

# The "Nelly" Newsletter

## May 2026



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>



In Memory of Ann an astute NEL Boundless member

**Next Club night –**

**- Tuesday 12th May**

**Speaker – Tom Way**

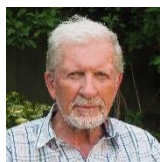
**“Tooth, Claw & Mane”**



**NEL**  
North East London Group

**boundless** BY CSMA

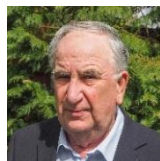
Web Sites - Club: [www.boundless.co.uk/nel](http://www.boundless.co.uk/nel) or,  
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**Chairman: Bernard Ward**  
07532 117 868  
Email: [bernard.ward3@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.ward3@btinternet.com)



**Secretary: Robert Daines**  
07944 732 890  
Email: [robert.daines12@googlemail.com](mailto:robert.daines12@googlemail.com)



**Treasurer: Stafford Steed**  
07964 612 619  
Email: [stafford.steed@btinternet.com](mailto:stafford.steed@btinternet.com)



**Competitions Sec.: Mike Biss**  
07753 137 415  
Email: [mike.biss@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com)



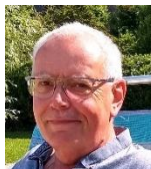
**Committee: John Foster**  
07984 723 449  
Email: [fosterjohn92@gmail.com](mailto:fosterjohn92@gmail.com)



**Committee: Lesley Steed**  
07984 760 950  
Email: [lesley.steed@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.steed@btinternet.com)



**Committee & Editor: Alan Farr**  
07493 283 762  
Email: [farra581@hotmail.com](mailto:farra581@hotmail.com)



**Outgoing Editor: Dave Rosher**  
07724 164 576  
Email: [nel.editor@boundlessevents.uk](mailto:nel.editor@boundlessevents.uk)

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*Hello Everyone*

This month I must report that one of our most supportive members has passed away, towards the end of last month after her fight with cancer. We shall have an abiding memory of Ann dancing away in the aisles at our Christmas Clubnight with partner David, to Buddy Holly.

*This my first newsletter. Hopefully not my last!*

*If my old English teacher could read this, she would be reading it in disbelief. But then I only had a Collins dictionary at my disposal. No AI or spellchecker in the early 70's.*

*I must also thank Dave for helping me into the editorship. He and Rosie have done a Brilliant job for the past number of years, 17 I believe. That 17 Years was supposedly a year trial at the helm.*

*A Few tweaks and possible additions may appear but overall will keep a similar format.*

*As a Club we can only continue with support from our readers. Perhaps pop along to one of our club nights, they are free along with a cup of tea or coffee, oh, forgot biscuits too.*

*Thanks to Pat for baking the cake to go with the teas and coffees on the last one.*

*Well, done to Lesley for organising a quiz at the end of Aprils meeting.*

*Perhaps the losing team should organise the next one? Only a thought!*

*Thanks for reading.*

*Alan (Editor)*

Please send any information that you wish to be included into the next issue to Alan Farr at the email address above: **To arrive by 24th May**

*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 May Chatter**

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

I must start off with some sad news, the passing of one of our regular members, Ann Mapplebeck, who passed away in hospital late last month, after suffering several months with cancer. Ann will be sadly missed, and our thoughts and sympathy go to partner David. We are aware that the funeral will take place on the first of this month, and we can supply details to anyone wishing to attend.

Clubnight was on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April - Peter Warne, presenting with the intriguing title of Wildlife in Epping Forest, gave us the lowdown on life on the forest floor, that is to say the fungi and flora, ending off with excellent images of two and four-legged animals that he had captured after, he admitted, many hours spent patiently waiting for just that right moment.

We introduced a quiz to the format of the evening, with the intention of keeping us together socially for a little longer, and this seemed to work very well. No prizes, no points awarded, just something to test our knowledge and round off the evening. The suggestion that the losing team should all be made to stand on their table and recite a page of Shakespeare was dropped due to Health and Safety concerns.

