

The "Nelly" Newsletter

June 2024



Visit the Club website at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel
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Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



Next Clubnight - Tuesday 11th June

Speaker: Tricia Thompson on:

Conkers and

Skipping Ropes



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Hi Everyone

Rosie & I were very sorry to hear that Mary Biss passed away recently; always a regular with husband Tony on NEL group weekends in the past and, as Rosie recalls, very fond of shopping for shoes...! Our condolences to Mike and the rest of the family.

Here is Mary enjoying a glass of wine at a Club Conference dinner alongside our former Chairman, Brian Bishop



Thanks to Jeanette & Phil this month for the article on their recent long haul trip to Japan.

Rosie & I didn't get anywhere near that far but did manage to get away for a short break in May to nearby Hayling Island - and then on to the New Forest. Just one afternoon of rain, so a good result for us weatherwise...

Still on the subject of weather; it's tipping it down as I write this, so despite all the talk of global warming & climate change, not long for "Flaming June" to get its act together and make its presence felt. Hopefully it will have warmed up a bit by the time the pitch & putt evening comes around though.

Bank Holiday Monday wasn't too bad weatherwise down here and we enjoyed a good day out at Amberley Museum for the local "Sadcase" classic car show. (Storrington And District Classic And Sportscar Enthusiasts – just in case you were wondering...!)

That's all for now - Dave

Please send copy for next issue to Dave Rosher at the email address above: **to arrive by 24 June**

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Chairman's June Jottings

Welcome to our June Nelly, arriving with you at the start of summer, meteorologically speaking, as I don't consider it starting until the 21st.

Our condolences go to Mike Biss and family for the loss of Mary, who passed away last month. A long time supporter of North East London Group, for so long with husband Tony and latterly with solo appearances at our Christmas lunches.

I regret not being able to get to last month's Clubnight to argue the case for James Hunt to retain his place in the balloon basket but I suspect that such a rogue and playboy would have been defeated by Florence Nightingale, but I will never know.

Football is pretty much over for the next month or two - then I have to prepare myself for Leicester's battle to avoid relegation next season, together with Ipswich and Southampton. Having just spent a week away, over in sunny Suffolk I can easily see why Ipswich are known as the Tractor Boys. Tractors everywhere, all followed by long queues of cars.

Away from the tractors (and the pig farms) Suffolk is such a glorious county, we stayed in Aldeburgh (lovely fish and chips) and enjoyed visiting the nearby coastal towns and felt that Southwold was particularly pleasant, taking tea in the sunshine on the pier - can't beat it.

I've had no takers for my intended trip across to Witney for the visit to the British Moror Heritage works so have called it off, sad to say. Let's hope there is more support for the river boat cruise next month, details elsewhere - more fish and chips!

Also, a full house is called for with our forthcoming Clubnight on 11th June when we will welcome Tricia Thompson for her talk 'Conkers and Skipping Ropes'. With the help of a very well put-together presentation Tricia will take us back in time to that period after the war with free orange juice, make do and mend and, of course, the things that we used to play with in the street. Not to be missed. I invited her after seeing her present this talk at a u3a meeting in Hertford last year. Tricia is a professional writer and will probably have copies of her books available so come armed with cash in case they are of interest.

Some outdoor activities coming up, with the pitch & putt this month, and the pétanque in July, both of which replace the evening Galley Hall meets. and also a boat trip along the Lea. It's something we haven't done for a while and is a pleasant way to spend a few hours. Robert is taking bookings.

What's coming up?

Walking Treasure Hunt 9 June –

Mick is planning another country walk on this second Sunday in June, finishing off with what else but a Sunday lunch. Numbers were limited by Mick with an early cut-off date so not open to all hence the results won't qualify for the new championship.

Clubnight 11 June – Speaker

We are delighted to have join us Tricia Thompson – an accomplished speaker and writer who will be taking us back to our early days of ration books, kids' games, hence the title of the talk, and general reminiscences of bygone days, sure to bring back a few memories.

Outdoor 25 June - Pitch and Putt

To end the month, we are meeting up at the Kings Mead Golf Club, between Ware and Hertford, for a round of pitch and putt. Clubs can be hired and the pub is next door, which

is where we will end up. As this is open to all the results *will* qualify for the championship. Please let John know to expect you fosterjohn92@gmail.com

Clubnight 9 July – Speaker

You may remember the historian Paul Baker who gave us an insight into the Huguenots of Soho last year. He has been invited back to describe a very significant battle in the Wars of the Roses, the Battle of Barnet, An excellent speaker so an interesting evening is promised.

Bernard

ROBERTS RAMBLEINS

Well, here we are in June, and we start with a piece of sad news. Sadly, Mary Biss passed away last month. I am sure that all our thoughts are with Mike and his family.

