

The "Nelly" Newsletter

July 2024



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Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



Next Clubnight - Tuesday 9th July
Speaker: Paul Baker on:
"The Battle of Barnet"



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Hi Everyone

A few event and trip reports for you this month, thanks to John, Mick & Owen.

Talking of trips, we did our trip north of the border recently, which went very well and, on the way up, included a couple of stopovers to visit the Newark Air Museum and NT Cragside in Northumberland. We then spent a week in a very crowded Edinburgh, taking in all the big tourist attractions - Castle, Royal Yacht, Holyrood etc.; as did a fair number of "Swifties", who had decided to stay on a while after the preceding weekend's concerts...!

After a quick return trip over the Queensferry bridge, we then headed south, staying at Keswick in the Lake District for a few days, before our final stopover at Warwick.

Robert mentions his recent visit to the Natural History Museum in his notes and whilst in Edinburgh, we took the opportunity to visit their own National Museum of Scotland an impressive building which conveniently, we felt, is like all the London museums under one roof.



That's all for now - Dave

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

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Chairman's July Chatter

Welcome to our July Nelly, produced each month to keep you all up to date with what has happened, what is happening (a heatwave) and what is about to happen.

I should start by saying what didn't happen – my outing to British Motor Heritage fell on deaf ears and no-one wanted to go, so we didn't. A good opportunity missed.

However, what we did do was enjoy our speaker last month. Tricia Thompson took us back in time to our early years with her reminders of bygone days when everything was better than it is now, or so it appeared to us kids without the need for rose-coloured glasses. It was because we didn't know anything different, in our own little worlds without today's social media in our faces.

We also managed, six of us to be precise, our first outdoor noggin evening, with the battle of the pitch & putt at Kings Mead for championship points (the location of a certain wedding reception forty years ago, Ruby, Ruby, Ruby!) enjoying a glorious summer evening wandering round in the long grass between the trees, ball searching.

Onto another battle, this time it is the subject of our July clubnight talk, when we are again joined by the excellent speaker Paul Baker, who will be telling us in gory detail (hope not) about this defining battle between the houses of York and Lancaster. – the Battle of Barnet.

The following Tuesday evening, the 16th, sees us on the River Lea, a pleasant way to spend a few hours, messing about on the river and it includes a fish & chip supper. If you are quick, there may still be a chance to get yourselves on Robert's list.

The next noggin evening is also outside as we have the petanque at the Old Bulls Head in Ware, followed indoors by a meal and a chat.

Finally, if I may, a plug for a Classic Vehicle Group event on Sunday 21st July down in Hampshire, The Cream Tea Caper, organised as always by Allan Goddard. A leisurely drive around the country lanes, with a coffee stop, and a finish with the infamous cream tea, with some entertainment, probably one of his always amusing but not too easy quizzes. I can supply details if anyone is interested and wants to join me on the event.

What's coming up?

Clubnight Tuesday 9 July - Speaker

We are joined again by Paul Baker, he of the Huguenots in Soho talk last year, telling us about the Battle of Barnet.

Tuesday 16 July – River Lea Boat Trip

You might just be in time to squeeze onto Robert's booking list for the evening cruise and fish & chip supper.

Noggin 23 July – Petanque

This is our annual visit to the Old Bulls Head where you will find us in their large rear garden, playing pétanque on their two courts. Starting with orders taken for the meal, we form four orderly teams and all play a couple of games (with championship points up for grabs) before retiring to the pub for a meal and a chat. It would be good if you could let John know that you intend to go.

Enjoy Wimbledon, Euros and the F1 – oh, and the election and the Paris Olympics, something for everyone.

Bernard

ROBERTS RAMBLEINGS

Although these notes are being written towards the end of June, they are for July and that means we are into the second half of the year. Where the first half went is beyond me.

Club night in June saw an interesting talk by Trica Thompson about the 1940s, '50s', '60s' and '70s'. Perhaps the time when most of us grew up in. Yes, I can remember the Mods and Rockers, and in fact one of the first concerts I went to, was to see The Who just after they had released Quadrophenia. I also remember the winter snow of 62/63. It snowed on New Years' Eve and continued throughout January. My pupils were always amazed when I used to tell them that we did not miss a single day of school. We were tough in them days.

This was followed by six of us enjoying a game of Pitch and Putt, which I found a lot better than watching eleven Englishmen run around trying to win a game of football.

