

# The "Nelly" Newsletter

## September 2024



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Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



**Next Clubnight - Tuesday 10 September**

**Speaker - Phil McKinder on:**

**"The Lynton & Lynmouth  
Flood Disaster"**



**NEL**  
North East London Group

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# NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

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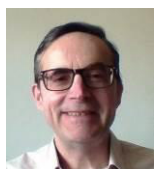
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*Hi Everyone*

*I hope you have all managed to get out and enjoy some of the spells of sunny weather between the showery bits.*

*It was a fine day for the Capel Classic Car and Bike Show in Surrey recently, where we had 18 entries for the Classic Vehicle Group's display, covering seven decades.*

*Just received the LV renewal for our Fiesta insurance and, after already receiving a pre-renewal email telling us how much costs of repairs etc. had risen since Covid, was expecting quite a hike in this year's premium. So when I nervously opened the email and found it had actually gone down by £3.54p, I didn't delay in paying it, just in case someone had made a mistake and then sent us a higher quote...!*

*I then did a check on our premiums for the last 5 years and was surprised to find that it had only varied by around £20 (both up and down) over that period of time, which seems at odds with many other people's recent experiences...?*

*And finally, fans of the BBC's Only Connect "missing vowels" round might like to try the latest motoring variation – "guess what the road sign says". From what we saw at the weekend, Surrey might be a good place to start, as there seems to be an abundance of speed limit, village and major junction signs where 80% of the information is obscured by overgrown vegetation – give yourself double points if the sign also has a green background....!*

*That's all for now - Dave*

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

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## Chairman's September Chatter

Welcome to our September Nelly, produced each month to keep you all up to date with what has happened, what is happening and what is about to happen.

It's all sport these days- off we go with another F1 and the football has started up again, the Paralympics is up and running and we shouldn't forget the golf and cricket. I don't mind this sort of thing, in fact I love it, but I know some can do without it. It's also the Classic Car Show season, we've had Harpenden and Tewin and the biggy, Knebworth.

Indoors for our August Clubnight, well done John for a fine selection of 70's music played for us, all on vinyl, no iPods to be seen. Although our evening got a mention in the Club area of the Boundless magazine the expected coachload of potential new local members didn't materialise, perhaps they got our Clubnight address wrong again?

This month we welcome back Phil McKinder to talk about the Lynton & Lynmouth flood disaster, a terrible event right in the middle of their holiday season that took the lives of many people and swept away so much of the towns.

Outdoors two weeks later for our Group visit to Nuthampstead Aircraft Museum, followed by a lunch in the Woodman, which actually has the museum in its grounds. Phil needs to know if you are planning to go. This is in lieu of the regular Noggin & Natter and is on the fourth Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Next month we are returning to evening get togethers as the nights draw in. I can't quite believe that this month we have the equinox, equal days and nights, as we seem to have only just enjoyed the longest day. Next up will be Mick's Saturday walk; those joining him on this countryside stroll will be rewarded by a lunch should they make it back to the pub.

You will read Robert's report on the North London autotest, the first in many months and thanks to the perseverance of competitions sec Mike, and a chance encounter, which he describes in his bulletin. Hopefully we can use the site again and have the intended one available at the end of the season.

What's coming up?

### **Clubnight - Tuesday 10 September - Speaker**

We are joined again by Phil McKinder to give us an insight into the Lynton and Lynmouth Flood Disaster. We start at 8 and the talk is followed by refreshments.

### **Countryside Walk – Saturday 14 September**

We start and finish at the Robin Hood & Little John at Tonwell, plenty of parking. Closing date is 10 September so be sure to let Mick know, see inside for his contact details.

### **Noggin & Visit - 24 September – Nuthampstead, The Woodman SG8 8NB**

Just south of Duxford, the museum in the grounds of the pub houses memorabilia of WWII and has much to tell of the US Bomber and Fighter squadrons based nearby.

### **Clubnight - Tuesday 10 September – Speaker**

For those of you wondering if a cruise to the Fjords of Norway is your thing, wonder no more as our Clubnight entertainment next month is The Wonders of Norway, when we welcome Joanne Larnar to tell us all about what we are missing.

