

“Nudity” doesn’t



Regular contributor Roni Fine explores the issues that surround the presumption from the outside world that simply being nude means a lot of saucy goings-on.

T rue naturism is non sexual. Am I right or just being naïve? I don’t take my clothes off to be looked at or to titillate others. So I am a naturist and those who enjoy being on display are not.

It is that simple. Or is it? What if there are naturists who also *enjoy* the sight of the human body? Okay, let’s start again: Naturists are people who take their clothes off. Correct? Well, yes, but, um, er, no! Lots of people take their clothes off within their own homes, whether to have a bath, go to bed or just to cool down in hot weather. Are they also naturists? Many of them would scoff at the very idea! Some people remove their clothes but the word “naturist” isn’t even in their vocabulary. So removing one’s clothes does not make you a naturist.

So what does?

We have all heard of Steve Gough, the “Naked Rambler”, who decided to exercise his right to walk naked from Land’s End to John O’Groats. Does that make him a naturist, or just someone who wants to challenge the law of the land? Many people think he is an eccentric nuisance, but they might now think we’re all like that and I don’t want them to think that of *me*. Too many people think that as soon as we take our clothes off we must be dancing round trees at midnight, possibly high on drink or drugs, and jumping on top of each other with inhibitions cast to the wind! They just cannot differentiate nudity from sex. If only they would visit a typical naturist club and see people lazing around like we do at Blackthorns, with an occasional walk to get a cup of tea or ice cream, or a stroll to the pool for a cooling dip.



Naturists – close, but not in that way...

The most energetic thing occurring is a few of us playing miniten or crazy golf! Nothing exciting to watch, nothing erotic taking place and they are welcome to peer over the fence anytime! They would soon get bored!

Not in front of the children

The times I have heard people say it is “disgusting” to be undressed in front of children.

They use them to warrant their own outrage; making the excuse of the bad effect they believe it must have on them, the very group who are not body image conscious but just love the freedom. Children are not associating what they see with anything remotely sexual; they just see bodies. They grow up with a realistic attitude to the human form. I envy their upbringing. There are those who prefer their sexual feelings to be on general display and get pleasure from that and they use clubs for sexually active people seeking partners or an exchange of partner. I do believe they spend most of the time there in a state of undress. They obviously feel comfortable without clothes in a social environment; but that sounds like a description for naturism – and they are not naturists in my book. Oh dear, this is getting complicated! When is nakedness naturism and when is it sexual, or rude? Well, to start with, something is only “rude” if you perceive it to be so. How can the natural body be deemed as rude? We all have one, it is how we are made and it isn’t “rude” until some one tells us it is . . . so who are they to decide? And why let them dictate their own hang ups onto other people?

Adult activity

There are certain naturist complexes in foreign climes that are a mixture of family naturism and “adult activities”, to put it mildly. Would I be wrong to suggest this shouldn’t be happening? How many true naturists take delight in people-watching in that environment and actively enjoy seeing the more racy characters ‘strut their stuff’ in the evenings, dressing with the obvious intention to attract and tease? Though it does prove it is the addition of clothing that makes the body sexually provocative, *not* the removal! Is it wrong to enjoy watching, even if not taking part? Is that not encouraging them? But surely it isn’t doing any harm? “Yes” “No” “Maybe” jumps in and out of my head as I try to decide! I sway from finding their antics amusing to annoying. Personally I can live with them doing whatever they choose, as I know it is *my* choice to join in or refrain, but as soon as it affects the clean image that we are trying to promote; then I get fired up! I also think *their* sexual beach activities need to be segregated even more so than us naturists need to be kept away from the textiles on our home beaches. Magazines carry adverts for “naturist massage”. I see it makes sense for the clients to be undressed as it makes the body more accessible to the masseur to work on. But does the masseur need to be naked too? Personally, I think not, but am I right to say I can be naked to receive but they must be clothed to carry it out? I guess I am worried that person is getting sexual gratification from being nude whilst my own would be out of practicality. As a naturist I am comfortable with social nudity

mean “Naughty”



