

The "Nelly" Newsletter

April 2020



Visit the Club website at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel
or the News and Events website at : <http://news.boundlessevents.uk>



Club Nights



Motorsports



Action from the Brooklands Autosolo



Group Visits

All NEL club nights, events and meetings until July at the earliest have been cancelled.

We will update you all as soon as we have news about how any changes to the current guidance and restrictions might affect events planned for later in the year.

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Hello Readers – and, in the current state of lockdown we all find ourselves, “reading” is one of the few pastimes left that many of us can still enjoy. Unfortunately, for those without e-readers, it’s a Catch 22 situation, as all the libraries are now closed...

I do hope that you are all managing to cope and stay healthy in these unprecedented times. The back page still (optimistically...?) contains the NEL calendar beyond June, so let’s hope it’s not too long before it’s safe to hit the reset button and we can all get on with our lives again.

Rosie & I spent a pleasant week in Lanzarote at the beginning of March and were fortunate to return home just three days before Spain imposed its own lockdown. Although there were no infections on the island during our stay, we still considered it wise to restrict going out for 14 days. Little did we know that, on the 14th day, the UK’s own lockdown would be imposed.

Mick O’Blath and John Foster took things even closer to the wire and you can read about their exploits further on.

The Brooklands Autosolo, organised by Mike Biss for the Motorsport Group, may well have been the last Boundless event to have taken place before all club activities came to an abrupt halt; as it was only two days later that Motorsport UK suspended all permits for future events.

Thanks to Malcolm Grubb for the photos of the action and you can find many more on the Motorsport Group’s Facebook page.

Signing off for now but keep sending articles in and we’ll be keeping in touch with any updates for events when we get them.

Dave

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. (Boundless by CSMA).

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Chairman's April Chatter

Good day to you all, whether you are stuck at home watching yet another episode of Wheeler Dealers, (*It's: "Bangers and Cash" on "Yesterday" for us...! – Ed.*) working from home or, pretending to work from home. I hope that you are all adjusting to the new way of life, and are keeping well.

There won't be much to report in the way of news after this issue but Dave has agreed to send something out in the months to come, in order to let you know that you are not forgotten.

We just scraped in with our AGM club night before the world changed. Thanks to those who came along and joined in with the occasion. We kept the same committee, same posts so another year of me, at least I hope so. Some light relief followed the formalities with us trying to master all the long words and the correct timing, while we were acting out Phil's play, a spoof on *The Good Life*, I hope you enjoyed it because we did.

The 12 car rally last month became the last in the series and ended with a bit of a problem for the course closing car, who drives round the route behind all the competitors, collecting the various boards that have been put out earlier. It was all going so well until the opening car, the one that goes round checking the route, came across a badly flooded length of road and issued all the cars with some detour information. Unfortunately, this didn't reach the closing car and they came across the flood and assumed that it was passable because nine cars would have already driven through it and out the other side. They drove into it and conked out when the water came over the bonnet and did something not very nice to the engine, and the carpets, and the occupants' shoes. I think the phrase is 'lessons to be learnt'.

Time for a few musings methinks because life has changed. Like most of you I guess our calendars have gone from full to empty overnight with none of the regular events to look forward to and, for some of us, nothing to organise. The Classic Vehicle Group has shut down, just like NEL, with nothing expected to happen until end of June. I have cancelled our speakers and John has cancelled the pub meets.

There are silver linings to most things of course. Road deaths will be down even though those still driving will be able to go faster, as the Police will be checking on whether we should be out of the house. I have already seen a figure of almost 30% reduction. Burglaries and house breakings will also be down because we won't be out of the house. All these gangs of sallow youths in black hoodies will now have to go around in twos, and there won't be anyone to mug.

Perhaps the road verges will be free of litter for a while, as all the lovely people who toss their rubbish out of their car windows will now be having to throw it out of their downstairs windows of their houses. Maybe they will then see that it isn't very nice.

There will be some financial savings of course, those in the household who normally sink five or so pints each night in the pub won't need to spend that money, and the gamblers, who probably spend more than that with on-line gambling, will also save a fair bit as there is nothing to bet on.

We saw a Tesco home delivery van drive by yesterday, with half a dozen of our neighbours chasing after it. Such is the clamour for the necessities of life which only two weeks ago we took for granted.

I've seen so many jokes about toilet paper that I have half a mind to take some of ours back to Sainsbury's as we can hardly move now in the spare room for boxes of the stuff.

Obviously, all our planned activities are cancelled for the next few months, and those of the Boundless Events team, and that includes the day out at the Gunpowder Mills on the VE Day weekend – I am sure a lot of us were really looking forward to that as it was right on our doorsteps.

