

The "Nelly" Newsletter

February 2026



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



Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



Next Clubnight –
- Tuesday 10 February
Robert's:
"Christmas in Switzerland"



NEL
North East London Group

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NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

Web Sites - Club: www.boundless.co.uk/nel or,
North London Region: <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>



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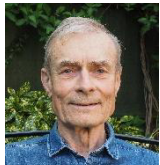
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Hi Everyone – Newsletter time again and this month's issue has a write up and photos from Staff of the New Year Lunch plus, an article from Robert on his recent Christmas trip to Switzerland – a taster for this month's upcoming Clubnight...

It's the AGM in March, for which you will find an agenda further on, with all the various officer reports appearing in next month's issue.

Around the time of last year's AGM, I suggested that after 15 years as newsletter editor in its current format, maybe it was time for me to relinquish the role and to ask if anyone else might like to step forward and take it on. Even give it a makeover maybe...?

As far as I'm aware, nobody has so far put their hand up, although Bernard has kindly taken on the role of distributing the postal copies.

With this year's AGM approaching, if anyone would like to give it further consideration, then now might be an ideal opportunity to let the committee (and me) know. ☺

You may remember a few years after we moved down here that I reported on how a ship passing through the channel had shed its load of timber, which then washed up on the local beaches. Fast forward a few years to 2025 and just before Christmas it was container loads of bananas at nearby Selsey – and now, frozen chips at Beachy Head (ready salted...?), along with various other fruit and veg. This no doubt explains why I came across numerous sacks of onions on the beach at Worthing recently.

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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Chairman's February Chatter

Welcome to February's Nelly Newsletter, keeping you up to date with our Group's happenings.

My little group of snowdrops have once again appeared, reminding me that we are halfway through winter and the optimistic daffodils are getting ready to follow on and add some colour to the garden. In Hertford last month we had at least five minutes worth of snow much to the amusement of my cats who were, as each year, fascinated with the spectacle of white stuff falling down on them.

Sadly, I was not able to enjoy our regular speaker, Paul Baker, who gave us a most colourful talk about street art in London last Clubnight but he is a most engaging fellow and I'm sure we shall see him again. Not such a big audience for him but he's quite happy with that size of audience.

A good gathering at the Galley Hall for our annual lunch and a good atmosphere – nice to see Steve and Jacki making an appearance, with Steve managing very well on sticks. And also our West Country crowd, great to see them and catch up with their news. Not so good for Ann who, with David, is currently not able to join us but those who did succeeded in making it a good social occasion, and thanks to Staff and Lesley for the organisation and Robert for running the raffle.

This month we will be taken to Switzerland by Robert who will be presenting to us the memories of his recent holiday there - Switzerland is such a picturesque country so looking forward to that – and we will also enjoy the further memories of his visit last year to Canada which, when I last checked, is still not a part of America. By then we will have run our 12 car on the 6th, thanks to Graham for planning the route and to Mike for taking on the final organising and on-the-day running of the event. We, or some of us, will be found at The Plough once again for our regular lunch gathering later in the month.

Having moaned about the lack of brightness with my car headlights, I invested in a pair of brighter dip bulbs at Halfords and had them fit the replacement bulbs. Poor chap, he who tried to fit them outside in the dark under a gazebo only managed to fit the easier of the two and after an hour and a half abandoned his efforts to replace the one on the nearside which was the important one. I'll get there in the end.

Both of my cars are experiencing gearbox problems, and I have come to realise how complicated these modern gearboxes are; all sorts of adaptive computer controlled bits inside that of course can go wrong but again I'll get there in the end, although with much damage to my wallet.

What's coming up?

Clubnight Tuesday 10 February – Speaker

We will share with Robert his memories of the recent Swiss holiday with snow-capped mountains and picturesque views of his travels and, as a bonus, photos of his trip to Canada last year.

Friday 6 February – NEL group are running their 12 car rally, details inside. No marshals needed, but bring along your laptop to the start and follow the action from inside the pub!

Group monthly lunch Tuesday 24 February

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 10 March – AGM and talk by Mick O’Blath on the Post Office Railway

No too formal but we need to agree on our committee for the coming year and look at how our finances are doing. The AGM papers are to be pre-read and are included elsewhere.

Mick spent many years of his Post Office career working underground on the Post Office railway network, an essential network of communication tunnels across London, and will explain how it all worked. This is going to be a taster for your visit to the Post Office Museum which is being organised by Alan Carr and will include a ride on the underground railway which runs some way along the now-closed railway. See the flyer and make tour booking.

Take care,

Bernard

ROBERTS RAMBLINGS

And so, we enter February, the shortest month of the year. Looking back to January club night, we had a talk on Street Art. Fascinating if you know where to look for it. This was followed by our annual New Year Lunch at The Galley Hall, where thirty-one of us enjoyed lunch. Thanks go to Lesley and Staff for all their hard work in organising it.

