

The "Nelly" Newsletter

May 2017

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



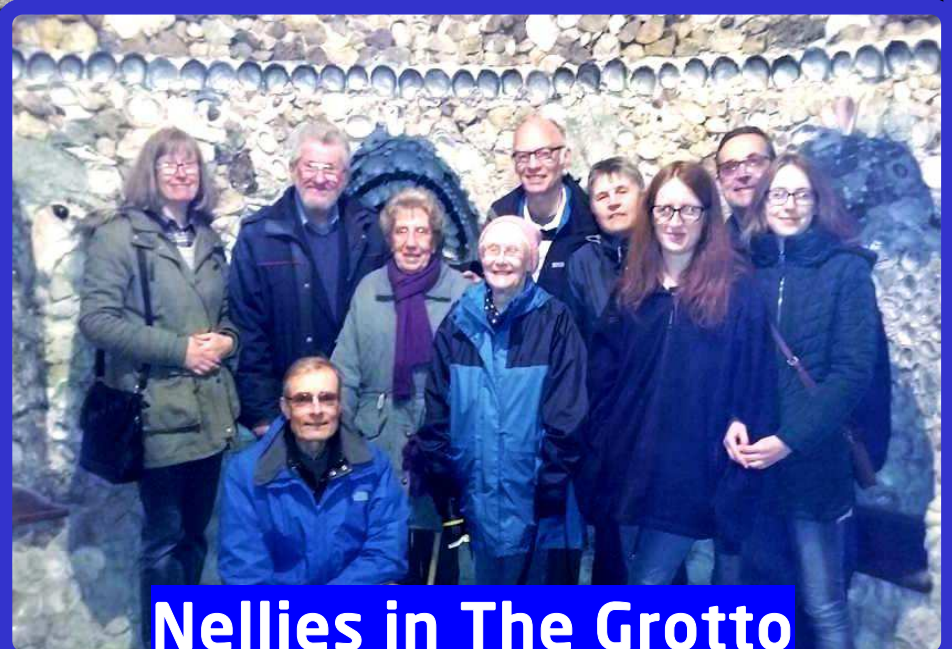
Club Nights



Motorsports



Group Visits



Nellies in The Grotto

Next Club Night - *Tuesday 9th*

**A talk on, *The World of Printing*
by Guest Speaker, *Ken Stanger***



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



Chairman Bernard Ward
65 Millmead Way, Hertford,
Herts. SG14 3YH
01992 582323 Mob: 07532 117 868
E-Mail: bernard.ward3@btinternet.com



Secretary Ron Barnett
7 Oak Grove, Hertford,
Herts. SG13 8AT
01992 581007 Mob: 07967 133986
E-Mail: nel@rjbarnett.co.uk



Treasurer Stafford Steed
4 Cedar Road, Hatfield
Herts. AL10 8PA
01707 265839
E-mail: stafford.steed@btopenworld.com



Competitions Sec. Mike Biss
19 Dunstable Close, Flitwick,
Beds. MK45 1JN
01525 720299 Mob: 07753 137415
E-Mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com



Committee John Foster
197 Brimsdown Avenue, Enfield,
Middlesex EN3 5ET
0208 805 8089 Mob: 07984 723449
E-Mail: fosterjohn92@gmail.com



Committee Lesley Steed
4 Cedar Road, Hatfield,
Herts. AL10 8PA
01707 265839 Mob: 07984 760950
E-Mail: lesley.steed@btinternet.com



Committee Pierre Jean Marie
72 Finchley Lane, London, NW4 1DH
E-mail: jeanmpierre@yahoo.co.uk



Newsletter Dave Roshier
5 Barnsite Gardens, Rustington,
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN16 3QG
07724 164576
E-mail: nel.editor@csma-nlr.org.uk

Event Organiser Mick O'Blath
01920 423738
E-Mail: mickoblath@gmail.com

Hi Nellies

Many thanks to those of you who gave your feedback from last month's editorial. As the matter has gone to Club Council, I feel it best to now wait for what will hopefully be a favourable outcome to their deliberations.

