

# The "Nelly" Newsletter

## February 2025



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



Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



**Next Clubnight –**  
**- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Photographic Evening**



# NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

Web Sites - Club: [www.boundless.co.uk/nel](http://www.boundless.co.uk/nel) or,  
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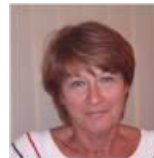
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*Hi Everyone*

*We made the trip up to Hertford last week for Ruth's church funeral service, an occasion which so aptly portrayed and celebrated all the numerous aspects of her life. Along with friends and family there were several members from the group present and, whilst it was good to meet up again with some familiar faces, we all wished it could have been in happier circumstances.*

*It's a sunny Sunday afternoon and a blackbird is singing as I write this, so perhaps there's an early hint of spring in the air...?*

*Time to think about holidays maybe; although Robert has already had one, to Prague, and you will find out how that went further on. Owen has been reminiscing about some of the earlier Nelly days and, with the next clubnight having a photographic flavour, Jeanette and Phil's Japanese holiday article also gets a rerun; a clue as to what to expect on the night perhaps...?*

*You will also find, monthly lunch details, the agenda for next month's AGM (all the associated officer reports will be published in the March issue) and, Mike has now sent in a revised Group Championship Table as well.*

*That's all for now - Dave*

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

*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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## ROBERTS RAMBLEINGS

February is here. Daylight is getting longer but the days are not getting warmer. Looking back to January, your committee organised a quiz. A range of questions were asked. The final scores were :-

Alan Farr and Philip Perry            30 points 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jackie Ames and Steve Ames        30 points 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ann Lovelock and John Foster       26 points 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Owen Woodliffe & Mick O'Blath    26 points 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Alan and Philip were winners by tie break.

This was followed by our post New Year Lunch at The Galley Hall. As usual it was well done to Lesley and Staff for organising the event. Yours truly collected the raffle money and four pounds for a column of five tickets was welcomed by all.



So, what about February. Well club night will be a photo evening. Philip and I will be showing photos of our recent jolly jaunts. A write up of my adventure, and an advert for Philips' adventure should be included in this edition of the Newsletter. This will be followed by, on the fourth Tuesday, our usual lunch time meal at The Plough, Sewardstone Road. Please let John know if you are going to join us.

That appears to be all, but when the weather gets better, I hope to start visiting some museums, and reporting back.

Keep it on the road.

*Robert*

## **CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION**

### *North East London Group*

#### **AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**

**covering calendar year 2024.**

To be held at: **The Beaufort Suite, Bishops College, Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ**

**20.00, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

1. Chairman's Introduction.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of 2024 AGM. (to be printed in March newsletter)
4. Matters Arising.
5. Chairman's Report. (to be printed in March newsletter)
6. Secretary's Report. (to be printed in March newsletter)
7. Treasurer's Report. (to be printed in March newsletter)
8. Competitions Secretary's Report. (to be printed in March newsletter)
9. Election of Officers.
10. Election Of Committee.
11. Consideration of Motions.
12. Signing of Group Charter.
13. Any Other Business.

Nominations and motions should be sent to the Secretary by email:

[robert.daines12@gmail.com](mailto:robert.daines12@gmail.com)

They should be received no later than 4th March 2025.

Ten counter-signatures are required plus your own.

Refreshments will be provided.

The AGM will be followed by a photo show.

## Lunch Socials for February & March 2025



The next of our lunch socials is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February & 25<sup>th</sup> March starting at: 12.30pm at The Plough p/h, Sewardstone Road. Everyone will be welcome especially any new members who have not been before. Come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere at this popular hostelry which has a menu at reasonable prices and a friendly atmosphere.

I look forward to new members joining me, you pay for your own meals and enjoy lively conversation. Please let me know in good time if you will be coming so I can book the correct places.

Plough address:- Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3QQ.

Please get in touch with me by email: [fosterjohn92@gmail.com](mailto:fosterjohn92@gmail.com) or, Mob 07984723449.

Thanks John.

## Good King Robert's Trip to Prague

Having overcome my fear of flying, this year I decided to go away for the Christmas festivities. Over the years I have always said that I would like to spend Christmas in Prague, and so this year off I went. Arrived at Heathrow Airport, checked in, I walked around the terminal looking for other members of our group. Nobody in site and so onto the plane I went. It was here that I found the others in our group. Off we went above the clouds before we landed at Prague. Through Passport, collected my bag, then walked out to find the courier waiting for us, before boarding our coach which took us to our hotel, located in the centre of Prague just of the main square. Unpack, dinner, few drinks and to bed.

