

The "Nelly" Newsletter

April 2017

Visit the Club website at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel
or the North London Region website at : www.csma-nlr.org.uk



Club Nights



Motorsports



Group Visits



The "Nelly" Newsletter
March 2017



Followed by -
Songs, Stories & Laughter
- from our special guest
John Barnes

NEL

boundless CSMA



Next Club Night -
- Tuesday 11th
Wildlife Photographer - Tom Way



NEL
North East London Group

boundless BY CSMA

NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

Web Sites - Club: www.boundless.co.uk/nel or,
North London Region: www.csma-nlr.org.uk



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Hi Nellies

No April Fool yarn this year - well not that I know of...

My editorial is in two parts this month, so let's start part one with some local Hertfordshire traffic info -

Mick O'Blath informs me that, as of 2nd April, for 12 weeks, there will be lane closures on the A10 Ware Viaduct between the A414 and A602 junctions. So allow extra time if you are coming south for Club Night...!

Just read an interesting motoring article in none other than, SAGA magazine! It's about two of the three lady drivers who competed on the 1970 World Cup Rally from Wembley Stadium to Mexico in an Austin Maxi and how (now both in their '70's), they are planning to resume their rallying career in the very same car. Except this time they only plan to go as far as Lisbon ...!



Now for the boring bit - I vaguely remember going to the start of that rally, which was at Wembley Stadium and it wasn't just to see the cars off. Playing on stage that day were the recently formed "Ginger Baker's Air Force" (WHO...? you ask... see Wiki...) and the sound quality was awful...!

Getting back to the more important subject of motoring, I see there's a new series starting on BBC4 at 9pm this Monday. It's called "Roof Racks and Hatchbacks", so might be worth a look...

I expect by now you might be wondering why I haven't mentioned the little conundrum on the front cover...? Well that's why this month's editorial is in two parts and you will find the answer on page 4, after this month's Chatter....

Copy for next month's issue should be sent to Dave Rosher, preferably by E-Mail, to the address opposite: **to arrive on or before 24 April** please.

The opinions and recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the North East London Group Committee, or the Civil Service Motoring Association Ltd.

Chairman's Chatter

Everything is bright and cheerful at the moment, in the garden, down the pub and in the Club. A most pleasant North London Group AGM last month, reported on by Ron, resulted in the top order being re-elected with myself as Chairman, Ron as Secretary, and Staff as Treasurer. Mike remains as Comps Coordinator and we retained the services of John and welcomed Pierre Jean Marie as our sixth member on the committee. Mick O'Blath stood down after I don't know how many years but will hopefully continue to work with us and we won't lose sight of him just yet.

Waiting in the wings while we conducted our business was long-time member John Barnes who entertained us until closing time. Ron reports on his prowess as a musician and general all-round fun-guy but I have to point out that accompanying himself on the piano and ukulele was not done at the same time!

The calendar for the year is already set up as we look ahead by several months but we always can add in extra activities – walks are likely to be included, just as soon as someone can organise them! We did try to get a visit to Harlow dogs organised last year but there was not enough support during the holiday season – now that the last dog track in London closed last week in Wimbledon we may soon have the last remaining one in the south-east.

I had to report that our numbers are dwindling – regular attendances are falling and the competition side of the Group is at an all-time low, with the long established Driver and Autotest trophies not being awarded this year. There is a huge number of potential NEL members out there, who are already Boundless members, but they just aren't aware of what we do.

The CEO, Carl Fillery, has put a lot of effort and thought into turning round the business and creating a different atmosphere within the Brighton head office, and turning round a loss-making business into profit in a relatively short time. One of the more obvious changes is re-naming us Boundless in the summer of last year, so that we were able to lose the association with the civil service; and now employees, past and present, of local government organisations are also eligible. The ordinary member will never know the overall cost of this 're-engineering' but the proof of the pudding will be the much-anticipated information that will be given to us at the national AGM in June, when we will surely learn of the increase in membership numbers that has been generated by the change to Boundless.

