Rallying has been taking place since mid-May and the latest news on the pandemic is that vaccines seem to be winning the battle against the latest variants of the virus. We have more rallies booked over the summer, including the one in Liverpool at the end of July where we've agreed to act as rally officers. Taking the opportunity for a plug, we've still got a few places left, but these are not being held exclusively for Suntreckers, so if you'd like to join us, book sooner rather than later! We're also looking forward to going to Thorney Lakes in September, for the NudeCamp invitation rally, where all of the Suntrecker pitches have now been taken. However, if you've not booked the rally, but would still like to go, you can book a pitch directly with the site at <https://www.thorneylakes.co.uk/nude/> or telephone 01458 250811. I'll end with a plea for as many members as possible to join the Zoom AGM on 25 July.

Geoff Heyes  
PPO

## Chairman's Chat

As I sit here at 6 am after another sleepless night wondering if we will ever get back to any sort of normality, I have been watching the comings and goings of a pair of blackbirds building another nest. It's their second one this year and as the coming and goings with straw and twigs in their beaks is starting to slow down, I assume she will soon be sitting on a new clutch of eggs and in a few weeks we will be seeing young blackbirds sitting on the fence with their wings lowered and begging to be fed by mum and dad. Life seems so simple for them.

The weather here has been lovely for the last few weeks it makes me wonder why we are sat here and not away somewhere in the motorhome, possibly due to hospital appointments and the like. It's a case of going when they say these days as re-arranging appointments is almost impossible. Just have to get on with it I suppose.

I am sure that by now you will all know that for the second year running we have had to cancel the Gala Rally! We hung on as long as we dared, hoping that the PM would have some good news for us, alas it was not to be. So, it's a virtual AGM for the second year in a row.

I think the landowner might have been a bit relieved at us not turning up and taking over the field for a week or so what with the infection rate rising the way it is. Oh, and his band was missing its singer! A shame really as I thought he was quite good.

So I look forward to seeing you in the virtual world if not on a rally somewhere soon.

Peter Chapman  
Chairman

## **Rally Organiser's Report**

Last year I wrote that the pandemic ruined our rally programme. This year, although the pandemic has done its best to put a stop to our rallies we have lost just 17 of them in the UK, either because of Covid restrictions or through a lack of rally officers.

In addition, we have lost all of our continental rallies. I believe we were right to cancel these because of the uncertainty regarding travelling, which is an ongoing issue and doesn't seem to be solved anytime soon.

The main disappointment is the cancellation of the 2021 gala rally and AGM. I have rebooked the marquee for 2022 and really hope with fingers crossed that it goes ahead without social distancing.

The AGM will go ahead as like last year via a 'Zoom' meeting. Our membership secretary John Furley will send out the link so that all who wish to can join in.

That's all from me now but look forward to seeing as many of you as possible (virtually) at the AGM.

Steve Wagstaff  
National Rally Organiser.

## **Webmaster**

Members have been using the website more than ever, with online bookings in 2021 already exceeding previous years. It's so obvious why – because it is so simple!

It is so easy and convenient to book online with much of the information required automatically entered from your user profile. To amend or update your profile go to the bottom of any web page and click on profile.

Just a reminder to say that when you book online you tick a box to say you agree to the terms & conditions such that if you later cancel, the rally deposit still needs to be paid. Online booking without paying the deposit upfront is done on trust giving you convenience and without requiring cheque, envelope & stamp. If you do cancel a rally you should contact the Rally Officer concerned to arrange payment.

I am developing the online booking system as I see opportunities to improve it but any suggestions about this or the website generally then please let me know your thoughts [webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk) or phone me – my number is in the front of the Yearbook.

Enjoy the summer  
Alan Ingram  
Suntrecker Webmaster

## Gala Rally cancelled

Unfortunately, because of the announcement from Boris on 14 June delaying the easing of Covid restrictions, the Suntimeckers Committee have had to cancel the Gala Rally. The AGM will now be by Zoom as it was last year and information will be sent out in due course. The raffle prizes will be held over to next year and Paul from Nunnery Farm has agreed to host us again. Some of you may think we are being too cautious, but as we won't know what social distance rules will be in place even after 19 July, we need to make the decision now so that we do not incur the cost of the marquee.

Iris (Treasurer) will be refunding Gala deposits. If you are happy to wait, then Iris will send cheques out but has to wait for a second signatory to return from rallying. If you want to have your money back sooner, then please ring Iris with your banking details. Her contact details are in the Yearbook.

Unfortunately, this also means that we are back to the 30-person limit for rallies so please contact your rally officer to see if your place on a particular rally is safe.

John Furley  
Membership Secretary

## Committee posts still vacant

The last issue of *The Trecker* in March contained a feature 'Your Suntimeckers needs You!' explaining that three committee members are standing down at this year's AGM and need to be replaced. Until recently there had been no response, but it now seems that we have a workable solution.

