

The "Nelly" Newsletter

November 2025



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Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



Next Clubnight –
- Tuesday 11 November
Speaker – Tricia Thompson

Deck
★ THE ★
★ Halls ★

NEL
North East London Group

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NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

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Hi Everyone - and welcome to your November Newsletter...

Robert is now back from his travels with a full run down of his trip to Canada, as well as his attendance at the Stratford AGM & Volunteer Recognition evening. Staff & Lesley have also sent in the menus and booking form for the New Year lunch.

Bernard mentions the controversy about the dazzle from LED headlights in his Chatter; just one of the issues with modern cars that are cause for concern.

Over complication of basic functions like heating and ventilation controls, as exhibited in our own 2023 Fiesta, being one of them. Example - on a sunny day, why should the heated front windscreen come on (and off – and on – etc, etc.) if it's 28 degrees outside...?!

Part of the climate control de-humidifying characteristics - apparently. It seems the only way to stop this happening is to keep the aircon on, turn off the "auto" function, then select the required temperature manually...!

What's even more puzzling is why the indicator light for the heated front screen doesn't light up, even though it's obviously on and warm...!

So, this month's conundrum is – which is most likely to have the most detrimental effect on fuel consumption, aircon or heated front screen...?

Of course, it doesn't help that the owner's manual for this later model is only available in an online format – not even a pdf. ☹

At least it goes alright though...☺

That's all for now – Dave

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

The opinions and recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the North East London Group Committee, or the Civil Service Motoring Association Ltd. (Boundless by CSMA).

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Chairman's November Chatter

Good day to you all and welcome to our November Nelly, which we hope will keep you up to date with our activities and will encourage those who are able, to come and enjoy our forthcoming social delights.

Perhaps that's a grand way of putting it but we do hope for a good attendance for this month's Clubnight and also for our Christmassy gatherings in December and January, with the Group meal at the Galley Hall.

First things first and I must congratulate our Stafford for his excellent Clubnight presentation last month. We were given an insight into his longtime passion as a recognised photography expert, how he needed to keep up with the latest developments in audio visual presentations and how it led to being recognised as such by the Royal Photographic Society. The latest techniques in image management are very complicated and it obviously takes a huge amount of time to prepare such high quality power point presentations which he shared with us. Well done.

This month we welcome back Trish Thompson whose illustrated talk is entitled - Deck the Halls - this sounds suspiciously like it might be connected to Christmas in some way but we will ensure the connection is there by offering wine for the supping of - don't expect the hall to be decorated just yet though. We will have our customary gathering on the fourth Tuesday but from now on it will be at lunch time, recognising the change in seasons and the dark evenings. It has been suggested that we should really be changing to this arrangement a month earlier so next year we are likely to move away from the Galley Hall to The Plough in October.

Much has been said recently about the increased glare from the new style LED car headlights, compounded by the popularity of the taller SUVs and consequently their raised headlights. I am pleased personally to read about the need to look into this problem (pun intended) by some parliamentary working party as it bothers me when I am faced with the extremely intense white glare from approaching vehicles on the single carriageway roads. I wonder if some temporary solution will be arrived at by requiring a strip of black tape to be stuck on the headlights, in the same way that we are required to do when driving on the continent. There used to be a fashion statement years ago with cars having nice chrome lips protruding from the top of the headlights - my understanding of how the light beam is projected by those old headlights is that the focus of the beam crosses over as it emerges so the correct place for the sticking out lip should be below the lens rather than above - am I correct with this theory?

I don't suppose that any unfortunate pedestrian unlucky enough to be hit by such a vehicle would care whether the protruding lip was from the top or the bottom of the headlight, it would still hurt.

The 12-car rally scene is looking a lot more encouraging with entries appearing to make the events viable, so fingers crossed.

What's coming up?

Clubnight Tuesday 11 November – Speaker

A taste of the Christmas Season when we will have Tricia Thompson joining us with her talk on Deck the Halls.

Monthly Lunch Tuesday 25 November

Over the winter season, we are meeting lunchtimes, at The Plough, Sewardstone Road Waltham Abbey EN9 3QQ - John would like to know if you are intending to join him.

Clubnight Tuesday 9 December – Christmas Social

More tastes of the Christmas Season, this time provided by ourselves. Some easy on the brains games, to help with the food going down. Thanks in advance for those who are bringing their offerings to share.

