

# The "Nelly" Newsletter

## April 2026



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or the News and Events website at : <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>



Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



**Next Clubnight –**  
**- Tuesday 14 April**  
**Speaker - Dr. Peter Warne**  
**“Wildlife in Epping Forest”**



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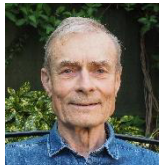
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*Hi Everyone*

*Newsletter time again and, if all goes to plan, this may well be the last editorial you receive from yours truly...!*

*Those of you who attended the AGM will have learnt that Alan Farr has agreed to take over the editor's reins, with the intention of starting from the May edition. I thank him for taking that all important first step and wish him well in continuing to keep you all (as well as Rosie and me!) up to date each month with all things "Nelly" related.*

*For the next May edition though, please send any articles to both of us and we'll take it from there...*

*Thanks to Staff this month for his photos of the group visit to the PO Museum and Railway.*

*Easter (and Storm Dave - fame at last...!) is almost upon us as I write this, so I hope you all have a good weekend, whether at home or away. Hopefully you will have been able to top up your fuel tanks for any planned journeys – albeit at great expense.*

*Righto then – thank you all for putting up with my monthly scribbles, observations and gripes over the past 17 years (and quite a few before that back in the 20th century); although I may still be tempted to do the occasional topical update from down here on the south coast. After all, you never know what's going to be washed up on the beach next week...!*

*That's (probably) all from me for now – Dave*

Please send copy for next issue to Alan Farr & Dave Rosher at the email address above: **to arrive by 24 April**

*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 April Chatter

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

Let's start off with March, which was quite busy. Our AGM started things off and, with no challengers, the committee was voted back on for another year. Alan, already on the committee, volunteered to give the editorship a try for a year to see how it goes, or how he goes. That was good news, not just for Dave the current editor but it brings it in-house and physically nearer to the committee. I'm sure it will remain in good hands.

A most interesting talk followed, by Mick, who gave us a revealing insight into what went on down below on the Post Office underground railway, and his own collection of memorabilia was impressive. This was the lead-in to Alan's organised visit to the Post Office Museum and Railway a couple of days later. We all were able to take a ride in the same train which was a nice idea as no-one could get lost.

It had always impressed me how expensive and rare the Penny Black stamps have become and the reason became clear when the museum guide explained that, from the very start, the stamps proved very popular and the recipients at the other end of the letter delivery soon realised that it was possible to peel off the stamp and use it again on their reply. The Royal Mail countered this by franking the stamp at the start of the journey but as they used black ink that didn't show up at all, hence they changed the colour of the stamps to red.

And another thing, the title Royal Mail came about because, to start with, there was a system set up that delivered only the King's mail. Even when this was rolled out to the public the name struck.

As this image shows, not all post boxes were red, especially those that were green (which they were before they were red).

Many think now that the cost of a stamp is outrageous, but I have just read an article about F1, and a single wheel nut costs around £50,000.

Later on we are continuing the theme of the post when, in June, we have a speaker telling us about The History of Postcards but before then our next two clubnights are on the subject of wildlife photography – read on.



What's coming up?

### **Clubnight Tuesday 14 April – Speaker**

As I mentioned, the speaker this month is a wildlife photographer, Peter Warne, showing his results of several hours spent in a forest quite near home, interestingly entitled Wildlife in Epping Forest.

### **Group monthly dinner Tuesday 21 April**

With the lighter evenings, we transfer our allegiance back to The Galley Hall - John would like to know if you are intending to join him, but don't turn up on the fourth Tuesday this month as we have brought it forward by one week to the third Tuesday.

### **Clubnight Tuesday 12 May – Speaker**

Still on the subject of wildlife photography, we welcome back Tom Way, a celebrated photographer, whose presentation this month is entitled Tooth, Claw and Mane which gives a good clue as to his subject matter, another enthralling evening, taking us much further away than Epping!

. Take care, *Bernard*

## **Crowdcasts**

This is something I have signed up to and it's proving interesting. Boundless are sending out these Crowdcasts regularly, in the evenings and by logging in to their platform, these half hour / 45 minutes presentations can be watched at home. Last week it was about Time Travel, a fascinating subject in which the speaker, an astronomer and scientist, presented the supposition that past, present and future all exist in spacetime, giving the analogy of a road, where you leave the past behind you, but it's still there, and the road ahead is the future, which exists but you only experience it when you get there. Travel into the future does exist as it is demonstrated when in space there is a finite balance of time and distance so a (really) long journey into space will result in a shortening of time so a return to earth would result in arriving in the future. Hard to visualise, so don't ask me any questions on it. The previous one was on an entirely different subject, they all are, which was disappearing villages. The speaker visits as many of them as he can, from abandoned settlements in Scottish islands to plague villages and those vacated forcibly by the Ministry to use as war invasion practice, Imber for example.

Well worth registering and tuning in to. *Bernard*

## **ROBERTS RAMBLINGS**

April arrives and that means just one thing. For Chocoholics like me, Easter Eggs. March clubnight was the AGM, and I must confess, it was the quickest I can remember. After the formal procedures we were treated to a talk by Mick O'Blath who reminisced on his time working on the Postal Underground Railway. Thank you, Mick. Two days later thirteen of us paid a visit to this Railway, and enjoyed a ride on the railway, and then had a guided tour round the first part of the museum. Thank you, Alan, for organising it. Finally, five of us went to The Plough for the last of the lunchtime meals before we switch to The Galley Hall next month.