So, what does February bring.

Club night will be an evening of holiday photos, presented by yours truly, the countries being Canada in September and Switzerland for Christmas. Hopefully I shall have a mixture of stills and videos, and it leads me onto a plea. Does anybody else wish to try their hand at a presentation? Worried? then do not be. You are the expert is what my section head told me when I first gave a presentation, back in 1985. It was a scientific paper and when I had finished, I looked up to see a sea of scientific faces, all sitting in complete silence because, as someone told me later, it was so simple and practical.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find an extra article from me on my trip to Switzerland.

We then return, on the fourth Tuesday, to The Plough for our lunchtime meal. For those of you going, please tell John so he can book the appropriate numbers.

Looking into the future, March Clubnight, the 10th, will be the AGM. Put the date in your diaries.

Also in March, we are organising a trip on the Postal Underground Railway, hence why, after the AGM formalities, Mick will be sharing his experiences of when he worked there.

Keep it on the road.

Robert.

North East London Group

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 covering calendar year 2025

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

20.00 - 10th March 2026

1. Chairman's Introduction.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of 2025 AGM. (printed in March newsletter)
4. Matters Arising.
5. Chairman's Report. (printed in March newsletter)
6. Secretary's Report. (printed in March newsletter)
7. Treasurer's Report. (printed in March newsletter)
8. Competitions Secretary's Report. (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@googlemail.com

They should be received no later than 3rd March 2026

Refreshments will be provided.

The AGM will be followed by a talk on The Post Office Underground Railway by Mick O'Blath

Lunch Socials for February & March 2026



The next of our Lunch socials will be on Tuesday 24th February and 24th March starting at 12.30 pm 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 good menu at reasonable prices, together with a friendly atmosphere.

I will be pleased to see everyone - 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.

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

Contact me please by email fosterjohn92@gmail.com or Mob 07984723449.

Thanks *John*.

CAR FOR SALE

2021 (71 plate) TOYOTA YARIS DYNAMIC 1.5 HYBRID BI-TONE

(Platinum White Pearlescent with Black roof).

1 Owner, Full Toyota Service history and Warranty. Supagard from new.

Currently 21,300 miles . On board computer fuel consumption 68.1 m.p.g.

Only expenditure in ownership 2 x punctures , total £40 .

Rear seating virtually unused .

PRICE £13,500. New car is due in MARCH , so anybody interested MUST let me know and decide by the end of FEBRUARY.

Contact - MICK O'BLATH on 01920 423738 or mickoblath20@gmail.com

NEL Group Visit to The Post Office Museum - 12 March 2026



We have a confirmed time slot for 10 people on Thursday 12th March @ 12:00. (need to be there 10 Mins earlier) to visit the Post Office Museum at Mount Pleasant, a very apt name for a fascinating tour of their museum which will be followed by a ride on the underground railway that was used to distribute their mail around London



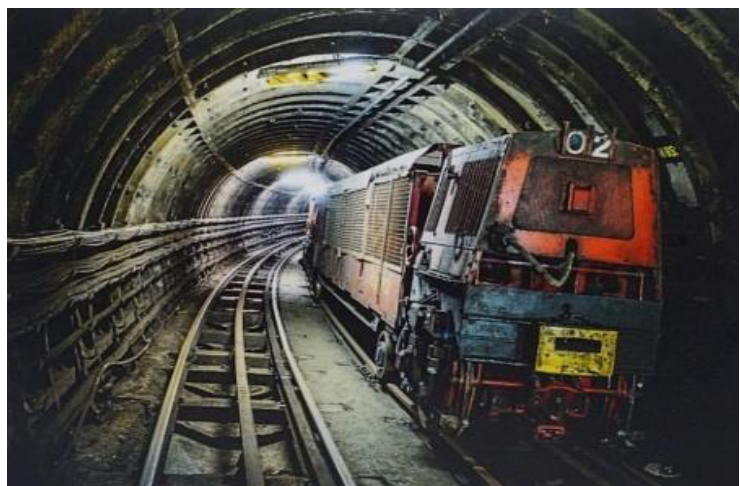
Additional people can be added, but only once. We will be required to pay the full amount 14 days before.

Cost of trip is £15.75 per person – contact Alan Farr farra58@hotmail.com to book your place and once confirmed, make payment to our Group account .

Website for further information:
www.postalmuseum.org

There is a café on site, but can think of elsewhere if we have takers.

Alan Farr



NEL New Year lunch – final wash up.

This years New Year lunch at the Galley Hall went down very well with a few Christmas lights still in place to give it a festive atmosphere.