Take care, mind the headlights - *Bernard*

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

Into November we go and by popular demand, I am back. Well, thanks to BT repairing my Broadband, and I must share this because it appeals to my sense of humour. Having been told by text that BT do not need to enter my flat to do any repairs, I went on holiday. To my surprise an engineer phoned and asked if he could enter my flat. Not really. Why not?, he asked, because I am in Canada. Upon my return they replaced the router.

October clubnight was another of Staffs' excellent film evenings. First class. These notes are being written before our last, well for this year, visit to The Galley Hall for an evening meal. After that we return to The Plough in November for a meal at lunchtime.

So, what of our future programme. November is a talk by Trica Thompson, called "Deck the Halls." As this will be, I think, about the festive season, your committee has decided to supply some wine. Yours truly will be bringing a cake to raffle for charity. This year I shall send it to Dr. Barnardo's (*the cake or the money...? Ed.*) This will be followed on the fourth Tuesday with a return to The Plough, Sewardstone Road. Please let John know if you wish to come along. I will not be there as I have been called to do Jury Service. Elsewhere in this edition you will find an advert and booking form for the New Lunch, held as usual at The Galley Hall. Early booking with full payment is recommended.

Last month I attended the AGM, followed by a network meeting and volunteers awards evening. Nice hotel.

Finally, I hope Dave can find space for my extra ramblings on my holiday to Canada. This will be an early advert for first half of February clubnight. Watch this space for the second half.

Keep it on the road.

Robert.

ROBERT'S "EXTRA LONG" RAMBLINGS

February 2024, and I decided to book a holiday to a country that I had always wanted to visit, Canada. You might think that to book a holiday in 2024 for 2025 is a bit silly, but I was at the destination show in Olympia talking to the person at The Newmarket stand, who informed that as 2024 was almost full, they were taking bookings for 2025. So, home I came, thought about it for a few days, and then booked the holiday, taking the option extra of The Rocky Mountaineer.

DAY ONE

Fly to Toronto, using Air Canada, from Heathrow departing 12.05. Landing at 14.55, local time, we were met by our tour guide, before transfer by coach to our hotel. After a quick wash, I met up with some of my fellow travellers for drink.

DAY TWO

This day was free for us to wander round Toronto. The accommodation at each hotel was bed only so the first thing to do was to have breakfast at one of the many cafes. Then I wandered down to the waterfront as I did not fancy going up the CN Tower. I took a boat trip across the harbour to the island and had a walk through the gardens. Wandering back, I found myself in a pub. They were playing music by some of the groups that I like. After two drinks I wandered back to the hotel for dinner. I ordered Spaghetti Meatballs. They brought me Ravioli...! Close.

DAY THREE

This day was a full day trip to Niagara, to see the Falls and have a pre-booked lunch. There were a lot of opportunities for photos. The falls are always in flood, because at night they dam the river to allow a build-up of water. Lunch was on the 12th plus 1 floor, because that is what it said in the lift. The view was a fantastic view of the Falls. Returning to the coach, we were driven along the road to the top of Falls, before returning to Toronto. On the way we stopped for an opportunity to do some shopping.

I bought a mug with "CANADA IS NOT FOR SALE" on it.



DAY FOUR

We boarded the coach for transfer to Montreal. We followed the Maple Leaf Trail, through stunning scenery of mountains, some topped with snow and glaciers, but no Grizzly Bears. We descended into Ottawa before ending up in Montreal.

DAY FIVE

Today we returned to Ottawa, Canada's capital, by coach for a full day excursion. Like me some of us had booked a coach and walking tour. I was really impressed by the city. We finished up at the site of the last battle on Canadian soil, between The British and French. It lasted less than one hour and we British won. We returned to the centre for a wander. I saw a Christmas Shop and so I went in and bought a packet of Christmas Cards. We returned to the hotel.

DAY SIX

This day we were to transfer via an internal flight to Calgary, where the 1988 Winter Olympics took place; famous for Eddie The Eagle. Boarding another coach, we went to our stop, Banff. This is skiing resort in the Canadian Rockies and was very busy. After booking in and dropping my bag in my room, I joined the others for a short tour of Banff before finding a restaurant for dinner.