*Bernard*



## ROBERTS RAMBLINGS

September arrives and as it has a "R" in the month, Autumn is on its way. Looking back to club night, we were treated to an evening of records from the seventies by John. Each song was accompanied by a brief history of the singer/group. Nostalgia rules. Due to the deadline, these notes are being written before the Bank Holiday, so I do not know how many went to the evening dinner at The Galley Hall.

So, what does this month have for us. Club night is a talk by Phil McKinder on the infamous Lynton and Lynmouth Flood Disaster which took place in August 1952 and resulted in loss of life. Our normal evening dinner has been replaced by a visit to the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. Lunch will be at The Woodman Pub, and for those who wish to go, please contact Philip to reserve a place.

Going back in time to July, North West London managed to organise a grass Autotest just north of Newport Pagnell, with Mike as Clerk of the Course. Yours truly marshalled, and the only problem I had was coming home. Part of the A509 was closed so I followed the diversion signs, and I think I must have used every roundabout in Milton Keynes before I reached the M1. Next time I will use the Sat Nav homeward as well as outward.

Short ramblings this month due to holiday in Scotland

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

Robert.

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With Robert in Scotland and half a page to fill, here is a mystery car for you to identify from our Classic Vehicle Group Display at the recent Capel Show.

Any guesses...?



## NEL Clubnight - 10 September

### Lynton and Lynmouth Flood – talk by Phil McKinder.

On 15th August 1952 around 1700 people were staying in Lynmouth, North Devon, many of them on holiday in the fine Hotels and Guest Houses. What they experienced that night was a shock to the nation and around the world. The flood was one worst incidents of its kind to have ever occurred in Britain.



Phil will explain the cause, resultant damage and what has been done to ensure the disaster never happens again.

Phil is himself a Boundless member who has many interests which includes music, he is an accomplished guitarist; railways; canals, he owns a canal boat; and he is an official guide to the Copped Hall Trust, some of you may remember he gave us a talk and guided tour of the Hall. He gives a number of interesting talks, most of his fee for these goes towards the Trust.

Phil's most recent talk to us took the form of trial based on the 1931 murder trial of William Wallace where the audience had to decide on whether he was guilty or not.

Stafford Steed

## COUNTRYSIDE WALK - 14 September

A 4 mile, 90% level square route, starting from the Robin Hood & Little John Car Park, Ware Road, Tonwell, SG12 0HN. Phone 01920 463352

Mainly hard surface with some footpaths and nice houses of various sizes. The Pub has a varied menu of reasonably priced food, which will be available at 1p.m., at your own cost.

There is no entry fee for the Walk.

Meet in the Car Park for an 11 a.m. start.

Please let me know if you are coming and are eating as well. There is a maximum of 12 people, to avoid pre-booking the meal choice and a minimum of 6 for the event to take place. Closing date for the event will be 10th September ( after Club Night ), to let the Pub know the numbers.

PLEASE send an email to confirm to Mick at [mickoblath20@gmail.com](mailto:mickoblath20@gmail.com). This event does not count towards the Group Championship.



MICK



## 24 September – Visit to NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD MUSEUM at:

### THE WOODMAN, SG8 8NB

Most of you will be aware that the northern part of our NEL area coincides with the part of East Anglia most associated with the airborne warfare waged by this country and her allies in the determined efforts to defeat the tyranny of Nazi Germany. Last year a group of Nellies visited Duxford air museum and a few months ago I visited nearby Fowlmere Airfield, which has a far smaller but still very interesting museum dedicated to the WWII heroes who were based there.



This has led me to organise a NEL visit to Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, an American base a few miles south of Duxford, which I am sure will be equally worthwhile. Because the museum is in the grounds of the Woodman pub, the visit will be combined with one of our monthly pub meals. In fact, the Woodman was the Americans' "local" and the pub itself has its own distinctive atmosphere, with the WWII memorabilia on its walls.