A number of obstacles were put in the way for the pub staff to contend with. During the week a local services contractor had dug a hole in the road adjacent to the pub car park. On the day if you used a modern day Sat Nav it would have told you that the road was closed, this was coupled with road closure notices at either end of the road. Luckily we had all learned to ignore road closure signs and all managed to squeeze through the restricted access left by the contractor into the car park.

It was then noticed that the staff were having difficulty finding a home for a couple of the starters, this is where I put my hands up and admit to accidentally printing off a last years table place card with different menu choices for one of the tables. Luckily my error was quickly identified and the serving proceeded without further problem. It's time I learned about the potential problems of cut and pasting in Excel spreadsheets.



It was nice to see the members again from the Nelly SW of England outpost who travelled many miles in a miserable January to be with us, hopefully we can find a way of meeting up with them in the summer. Also, Steve Ames who hobbled in with sticks, probably first outing since his disagreement with a bus and had to have a pin inserted in his leg to hold it together.

Unfortunately two people who couldn't make it were Ann and David, you will have seen a picture of them in the January newsletter rocking to John's music at the Christmas club night. Unfortunately, Ann had a recurrence of cancer and, at time of writing, was still in hospital. Everyone at the lunch signed a card which we hope will cheer her up and hope she won't be in hospital for too long.

We had a good selection of raffle prizes; thanks to all those who brought additional items along to swell the collection. This coupled with Robert's new guide "The Trump method of Selling" produced a good profit which helped with the gratuity for the staff. The profit from the Heads and Tails also helped with the gratuity; this was won by Jeanette who clearly offered the biggest bribe to Bernard.

The Galley Hall has become a favourite haunt for Nelly in recent years so with thanks to Jasmine and staff may you continue to offer good service and we will continue to patronise you.

Stafford and Lesley

Christmas 2025 in Switzerland by Robert.

Having had a nice Christmas in Prague last year, 2024, I decided to do something similar for 2025. Deciding where to go was not a problem, Switzerland was top of my list, it was just which travel company to use. Due to recommendations, I chose One Traveller, which meant that all the booking was done over the phone, and not by a travel agent.

Day Zero:- Pre-Holiday Get Together.

As the flight departed on day one from Heathrow at 09.00, the company had arranged for overnight stay at the Radisson Blu Hotel, located on the Bath Road, near the airport. Arriving around 16.00, I was greeted by our Tour Manager, Jana Martinkova, collected my keys and found my room, before wandering down to the bar for a welcome drink at 18.15. Here I met most of my fellow travellers, before going into dinner to find my place, clearly located by my number. This system was used throughout the holiday, so you sat with different people each night at dinner. As the tour manager told us we are all getting an early morning alarm call at 05.15. I went to bed early.

Day One:- Travel to Adelboden via Zurich.

Waking up at some unearthly hour I wandered down for a good hearty breakfast, before a short mini cab ride to the airport. Passing through check-in, bag drop, security etc., I boarded the plane for a short flight of about 2 hours to Zurich. This was followed by a long queue to get through customs at Zurich, before boarding our coach for a three-hour ride to our hotel. We did have a stop half way. Arriving at the hotel, I made my way to my room, unpacked before a welcome drink in the bar. Armed with my camera I decided to take group photos, before going into dinner, which included another drink.

Day Two:- Berne.

This was a full day trip to Berne. The coach arrived at the Bear pit. This has now been improved to give the bears a larger area, and a lot of photographic opportunities followed. The group was then split into two groups, for guided walking tour round the city. This included their clock complete with moving puppets. The home of Einstein was also pointed out. Afterwards we were free to wander round the city. Einstein's home was closed, but I and a few others found a shop where they sold chocolate sweets. Some were filled with Gin which I had intended to bring home but I kept on sampling them to make sure they were all okay. The last one disappeared by Christmas Eve. We returned to the hotel for dinner and included drink.

Day Three:- Gruyeres and the Simmental Valley.

Again, a coach drive, this time through the Simmental Valley, region famous for its breed of cows. Stopping at the top of the pass, it was cold. Arriving at Gruyeres, which is often voted as one of Switzerland's most picturesque towns. No cars are allowed. An included fondue lunch, with wine, was enjoyed before a wander around the town. We returned to the hotel for coffee and cake, before dinner and included drink.

Day Four:- Zermatt and Matterhorn.

This day started with a coach trip to Fruitigen. We then continued our trip by train to Visp, before changing onto the Glacier Express to Zermatt. Here we changed onto the Gornergrat Mountain Railway, a cog railway which gave fantastic views of the Matterhorn. Well, it would have done if the clouds had allowed it. A lunch with wine, all included, was enjoyed by the group, although we kept dashing outside when the clouds lifted to take photos of the Matterhorn. We returned to Zermatt and then the hotel for dinner and included wine.

Day Five:- Interlaken and Lake Thun Cruise.