DAY SEVEN

We only had two nights at Banff, and on this day we I had booked another optional extra, a cable car ride up to Sulphur Mountain, starting at midday. Reaching the top there was a walk to Surprise Corner, where there was a fantastic view of Banff. Again, there was plenty of opportunities for photos. I was beginning to thank myself for bringing spare memory cards for the camera. Returning to the start, we had a tour of surrounding area by coach, before returning to Banff, hotel and dinner.

DAY EIGHT

We moved on by coach to Jasper. On this part journey we went along the Icefields Parkway. The first stop was at Lake Louise. From this lake we got view of the Victoria Glacier. The water was ice cold. Continuing along the road, the views were breathtaking. We eventually arrived at Jasper where we were to catch the train the next day.

DAYS NINE AND TEN

We were split into two groups. Those who were not the train continued by coach, whilst those of us, like me, booked on The Rocky Mountaineer, continued by train, with an overnight stop at Kamloops. Again, the views were breathtaking. Each carriage had its own crew serving breakfast, lunch and drinks. All thrown in the price we had paid. I did see a few Bears. They turned out to be false alarms. Too much Gin. Over the two days we followed the Thompson River and Fraser River. Passing Hell's Gate and other water features over the two days, we soon arrived at Vancouver, for the last of our hotels.

DAY ELEVEN

This was a free day, but teaming up with two others, we first booked up to go Whale watching on day thirteen. Afterwards we decided to visit Grouse Mountain. Catching the free shuttle bus, we got the cable car to the top. Here we saw a Lumberjack show, a Grizzly Bear (at Last) albeit in a compound, before going on to do something I have never done. A trip on a Zip Wire. Well three parts. Never done it before but it was great. Back to the hotel for dinner.

DAY TWELVE

This was free day, so I wandered around Vancouver waterfront before returning to the hotel and pack to go home. An early start was required the next day. Very nice Italian meal for dinner.

DAY THIRTEEN

Got up at 6am and down to reception to check out, where I found my fellow Whale Watches waiting for me. Fortunately, my suitcase could be left in the room for collection by the hotel staff around eleven. Walk down to the waterfront, crossed to the island via passenger ferry, to catch The Prince of Whales ship, and go Whale Watching. Leaving around 8.45 we were soon in the area where Whales could be seen. The boats are not allowed to go to close, so I was grateful for my telephoto lens. We only saw the dorsal fins of the Humpback Whales, and the resulting spray from the blow hole. We then moved to another location to see Orcas. Again, the boat could not go to close, but at last one did leap out of the water. Well worth the money.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end and soon we were all at Vancouver airport, waiting to catch the plane home. We took off around 20.00 local time, and landed around 13.00, British Summer Time. After collecting suitcase, saying goodbyes to my fellow travellers, I arrived home safely, full of memories, and determined to go back in two years' time.

Robert.

NEL group New Year lunch

Sunday 18th January 2026, 12.30 for 1.00pm

The Galley Hall

Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, Herts, SG13 7NY

At the NEL group AGM in March it was agreed to continue with a New Year lunch instead of Christmas for 2026. We will still treat it as a festive occasion although they will undoubtedly have taken the Christmas decorations down. We will still have the usual raffle and Heads and Tails game so bring along a little extra cash, any profit will go towards the gratuity for the staff.

The Galley Hall is a country pub set in the Hertfordshire countryside to the North of Hoddesdon, it has its own car park, should this be full there is ample safe parking in the road outside.

By January you will probably have had enough Christmas Turkey so we are basing it on the Galley Hall's standard Sunday menu which offers a wide choice. Under the circumstances it will be difficult to offer a fixed price package so please make sure you complete the booking form carefully and accurately including noting down the correct price. For those used to ordering Chinese takeaways we have annotated a reference number per item, this will help us in checking that the correct items have been ordered. For the Traditional Roast, as well as the reference number, don't forget to state type of meat and regular or small. The restaurant has a range of desserts which, this year is added as a pre order, although if you are not sure if you will have enough room for one I'm sure they could be ordered and paid for separately on the day along with any drinks ordered. I'm sure they will set up individual tabs should this be necessary. To be clear we will be responsible for paying pre ordered items on the booking form. Additional items must be paid for separately.

Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis which must be accompanied by booking form and payment in full. Booking forms, choice of menu and payment is required to us by Saturday 4th January at the latest so that all arrangements can be coordinated and presented to the restaurant in time for the lunch. Payment will be accepted by cheque, cash or bank transfer.