The museum's mission is to provide a facility for public education on the roles of the 8th Air Force 398th Bomb Group and 55th Fighter Group, especially their activities and roles in the national defence whilst at Station 131. The aim is to do this through a programme of engagement with the visitor, where storytelling and interaction are at the heart of the museum experience.

Through the varied exhibits you will learn veterans' stories, not only with a historical perspective, but on a personal level too. Many of the artefacts at the museum compliment those stories, along with items found on the airfield itself and identified later. Voluntary monetary contributions to the museum from visitors are obviously much appreciated.

The visit will take place on 24 September, starting at 12.30. Please e-mail me by 20 September if you would like to join us.

*Phil Perry*

## HARRINGTON AND “THE ITALIAN JOB”

Last month Dave’s photo of pre-War Harrington bodied Leyland Cheetah taken at Worthing Sea Front Bus Rally reminded me that this firm of coachbuilders built probably the most well known coach ever produced, a Legionnaire; although not one of their best designs, for a lightweight 36 foot long chassis, Ford and Bedford.

Registered ALR 453B, it was delivered in 1964 to a long term loyal customer, the George Ewer Group of Grey-Green fame, but was painted in maroon/grey livery for their recently acquired subsidiary, Battens of East Ham. It is shown here at the Duke of Wellington, Hatfield Peveler, whilst operating an East London – Clacton/Walton service. Ewers were never enthusiastic about the twin steer six-legger Bedford VALs and it returned to dealer Arlington after only two years.



The story now gets more interesting, as in 1968 it passed to Paramount Film Services for use in The Italian Job and was converted to take the Minis after the robbery. I was given this photo by a late friend of mine of 453 taken at Ceresole Reale in the Alps during making of the film but I cannot now recall how he obtained it. By chance I watched the film on TV recently and relived the sound of the Leyland O.400 engine that powered this model as it roared around the hairpin bends.

Of course, the most memorable finale of the film was of the coach dangling over the cliff and Michael Caine’s immortal words ‘hang on a minute lads, I’ve got a great idea’.

Just to prove the coach did not go over the cliff, the rear was rebuilt, interior restored and then returned to PSV use.

I heard that it was with a Liverpool operator in 1971 and by good fortune Mike Gannon was going to do an audit there, so I asked him to take my camera and seek it out. He found it outside Mr Birch’s, of Wendy’s Coaches, house and this photo has been reproduced from my original slide. ALR453B was then with a couple of Scottish operators before ironically being converted back to being a transporter for a racing car, sponsored by and parked at the Crows Nest Hotel at Anstruther.



Sadly, it later fell on hard times, was vandalised and subsequently scrapped.





In 2012 the De La Warr Pavillion in Bexhill put on a 'Minis at the Pavillion' photoshoot on 19 August in their car park to see how many Minis they could get into a photo. To promote this during the summer they had a mock-up of ALR453B made and it was balanced on the roof to re-create that famous scene in the film. By luck, we took a holiday to escape the Olympics in London and came across this on our travels.

Unfortunately, Harringtons had also fallen on hard times as, whilst their products were high quality both in car, with the Sunbeam Alpine, and coach bodies, these were expensive so had a limited market. With their close involvement with Rootes Group and dealers Robins & Day they had hoped for capital investment but with problems of their own this was not forthcoming. So, in 1966 the last vehicles left the Sackville Works in Hove, later used by BT, and then demolished in 1990's.

But to end on a happier note: in 2023 at the Transport Museum, Wytham there was a gathering of no less than 19 preserved Harrington bodied coaches, the oldest being built in 1936. Undoubtedly the most iconic range are the Cavalier introduced in 1960 for the heavyweight AEC and Leyland chassis superseded in 1963 by the Grenadier for the newly permitted length of 36 feet.



I took this photo just a few weeks ago at the Big Bus Show at Stonham Barns, Stowmarket – whoever would think this classic design is 60 years old?

Many people know of the coach in the Italian Job, not many about Thomas Harrington & Sons, but perhaps a few more do now - if you had stayed with me so far.