To ensure the continuance and smooth running of Suntimeckers' business, it is proposed that the current Chairman will stand down immediately following the 2021 AGM and that the retiring Rally Organiser Steve Wagstaff (who already holds the post of Vice Chairman) shall take his place for the remainder of the Chair's term of office expiring in 2022. At the same time, current General Member 2, Tess Wagstaff, will temporarily take on the role of Company Secretary and Eddie Silk has agreed to take on the role of Rally Organiser, both for the forthcoming 12 months only. The committee has received names of volunteers to take on the roles of Rally Organiser and Company Secretary from the 2022 AGM onwards, at which time the Company Secretary will be happy to re-assume her original committee role as General Member 2.

## Rally Reports

### [Rally 22 – Cam Bridge Barn, it can only get better!](#)

We'd agreed to run six of the rallies this year, but what would have been our first at Cambridge Outdoor club was one of the many victims of the Covid cull. Better luck with our second, though, as Cam Bridge Barn turned out to be the first rally to go ahead as we came out of lockdown (again).

Following a very wet month (May) it promised to be soggy and boy, did it live up to that promise! Most of the ralliers turned up on schedule on an utterly miserable Thursday, set up camp and retreated indoors, hardly to be seen again until Saturday morning. At times it was akin to being in a car wash. We managed a coffee morning on Saturday, not just clothes optional, clothes essential.

The main topic of conversation was our sanity, closely followed by our escape strategy. The forecast was for the rain to return on Sunday morning, so the consensus was to cut the rally short and all leave together by 11am.

As it happened, the afternoon was fine enough for us all to strip and lounge around chatting and getting to know one another. In the evening Carol and James lit their fire bowl making a brilliant focal point for more clothing-essential natter.

Sunday morning was a case of real teamwork, thanks to all those who helped us out of our newly developed dew pond. And thanks to Carol and James for seeing everyone safely off site.

Were we right to abandon? Five minutes after we got home the heavens opened, washing the Cam Bridge mud off the van. How thoughtful of the weather gods.

Eddie Silk

### Rally 26 – White Rose

After what seemed like weeks of constant rain, we had a soggy ride up the motorway to set up for the White Rose Rally. On arrival the camping area seemed to bear more resemblance to a sodden sponge than a place to hold a rally, but after a bit of shunting about we managed to find a place to set up our caravan without it sinking in too far.

However the next day we awoke to a beautiful sunny morning, with the sunlight dancing through the trees. It felt like the first real taste of sunshine this year and the sun God had answered my prayers.

We slowly got everyone sited, moving them gently into place with their caravan motor movers, kindly assisted by the members at White Rose. We weren't so lucky with a camper van though, as it sank into the soft ground and had to be pulled out. It was disappointing for them to have to spend the rest of the rally on hard standing.

We discovered one chap had no road lights on his caravan. This kept the technically-minded among both Suntreckers and the White Rose members entertained for a while, until they eventually traced the fault to the socket on the car.

White Rose members had a pool of local knowledge and their Chairman was immensely kind and supportive. A company in York were able to resolve the problem quite quickly and he was able to travel home safely.

Most days we sat in a socially-distanced circle and brought along our own drinks. One discussion amongst the ralliers, was that they much preferred to bring their own drinks to 'coffee morning'. We had everything from pots of tea and china cups to freshly ground coffee. It is certainly a thought that this could be the way forward as it takes a lot of pressure off the RO.

We welcomed new members Martin and Christine who got on fine and we look forward to seeing them again somewhere on the circuit. The sun continued to shine and the soggy ground dried out a little more with each passing day. On the Tuesday evening we all managed to all eat outside and enjoy a fish and chip supper.

As the rally drew to a close we all reflected on what a good time we had had, and how the White Rose members had all been very friendly and made us welcome.

Micaela Stafford

### Rally 27 – Lower Poulza Post

As the rally approached the weather forecast just got better and better, promising a long, hot summer. Wall-to-wall sunshine with temperatures in the mid 20s could be expected, just what the doctor ordered. Sadly not so for the south west peninsula where the jet stream had overcome the gulf stream, bringing in cloud, breeze and at least 5 degrees cooler than the rest of England.