All the very best, keep well - *Bernard*

Secretary's Scrawlings

Hello folks

Almost the first quarter of the year for me was holiday - I was only just back from almost 4 weeks in Goa when we had the AGM. I was very pleased at the turnout, it shows that the group is going from strength to strength.

Sadly, the restrictions on movement to prevent infection spread have caused cancellation of our entire programme until at least July.

We did manage to have a committee meeting, this was 'held' as a virtual meeting using the WhatsApp chat group on mobile phones, and I must say that from the secretary's perspective it's far superior to trying to make notes during a meeting.

While in India, though we were aware of the Coronavirus situation worldwide, it hadn't advanced to the state where it was the sole topic of news, so much so that we were actively looking for places to stay in 2021. That is still a faint hope, but very faint.

Currently enjoying the weather; going on country walks, but no shopping for a while. Last Monday with the excellent weather and 2 months of garden neglect to deal with, I cut the lawn while the lodgers cleared the weeds off the patio. Completely filled the garden bin, and made a pile of grass clippings stored behind the lawn – waiting for bin-day before continuing... I then discovered that East Herts will NOT be collecting Garden waste until the crisis is over.

AARRGGH! I suppose it will rot down a bit, and luckily, there is a bit of room in the compost bin.

Do take care, thoroughly wash your hands etc.

A Thought for the month:

No matter how hard you push the envelope,
it will always remain stationery.

Cheers, Ron

Visit to Highgate Cemetery On Monday September 14th 2020 (Provisional)

Here is a date for your diaries later on in the year. The above mentioned guided tour will begin in the morning at 11.15 am and the cost will be £12 per person. The guided tour will about 90 minutes covering the west cemetery. Later on, if you are feeling fit you can walk around the east cemetery in the afternoon.

There is no parking in the neighbouring streets during the week so to travel there is best by train, nearest station Archway on the Northern line. *(A map will be published nearer the date)*

Many well known people are buried at Highgate, Douglas Adams, George Eliot, Malcolm McLaren, George Michael, Karl Marx, just to mention a few.

Address is as follows Highgate Cemetery, Swaines lane, Highgate, London, N6 6PJ.

If you are interested in coming along on this guided tour please let me know as it would be a good follow up to the talk on this subject by David Drake in January.

At the present time there are no tours at this site due to the virus but hopefully by September the situation will be improved.

Regards, John Foster

THE HOLIDAY THE VIRUS DID NOT STOP - - TRAINS, BOATS and ANCIENT THINGS

John Foster and I had booked a 5 day Self-Drive Half Board break at Alfa's Hotel in Great Yarmouth before the emergency started.

On Monday 16th March we left Ware mid-morning and drove via A120, M11 and A11 to Newmarket and the village of Moulton, to see the four - arched 15th century Packhorse Bridge over the River Kennett, bone dry even with the recent rain.



We then drove to the village of Isleham to see the Priory Church, which had been converted into a barn, it was in a very good condition and we viewed it in sunshine. An ideal spot for our lunch stop. After lunch we drove via Brandon to visit Weeting Castle, the ruins of an early medieval moated Manor House, again in sunshine. We then completed our journey via the South of Norwich Ring Road to Great Yarmouth.

The Hotel faced the sea near the Pier. A daily free Parking Permit was provided. We enjoyed a very nice 3 course meal before moving to the Entertainment area. Just before 8 p.m. the Hotel Manager made the announcement that due to the virus, the Hotel would be closing on Wednesday morning and the coach passengers returned to their starting points, this meant we had to also leave. As John's friend Ann had decided to join us, we planned to find alternative accommodation, using phone and internet a Hotel was located 1/2 mile North along the front. John and I walked there and secured the booking until Friday morning. A very good singer entertained us for the rest of the evening.

Tuesday morning breakfast was our first sign of the effect of the virus. Fruit juice and cereals etc. were no longer self-service, now served by a single member of staff. Main course, tea / coffee and toast still table service. Soon after breakfast we drove via the North of Norwich Ring Road to the village of Little Walsingham, where we had a walk around the village.



We then caught the 12.45 steam train to Wells, a 30 minute journey. This is the longest (8 miles) narrow gauge (10.5 inches) railway according to the Guinness Book of Records. We selected the front open carriage for the best views, which included running hares and very free range chickens. The line crossed several tracks and a road where we were treated to the steam whistle. On

reaching Wells Station there was a 45 minute break, time for coffee and a snack in the converted carriage Cafe. We returned to Walsingham by 2.30.