Next day we started with a walking sightseeing trip around Prague. This included looking and watching the famous Wenceslas Clock. Hope my video of it in motion will be fine. Prague is not a large city, so it was easy to walk around, so it to see everything. Also, a lot of the buildings are old because unlike a lot of the Cities in Europe, it was not bombed by the Allies. Stepping onto Charles Bridge our courier told us to make a wish at the centre stature. I wished I would win the lottery, but to no avail. This was followed by a lunch time cruise on the river. The afternoon was free for us to wander around the city, before the traditional festive Christmas Eve meal.

Christmas Day, onto the coach and a trip the castle. The castle itself was closed but the grounds and courtyards were open for us to walk around. Another video of them changing the guard. The castle was at the top of the hill, hence the reason for the coach ride, but our courier gave a guided walk back to the Old Town. The afternoon was free for us to wander. Have you seen the film "Operation Daybreak." Well in 1942 a group of Czech soldiers were parachuted into the country with orders to assassinate the Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich. Having carried out their attempt, they sought refuge in a church but were betrayed to the Germans. Rather than be captured they all committed suicide. Well, I found the church and I lit a candle to remember and thank them. In the evening, we all enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant.

The next day was a full day excursion to Cesky Krumlov in South Bohemia. Firstly, we all visited a Christmas market, even though it was Boxing Day, in Ceske Budejovice before we continued to Krumlov for a walking tour followed by a pre-booked lunch. The afternoon was free and by now I was thinking that it is time to buy something for the holiday. I finished up with two crystal glasses, and does the wine taste good out of them. Yes. Back to Prague for dinner, before a wander into the square to look at the clock.

The last day came and there was an optional excursion to Kozel where we had a trip round the brewery. This was followed by a little light exercise. We pushed to coach to jump start it. Afterwards we went on to Kutna Hora for lunch before a short, guided tour of the town. Returning to the hotel our evening meal was at a local brewery and followed afterwards by a last visit to the clock.

Soon Saturday came and it was time to come home. A short but precise thank you on the coach by yours truly for our courier, whose commentary's I personal enjoyed, and a very smooth coach driver. This was followed by a round of applause.

*Robert.*

## REMINISCENCES - by Owen Woodliffe

Recently I was travelling along Green Lanes at Palmers Green and noticed that The Fox had reopened following a long period of refurbishment. At the rear in Fox Lane there is a new block of flats where the old banquet hall used to be and I recall that in the 1970's NEL had a dinner/dance there. In those glory days of Nelly some 80 to 100 attended the annual dinner/dances, although this was the only one held there as the Group migrated north to hold these at Forty Hall, where Staff famously drove his Mini, by mistake, across the snow-covered and fortunately frozen pond.



I was reading 'Wetherspoon News' (guess where) when I saw that Tim Martin, the charismatic founder-chairman, used to live in Wood Green and mentioned that he served behind the bar of the Duke of Edinburgh in Mayes Road. This is where NEL had their Club Nights in an upstairs room lit by a bare bulb in the 1960's, although probably before the Martin era there as his own first pub opened in 1979 in Muswell Hill.

I spent Twixmas at the Alfa Travel Royal Hotel in Weymouth where Mick O'B had organized a Group weekend in 2015 when this was an SLG Group (Shearings) hotel. Mike Gannon and I with our spouses went to Dorchester by bus and on the journey saw that a pub had a real ale festival so on return Mike and I alighted early to sample the amber nectar. Rejoining the bus some time later Mike realized his reading glasses were missing – last seen when we were sitting on a row of straw bales in the pub courtyard. These were never found so perhaps they were munched by cows in the adjacent field.

Which brings me to another animal encountered on another Group weekend in the 1970's at Newtown in Powys. Then there was sufficient numbers to hire a coach which arrived there around midday. During an afternoon walkabout around town our former Chairman, Brian Bishop, found a butcher selling very reasonable lamb joints and arranged for these to be stored there until our Monday morning return. Brian gleefully told any of our party he met about this so there was an unscheduled stop on our return journey whilst said joints were loaded into the side lockers of the coach. A few miles outside Newtown we encountered a road block and a policeman entered and spoke to our driver before allowing us to continue. Ever curious, Brian asked our driver what it was all about and was informed there had been instances of sheep rustling in the area! Just as well the copper did not have a sniffer dog as we would have had some explaining to do – although doubtless Brian would have risen to the occasion!