This turn-around has been the subject of a recent article in HR Magazine and their report quotes Carl Fillery as saying

"I was fed up with corporate speak, If I can't understand it, how can anyone else? We decided we were going to treat people as humans. Talk to them. Get them involved. Tell them what's going on. Have a simple plan, and don't get distracted. Say: 'Here's the vision, now colour it in.' "Central to being human is getting rid of business jargon." The article goes on to say "Replacing it is a real-time measurement system which means never having to do reviews again. The live dashboard provides real-time stats on four measures: personal performance, organisational temperature, collaborative working and overall business performance. 'Organisational temperature' uses questions which relate back to the six areas [that] Boundless measures culturally: respect, praise, growth, strengths, blockages and clarity."

We in NEL, and in the Classic Vehicle Group, have certainly experienced that in recent weeks and it is refreshing to know that these values are recognised when dealing with all who work for Boundless.

Also glad to see that the jargon has gone.

Perhaps this new energy within Boundless can now be directed towards a better communication with the membership pool to help the ailing groups around the country, numbers of which are themselves dwindling. We all know of the special offers, discount vouchers, preferred partner deals etc as an e-shot arrives every week in our In-Boxes to tell us of the latest ways to save money but it is difficult to pick out any info on local group activities, and equally hard to learn about what the local groups throughout the land are offering to their locally based membership from the monthly magazine.

I said earlier that our competitor numbers are falling but our inter-action with other motor clubs in the region has resulted in an uptake in the numbers entering our 12 car rallies. I am penning this just prior to the running of my 12 car on the last day of the month but I have 10 entries, 6 of which are from other MSA affiliated clubs. Will let you know how it went next time.

Our next Clubnight is a bit special as we have the award winning wildlife photographer, Tom Way, on his experiences in Africa with some truly amazing photos.

What do we have then, coming up soon?

Clubnight Tuesday 11 April – Club Night – Beaufort Suite

Tom Way will give us an illustrated talk on Wildlife in Africa and let us into his secrets on how to capture such amazing shots – I suspect it has a lot to do with patience and putting up with quite a few buzzing insects...

Noggin & Natter Tuesday 25 April - Bulls Head, Turnford

Please let John Foster know if you will be coming.

My comments in last month's Chatter regarding the status of non-member spouses and their acceptability as advocates at the national Boundless events raised a few eyebrows and resulted in a sort of censure to the version that appeared on our section of the main Boundless website. As Editor, as well as being involved in the ensuing shenanigans, Dave feels some further explanation of the situation might now be appropriate.

Bernard

Editorial part 2 - aka, *solving the front cover conundrum...*

As a result of certain comments made in the March Chairman's Chatter, concerning volunteer advocates and the status of Honorary Membership, Bernard and I were contacted by the Club Leader, Heather Glanville, requesting those comments be removed before the newsletter would be made available as a download to all members from the main Boundless website.

Heather, along with the Member Communities Manager, Nick Hoath, felt the nature of Bernard's comments were too negative and therefore inappropriate content for a publication of this type. Whilst the subject matter may have been considered worthy of discussion amongst committee and group members, the request to encourage members to reinforce it and/or act upon the stated opinion in the newsletter was not.

Having accepted this, Bernard and I submitted a redacted version of his Chatter, with the offending comments blacked out. This format was also deemed inappropriate and an abridged version, as opposed to Bernard's own redacted version, was substituted by Member Communities into the March newsletter, before eventually posting it onto the Boundless website. The means by which this was achieved resulted in a loss of formatting to the text on the front cover and rear calendar.

It was also suggested to us that group newsletters such as this were not an appropriate medium for use as a debating tool and, if it was felt necessary to seek the opinions of individual members, at least as far as Club policy decisions are concerned, it should be done via direct contact with the members instead.

My own view as Editor, is that any negative comments that appear in this newsletter are usually borne out of long term frustration and lack of communication, rather than any wilful intent to show the club in a bad light. NEL always has, and still does, rely on the efforts of non-member spouses and partners to ensure the successful running of many group events. A situation that I'm sure exists in all other groups around the country.