Moving on... - Big News...! Motorsport events on the streets of mainland Britain could be with us soon as a result of recent changes to legislation. Local authorities will now be able to suspend the Road Traffic Act, without the need for an individual Act of Parliament. Quite how long it will be before any events appear in major city centres is not known, but I believe some smaller scale events are already being looked at.

More Big News...! I read recently that for driving tests it will soon be - Sat Navs & bay parking IN, three point turns and reversing around corners OUT.

But what happens when your Sat Nav leads you up a closed road...?

Just the kind of situation where you would need to perform a three point turn or some other kind of reversing manoeuvre to extricate yourself...?

I'm sure the supermarket & pizza delivery drivers, to name just two, who are regularly and mistakenly, led up our own garden path by their Sat Navs will agree...

I hope there are no plans to include - "how to park on the pavement and simultaneously obstruct an adjacent road junction"...

Even More Big News...! Like me, you should have all received your latest copy of the Club Magazine by now and, according to page 3, it seems we will be getting a new Editor...

And finally, many thanks to Ruth for sending in a very "enlightening" article, featuring the "highs" of their recent Amsterdam "trip" ...!

read on... Dave

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

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Chairman's May Chatter

We have just come back from a short visit to Amsterdam, more of that from Ruth, but it was the tulip season – if you think the UK has lots of tulips then you should see Holland. A lovely tram system (I like trams – we should have more of them) and bikes, thousands of them, keeping to their own bike lanes (we should have more of them as well). No speed cameras that we saw, and the Gatso was invented in Holland, everyone was so well behaved and aware of each other.

Those at Clubnight last month were treated to a wonderful illustrated talk by Tom Way, who is an award-winning wild life photographer, and his topic was Africa, where he spends much of his time, and much of that patiently waiting by the sound of it. So good that we have booked him again for next year.

Things are hotting up as we move closer into summer – although if you are a cricketer standing outside all day in the more recent temperatures it doesn't apply – but sport gets busier, and not just motorsport. As I write this the snooker is at semi-final stage, the Russian Grand Prix is at practice stage and we still don't know if Leicester City will avoid relegation.

The first event on the Classic Vehicle Group calendar was our Drive It Day Run on St George's Day and we welcomed, as part of a record entry, the crews of Mick O'Blath & John Foster, and Norman & Jan Hughes. The run started from a pub in Bromham nr. Bedford , which happens to be the Hughes' local so perhaps no surprise that they took part. It finished at the premises of Hilton & Moss, sports car dealers and classic car restorers par excellence.

Several runs, visits and displays are on the calendar and, nearer home we have the grass autotest season starting next month. NWL are running the one in June and NEL, 'my' event, in July. For that I shall be grateful of offers of assistance. That's on the 9th.

This month, at Clubnight, we were going outdoors on the petanque rink but our proposed dates clashed with league games and their own sessions so we have brought forward the talk by Ken Stangers on Printing and are leaving petanque for another day. Ken had a printing company and we will learn about the history of printing and how it has changed over the years.

What is coming up?

Clubnight Tuesday 9th May – Club Night – Beaufort Suite

Speaker Ken Stanger – the History of Printing, and there will be some audience participation

Noggin & Natter Tuesday 23rd May – Bulls Head, Turnford

Please let John Foster know if you will be coming

Clubnight Tuesday 13th June – Club Night – Beaufort Suite

Speaker Vaughan Callaghan – giving us an insight into Bomb Disposal and his experiences at the London Olympics.

Bernard

Secretary's Scrawlings

It's the merry month of May!

We were planning to start our outdoor activities this month with Petanque, however on contacting the owners of the Piste, discovered (remembered) that Tuesdays are their clubnights too, so the piste would be busy until long after dark...

So we've brought the talk we were to have in January (postponed until later this year because the speaker was ill) forward – Keeping Up?

Petanque will now be in July, most likely on a Thursday.

On Easter Monday, Mick 'O led a group around Ware pointing out many of the historic buildings. Most of the alleged 90 pubs are now closed and operating as other businesses, however the outlines of the old buildings are still largely visible. After a nice lunch at the Old Bulls Head, a depleted contingent moved on to visit Scott's Grotto, the creation of one John Scott; poet, in his garden.

Armed with assorted torches we ventured into the grotto.