Did it bother us? Of course not. A coffee morning every day, boules just about every afternoon, all governed by the mischievous weather. We tried really hard to work our days and evenings around the forecast and in the main it worked - a communal barbie using the "Bath-B-Q" but with too little fuel for the number of participants. A quiz around the fire on the hottest afternoon, which made lighting the fire quite inappropriate. Cheese and wine after supper with a roaring fire on a typical June evening, another sociable get-together. The finale was to be a barbie with volume-of-fuel lessons learnt. A little rain in the afternoon said the over-optimistic forecast. Boules was delayed an hour and a half. But we went ahead and lit a monster fire which, just as it was approaching cooking time got a thorough dowsing from above. As soon as that rain stopped, more wood on the fire, get it roaring, spread it out and get cooking, bang on time. Those who delayed their cooking



*Rally field at Lower Poulza Post, proving that the sun can shine here.*

were in for a bit of a surprise, finishing off in yet another heavy shower while we watched from the comfort of indoors. There's friendship for you!

By mid-morning on Thursday the site was empty and we were left like Billy Nomates.

We're off to Manor Farm in a couple of days for rally 34, hopeful of an improvement but not particularly confident. My earlier predictions of a replica of the summer of 76 have already been proved rubbish.

But that's rallying UK.

Eddie Silk

### Rally 30 – Carbeil

Because of various commitments for both of us this was our first rally of the year and boy did we pick a good one. We tackled the 250 mile plus journey from home in one go – a bit of a mission not helped by getting stuck for 45 minutes in a tiny village a few miles from Donderry, as a bus and a lorry negotiated an extremely tight corner. Ominously, the

warm, sunny weather we had encountered on most of the journey had now been replaced by a drop in temperature and thick mist, but our eventual arrival at the site and meeting up with old friends soon helped to lift our spirits.

This was our first visit to Carbeil, and indeed to this part of Cornwall, and we were not disappointed with either. The site is attractively laid out, with spotlessly clean sanitary facilities and a lovely little outdoor pool with a sheltered sunbathing area. Normally a bar and clubroom are available as well as a sauna and jacuzzi, but these were off limits because of the restrictions. In addition to our seven units there were several regulars with seasonal pitches present throughout the week, which added to the ambiance.



*John and Lyn outside the pub in Seaton with Cornish mist behind them!*



*That's better – sunshine as we leave the naturist beach at Downderry*

It's fair to say that most of our previous visits to Cornwall have not been blessed with the best of weather, but this proved to be the exception as the cool, misty weather which greeted us was soon replaced with blue skies and almost wall-to-wall sunshine. Rally officers David and Noreen did a great job of keeping us all entertained. As well as the usual coffee mornings, boules games and a quiz, they also organised a couple of beach walks for us – the first to Seaton for a coffee or something stronger at the pub and the second in the other direction to find the naturist beach. This proved a little challenging, involving a scramble over rocks and the need to leave at the right time to avoid being caught out by the incoming tide. It was well worth the effort though, as we were all able to strip off and enjoy time in the sun. Four of us actually braved a dip in the sea, three of them intentionally. I won't say what happened to the other one, but if you ask one of the rally officers nicely, she may be able to explain!

Another highlight of the week came on the day before we departed, when site owner Kerry kindly provided us with a cream tea with prosecco. Yet another reason to encourage us back next year.



*Superb cream tea with prosecco, kindly provided by the site owners. Cream or jam first?*

Unfortunately, I can't finish without mentioning that Lesley Jackman was taken ill towards the end of the rally and had to be taken by ambulance to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth. It was a worrying time for all of us, and of course especially for Terry. Thankfully we've since heard that Lesley has now been discharged and is recovering at home. We all wish her well.

Geoff Heyes

## **Coffee mornings**

One of the changes brought about by the pandemic has been the format of our coffee mornings, where ralliers have been paying a reduced rally fee and bringing their own drinks and biscuits instead of using shared facilities provided by the rally officers. As described in one of the rally reports, several ralliers have mentioned a preference for this

system, as it allows them to bring drinks of their own choice, such as freshly-ground coffee rather than instant. It also relieves the rally officer of the burden of providing drinks and biscuits for everyone.

The committee would like the opinion of the members on this one, as to which system they would prefer in future, after all remaining Covid restrictions have been removed. The simple choice is to continue with communal coffee mornings and the full rally fee, with everything provided by the rally officer, or bring-your-own and pay a reduced rally fee.

## Welcome!

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following members, who have joined Suntreckers since the last Trecker was published:

<b>Names</b>	<b>County</b>
Frank & Clare D	Argyll & Bute
Elizabeth O & Simon D	Lancashire
Steven & Ricky C	Wiltshire
Peter & Kirsten G	Derbyshire
Christopher D & Anthony J	Carmarthenshire
Robert & Andrea R	South Yorkshire
James T & Caroline S	Derbyshire
Nick & Sally H	Nottinghamshire
Matthew & Kay I	Staffordshire
Martin & Christine P	Warwickshire
Peter D	Devon
Alan & Rosalie G	Bedfordshire
John & Rose C	Leicestershire
Roger S & Libby S	Hampshire

## 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, as well as for printing and sending out the paper version. Also thanks to Alan for putting it on the website.