Turning to this month, our club night is a talk by Paul Baker on The Battle of Barnet. This was one of the battles of the Wars of The Roses between the royal houses of Lancaster and York, it secured the throne for Edward the Fourth, and as Barnet is level with Watford, reinforces that saying in London, "The North begins at Watford." This will be followed by an extra event, when we shall be enjoying an evening Fish and Chip cruise on the River Lee from Broxbourne. Bookings were sent to the company at the start month, and please read below for the final details. Finally, towards the end of the month we shall be going to Ware for our annual light heated game of Pétanque, and afterwards enjoy a light hearted drink in the pub next door. For those who wish to attend this event, please contact John.

Re-starting the museum visits, at the beginning of June I went to the Natural History Museum, to visit the extra exhibition on Birds. Well worth it. It started with a small history of the evolution of them. Yes, they were descended from dinosaurs, but some species were around before that. As I went through the exhibition, I realised that birds are more intelligent than you think. To say somebody is "bird brained" does not mean that they are useless. In fact, to attract a mate, the male of one group of birds have been known to use a stick as a drum. In a short video this male is happily drumming away, and the female looking on is most likely thinking, "I wish you would stop that infernal racket." In another video, there is a film of a peregrine falcon diving, reaching speeds of over one hundred miles per hour, and as it pulls out and you can only imagine the G forces that it must overcome.

Finally at the end I finished in a quiet bit where you just listened to the chorus of bird sounds. Time for lunch, so I had a chicken sandwich...

I watched the twenty-four-hour racing from Le Mans and must mention a couple of incidents. The first was when one car pulled over to let the faster cars past, and in doing so went on the wet part of the track. The driver lost it, the car began spinning round, hit the tyre wall, turned over to finish on its roof. After a few minutes the driver got out, walked away and most likely thought "How did that happen." The front and back were smashed, but the cockpit was intact.

The other was when a car came into the pits, the driver jumped out without touching and then the mechanics put on rubber gloves. Why? Because the car was alive with an electrical short, and it is not the usual twelve-volt battery that you find in your normal car.

Some final helpful hints for the Boat Trip.

Departure Time is 18.00. Cruise Duration is 2.5 hours.

All food bar one is Fish and Chips, one is Veg. Patty. Onboard bar accepts debit cards or cash.

CAR PARKING IN BROXBOURNE RIVERSIDE, EN10 6TD

Access from M25 and A10. Take junction 25 off the M25 on to the A10 and follow signs to Hertford/Cambridge. Broxbourne is located off the A10. Take the A1170 exit and follow signs to Broxbourne. In the town centre at the traffic lights, just passed The Bull, take a right turn on to the B194, Station Road, and keep going on to Nazeing New Road. Keep going but then turn right into the Broxbourne Riverside car park entrance and park in the first car park on your right adjacent to the recycling centre. Parking is free after 18.00, but before this it is free for two hours.

PLEASE NOTE

The "Lady of Lee Valley" DOES NOT pick up at Boat Centre in Old Nazeing Road and the above post code will only give an approximate location.

Well, that is all for this month. So, keep safe.

Robert

Petanque at The Old Bulls Head Pub, Ware - Tuesday 23th July

This evening at the Old Bulls Head Ware you are invited to enjoy a game of Boules plus a meal afterwards. For those who have never played before please come and have a go, I am sure you will find it's fun and easy to pick up, boules will be supplied.



Boules are made of metal (Usually Steel) and held in the palm of the hand. They are thrown at the Jack (the target ball) with the palm of the hand held downwards then the throw is an under arm swing ending with an upward flick of the wrist, this puts a back spin on the Boule providing more control and accuracy.

Please come along especially newcomers. There will be someone on hand to help those new to the game. Anyone who would like to have a meal afterwards can give their order to me, menus will be available before play so Chris (Pub Manager) can have our food ready by close of play usually between 8- 8.30.

Please be aware the adjacent car park charges are up to 8 pm now so please meet just after 6-30 pm so you only need to pay for 1 hour (this includes half an hour free parking).

The pub's address is 28 Baldock street, Ware, Herts, SG12 9DZ. Please let me know if would like to come to this friendly social evening with a difference. Please contact me by phone 07984 723449 or e-mail fosterjohn92@gmail.com.