A table full at the Galley Hall resulted in some interesting chat over our evening meal but, as John points out, there is always room for more to join us – just let him know in advance that you intend to come.

This month we have another wildlife presentation, with a return visit by Tom Way, who will be reaching further afield to present us with images of maybe the Big Five. Tom is a most accomplished photographer and the evening is certainly something to look forward to.

We welcomed a new couple to last month's gathering, Keith and Gill Vincett and, if we haven't put them off too much, may well join us again this month. I can appreciate what David is experiencing at the moment but, should he feel that he might also wish to join us, then that would be very nice. If not this month, then when the time is right.

Ending off the month for me was a visit to the Morgan Motor Works in Malvern last week, taking a party from the Classic Vehicle and Motor Sports Groups to see the many stages of building their iconic sports cars. Very interesting and not a robot in sight. The guide was careful to only tell us the selling price of the cars at the end of the tour, once we had seen all the intricate work that goes into producing them, 250 hours per car they reckon.

While I was down that way I had arranged to call in at 'our' Motoring Museum at Bourton on the Water to delve into the archives that they keep of the activities of the Club, going back to when the various minutes and reports were produced in leather-bound tomes. I was surprised to see that all the motorsport trophies were now stored in the Museum, out of sight and therefore out of mind, in a dusty upstairs room. The motorsport side of the CSMA, now Boundless, has been gradually airbrushed out from the awareness of the general membership, sad to see. I was re-united with the magnificent gold-leaf Curtis-Bennett Trophy, gathering dust with everything else. My quest had been to discover the proof of when NEL Group was founded, but more of that later. Any guesses what year that was?

Finally, a meet-up with Dave and Rosie on the last Sunday when they were the organisers of the CVG Drive It Day run. At last, we had a sufficiently warm day to put the top down, although a scarf and cap were within easy reach – a grand day out.

What's coming up?

### **Clubnight Tuesday 12th May – speaker**

As I mentioned, the speaker this month is the wildlife photographer, Tom Way.

### **Group monthly dinner Tuesday 24th May**

With the lighter evenings, we have transferred our allegiance back to The Galley Hall.

### **Clubnight Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – speaker – The History of Postcards, maybe some of Cromer?**

Take care,

Bernard

## ROBERTS RAMBLINGS

I cannot believe it, but May is here. Unfortunately, I start off with some sad news. North-East London has lost one of our regular members, 'Ann Mapplebeck who sadly, has lost her battle against cancer. It only seemed like yesterday that I was talking to her on last years' trip on the Fish and Chip evening on the Ongar Railway Trip. I am certain that I speak for all members of North-East London in saying that our thoughts are with David at this sad time. Ann we shall all miss your cheerful presence.

Looking back to April clubnight, we were treated to an interesting talk on The Wildlife of Epping Forest. It was nice to see two new members on the night. These notes are being written just after the first of our evening dinners at The Galley Hall, where eight of us enjoyed a pleasant evening. As always, many thanks to John for the organisation.

Looking forward to May Clubnight, we have another talk on wildlife by Tom Way. A write up on this event appears elsewhere. After that we shall have our usual evening dinner at The Galley Hall, which returns to its usual slot of the fourth Tuesday in the month. Numbers please to John.

Keep it on the road.

Robert.

### ***Club night 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Tom Way, "Tooth, claw and Mane"***

*May club night we are pleased to welcome back, for the third time, Tom Way. Tom is an accomplished Wildlife photographer, speaker and runs a limited number of photographic safaris each year with the aim of helping others with their own photography and inspire them to also take evocative wildlife imagery.*

*His work has been awarded in the world's 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 beautiful Camargue Horses racing along Mediterranean beaches. Tom will finish by revealing the most current images from his African adventures particularly focusing on Rhino, Cheetahs and Lions.*

*Stafford and Lesley Steed*

## ZERO 2 BUS MUSEUM

During Easter the Zero2 Bus Museum opened at Great Yeldham in the Colne Valley north of Halsted. Located on the site of a former equestrian centre, it was developed by the Newman family who had sold their Ensignbus operation in the Thurrock area to First Group three years ago.