As far as "appropriate content" goes, well I could just settle for; predictable, politically correct, give everyone a pat on the back stuff, but occasionally, I believe it should be acceptable to include something a bit more controversial and thought provoking to give the grey cells a work out. Although in future of course, I will have to bear in mind the old saying - " It's not always what you say, it's how you say it ".

Time to solve the front cover conundrum now and "draw" your own conclusions:

- 1) Were Bernard's comments in March Chatter appropriate content or not for this newsletter?
- 2) If they weren't, was it appropriate for Member Communities to then go ahead and make further amendments...?

If you have strong feelings either way readers, please let me know what you think...?

Whatever your view, it is often the case that good comes out of bad; so I am pleased to be able to finish on a more positive note, as both the Club Leader and Member Communities manager do feel the issue raised; i.e. how the contribution made by non-member spouses and partners might be recognised, does now warrant further discussion at Club Council level.

I look forward to being able to report a favourable outcome in a future edition...

Dave

Secretary's Scrawlings

Happy Easter!

Well it will be in a few weeks.

The AGM passed without incident and the group officers were returned intact. John remains on the committee and Pierre has replaced Mick'O Blath, as Mick has decided to stand down.

A somewhat reduced collection of pots were ready to be handed out



Owen and Mick collecting their pots from Bernard. *(both with saintly halos..? - Ed.)*

We thank Mick for his work and welcome his occasional input in the future.

Following the formal business meeting, longstanding CSMA member John Barnes entertained us with songs, stories and some mind bending tricks. John accompanied himself on piano and ukulele – a truly versatile performer!

Quite likely, we will try to get John back for a full evening at some time in the future.

So nice to have longer evenings once more, 'though the last few mornings have involved pre-dawn starts for me, as the needed to get up a bit earlier than usual. All back to normal now.

The onset of spring heralded the arrival of a crop of plant catalogues which has spurred me on to do something about my bramble & briar filled front garden. It's now cleared ready for the arrival of a stump grinder to remove the remains of the tree, then rotavating. After that, I'll plant it up with some easier to manage planting.

Update: The stump busters have been and gone in half an hour. Pretty quick work.

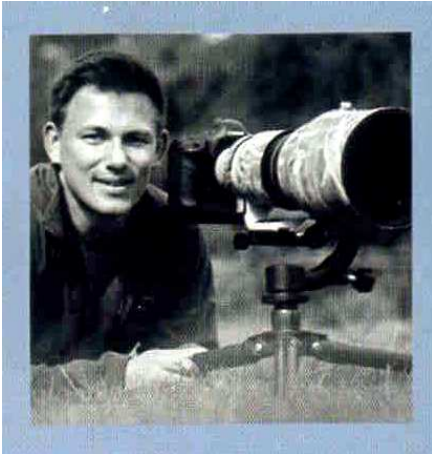
Talking of quick work, the county has decided to close a road near me so they can install a roundabout – no vehicle access, other than via an long detour for a month between 9:30am and 4pm; just as well I walk everywhere...

That's enough of me waffling on – Till next month...

Cheers,

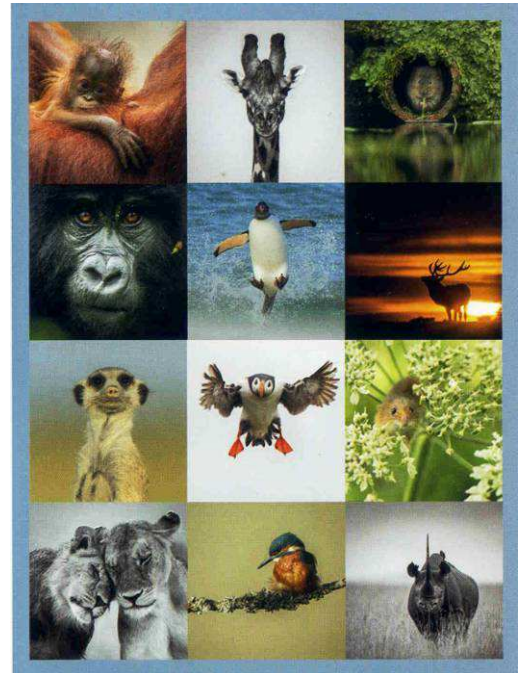
Ron

Club Night 11th April - *Tom Way, Wildlife Photographer*



For our Club Night on 11th April we are very fortunate to have been able to book Tom Way, an award winning Fine Art Wildlife Photographer, when he will be presenting his talk "My Love of Africa".

