

HE & E

naturist

August 2008

£3.95

THE HEALTH & EFFICIENCY GUIDE TO
NATURIST LIVING

UK SPECIAL

Round-up of the top
naturist spots around
the country

LATEST FROM CAP D'AGDE

What's new at the
leading French resort

WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE

Reports from the UK,
USA, Canada and Spain

ISSN 0017-8888



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Editorial



Hello and welcome to August's *H&E naturist*, my first official month as editor. I'm sure you're all interested to know more about me, and, while there isn't space for my life story here, I hope to give you some idea ahead of a larger feature in September's issue.

First and foremost, I see naturism as more a general way of life, and less a label. Like you, I desire to be as nature intended whenever and wherever possible,

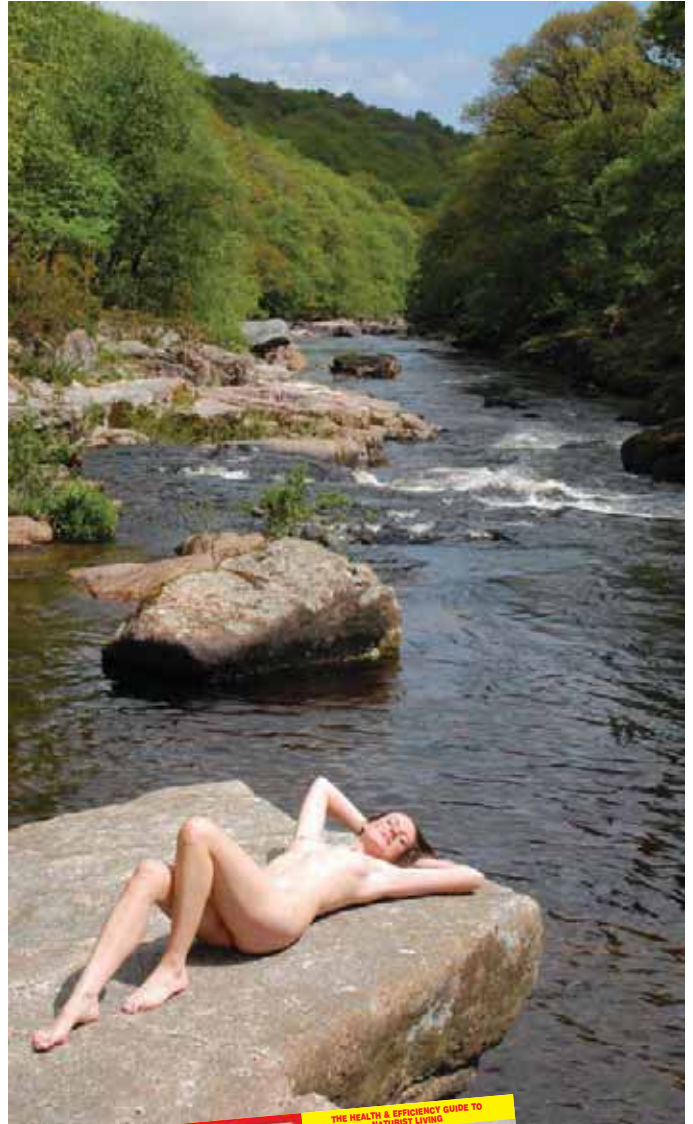
usually in my own space at home and also in sunnier climes, when I get the time and the money...

And when I say 'label', I don't mean we should not be proud to call ourselves naturists, but I do tend to steer away from the more militant side. I recognise there are times when it is inappropriate (or simply too cold!) to be naked, and I feel there is a need for a balance to be struck if naturism is to become more widely accepted and popular in Britain. There is still too much of a gulf between British and European attitudes; overturning the entrenched British culture of mistrust and prudishness towards nakedness is a tall order for one magazine to achieve, but this is something I would like to tackle.

Like former editor Sara I have a background in news and features journalism, as well as in management on magazines TV listings. Also, I reckon – but I'm not 100% sure – that I'm the first Hull City fan to become H&E editor (if anyone can inform me otherwise, I'd be grateful!).

Finally, I would like to reassure regular readers that I'm not about to rip the magazine apart, as I'm of the view that if it ain't broke, don't fix it – and the magazine certainly ain't broke. I aim to introduce subtle, gradual changes, to keep driving it forward and make it even better. Naturism is practised by a wide variety of people all over the world, and I believe the magazine could better reflect this diversity. But please do tell me what you think – I positively welcome your opinions and suggestions as to what you'd like to see – and what you wouldn't!

Sam Hawcroft
email me at: editor@henaturist.net



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4 Nativist News

Naked photoshoot for marine protection

According to scientists, the seas around the UK are among the most overexploited and degraded in the world. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has recommended that a minimum of 30% of UK waters out to a distance of 200 miles needs to be set aside as “no take” marine reserves to protect the marine environment and allow fish stocks to recover. The Marine Conservation Society and Friends of the Earth’s marine network, Marinet, both say that the Government’s draft bill on marine conservation is flawed and doesn’t provide the necessary protection. Taking advantage of the fact that the following day was World Ocean Day, Malcolm Hunter, a participant in the Brighton bike ride, staged a photo shoot on the nudist beach there to highlight the issue on behalf of Marinet. Both organisations are asking people to join their campaigns, and the MCS website allows you to vote online in support of highly protected marine reserves. More details can be found at www.mcsuk.org and www.marinereserves.org.uk.

Bob Janes

Picture:
Terence
Bunch



£200,000 spent on Naked Rambler

The Scottish Sunday Express has brought attention back to Steve Gough, the Naked Rambler, by claiming that taxpayers have been hit with a £200,000 bill to keep him in prison. Gough, 49, who is due for release from his latest 12-month sentence in October, and refuses to wear clothes in prison, has been almost continuously in the segregation unit of Saughton prison in Edinburgh since May 2006, mainly on breach of the peace charges. He has now been moved to Barlinnie prison in Glasgow. There can be little doubt that Gough has never actually committed the offence of breach of the peace, which requires conduct severe enough to cause genuine alarm and disturbance to the community. In correspondence on the subject, Scottish Conservative justice spokesman Bill Aitken MSP told me it was a matter of context. A lone woman confronted by a naked man in a remote spot might feel alarmed, but he thought a naked man walking down Prince’s Street, Edinburgh’s main street and shopping centre, should not be a problem. He was somewhat disbelieving when I told him Gough’s arrests had mostly been as he was released from the back door of the prison into the deserted car park. Aitken told the Express: “There can be no doubt that his time in custody is not commensurate with his offence, and he is not a danger to the public, but what can you do?” Gough’s solicitor John Good said: “It has got to the stage that neither side is willing

to compromise because of the awful amount of investment they have put in. There is the money on one side, but also the thousands of hours in prison and hundreds of hours in court.” However, the paper reveals that a compromise was on offer when police agreed to drive Gough to the border to be released. In fact, it was in October last year when I colluded with his solicitor and the authorities on a deal that would have seen Gough leave prison naked at the end of his sentence, get into a police car naked, and be delivered naked to *H&E naturist*’s office in Yorkshire. Unfortunately he insisted on getting out of the car after a short distance, when, he says, he realised he wasn’t being forcibly repatriated. He was then arrested once again. Former girlfriend and fellow naked rambler Melanie Roberts, 36, said: “He is still coping and staying positive, but I do worry about his mental health. How long can you spend on your own like that?”

Bob Janes

‘In fact, it was in October last year when I colluded with his solicitor and the authorities on a deal that would have seen Gough leave prison naked at the end of his sentence, get into a police car naked, and be delivered naked to H&E naturist’s office in Yorkshire.’

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