Many thanks *John*

WALKING TREASURE HUNT Report - 9th JUNE

Firstly, the following appeared in June's Newsletter under Chairman's Jottings, part of line 2 and all of line 3 . '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' .This was published without any communication with me, which annoyed me greatly as there was genuine reasons for this action but more so that the entrants were being penalised for my actions .

Since the event I have explained my actions and this was accepted by the Committee. They admitted I should have been consulted and the results have been re-instated in the new championship.

Now to the event : I arrived at Tewin Lower Green about 10 a.m., passing several scarecrows and bunting on the way in. Alan Farr had told me there would be a surprise as he had eaten at The Plume of Feathers in the week. Luckily we were finished before the main events. One clue was at the refreshment site but did not cause a problem. On my drive to Tewin I passed the 2nd village, where a Road Closure board was displayed but as our parking spot was only 10 yards in, I decided it should be ok but told the entrants at the start. With this information in mind I left Tewin early and drove to Hertingfordbury to find our parking turning completely empty. The entrants arrived and I first marked the Tewin questions and then Hertingfordbury ones while the entrants went to Birch Green and I drove to the finish at Upper Tewin. Having found our reserved table, I continued marking and completed the task between the main and dessert courses. Finally the results were read out and the prizes given out . The Pub was very busy with a 50th Wedding Party plus our 13.

RESULTS ; 1st Phil & Jeanette Perry 95pts,
2nd Alan & Tina Farr 92pts,
3rd John Foster & Chris Bishop 90pts,
4th Brian Beard & Curtis Storey 88pts,
5th Richard & Dave Smith 84pts,
6th Robert Daines & Roy Hart 76pts.

MICK O'BLATH

Mini break to Llandudno by Car

Three of us (Myself, Ann &, Mick) set off for the 250 mile journey to Llandudno. When we eventually arrived at half past five, we just had time to freshen up before dinner. The hotel is called The Hydro named after the therapeutic swimming pool built in the basement in the 1860's which is now the ballroom.



First day of trips took us to the Llangollen canal which includes the famous Pontcysyllte aqueduct. The canal trip included a Welsh cream tea with Bara Brith and the whole trip took about 2 hours. Before we left we visited the Llangollen Motor museum but found when we arrive it opens between 1st & 7th of each month so no luck there as it was Tuesday the 18th.

Second day took us to Blaenau Ffestiniog on the train changing onto the narrow gauge Ffestiniog train to Port Madoc this being the old rail link for the quarried slates to be exported to many countries all over the world.

Third day we did our own thing, me & Ann went to view the Welsh hills first hand by walking into a remote farmers field and experiencing the silence and calm atmosphere that was all around us, apart from the sheep bleats & poo.



Just down the road was NT Bodnant Gardens where we experienced a relaxing time.

Later on we took an open top bus ride around Conwy & Llandudno. Mick took a bus ride to Rhyl spending the day there. In the evening I went the local Methodist church in Llandudno for a Welsh male voice choir concert singing many popular songs.





On the Friday was our time to go home leaving around 10 o'clock our journey had stops at Aberystwyth for lunch and The Pentycellyn Baptist chapel where my great grandparents are buried. Their names being William & Mary Davies and their daughter Catherine. For a number of years their headstone had fallen over which made it impossible to find it but thanks to Evan Lewis & his two cousins they managed to stand it up with the help of steel rod supports. Evan met us at the chapel and he led us to the grave. I thanked him for all his help and a donation has been sent to help with the upkeep of the chapel & grave yard.

After we left the chapel the journey to Leighton Buzzard took a further 4.5 hours arriving at Wetherspoons in the High street at about 8.30. After the meal it took another two hours to get home where we all parted thankful the holiday was a success.

Thanks go to Mick for his navigation throughout the holiday and help from Ann on the way home.

John

SCARBOROUGH REUNION

Following the aborted attempt to restart the Group Weekends after Covid, several members decided to have an impromptu meeting at Bournemouth in September 2022, although nine of us were in three different hotels. In the evenings, we all did meet in the bar of one and as a result of discussion we all reconvened in April this year.

Mick suggested using an Alfa hotel and whilst initially booked for Whitby, this was changed to Scarborough. Although there were four coaches also at the hotel, the staff were quite efficient and managed to cope by having staggered meal times. The Cumberland overlooks the Valley to the rear of the hotel so there is a great view across the town and being near to South Cliff the panorama is across the Bay to the harbour and Castle.



There should have been entertainment every night but the first night was cancelled so most of us went walking off the substantial meal before spending the rest of evening in a local hostelry where there was entertainment.