Although still very young he has produced some outstanding work with great attention to detail. His work has won him the accolade of being awarded the European Wildlife Photographer of the year, 2015.



As well as giving talks to photographic societies and other clubs like ours he makes a living exhibiting and selling his Fine Art prints. His work is widely published and he is a contributor to the BBC Wildlife magazine. Tom also runs photographic workshops and leads Wildlife Safaris particularly to Africa.

If you would like a preview of some of his amazing photography Tom has a website:

www.tomwayphotography.co.uk

Staff Steed

HISTORIC WARE WALK and SCOTT'S GROTTA

Monday 17th April

This will be a mainly level walk of 2 miles around Ware town viewing various old properties, some dating from the 13th century onwards. After the walk we will Noggin & Natter in the Old Bull's Head, before those that wish to, can then move their cars to the Broadmeads Car Park, (a map will be provided) and then join me on a visit to Scott's Grotto, a short walk away.



The Grotto is free to enter but I am sure a £1 per head donation would be appreciated.

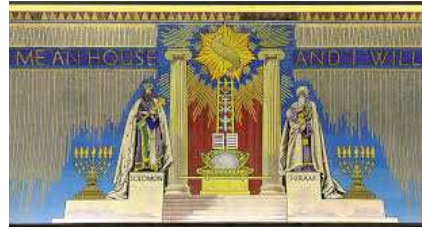
The Old Bull's Head has a good food menu, especially the Monday roast at £4.95.

This walk is on Easter Monday APRIL 17th, meeting at 10.45 for a 11.00 start from the Baldock Street Roundabout Car Park (free on Bank Holidays).

Final numbers required by Club Night, 11th APRIL please.

Contact Mick O'Blath at: mickoblath@gmail.com or, 01920 423738 .

Proposed visit to Freemasons Hall in July 2017



I am hoping to arrange a visit which includes a guided tour to the headquarters of United Grand Lodge of England at: 60 Great Victoria Street, Holborn, WC2 5AZ

This Art Deco Grade 2 listed building with richly decorated Grand Temple and ceremonial areas are well worth a visit; admission is free of charge.

The dates and time of the visit are not finalised yet, however there are dates available on Tuesday July 18th, Wed 19th & Thur 20th.

Please let me know if you would like to come and which of the dates would be suitable. If there is enough interest I will make the arrangements.

Thanks - John Foster.

AN UNEXPECTED BONUS FOR ORGANISERS

Planning for this year's Group Weekend started in September when we chose an area and hotel. Once again the decision was made to contact the Hotel direct, the reply was that the hotel was fully booked for coach tours, as it is owned by the travel company.

About a month later we received a brochure from the Travel company and its back cover had details of contacts for Group bookings.

With nothing to lose the earlier email was sent to the Group section and to our surprise they offered us our full requirements at a reasonable price.

Also included was an offer of a Free Saturday Party night at their Eastbourne Hotel, which could also be extended to 2 nights for £29 or 3 nights for £50; this was for half board on self drive. We accepted this offer, for 3 nights, before the Group booking was made.

Before attending this weekend, 3rd to 6th December, the Group Weekend had been booked.

On the Saturday a snack lunch was provided, followed by a half hour talk by the company officials and a goody bag.

Saturday evening was the Party night, with a 4 course Xmas menu with hats, crackers and poppers, followed by entertainment in the Lounge.

The Hotel was warm and comfortable, reasonable food and a good table service. The weather was cold but sunny.

When completing the Group Weekend deposit payments, we received an offer to attend another Organisers Weekend in February; this time in Bognor Regis, again, Self Drive, with three nights Half Board for £79. Included in this cost was a full day and a half day Coach trip with a choice of 2 venues: Arundel and Amberley with Portsmouth Spinnaker Tower, or Beaulieu with Portsmouth Dockyard, with all entrance fees included.