Looking back to club night in May and our Balloon Debate was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Florence Nightingale, assisted by Lesley Steed, who survived. Remember if you want the committee to run this again and are willing to stand up in front of others then let us know. Due to the bank holiday, these notes are being written before our noggin and natter at The Galley Hall, but I am sure that it will go well.

Turning to June, our club night is a nostalgic look back to the days of kid's games and ration books. The speaker will be Trica Thompson. There will be no noggin and natter in June, as the evening is replaced by our annual Pitch and Putt at the Kings Mead, Ware. Meeting at 18.30, we shall enjoy a round, followed by a drink at the nearby watering hole. Finally looking into July, places are still available for our river trip on the 16th.

Well, that is all this month. Keep smiling.

Robert

Annual Pitch and Putt at Chadwell Springs on 25th June

NEL annual Pitch and Putt takes place at the above venue which has been our preferred course for some time. Cost is £6.50 for a round of 9 holes, (Seniors £5.50) with an extra £1 to hire a putter & iron. Afterwards its always nice to have a drink and chat in the pub (King's Mead) at the venue for our Noggin.

Nobody needs to be a Golf pro to take part, most of us who come play but once a year. Everyone is welcome especially newcomers hopefully to enjoy the lovely sunny evenings we sometimes are lucky to get in June.

Meet in the car park by 6.30pm, which is situated at Ware road, **SG12 9LE** – Hertford / Ware boundary.

Just let me know if you like to come so we can look out for you before the start. fosterjohn92@gmail.com or 07984 723449.



Thanks, John

RIVER BOAT TRIP WITH FISH AND CHIPS BY NORTH EAST LONDON

Why not join us for an evening Scenic Trip on the "Lady of Lee Valley."

Starting at Broxbourne on the 16th July at 18.00, we shall enjoy a two-and-a-half-hour cruise with Cod and Chips.

Other options are Chicken, Sausage or Vegetable Patty, all for price of £36 per person.

A booking form is printed below with the details of payment and food options. Full details of where to meet and park will be sent to you, but you will need a permit, which I will obtain for you.



Robert

BOOKING FORM

RIVER BOAT TRIP TUESDAY 16TH JULY 2024 AT 18.00 FROM BROXBOURNE.

COST £36.00 per person.

To reserve your place, please contact Robert Daines on 07944 732890,

e-mail robert.daines@googlemail.com

Please complete the following, indicating what you would like to eat.

Name(s)

Cod and Chips

Sausage and Chips

Chicken and Chips

Vegetable Patty and Chips

Full payment to Staff Steed is to be made by either :-

Cash / Cheque payable to CSMA (NE London Group)

Bank transfer to CSMA (NE London group). sort code 20-92-54; account 13620034.

Please use the reference BOAT TRIP

Closing Date for Bookings and Payment is 30th June 2024.

Japanese Jaunt - 8 April 2024 – 2 May 2024

We had been hoping to visit Japan for some time, as it is the home of Jeanette's cousin Stephen and his Japanese wife Yuki. However, as we have never been east of Turkey, nor out of the UK for more than two weeks, we were beginning to wonder if we would ever make it. Well, we finally did so, which seems a good reason to pen a rare article for the Nelly Newsletter.

Firstly, we had to decide on our destinations. Tokyo, Kyoto - previously the capital - and Shiga prefecture - home of Steve & Yuki - were obvious candidates, but we wanted to see some different regions without imposing an overly onerous schedule on ourselves. Finally, we settled on adding Matsumoto, because it is in the midst of the area christened by Europeans as "the Japanese Alps"; and Matsuyama, because we wanted to travel beyond the principal island of Honshu, Matsuyama being the capital of Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands. We also decided to get Abbott Travel to book the hotels, but not to book the internal travel, so as to give ourselves a degree of flexibility. We accepted Steve's advice to use "Black Cat" couriers for our suitcases in respect of the internal journeys, which turned out to be an excellent decision.

We arrived in Tokyo in torrential rain which lasted for hours, obviously not creating a great initial impression. However, we enjoyed our second day, touring the Imperial Gardens and the Emperors' Shrine in perfect sunshine. Despite this, on the following day, we were happy to leave behind the cityscape of endless tower blocks and to head towards Matsumoto.

Actually, it took about an hour for the train to leave the city behind. After that, the typical landscape (in fact, for most of the rail journeys) was flat countryside, dotted with smallholdings and paddy fields, with hills / mountains in the distance. We also passed tea plantations on the lower slopes. The foremost attraction of Matsumoto is its marvellous castle – see photo below – which is one of the most renowned in Japan. The region is also famous for the Snow Monkey Park, which we much enjoyed, although unfortunately the monkeys only bathe in the hot springs during cold weather !