The Galley Hall building dates back to 1374 when it was then a farmhouse known as "Collewelle Haw", but by 1765 its name had evolved to the "Galley Hall". The Galley Hall became a Beer House during the 1830's being kept by one Benjamin Logsdale. The deeds were conveyed to Christie and Cathrow Brewers of Hoddesdon in 1837. Bringing us up to date the Pub has been extended in character to provide an extra Function Room and Patio area providing comfortable dining etc

Stafford and Lesley Steed

The Galley Hall

Sunday Menu

Starters

- | | | |
|---|---|------|
| 1 | Tomato Soup u Δ
<i>Served with a white roll and butter</i> | 7 |
| 2 | Garlic Breaded Mushrooms u
<i>Mushrooms coated in garlic breadcrumbs served with garlic mayonnaise</i> | 7 |
| 3 | Southern Fried Chicken Goujons Δ
<i>Deep fried breaded goujons served with a barbecue dip</i> | 8 |
| 4 | Calamari Rings
<i>Seasoned chunks of squid served with sweet chilli sauce</i> | 8 |
| 5 | Prawn Cocktail Δ
<i>Served with Marie Rose sauce and brown bread and butter</i> | 8.50 |
| 6 | Baked Camembert Sharer
<i>Served with sourdough toast and onion chutney, perfect for two</i> | 12 |

Roast Dinners

All served with roast potatoes, vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and gravy

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 7 | Traditional sliced Roast Lamb, Roast Turkey, Honey and Mustard
Glazed Roast Gammon or Beef Brisket Δ Δ | 16 regular/14 small |
| 8 | Vegetarian or Vegan Roast
<i>Ask for today's vegetarian/vegan roast option</i> | 15 |
| 9 | Lamb Shank slow-cooked in red wine, garlic and rosemary | 19 |
| 10 | Roast Chicken Breast | 17 |
| 11 | Minted Lamb Chops | 18.50 |

Other Mains

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 12 | Cumberland Sausages
<i>Traditional 'swirl' sausages served with mash, peas, crispy fried onions and gravy</i> | 16 |
| 13 | Beef Lasagne
<i>Served with garlic bread and a salad garnish</i> | 16 |
| 14 | Battered Haddock ±
<i>Deep fried in a light and crispy beer batter. Served with chips and peas or mushy peas</i> | 17 |
| 15 | Spinach and Ricotta Cannelloni u
<i>Served in a tomato sauce, topped with creamy béchamel sauce & cheese, served with chips or garlic bread and a salad garnish</i> | 15 |

Δ Gluten free

Δ Dairy free

◇ Vegan

u Vegetarian

± may contain bones Oct25

The Galley Hall

PRE-ORDER YOUR PUDDINGS – ALL £8.50

- 16 Lemon Meringue Roulade served cold with cream Δ
- 17 Chocolate Brownie Sundae
- 18 Cheesecake of the Day served cold with cream
- 19 Tiramisu served cold with cream
- 20 Vanilla, chocolate or strawberry ice cream Δ
- 21 Lemon sorbet Δ ∇
- 22 Crème Brûlée served with a shortbread biscuit
- 23 Vegan Chocolate Orange Sponge served warm with vegan ice 'cream' ∇ Δ $\diamond$

FOOD ALLERGIES

If you suffer from any food allergies please speak to a member of staff to discuss your dietary requirements. There is a code system within the menu identifying gluten free/dairy free meals, however you must still discuss your requirements with our staff as many of our dishes need to be modified at the time of ordering to make them gluten/dairy free for you. While we make every effort to prevent cross contamination in our kitchen, we cannot guarantee that any food item we make is 100% free of any specific allergen

Δ Gluten free

∇ Dairy free

$\diamond$ Vegan

∇ Vegetarian

$\pm$ may contain bones Oct25

New Year Lunch
Sunday 18th January 2026
The Galley Hall, Hoddesdon

Name	Starter	Price	Main	Price	Dessert	Price	Total / person
Example	5; Prawn C	£8.50	7; Traditional Roast, Lamb, Reg.	£16.00	16; Lemon Meringue	£8.50	£33.00