We accepted this offer and chose the Beaulieu / Dockyard excursion.

On both trips we had about 3 hours at each venue.

At Beaulieu we had a good look round the Car Museum, followed by our free coffee and cake lunch, a ride on the monorail, a visit to the House and the return trip by buggy completed the time. Our journey back was via the New Forest with sightings of a few ponies.

During the Dockyard visit we managed a short visit to the Mary Rose experience, most levels of the Victory and Warrior, before a relaxing 45 minute cruise round the inner Dockyard, viewing several sizes of modern naval vessel.

On our return to the Hotel a good snack lunch was provided, before the 30 minute official talk about the company and what it can provide for Organisers.

Once again, the hotel was warm and comfortable with reasonable food and table service.

Our 1st floor room was dual aspect with a sea view from each window.

The weather again was dry and not too cold.

We were both left wondering where was the profit from these bonus weekends...?

MICK O'BLATH "Organiser"

Puzzle Page April 2017

Everyone spotted that the odd word out was **ANGLE**

2 points each to:

David Carr, Chris Hannaford, Dave Rosher, Charlie Hinde, Barry Childs, Mick O'Blath, Ruth Ward, Alison Anderson, June Beard, Mike Biss, John Foster.

This month's puzzle:

HEAD	_ _ _ _ _	RATE
SHORT	_ _ _ _ _	BOARD
BAD	_ _ _ _ _	BUDS
TOWER	_ _ _ _ _	LETTERS

Five letter words link these pairs of words. The middle letters rearrange into a name – What is it?

RJ Barnett
 IT Support for *Everyone*
 Your Computer Problems Solved!
 PC Repairs and Upgrades
 Computer Tune-up
 Virus & Spyware Removal
 Data Recovery
 House calls, Workshop repairs
 Remote Assistance Service
 One to One Training and Help

Website: www.RJBarnett.co.uk
 eMail: NEL@RJBarnett.co.uk
 Mobile: 07967 133986
 Phone: 01992 581007

Two Sudokus

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Answers to me by email, post or carrier pigeon before the 4th Tuesday of the month.

As usual 1 point for entering, 2 for a correct answer.

Please send emails to nel@rjbarnett.co.uk beginning the Subject line with 'PUZZLE', without quotes or any other extraneous characters so I can find them.

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club	Champ
Apr	Sun 9	* April Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	
	Sun 23	* Rockingham AutoSolo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Peterborough MC	
	Sun 23	* Bocardo AutoSolo/PCA (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC	
	Sun 23	* Debden AutoSolo/PCA (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	West Suffolk MC	
May	Sun 14	Spring Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	
	20/21	* Miglia Quadrato ()	City of London treasure hunt	UH&ULMC	
Jun	Sun 4	Greenacres Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
Jul	Sun 9	Grasshopper Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NEL	Region
	Sun 9	Summer Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	

Licence required: (I/Nat A/Nat B/Cm) = MSA Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, * = Regs available

Past Events

March 12 Car Rally Another very good turn out for the third event saw nine entries with eight crews taking part this time. Thankfully we got the navigation just right this time, with extra help for the novices with the end controls given. The nature of the roads also helped in that they were more open than previously, allowing crews more chance of maintaining time. The weather didn't help with some torrential rain at times, so spare a thought for Dave/Alan in the open top car who got soaked and had a disintergrating map! The results were close, as Pete and Graeme were on for the win until they got a front puncture when they hit a pothole. They were actually quite lucky, as both wheels were dented and the rear tyre had a bulge in it.



1st	Car 2	John Bryant/ Steve Jenkins	E	NEL	0 Fails	1	Mins	1st O/A
2nd	Car 1	Pete Gregory/Graeme Presswell	E	NWL	0 Fails	5	Mins	1st Exp
3rd	Car 4	Rod Botteley/Michael Botteley	N	BCC	0 Fails	10	Mins	1st Nov
4th	Car 5	Suze Endean/MAtt Endean	N	CMC	0 Fails	24	Mins	2nd Nov
5th	Car 3	Dave Thomson/Alan Smith	E	NWL	1 Fail	20	Mins	3rd Exp
6th	Car 9	Jane Robinson/Graham Robinson	N	NEL	1 Fail	35	Mins	3rd Nov
7th	Car 6	Ian O'Connor/Daniel O'Connor	B	NWL	1 Fail	0	Mins	1st Beg
8th	Car 8	Alan Wakeman/Simon Mummery	B	WMx	4 Fails	5	Mins	2nd Beg
	Car 7	Matt Costin/Lucy Costin	B	BCC	Non-starter			