After four days, we travelled to Kyoto and quickly came to agree with the prevailing view that if you only have time to visit one city in Japan, this should be the one. The temples and shrines, including the parks and gardens in which they are set, really are extremely beautiful. It can be quite difficult for the western visitor to differentiate, but we concluded that if a shrine had statues of lions and foxes, it was probably Shinto and if a temple had a statue of Buddha it was obviously Buddhist. To complicate matters, the two religions often share the same site, and some Japanese people follow both religions. To complicate matters even more, you also see a surprising number of church buildings, but we were told that most of these are only used for white weddings and nothing else. We were also told that many Japanese are welcomed into the world with a Shinto ceremony, later on have a white wedding in church and finally a Buddhist funeral !

On leaving Kyoto, we had the most challenging land journey of the holiday, a 227 mile rail trip to Hiroshima on the Shinkansen bullet train, then half-way back on the same route, before changing for a three-hour journey on to the island of Shikoku so as to finally arrive at Matsuyama. If we had been in any other country, we would probably not have attempted this length of journey in one day, but in Japan we rightly trusted that every train, from the Shinkansen to the humblest single-carriage, would run exactly as timetabled. Visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum was an extremely sombre experience, but it was heartening to see that the city has now become a vibrant regional centre. Moving on, we crossed to Shikoku via the lengthy rail bridge and, in doing so, left behind the large number

of fellow-westerners who had been alongside us at every destination up to now. From Matsuyama, we visited the unspoilt town of Uchiko, made prosperous by its vegetable wax industry about 150 years ago, and the tiny island-resort of Kashima, where we were virtually the only inhabitants for a few hours, possibly due to its being enveloped in sea-mist.

After four days, we re-traced some of our previous journeys and travelled to Steve and Yuki's home, just outside the pottery town of Shigaraki. From here, we enjoyed a day-trip to the ancient city of Nara, famous for its huge bronze Buddha and extremely tame deer. However, this was mainly a time of experiencing Japan at a more relaxed pace and enjoying Steve & Yuki's excellent hospitality. Our "bedroom" had actually been the house's tea room – there had been a hole in the middle of the floor where the tea was heated. The room still felt traditional – sliding doors, paper at the windows and mattresses on the floor. After six days, it was sadly time to wrap everything up – literally, as we spent the last afternoon helping Steve to price and wrap his pots in preparation for the pottery festival which was to start the following day. However, as he was leaving for the festival, we were starting our long journey home via Kyoto, Tokyo and finally Heathrow. There was just time to say a proper farewell to Kyoto by ascending the viewing tower just outside the city's huge station.



Matsumoto Castle



Golden Temple, Kyoto

And finally ... the all-important travel stats:

1,343 miles of train travel using 24 trains, including five bullet trains

Six subway journeys in Tokyo and Kyoto

Four tram rides in Kyoto and Matsuyama

Four bus trips

One short coach journey

Two taxi rides

Several car journeys courtesy of Steve & Yuki

One three-minute ferry trip (return)

111 miles on foot

One circumnavigation of the globe – ie Heathrow to Tokyo BA return, flying over Asia on the outward journey and over North America on the homeward journey.

All journeys in Japan were accomplished without any mobile phone contact (ie we had Wi-Fi only in the hotels) ... because we're just so "old-school" also, because neither ourselves nor anyone else could get the Japanese SIM card to work !!

Phil & Jeanette Perry

Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Jun	Sat 8	*	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jul	Tue 2	*	Two Brewers Scatter ()	Treasure Hunt	CSMA NWL
	Sat 13	*	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
	Sun 28	*	Greenacres Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - TBC	CSMA NWL
Aug	Sat 10	*	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
	Sun 11	*	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Sep	Sun 1		Paddock Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - TBC	CSMA NWL
	Fri 13		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 29		Chiltern Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest - TBC	CSMA NWL
Oct	Fri 11		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Nov	Fri 1		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 8		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 29		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 6		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC

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

Past Events

Future Events

Future 12 Car Rally Season We are changing the 12 Car Rally dates for next season, due to the January event being the most likely to be hit by bad weather, so the events will now run in Nov, Dec, Feb and Mar. The existing January event will move to Nov and the existing April event will move to Dec, with the existing February and March events staying as is. This also allows for the two uses of the John Bunyan PH start to be better separated. The December event, as Blackbird have moved their event forward a week (most likely to miss the Preston Rally weekend), will now run on 29th November instead, but that is still four weeks from the previous event.

Two Brewers Scatter Why not give this NWL event a go, for some treasure hunting action. There are 15 possible locations to visit, to find the answer to a question, but you only need to supply eight answers. The scoring is then done on you get more points for the location the less people who put in the same correct answer. This means the winner is not known until the last car comes in. The start is at the Verulamium Museum car park, St Albans from 7pm.