Some passages, apart from the entrance are fairly plain, however the most richly decorated 'Room' is not actually underground, but an octagonal building built against the earth bank. Well illuminated from above, additional light is not really necessary.

Here are (most of) the venturers. Apologies for the poor picture – phone camera doing its best in the conditions...

If you've not been, it's certainly worth a look; the summerhouse is another interesting garden feature. In both cases, the steps require reasonable care as they are decidedly 'Rustic' i.e. uneven, sloping and covered in twigs and leaves, but are undoubtedly part of the garden's charm.

The other week, we had a couple of lads from the local scouts doing what we used to call 'Bob-a-Job'. They did quite well cutting grass, sweeping paths, weeding patios all along the road. Eventually they got to 'the big house at the end and asked if there was any Bob-a-jobs to be done, the lady of the house found them lots of little jobs and as they were leaving, she asked if they were any good at painting. "Oh yes Missus" they replied, so she asked them to come back in a couple of days by which time she would have got the paint. Two days later the boys arrived a bit later than they'd arranged, and met the lady as she was going out shopping for about three or four hours. "Ah good" she said, "the paint's around the side of the house in the shade along with new brushes and masking tape". Giving them £10 each, she said "Please can you paint the porch?" - "Sure Missus" they said and off she went leaving them to it.

When she got home the lads had gone and she found a note on the doormat: "Dun the paintin' Missus, there was plenty of paint so we give it two coats, by the way its not a Porsche, it's a Ferrari...."

Cheers,

Ron

NEL GROUP WEEKEND, 12 - 15 MAY 2017



For those of you who have not yet seen the Holiday Itinerary, the Hotel we are going to is Seabank Hotel, West Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3LU. Tel. 01656 782261

Check-in time is from 4pm, when you will also be advised of our evening meal time.

So I suggest we all meet up around 30 minutes beforehand, in the Bar/Lounge area for a general natter.

Here are some ideas of places to visit over the weekend :-

Cardiff - St.Fagans National History Museum(free)

The Royal Mint at Llantrisant (£12)

Penarth and Barry Island, Bridgend, Margam Park

Swansea (Sunday Bus Running Day with free rides - see Owen...!)

Plus - Porthcawl and other local beaches, Coast and Country Parks.

SWANSEA BUS MUSEUM

OPEN DAYS
Sunday 14 May | Sunday 18 June
10am - 4pm

See and ride our heritage buses, some of which will be running **FREE** trips on nostalgic routes.

Adults £5
Under 16s & Members **FREE**

Stalls & eats
Visiting buses and coaches welcome

Park **FREE** at Fabian Way
Park & Ride and travel to site on a classic bus.

Two special fun days for all the family!

FIND US AT: SA1 Business Park,
Langdon Road (East) SA1 8DB
www.swanseabusmuseum.com

BRYNGOLD BOOKS

If you wish to avoid the Severn Bridge Toll going, free coming back, this would be my suggested route:

A414, M25 or via Hemel Hempstead, A41 to Aylesbury then A418.

Join M40/A40 to Oxford, Witney and Burford.

Left to bypass Cheltenham on A436, then A417 round Gloucester.

Back to A40, after OVER left on A48.

Forest of Dean, Lydney to Chepstow.

Left at A466 to M48 J2.

Go West on M48 to M4 J23, off at J37 for Porthcawl.

See you all there.

Mick and Margaret

CONFIRMED VISIT TO FREEMASONS HALL ON 20th JULY 2017



I have now arranged a visit to the headquarters of United Grand Lodge of England at:

60 Great Victoria Street, Holborn, London, WC2 5AZ.

Through the people who showed interest, Thursday 20th July at 12 noon has been chosen for the guided tour.

When I went on the tour before, it lasted approx 90 minutes which included questions and answers at the end.

The tour is free of charge and covers the Library, Museum, plus the Grand Temple. I would suggest we all arrive 15 minutes before the tour starts so we can get the security checks done, photographic ID may also be required.

I have 12 names at present, anyone else who's interested, please let me know by May Club Night if possible - final numbers will be required by end of June.