Christmas Eve and a more relaxing day. Firstly, a coach drive to Interlaken, where we left the coach for a morning walking round the town on our own. Meeting our tour manager around 13.00 we walked to catch the boat for an afternoon cruise on Lake Thun, with coffee and cake included. It was too cold to stray outside. On reaching Thun, we changed to the coach and returned to the hotel. As usual, dinner with wine and included, but afterwards the hotel had laid on, outside, mulled wine around a bonfire. We sang a few carols.

Day Six:- Schilthorn and Piz Gloria.

Christmas Day and for any fan of James Bond like me, this was a must. Firstly, a coach trip to Lauterbrunnen, where we changed to a new cable car to the top of the valley. A short railway trip to Murren, followed by a walk through the village to catch two more cable cars, which took us to the top of the Schilthorn. This mountain, and particularly the restaurant Piz Gloria, is famous for where they filmed "On Her Majesties Secret Service." If you are lucky and some of us were, you can sit in the bit that revolves. Afterwards we returned to the valley floor to catch the coach back to the hotel. A pre-dinner drink was followed by dinner and included wine.

Day Seven:- Adelboden.

This was the last day and so was spent round the town. Not relaxing, as it started out with cable car ride to the top of the mountain behind the hotel, watching all the locals skiing. Afterwards we descended to the hotel and enjoyed a horse and cart ride around the town. After this there was some free time for a bit of souvenir shopping. I bought a small troll for my tree, before returning to the hotel for included coffee and cake. A bit of packing before a final farewell drink, included, followed by dinner and included wine.

Day Eight:- Fly Home.

The saddest of all, as we returned home, but full of happy memories.

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NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 6th

March

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

Mike Harrison (mlh.bhm@btconnect.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

Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Feb	Fri 6	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL
	Sat 14	*	Donington Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Loughborough CC
	Sat 14	*	20/20 (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
Mar	Fri 6	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 13	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 29	*	Bocardo Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC
Apr	Fri 10		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
May	Sun 10		Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jun	Sun 14		Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jul	Sun 12		Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC

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

Past Events

February 12 Car Rally The event has not been held yet.

Future Events

March 12 Car Rally Starting from The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES, MR 166/189125, it will use map 166 (edition MAY 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be the usual four classes:- RallyRun / Novice / Semi-Expert / Expert and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £18 per car and the regs are currently available. The organiser is Mike Harrison and is contactable on mlh.bhm@btconnect.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 is on 14th February and will be reverting to full old school format with marshals and paper handouts, with food and drink at the finish. They are looking for some support from marshals.

Grass Autotests We still don't have a venue yet, but we are invited to all the Blackbird ones, which are held at Towcester.

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>

Almost all the 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 the above webpage, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute.

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

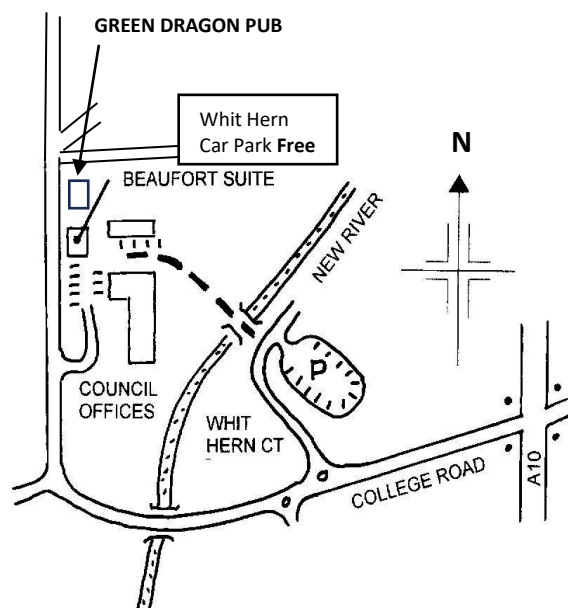
Month	Event
Feb	<p>Fri 6th – NEL 12 Car Rally</p> <p>Tue 10th – Clubnight: <i>“Robert’s Holiday Photos”</i></p> <p>Tue 24th - Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ</p>
March	<p>Tue 10th – Clubnight: AGM – plus, a talk on the <i>“Post Office Railway”</i></p> <p>Thu 12th – Trip to the Post Office Museum and Railway at Farringdon</p> <p>Tue 24th - Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ</p>
April	<p>Tue 14th – Clubnight - Speaker: Peter Warne, <i>“Wildlife In Epping Forest”</i></p> <p>Tue 21st - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY</p> <p><u>** Note change of date from 4th to 3rd Tuesday for this month only **</u></p>
May	<p>Tue 12th - Clubnight - Speaker: Tom Way, a talk on <i>“Wild Life”</i></p> <p>Tue 26th - 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 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>