Grass Autotest Season Good news, we have the use of a new venue for our autotests, but unfortunately, we can't get on it until the grass has been cut for hay. This will take place early in July, so we have put in dates for three events, starting on Sunday 28th July. There may be a chance to use a different part of the field earlier in the year, but that option won't be available until next year. Regs will be going out for the first event mid June.

Alternative Grass Autotest Season Blackbird AC are running a series of five grass autotests this year at their venue on the A5, just north of Towester. They are all on a Saturday, except the last one, where it is a double header weekend with a BBQ and camping available overnight.

MSUK Clubman Licence Almost all these events in the calendar require you to have one of these licences as a minimum to compete, either as a driver or passenger. If you go to <https://rsclubman.motorsportuk.org>, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute.

Other Events 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. Most of these events are entered via the Sapphire System, so regs, etc. can be found there. We will be invited to all the Anglian Motor Sport Club autosolos/autotests throughout the year.

Mike Biss: NLR Motor Sports Coordinator

Tel: 07753 137415

E-mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com

THE TWO BREWERS TROPHY SCATTER - TUESDAY 2nd JULY

Compact route and no map plotting required

--- New area this year ---

You are invited to the 41st running of the Two Brewers Scatter. This year's event will be of a similar format to previous ones. You may need a torch to find clues if it gets too dark!

The start will be 7:00pm onwards from the car park at Verulamium Museum, St Albans AL3 4SW – Map ref 136073. If you arrive after about 8:30pm you'll probably find I've already moved to the finish venue (The Red Lion, Kings Langley) so find me there.

A copy of the relevant section of map will be provided, if required.

- Motorsport UK exemption certificate 136425 has been issued.
- The entry fee for the event is £5 per crew.
- Crews will be entered in two classes, Experts (won the event within the last 5 years) and Novices.
- There are 15 easy questions but each crew are only required to answer a maximum of 8.

I hope you have a very enjoyable evening! Mike Harrison (organising this year)

NWL Greenacres Autotest - Sunday 28th July

Venue: Cublington, Bucks (near Wing)

Organisers: Ian O'Connor/Mike Biss - Entry Fee £28 (Juniors £15)

All forwards tests, passengers (PCA) or no passengers (Clubmans)

Great fun day out driving - Marshals required

Regs available mid June from Mike B or from the website - Online entries only

Dates for your Diary - 2024

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

Lunch / Dinner Venues may vary month by month so keep a close watch on the Newsletter each month for precise details of location.

Evenings start at 7.45 for 8.00pm

Clubnights – 2nd Tuesday

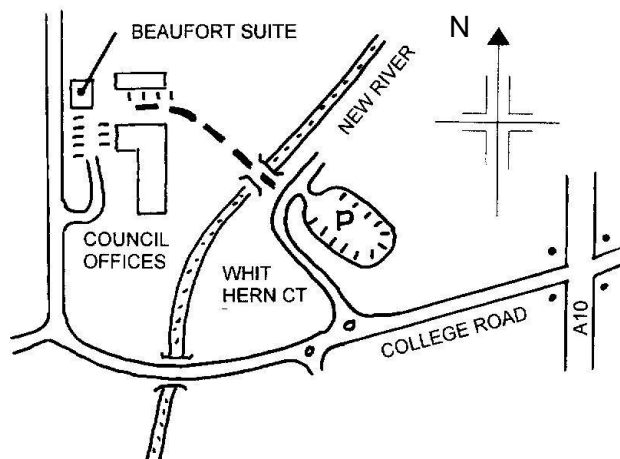
Daytime Lunches, 12.30pm – 4th Tuesday
Evening Dinners, 7.30pm – 4th Tuesday

Month	Event
June	<p>Sun 9th - Walking Treasure Hunt – Tewin (<i>Event full, booking closed</i>)</p> <p>Tue 11th - Clubnight: Speaker – Tricia Thompson <i>“Conkers and Skipping Ropes”</i></p> <p>Tue 25th – Pitch and Putt, followed by a Noggin & Natter at Kingsmead, Ware</p>
July	<p>Tue 2nd – NWL Group Two Brewers Scatter</p> <p>Tue 9th – Clubnight: Speaker – Paul Baker - <i>“The Battle of Barnet”</i></p> <p>Tue 16th – Boat Trip on the Lady of The Lee Valley</p> <p>Tue 23rd – Petanque, followed by a Noggin & Natter at The Old Bulls Head, Ware, SG12 9DZ</p> <p>Sun 28th – NWL Group Grass Autotest</p>
Aug	<p>Tue 13th – Clubnight: Talk on Music of the 1970's</p> <p>Tue 27th - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</p>
Sept	<p>Tue 10th – Clubnight: Speaker – subject TBC</p> <p>Sun 14th – Countryside Walk</p> <p>Tue 24th - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</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.

There is 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; Robert Daines on: 07944 732890

Or, contact him via E-Mail on: robert.daines12@googlemail.com

Visit the Websites at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel or, <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>