Thanks, *John Foster.*

OUR 'ORANGE' EXPERIENCE

Bernard and I are just back from a three day city break to Amsterdam, the last day of which proved to be very different to what we expected!

We had a check list of places to visit and on day one and two we managed to see several of them, including the Rijks Museum, where we saw some wonderful paintings from the old Dutch masters etc. We saw the Amsterdam museum, had a canal boat trip and a stroll in the botanical gardens. Unfortunately we couldn't visit the Ann Frank's house because it was fully booked. If ever you go there and want to see it I advise you to book online two weeks beforehand!

Feeling tired one day we fancied a coffee and cake and came across what we thought would do as it said on the frontage 'Coffee Shop'. Innocents abroad that we were, on entering we found some youths sat at high bar stools smoking but no coffee in sight. The unmistakable smell of Hash and the hubbly bubbly devices told us that 'Coffee Shop' must be a cover-up name for a place to get your fix! We left quickly and soon found a real one!

A stroll after our evening meal on the first night took us to the red light district to see what was on offer to men unaccompanied by their wives. Amazing to see such a liberal and relaxed way of life with soft drugs, sex shops, porn shows and loose women so prominently displayed!

However it is a truly beautiful city and at night the twinkling lights along the canal banks and on the boats is a real joy.

A notice in the lift at our hotel told us that on the 27th April, which was to be our last day there, there would be a public holiday known as 'King's Day'. This, we discovered, is the birthday of their current King Wilhelm Alexander. We were warned that there would be no public transport in the city and to expect large crowds everywhere all day. We had booked tickets for the Van Gogh museum, some distance away, for 11 AM. which was to be one of the highlights of the break for me.

So we set out in what we thought would be plenty of time to walk there, a walk which under normal circumstance would have taken 25 minutes. We soon discovered that walking through the throngs of people made it much slower. People, young and old massed across the roads covering the whole width, usually taking cars, buses, trams, bikes (thousands of bikes!) plus pedestrians.



Everyone was wearing something orange – a tee shirt, a dress, hats of different shapes and sizes, feather boas or paper garlands. Many wore gold or orange paper crowns. There were whole families and many groups of lads and of girls. One tiny tot was dressed in a Nemo fish costume and looked quite bewildered by the whole thing! The atmosphere was very jolly with live music on every street corner or square. Drink was very much in evidence and this would continue to be more so as the day went on. There were portable urinals on the pavements for the men to use – rather publicly for our tastes I think! I had to avert my eyes!

THE thing to do for youngsters was to hire or borrow a boat, fill it with your mates and as much beer as you could fit in, plus loud music and drive it around the canals singing and dancing all the while. As we fought our way through the crowds we could hear them when we neared the next canal bridge by the beat of music coming from below it. Most boats were surrounded by a haze of smoke too!

We arrived at the museum an hour later and were kindly allowed in despite being late for our slot. After enjoying it and a short sit down with a snack we had to start on our way back to the hotel to pick up our luggage and fight our way down the main drag to the station in time to catch a train for the airport and our flight back home leaving at 7. It took ages to get to the hotel, and at one point, when we lost our way trying to follow the street map, to avoid the worst of the crowds, I very nearly despaired. However there was no other option than to keep on going and the party atmosphere that prevailed all around us was hard to ignore. It was certainly an experience and when safely on our way home on the plane we admitted that it was one we wouldn't have missed!

Ruth.

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club	Champ
May	Sun 14	* Spring Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	
	Sun 14	* Gravel Autotest (C)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	
	20/21	* Miglia Quadrato ()	City of London treasure hunt	UH&ULMC	
Jun	Sun 4	* Greenacres Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
	Sun 10	* Carnival Autosolo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Dolphin MC	
Jul	Sun 9	Grasshopper Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NEL	Region
	Sun 9	Summer Solo (C)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Farnborough DMC	
Aug	Sat 5	Two Brewers Scatter ()	Drive to a location, answer a clue	CSMA NWL	
	Sun 13	Haymaker Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA WMx	Region
	Sun 20	Juniper Autotest (Nat B)	Tarmac autotest	CSMA NEL	MSA/BTRDA
Sep	Sun 3	Chiltern Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region
Oct	Sun 8	Autumn Autotest (C)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region

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

Past Events

March 31st 12 Car Rally An even better turn out for the fourth and last event of the season, saw ten entries taking part this time. Thankfully we got the navigation right enough again, as everyone got round the route ok, although the last placed crew seemed to have an aversion to actually writing down all the codeboards they passed! The route seemed to find all the fords in the area, although Pete and Graeme had a problem with one when they missed the codeboard at the entry, and so lost another event. The weather was much kinder this time, with a dry night and thanks to all the marshals that allowed the event to run. We will make a few changes for next years series, with looking at the criteria for expert status, and making sure the novices/beginners can get round easier.