OWEN



Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Sep	Sun 1	*	Paddock Autotest (Cm)	Grass autotest	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

**Paddock Autotest** We will be returning to the Greenacres site for this event, thanks to the landowner agreeing to one more visit. Regs are now available from the website. This will have two permits again, one for passengers and one without and is held on a grass field. Nice easy all-forward tests are on offer and are suitable for your standard car. Entry fee is £28 (juniors £15) and entries and marshals can register on the website links shown in the advert.

**Chiltern Autotest** No news on a venue for the Chiltern yet. With us back to looking for another permanent venue, it might be that we can source a couple of different ones and spread the use out, to keep the ground in a better condition over the year. We might be able to go to our original venue for this year, but again it is not going to allow us the early usage we would like for a full season.

**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://rclubman.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](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com)

## NWL Chiltern Autotest - Sunday 29th September (TBC)

Venue: TBC

Organisers: Graeme Presswell / 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 (when site confirmed) from Mike B or from the website - Online entries only

[MSUK Clubman Licence](#) (free) & [Boundless MSUK card](#) (free) required

<https://autotest.sapphire-solutions.co.uk/eventlist.php?sitename=boundless>

## NWL 12 Car Rally

## Friday 1st November

**The John Bunyan PH, Coleman Green, Herts AL4 8ES MR 166/189125**

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £18 entry fee

Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - **Map 166 FEB 2018** required

Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Pete Gregory/Graeme Presswell ([pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk](mailto:pete.gregory@boundlesscommunity.co.uk))

Competitors required - Arrive before 7:45pm, first car starts at 8:31pm

<https://rally.sapphire-solutions.co.uk/register.php?sitename=boundless>

Regs available mid September from Mike Biss or website

# 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

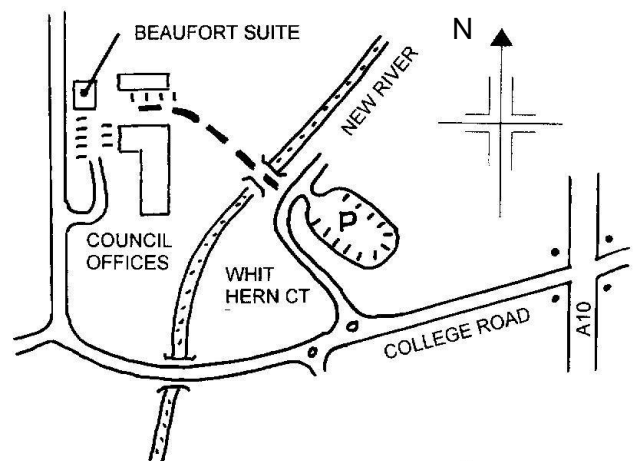
Daytime Lunches, 12.30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
Evening Dinners, 7.30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Month	Event
Sept	<p>Tue 10<sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Speaker – Phil McKinder – <i>“The Lynton &amp; Lynmouth Flood Disaster”</i></p> <p>Sat 14<sup>th</sup> – Countryside Walk – Starting from Tonwell</p> <p>Tue 24<sup>th</sup> - Monthly Lunch at: The Woodman, Nuthampstead, SG8 8NG to be followed by a visit to the Nuthampstead Airfield WW2 museum <b>** Note change of venue **</b></p> <p>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> - NWL Group Chiltern Autotest (TBC)</p>
Oct	<p>Tue 8<sup>th</sup> - Clubnight: Speaker – Joanne Lerner – <i>“The Wonder of Norway”</i></p> <p>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</p>
Nov	<p>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> – NWL group 12 Car Rally</p> <p>Tue 12<sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Speaker – Mel Byron – <i>“Old Films Saved My Life”</i></p> <p>Tue 26<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ</p> <p>Fri 29<sup>th</sup> – NWL group 12 Car Rally</p>
Dec	<p>Tue 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Clubnight -</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](mailto:robert.daines12@googlemail.com)

Visit the Websites at: [www.boundless.co.uk/nel](http://www.boundless.co.uk/nel) or, <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>