Please state any allergies or special requirements:-

Booking form to Stafford and Lesley Steed, 4 Cedar Rd, Hatfield, Herts., AL10 8PA e.mail: Stafford.steed@btinternet.com With payment which can be made by:- Cheque payable to CSMA (NE London group) Cash Bank transfer to CSMA (NE London group); a/c details on request	Lead name - E.mail - Tel. -
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Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Nov	Sat 8	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
	Fri 14	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 28	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Sun 30	*	PCA (Cm)	Gravel autotest	South Oxon CC
Dec	Fri 5	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sat 6	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Jan	Sat 17	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Feb	Fri 6		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL
	Sat 14	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
Mar	Fri 6		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Sun 29		Bocardo Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC

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

Past Events

October 12 Car Rally The event hasn't taken place at the time of writing this, but we do have eight entries across the four classes, which is a good sign hopefully for future events.

Future Events

November 12 Car Rally 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 four classes:- RallyRun / Novice / Semi-Expert / Expert. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £18 per car. Organiser is Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on alanthurbon@yahoo.com.

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

12 Car Rally – A guide to the new format

- Any standard car can be used. Event limited to only 12 cars. Around a 45 mile route, timed at an average speed of 30mph. Friday evening, starting at 20:30, with the start/finish at the same location at a pub, for a social before and after the event.
- Novice class now split into **Semi-Expert** and **Novice** classes. **Expert**/Semi-Expert/Novice class based on navigators experience only. Expert/Semi-Expert class have to work out the route from navigation issued at controls around the route. Novice class will have the route issued before the start, so they can plot the navigation before leaving the start (and get help if required). Semi-Expert/Novice class have a more straight forward navigation style.
- Beginners class now called **RallyRun**, for anyone to use marked maps for as long as they like, which allows people to just enjoy doing the event. You can do all the same things as the other classes, but don't have to work out the route.
- Penalties are incurred for missing loops and booking in early/late at time controls. Time recording and route checks are done using a Smart Phone and the Timing App, which give notice when approaching a control/check, so you know you are on the right route.



RS Clubman Licence Requirement

<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!

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 28th November

The Farmers Boy PH, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166/028182 - Map 166

There are four classes:- RallyRun / Novice / Semi-Expert / Expert - £18 entry fee

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

Standard Navigation Guidelines for organisers – see regs for details

Organiser - Alan Thurbon (alanthurbon@yahoo.com)

Competitors required - Arrive before 7:45pm, first car starts at 20:31

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

Regs now available from Mike Biss or website

Dates for your Diary - 2025

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

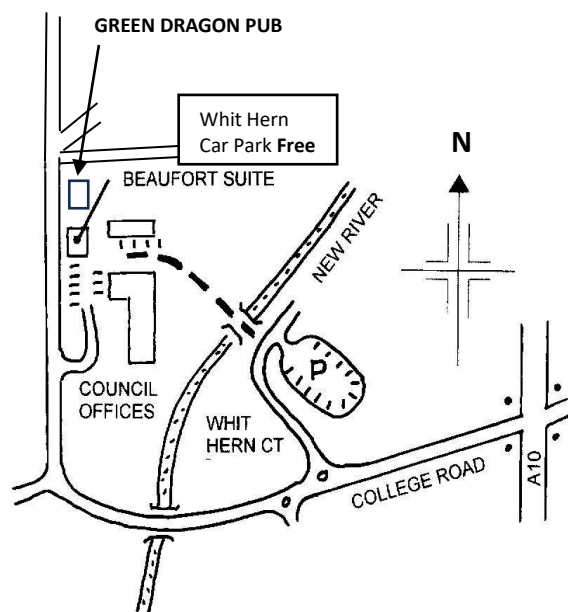
Month	Event
Nov	Tue 11 th – Clubnight: Speaker, Tricia Thompson – “Deck The Halls” Tue 25 th – Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ – Fri 28 th – NWL Group 12 Car Rally
Dec	Tue 9 th – Christmas Clubnight: Fun, Games & Festive Food
Jan 2026	Tue 13 th – Clubnight – (provisional) Talk on Street Art Sun 18 th – New Year Sunday Lunch
Feb	Fri 6 th – NEL 12 Car Rally Tue 10 th – Clubnight: Photos of Trip to Canada Tue 24 th - Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ

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 pay parking in the Council Offices and Whit Hern Court car park off College Road, then a short walk over the New River footbridge to the venue.

Free parking is available in the Whit Hern Park car park – entrance between the two white pillars, just beyond the Green Dragon pub in Churchgate.



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>