1st	Car 8	Ben Cutting/Steve Chambers	N	CMC/WS	0 Fails	15 Mins	1st O/A
2nd	Car 2	Allan Goddard/Mike Harrison	E	WMx/NWL	0 Fails	20 Mins	1st Exp
3rd	Car 1	Pete Gregory/Graeme Presswell	E	NWL	1 Fail	5 Mins	2nd Exp
4th	Car 7	Karen Rowan/Simon Rowan	N	CMC	1 Fail	18 Mins	1st Nov
5th	Car 9	Rod Botteley/Mike Botteley	N	CMC	1 Fail	25 Mins	2nd Nov
6th	Car 4	Daniel O'Connor/Ian O'Connor	B	NWL	2 Fails	9 Mins	1st Beg
7th	Car 3	Jim Drake/Beth Drake	B	CMC	3 Fails	25 Mins	2nd Exp
8th	Car 10	Alan Wakeman/Simon Mummery	B	WMx	4 Fails	21 Mins	3rd Beg
9th	Car 6	Billy Johnson/Richard Lillyman	N	PMC/NMC	5 Fails	19 Mins	3rd Nov
10th	Car 5	Matt Costin/James Costin	B	BCC	19 Fails	11 Mins	4th Beg

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 are now available from the website or myself. Mike Harrison is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

Grasshopper Autotest The second of the summer grass autotests will be running on Sunday 9th July at the usual grass field. 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 May. Bernard Ward is organising and all offers to marshal will be appreciated.

The other grass autotests have had a swap around due to availability of organisers. Same dates as previously, just different name/person running it.

Two Brewers Scatter This NWL event is moving to a Saturday afternoon this year (5th August), to hopefully encourage some more entries, after a steady decline running on a clubnight. The event will be open to both NEL and WMx as well, with the format of visiting various locations and answering a clue question. Eight out of 15 locations to count and points are based on the number of people who answer that question, so quite random in finding a winner.

Hollstar/Quadruplex As Surrey have dropped out of organising or participating in these events, I've had to re-jig the organisation calendar for future events. As the Quadruplex was due to be run by Surrey this year in the Spring, it is very unlikely we will now get someone else to organise it, so we will start again next year. To the right is the organisational calendar of who is due to run what in the coming years.

Year	Quadruplex (Spring)	Hollstar (Autumn)
2017	-	WMx
2018	NEL	NWL
2019	WMx	NEL
2020	NWL	WMx

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.

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>
May 2017	Tue 9th - Club Night, Guest Speaker - Ken Stanger gives a talk on, <i>The World of Printing</i> 12th/15th - Group Weekend to Porthcawl - fully booked Tue 23rd - Noggin 'n' Natter at The Bulls Head	
June 2017	Tue 13th - Club Night, Guest Speaker - Vaughan Callaghan on, <i>Bomb Disposal at the 2012 Olympics</i> 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 Thu 20th - Visit to Freemasons Hall Tue 25th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 9th - NEL Group Grasshopper Autotest
Aug 2017	Tue 8th - Club Night, Guest Speaker - Jane Tubb on, <i>Local Geology</i> Tue 25th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 13th - WMX Group Haymaker Autotest Sun 20th - NEL Group Juniper Autotest
Sep 2017	Tue 12th - Club Night - Committee Quiz Tue 29th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 3rd - NWL Group Chiltern Autotest
Oct 2017	Tue 10th - Club Night - Guest Speaker - Bob Harding <i>"Paramedics; Can I Help You...?"</i> Tue 24th - Noggin 'n' Natter	Sun 8th - 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 (Not June) 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