Eight of us decided to use our old codgers passes to visit Whitby by bus so we could appreciate the magnificent scenery but it was a tortuous road for a large vehicle with steep gradients which tested the drivers skills – Brian and June went by car and had the misfortune to suffer a flat tyre.

At Robin Hoods Bay six of us alighted at the top for a 20 minute walk down a very steep, narrow and twisting access road for the town to the bay.

You can see four intrepid explorers wrapped up against the viscous wind and it is easy to understand how this town became notorious for smuggling activities with numerous underground passages. The Bay Hotel is finish of the 192 mile Arthur Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk that not only has a bar but also an ale named after him



Resuming our journey, we went our separate ways in Whitby as there are many different places to go – (Mike, Jim and their Christines made it up the 199 steps to the Abbey and Castle and I visited the Captain Cook Museum) before the forecast rain arrived mid afternoon.



The next day Mick drove me to Pickering for a ride on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. There was confusion as to whether a bridge under repair that linked Goathland (of Heartbeat fame) with the Station would be open so we carried on to Grosmont where the train terminated due to it becoming a dining train on return. As there was over an hour to wait for a Whitby train, we adjourned for a coffee to an adjacent pub but lingered too long and the level crossing gates had closed.

Thus, we did not hear the station announcements and boarded by mistake the train that was going back to Pickering and sat there as we watched the Whitby train leave!

On the final day we all chose to do our own thing. Several others, including Mick, had already done the North Bay Railway so I went alone. This could be described as a large miniature (20inch) railway and whilst less than half a mile long through Peasholm Park it climbs to travel along the clifftop with views out to sea. Sadly, it was too cold in the northeast wind so I took this photo of 1933 built 'Poseidon' that has been with North Bay since 2006 (you may have come across it at Woburn when it was masquerading as Flying Scotsman) on the turntable before returning direct.



Despite the miserable weather it was a pleasant four days break and our thoughts are turning to next year at an Alfa hotel in Torquay so that our long-time West Country members, Mike and Jim with their Christines do not have such long journeys.

OWEN

| Date | Day | * | Event (Status) | Type of Event | Club |
|------|--------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| | Sun 13 | | Boanerges Autosolo (Cm) | Cross between autotest/sprint | Oxford MC |
| 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 |
| Dec | 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

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 are now available from the website.

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.

12 Car Rally Season The 12 Car Rally dates for this season, due to the January event being the most likely to be hit by bad weather, the events will now run in Nov, Dec, Feb and Mar. The existing January event has moved to Nov and the existing April event 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.

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

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 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

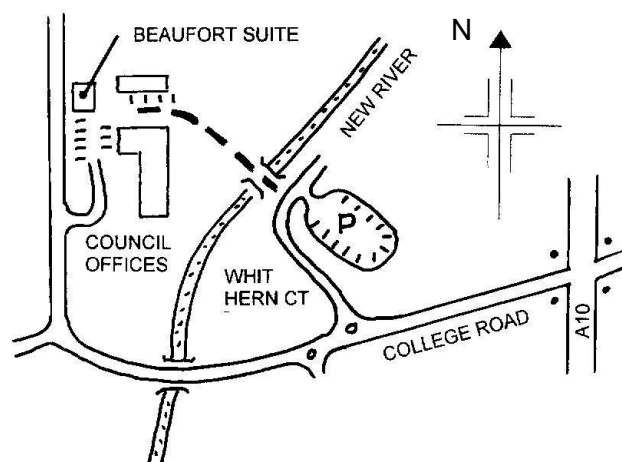
Daytime Lunches, 12.30pm – 4th Tuesday
Evening Dinners, 7.30pm – 4th Tuesday

| Month | Event |
|-------------|--|
| July | <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 (<i>Booking Closed</i>)</p> <p>Tue 23rd – Petanque, followed by a Noggin & Natter at The Old Bulls Head, Ware, SG12 9DZ</p> <p>Sun 28th – NWL Group - Greenacres 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 – Phil McKinder – <i>“The Lynton & Lynmouth Flood Disaster”</i></p> <p>Sun 14th – Countryside Walk – <i>details next month</i></p> <p>Tue 24th - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</p> |
| Oct | <p>Tue 8th - Clubnight: Speaker – Joanne Lerner – <i>“ The Wonder of Norway”</i></p> <p>Tue 22nd - 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>