We then visited Creake Abbey, ruins of the Church of the Augustinian Abbey, Binham Priory, ruins of 13th century Benedictine Priory which is still used as the Parish Church, Baconsthorpe Castle, ruins of Tudor moated Manor House in use until 1920, then to our Hotel by 5.45. After dinner we chatted in the Lounge, entertained by a singer before Ann joined us for a drink from the other Hotel.



Wednesday morning, breakfast then packed and loaded the car, drove to our new Hotel, luckily our room was ready so we were able to get unpacked straight away. We arranged with Ann to depart at 11 a. m. We drove to Burgh Castle on the edge of Breydon Water, a Roman 3rd century Fort with 3 walls, the fourth having fallen into the water. A large site nicely looked after with a boardwalk along the river edge. We also visited the old local Church on the site. We then drove to St.Olave's Priory, a 14th century brick - vaulted refectory undercroft, occupied until 1902, part of a small Augustinian Priory. John and I spent the afternoon having a look round Great Yarmouth and in the evening, after dinner, in the bar area.



On Thursday we drove to Horning and went on the Mississippi Paddle boat for a 1 1/2 hr. cruise on the River Bure 45 mins. each way at a gentle 4 m.p.h. pace. After a short walk round the area, we drove to Wroxham, visited Roy's Cafe for lunch and had a look at the end station of the Bure Valley Steam Railway before driving back. Again, after dinner, in the bar, before a walk round the block at 10 p.m.

Friday morning, breakfast, packed and loaded the car. We left Ann having breakfast, visited Aldi for shopping and Asda for petrol, before driving South of Norwich and on to Thetford. Here we visited the remains of the 12th century Priory and 14th century Church with a river walk between them. We then visited Thetford Warren Lodge, built 1400 to protect gamekeepers against armed poachers. We continued to Brandon for lunch, then via Bury St. Edmunds and Lavenham to Lindsey, to visit St.James's Chapel, a pretty thatched 13th century building now used as a barn. Unfortunately closed due to the virus, but still fully visible. We continued via Sudbury and Braintree, arriving back in Ware before 5 p.m. All the sites and buildings visited were English Heritage and open at any reasonable time, except at Lindsey, free of charge. Our journey over 5 days totalled 504 miles.

MICK O'BLATH - photos, John Foster

Puzzle Page April 2020

February puzzle: **a stitch in time saves nine**

Congratulations and 2 points each to:

Mike Sumner, Alan Rawlings, Chris Hannaford, Ruth Ward, Mike Biss, Mick O`Blath, John Foster, Alison Anderson, Brian Beard.

March answer: **Crustier & Recruits**

Congratulations and 2 points each to:

Dave Rosher, Mike Biss, Alison Anderson, Mick O`Blath, Alan Rawlings, Brian Beard, Christine Hannaford, Ruth Ward, Dave Smith.

This month's puzzle:

Dingbats – Name these 10 pandemics



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	Fri 3	* 12 Car Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL	Region
	Sun 5	* April Solo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	FDMC	
	Sun 19	* Juniper Autotest (Cm)	Tarmac autotest	CSMA NEL	MSUK/BTRDA
	Sun 26	Bocado Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC	
May	9/10	* Miglia Quadrato ()	City of London treasure hunt	UH&ULMC	
	Sun 24	Gravel Autotest (Cm)	Loose surface autotest	Bedford CC	
Jun	Sun 14	Greenacres Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest	CSMA NWL	Region/Southern

Licence required: (I/Nat/Inter/Cm) = MSUK Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, * = Regs available

Past Events

March 12 Car Rally The event was looking a bit suspect during the weeks before due to a lack of entries, but enough appeared to make it worth running. Unfortunately, some over running roadworks caused one section to be altered and the weather caused another when a road was found flooded and a divert around it hastily made. It was good that all the competitors got around ok, just a shame about the closing car. The organisers hadn't told the closing car directly about the re-route, but told the marshal at the previous control to advise them about it. For some reason, the marshal left after the competitors and didn't stay for the closing car, so when the closing car got to the flood, they rightly assumed everyone else had gone through it. They realized something was wrong when the water started coming over the bonnet! After a tow out, and then a tow start, the car got home and the engine seems to be ok but it is most likely going to be damp inside for quite a while.