Not included in the sale was their Heritage Fleet that remained at Purfleet and operated on hire to First for a year until temporary storage was found in Burnham on Crouch until the site, that had inevitable planning and building delays was ready.

This was the scene on opening day, Good Friday, with the original equestrian centre building in the foreground that houses a comprehensive display of ticket issuing machines from the earliest time to the latest technology and different types of bus stops before national standardization. The attached building is a new body shop whilst at the rear is the maintenance and restoration workshop.



In the body shop is a unique bus, the only survivor of four specially built on a Thames Trader chassis by Strachans to provide a service for cyclists when the Dartford Tunnel opened in 1963. It looks as if cyclists needed to be mountaineers to reach the top deck but in the event very few used it and after eye-watering losses the service ceased within two years and a land rover with a trailer replaced it. Privately owned, its restoration elsewhere has been very slow but hopefully it will now be accelerated.

Recently acquired for the Museum but in need of complete restoration is a Bristol K type, new to Eastern National in 1948 which operated then in their Midland region around Luton/Bedford. It became one of Lesney's vast fleet of secondhand buses that transported their mainly female workers from many areas of east London to the gigantic Matchbox Toys factory at Hackney. It will eventually be returned to the well known Matchbox colours of blue and yellow. Alongside is one of London Transport RLH class, a low height bus with awkward sunken offside upper deck gangway.

Exported to Canada in 1971 an ex-pat found it derelict in 2004 and alerted Peter Newman's sons who repatriated RLH61, then being held together by straps after several winters in open, and restored it as a 65<sup>th</sup> birthday present to their father. (note Canadian lower licence plate).



The main exhibition shed contains a varied selection of some 50 buses each with a board with details of their history. Notable is the 1932 petrol-engined Leyland TD2 which was with Jersey Motor Transport (as J6332) until 1960. Purchased by Michael Banfield (son of coach operator Charles W Banfield of South London) it participated on the HCVC runs to Brighton and Ensignbus acquired it at auction in 2014 for £34,500. At 4 mpg it isn't likely to be going out much!

So, a fascinating collection of history has been saved from extinction and

for present and future generations to recall memories of travelling on vehicles of yesteryear.

And the name of the Museum? Zero 2 was Peter Newman's call-sign when Ensign operated their Round London Sightseeing Tours some 40 years ago.

*Owen Woodliffe*

Date	Day	Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
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

### Future Events

**Grass Autotests** We still don't have a venue yet, but we are invited to all the Blackbird AC ones, which are held at a field at Towcester. The entry fee for these events is £30 and entries are limited to 25, as only one test is run at a time, but there are usually six different tests run. They are running an event each month between May and September, so why not join John Clavey and myself.

**Road Rally Insurance** There is some good news announced today (Monday) from Motorsport UK, regarding a new cover scheme. It is based on the existing one through Kingfisher and looks like Motorsport UK are providing some guarantee to the insurers, so that premiums may return hopefully to their previous levels. The new system will have payment via a permit surcharge to MSUK, per car needing it (rather than as paid currently to Kingfisher), with this surcharge figure passed on to the relevant competitor. So drivers pay the club the fee as usual, but the club make a payment to MSUK, rather than to Kingfisher. Waiting to see how this works for pre-paid permits, but may be an addition to when entry numbers are entered on the MSUK website against the permit after the event. This doesn't affect those that have taken out a yearly rally policy. The new cost for 12 Car rallies is now £35, up from the previous £25, but a lot lower than the current £65. Unfortunately, it is still an expensive £60 for a full night rally. Hopefully this will see a few more people come back out again on the 12 Cars, now the cost of doing the event has gone back to affordable levels.

**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 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 - 2026

**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>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 (Committee Members) Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> – Petanque Competition and monthly dinner.
<b>Aug</b>	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> – Walking Treasure Hunt – Venue TBC Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight – Mid 1960's Vinyl Record Night (John Foster) Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> - Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY
<b>Sept</b>	Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> – Clubnight -Robin Claydon, <i>“Two Bears”</i> Tue 22 <sup>nd</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)  
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