Future Events

Greenacres Autotest The first event in our grass autotest season will be on the 4th June this year and will run at the usual Dunstable venue. This will be a passenger carrying event and is held on a smooth grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and is suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £20 (juniors £10) and regs will be available mid April. Mike Harrison is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

Other Invites Please see the calendar above for other events we have an invite to. I can get regs for any of these, just contact me if interested. We will be invited to all the Anglian Motor Sport Club autosolos/autotests throughout the year.

Mike Biss: NLR Motor Sports Coordinator

Tel: 01525 720299

E-mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com



4th - 7th May 2017

The London Motor Show is back again following a highly successful event last year with over 25,000 visitors.

As the show is intended for all car enthusiasts, and before the show sells out again, members of Boundless By CSMA are being offered a special 10% discount on tickets.

Location : Battersea Evolution (Off North Carriage Drive), Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ

A special food and beverage area for club members will also be on hand as a good meeting point with the added benefit of reduced rates on catering.

To use this exclusive special rate, members just need to add the promo code BOUNDLESS when buying tickets online from www.thelondonmotorshow.co.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Club Night Venue : Bishop's College

Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ

Evenings start at 7.30 for 7.45pm

Clubnight - 2nd Tuesday,

Noggin & Natter Venues may vary month by month so keep a close watch on the Newsletter each month for precise details of location.

Noggins - 4th Tuesday

<i>Month</i>	<i>Social Events</i>	<i>Sporting Events</i>
April 2017	Tue 11th - Club Night, Guest Speaker - Wildlife Photographer, Tom Way - "My Love of Africa" Mon 17th - Easter Monday Historic Ware Walk and visit to Scott's Grotto Tue 25th - Noggin 'n' Natter at The Bulls Head, Turnford	
May 2017	Tue 9th - Club Night, Petanque 12th/15th - Group Weekend to Porthcawl - fully booked Tue 23rd - Noggin 'n' Natter	
June 2017	Tue 13th - Club Night, Guest Speaker - Vaughan Callaghan on, Bomb Disposal at the 2012 Olympics Tue 27th - Pitch 'n' Putt at High Beech, followed by a noggin in the nearby Duke of Wellington Wed 28 / Fri 30th - Groups Networking Meeting and Association AGM (29th)	Sun 4th - NWL Group Greenacres Autotest
July 2017	Tue 11th - Club Night, Jigsaw Quiz Tue 25th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 9th - NEL Group Grasshopper Autotest
Aug 2017	Tue 8th - Club Night, Guest Speaker - Ken Stanger on Printing Tue 25th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 13th - NWL Group Chiltern Autotest Sun 20th - NEL Group Juniper Autotest
Sep 2017	Tue 12th - Club Night - Committee Quiz Tue 29th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 3rd - NWL Group Autumn Autotest

Our Indoor Club Night venue, **Bishop's College**, EN8 9XQ (Civic Offices) is located on Churchgate, at its junction with College Road, about 300m West of the A10 junction with College road (Traffic lights and pedestrian footbridge).

Our Clubroom is in the Beaufort Suite, which appears to be an old Chapel.

Ample parking through arch between main buildings.

Our monthly Noggin 'n' Natters now take place at: **The Bulls Head**, Turnford, EN10 6BZ from 7.30pm.

This pub is located just south of the Hertford Regional College roundabout on the B176, Turnford High Road.

If approaching from the A10, use the Broxbourne (A1170) interchange to link to the college roundabout.

For further details, see inside or, ring the Secretary; Ron Barnett on 01992 581007

Or, contact him via E-Mail on: nel@rjbarnett.co.uk

Visit the Websites at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel or www.csma-nlr.org.uk