Car No	Crew	Club	Class	TC1	TC2	TC3	TC4	TC5	PCN	TC6	TC7	TC8	TC9	TOTAL	O/A	CLASS
1	Jim Drake/Graham Robinson	Chelmsford/NEL	EXP	0	8	0	0	2		0	1	2	2	0F 15	2	2
2	John Bryant/Mike Harrison	CSMA NWL	EXP	0	18	4	1	0		2	4	2	Fo	1F 31	3	3
3	Rod Botteley/Matt Botteley	Bedford	EXP	0	3	0	0	0		3	3	3	1	0F 13	1	1
4	Suze Endean/Matt Endean	Chelmsford/Oxford	NOV	0	10	0	0	5		4	8	Fo	Fo	2F 27	5	2
5	Mark Brumwell/Gwilym Griffiths	CSMA NWL	NOV	0	3	0	1	2		3	8	Fo	Fo	2F 19	4	1
6	Dave Smith/Richard Smith	Bedford/NEL	BEG	0	2	0	6	5	F	2	16	Fo	Fo	3F 31	-	2
7	Lorraine O'Connor/Ian O'Connor	CSMA NWL	BEG	0	2	0	2	1		6	9	3	5	0F 28	-	1

Org: Pete / Graeme

Key Fo OTL at control F missed passage check

Thanks to the Marshals

Dave Smith
Bernard Ward

Mike Biss
Alan Thurbon
Dave Robins
Mick O'Blath

John Foster
Alan Robins

Brooklands Autosolo With a full entry and some tight timescales, it was always going to be a challenge to get everything completed on time. Thankfully the competitors got all their runs completed and didn't really see the problems I was having with the timing system to start with. Eventually it settled down and the results got done easily from an organisers point of view. The rain late in the day made it a lot more slippery than normal. Thankfully the tests weren't tight, having moved the gates slightly in the morning, even though I got the LWB Mercedes Sprinter through.



Photos, Malcolm Grubb

Future Events

Everything else is now cancelled or on hold to later in the year. Most events thinking about running later will most likely find no free dates or the calendar too congested. We will just have to wait and see what can be run.

Dates for your Diary

Club Night Venue: Bishop's College
Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ

Evenings start at 7.45 for 8.00pm

Clubnights – 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.

Noggin & Natters – 4th Tuesday from 7.30pm

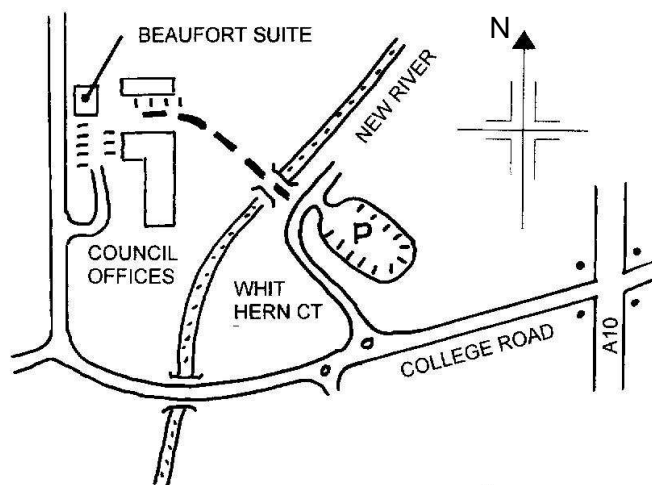
Month	Event
	<i>Please Note: As you probably all realise, until there is any significant change to the current government guidelines and restrictions, all the events listed below should be considered provisional and liable to postponement or cancellation.</i>
July 2020	<p>Sun 12th - NEL Grasshopper Autotest</p> <p>Tue 14th - Club Night, Guest Speaker – Chris Truran on: <i>Digital Forensics</i></p> <p>Thu 23rd – Classic Vehicle Group visit to the National Museum of Computing, Bletchley Park</p> <p>Tue 28th - Petanque, followed by a Noggin 'n Natter at The Old Bulls Head, Ware, SG12 9DZ</p>
Aug 2020	<p>Sun 9th – NWL Group Paddock Autotest</p> <p>Tue 11th – Club Night, Committee Quiz</p> <p>Tue 25th – Noggin 'n' Natter at: The Fish and Eels, Dobbs Weir, EN11 0AY</p>
Sep 2020	<p>Tue 8th – Club Night, Guest Speaker – Neil Hanson on: <i>The Highest Pub in England</i></p> <p>Sun 13th - NWL Group Chiltern Autotest</p> <p>Mon 14th – Group Visit for a guided tour of Highgate Cemetery</p> <p>Dun 20th – Morning Walk, venue TBC</p> <p>Tue 22nd – Noggin 'n' Natter at: The Fish and Eels, Dobbs Weir, EN11 0AY</p>

Our Indoor Club Night venue is: **Bishop's College**, EN8 9XQ (Civic Offices), 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 from outside.

Limited **"pay by phone"** and free disabled parking in the Council Offices car park off Churchgate.

There is also a **Free Car Park** in Whit Hern Court off College Road (**Ignore "Permit Holders Only" sign**) then a short walk over the New River footbridge to the venue.



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, <http://news.boundlessevents.uk>