So, what does this month hold for us. Clubnight is Talk by Peter Warne on "Wildlife in Epping Forest." This will be followed by the first of our evening dinners at The Galley Hall. As usual if you are going, please inform John, but please note for this month only it is on the THIRD Tuesday.

So, what has happened lately. Well, I switched my laptop on but after ten minutes the screen went blank. It was kaput, not working, dead as a Dodo and so I thought it is time to get a new one. Fortunately, I had already printed all the paperwork needed for the AGM. However, the day after the AGM I went to Currys and got a new one. This time I decided to take up a Care Plan, and with hindsight, I am glad I did. Firstly, I went back the following week, and the assistant loaded all the extra software I had bought. Coming home I connected my printer to the new laptop, and I then expected to download the software to run it. No, my account with HP remembered my old printer so it printed a document. However, it would not scan document. So, I rung the Currys help line and after I got through, the person at the other end connected his computer to my laptop and solved the problem. Money well spent.

I also spent a few days with my cousin at North Walsham. We went to visit the Muckleburgh Military Collection. It is a museum with a vast collection of military vehicles and other Army bits and bobs. Fortunately, none of the guns and ordnance are live. When you stand next to a tank you just realise how big they are. The museum was not that busy, but in the summer, it is very popular with school children.

Well, that is all for this month, so keep it on the road.

*Robert.*

## **Clubnight – 14 April**

### **Dr Peter Warne, “Wildlife in Epping Forest”**

Peter is a retired biologist by training and from an early age had an interest in wildlife and its appearance under the microscope. His macro photography is therefore mainly focused on capturing images of flora and fauna found in Epping Forest.

He is also the official photographer to the restoration project of Copped Hall where he photographs the wildlife and progress of the project. He is regularly found lecturing to photographic societies and wildlife groups. His photographs often feature in the British Wildlife Photography Awards.

*Stafford Steed*

## **Clubnight 12 May 2026**

### **Tom Way, “Tooth, Claw and Mane”**



NE London group are pleased to welcome back Tom Way. Tom is an accomplished Wildlife photographer. His work has been awarded in the worlds leading photographic competitions including Wildlife Photographer Of The Year and GDT European Wildlife Photographer Of The Year.

In Tom's latest talk he gives a detailed review of the most recent images taken on his travels. Tom will discuss one of the most exciting but also one of the hardest assignments in the last few years: photographing Tigers in India. He will also relive moments photographing Brown Bears in Northern Europe and the beautiful Camargue Horses. Tom will finish by his most current images from his African adventures focusing on Rhino, Cheetahs and Lions.

*Stafford and Lesley Steed*

# NEL Visit to The Post Office Museum and Underground Railway



Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Apr	Fri 10	* 12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
May	Sun 10	* Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
	Sun 31	Bullnose Rally (Inter/Cm)	Targa Rally	Oxford MC
Jun	Sun 14	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Jul	Sun 12	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Aug	Sat 8	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC
Sep	Fri 11	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 13	Autotest/PCA (Cm)	Grass autotest	Blackbird AC

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

### Past Events

**March 12 Car Rally** At last we had a 12 Car event that didn't have a problem. We even had 10 entries out, which all got round OK. Shame we only had one expert crew out. The weather was kinder this time, with most of the water experienced on the previous event, having receded. Just have to hope these numbers carry over into next season.

### Future Events

**Road Rally Insurance** Hopefully there is some good news coming soon about the high cost of on event insurance, like for our 12 Car rallies. Motorsport UK have been having talks with the insurance industry and are hopeful another provider can be brought into the market and help to reduce the very high fees that are hindering entries at the moment.

**Grass Autotests** We still don't have a venue yet, but we are invited to all the Blackbird ones, which are held at a field at Towcester. They are running an event each month between May and September, so why not join me.

**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

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#### 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

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

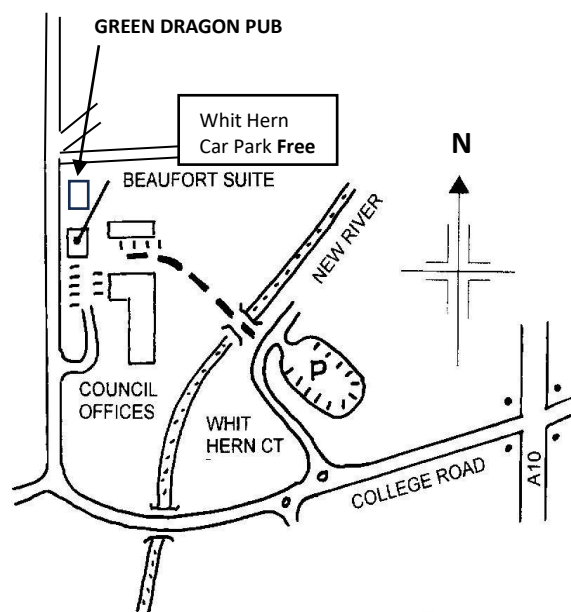
Month	Event
<b>April</b>	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight - Speaker: Peter Warne, <i>“Wildlife In Epping Forest”</i> Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY <b>** Note change of date from 4<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday for this month only **</b>
<b>May</b>	Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> - Clubnight - Speaker: Tom Way, a talk on <i>“Tooth, Claw &amp; Mane”</i> Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY
<b>June</b>	Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight – Speaker Paul Jiggins, <i>“The History of Postcards”</i> Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Pitch & Putt followed be a Noggin & Natter at King's Mead, Ware
<b>July</b>	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight – Committee Quiz Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> – Petanque at The Old Bulls Head, Ware
<b>Aug</b>	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> – Treasure Hunt – Venue TBC Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight – Mid 1960's Vinyl Record Night Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY

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](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>