Steve Belts

but only whilst I am sure the other person is a naturist too. Am I being prudish, unfair or sensible? Some clubs advertise “adult nights” and we all know what that means don’t we? Well, I never *used* to! I thought it meant no children; in order to give a more relaxed, calmer atmosphere; without young ones running about full of energy and making lots of noise! I now realise they mean there will be “X rated” activity going on! Why don’t they be more direct and we would all be aware! I really don’t object to what they are doing but I do object to them going under the guise of the term “naturism”. I know of a naturist club that seemed “all above board” until I heard first hand from members that it was well known that sexual activities went on “after hours” with the approval of the owner, in fact he insisted on being included. I was surprised the rest of the members let this take place but I guess it was a case of putting up with it or leaving and they chose to stay; they just went to bed early if they didn’t take part; their own beds, I hasten to add!

Call a spade a spade

Just as we get people to understand our lifestyle, they see an advert for a naturist club suggesting it to be a swinger’s venue and all our hard work is undone as they presume we are all the same. After all, how many of us talk openly about being naturists let alone what goes on in naturist clubs, therefore they jump to the wrong conclusion and their opinion of naturism drops pretty low. We will never get our alternative lifestyle accepted whilst these other activities are done under the umbrella of the term “naturism”. If the local golf club started running “adult nights”, would

the members accept it or would they be in uproar that these parties were giving the wrong impression of their dignified club and putting people off joining to play golf? Exactly! The golfers would be jumping up and down defending themselves and not allowing these parties to go ahead. So why don’t we naturists take more of a stand and make it clear which clubs and resorts are for naturists and which are for sexual freedom.

I am not saying sex related clubs shouldn’t exist, just that they ought to be called something different. A swinger’s club should be billed as such. It should be perfectly clear. We are not the same so why do they pretend we are? They might be ashamed to admit what they are but let’s not fall into the same trap; let’s say we are naturists with pride and conviction!

In my own mind true naturism is perceived as a way of life. It is “normal” everyday life, without clothes. Simple! People take their clothes off in a protected, safe environment with no thought of sex or exhibitionism. It creates a very relaxed atmosphere where people seem to be more equal and more in tune with each other. Naturists are often described as sociable people who make friends easily and display a caring attitude. It is a family environment with people across all ages from all backgrounds and forming a community spirit. That is not to say naturists do not have sex or sexual feelings; it would be silly to suggest we are celibate or blind! Of course we still fancy people and have preferences as to who and what looks nice but we are far more accepting of each other and our bodies and are able to see beyond that outer image. We get to know people in a deeper way. We look into their

eyes when we speak and we listen to each other. It might start out as a way to feel safe and avoid staring but you will find it comes naturally. Trust me! And as much as I preach body confidence in favour of body beautiful, I am not stupid! We still all find imperfections and wish ourselves slimmer, taller, shapelier, less spotty, cellulite free...whatever! We are still human and human nature takes control...oh, so can we therefore stop ourselves from feeling sexual? The answer is yes; we keep our most natural feelings under control just the same as someone in a clothed environment does. It isn’t that far removed from the textile world. It doesn’t mean we lose the pleasure but contain it for appropriate times, and then we enjoy it like anyone else. Maybe in a way it enhances the sexual side, as it is only in privacy that we open up and show our true feelings and sexuality. But whilst we are active naturists we practise non-sexual nudity and that is how I think it should be. Help us earn a respectable reputation by insisting naturism to be a non-sexual nudity that has no shame and let’s make naturism, *true* naturism, the norm! **BN**

the best guides to the best sites



THE ALAN ROGERS GUIDES ARE THE MARKET LEADING GUIDES TO THE BEST INSPECTED AND SELECTED CAMPSITES ACROSS EUROPE.

DON'T BOOK YOUR CAMPSITE HOLIDAY WITHOUT CHECKING THE ALAN ROGERS GUIDES FIRST!

Available from all good bookshops.

Alternatively buy direct with **FREE P&P**

01580 214000



See them for yourself at

www.alanrogers.com/guides