Owen

## 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*

# Group Championship 2024

Pos	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	John Foster	8	7	10				25
2	Curtis Storey	7	10	7				24
3	Robert Daines	5	10	8				23
4	Brian Beard	7	7	9				23
5	Phil Perry	10		10				20
6	Tina Farr	9		10				19
7	Alan Farr	9		9				18
8	Jeanette Perry	10		7				17
9	Bernard Ward		8	8				16
10	Jeff Kenyon			9				9
11	Mick O'Blath			8				8
12	Chris Bishop	8						8
13	Ron Barnett		6					6
14	Richard Smith	6						6
15	Dave Smith	6						6
16	Roy Hart	5						5

## Key:

- |   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Walking T/Hunt - 9th June | 4 |
| 2 | Pitch & Putt - 25th June  | 5 |
| 3 | Petanque - 23rd July      | 6 |

## Competitors

1st overall	10	points
2nd overall	9	points
3rd overall	8	points
4th overall	7	points
5th overall	6	points
6th overall	5	points
7th overall	4	points
8th overall	3	points
9th overall	2	points
other positions	1	point

## Organisers

Not competing	10	points
Can't compete	7	points

## Awards

First Overall	-	Eric Blake Cup
Second Overall	-	An Award
Third Overall	-	An Award

Events which count for this championship are Treasure Hunts, Pitch & Putt, Petanque, Clubnight Quizzes, etc. There is no restriction on the number of events to count

Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Feb	Fri 7	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NEL</b>
	Sat 15	*	20:20 Rally (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sat 15	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Mar	Fri 7	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	<b>CSMA NWL</b>
	Fri 14	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 28	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Apr	Fri 11		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

**February 12 Car Rally** The start for this event is hoped to be from The Catherine Wheel PH, Pelham Rd, Gravesend, Albury, Ware SG11 2LW, MR 167/ 439257. Using maps 166 (edition MAY 2018) and 167 (edition FEB 2016) for the 50 mile route, with the first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Entry fee is £18 per car and the regs will be out early January. The organiser is Graham Robinson and you can contact him on [graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com).

**March 12 Car Rally** With Mike Harrison recovering from an operation, it has been decided to replace Mike's event with the cancelled December event. Starting from The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166 / 028182, it will use map 166 (edition MAY 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £18 per car. Organiser is Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on [alanthurbon@yahoo.com](mailto:alanthurbon@yahoo.com).

**20:20 Rallies** These events are an intermediate style event between a 12 Car rally and a full night rally. The title refers to a maximum of 20 cars and 20 controls, and is usually held on a Saturday night and run for about 100 miles. The Blackbird AC one in February will be reverting to full old school format with marshals and paper handouts, with food and drinks at the finish. They are looking for some support from marshals.

**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://motorsportuk.sport80.com>, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute. The MSUK have introduced a new system for licence registration and it is still a work in progress, much to the users frustration. You will have to change your log-in details and the whole ordering process is different. From an organisers point of view, they don't issue you with a licence that is easy to show in advance, it is more geared to showing it on your phone in person!

**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)



## RS Clubman Licence Renewal

<https://motorsportuk.sport80.com>

Remember, to enter any MSUK permit event these days, you need the above licence as a minimum (which is free).

If you had one in 2024, you can go onto the above site and renew your licence.

This is a new system and you get a file to store in your phone wallet!

# 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

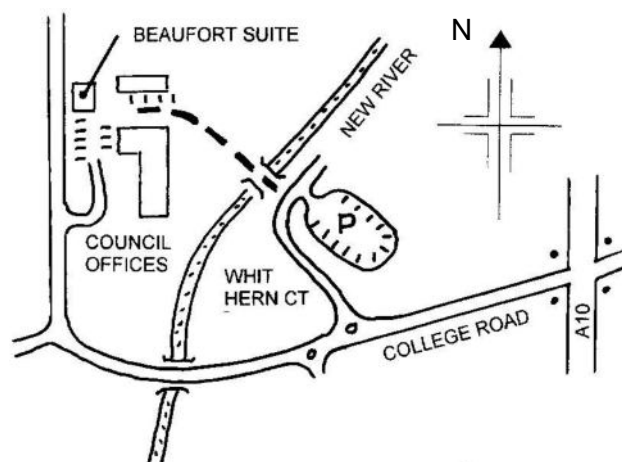
Daytime Lunches, 12.30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
Evening Dinners, 7.30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Month	Event
<b>Feb</b>	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> – NEL 12 Car Rally Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Photographic Evening Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> - Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ
<b>Mar</b>	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> – NWL group 12 Car Rally Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: A G M Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> - Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ
<b>April</b>	Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Speaker Mark Lewis on <i>The City of London (tbc)</i> Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY
<b>May</b>	Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Speaker Paul Baker on <i>Camden Town (tbc)</i> Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY
<b>June</b>	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight: Speaker – subject tba Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> – Pitch & Putt followed be a Noggin & Natter at Kings Mead, Ware

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>