

February 2018

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Why me? See inside

<http://new.ahc-eastern.co.uk/>

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

My motoring year always starts on New Year's Day with the gathering at the Royal Oak at Barrington. This started as a VSCC event and was in danger of disappearing when the organiser decided that after 30-odd years enough was enough. Fortunately for devotees it continues although there are more classics now than Vintageants.

This year there were around 60 cars braving the inclement weather including a number of AHC members. I am daft when it comes to open-top motoring but Pat and Zara beat me hands down as I mention later in the magazine.

The downpour reminds me of one trip to Le Mans with Terry Sprosson when we got caught in a drenching of the stair rod type, fortunately we were able to stop and put the umbrellas up and wait it out. Pat Kimber therefore gets the front page as hero of the week and Terry, seen here with John Harper, gets a special mention as he had a big birthday recently.



Rob

NEW MEMBERS

- Leo and Sian Mullen of Bedford have a 1965 blue over white Mk3 3000 in good condition.
- Neil Myhill of Dereham has a 1959 red Mk1 Sprite under restoration
- Robert and Jennie Harrison Of St Albans have a red 1958 Sprite which is due for a nut and bolt restoration

Welcome to the Club and I look forward to meeting you at one of our meetings in the coming year.

Stuart Self,

TOURING TROPHY - 2018

The Touring Trophy runs from AGM to AGM (October to October) with hopefully a few more sunny days this will tempt you out. If you want to be in with a chance of winning the Trophy let Richard Mayes (not the Editor) know your mileage in the following format.

Entrant	Date	Trip description	Trip	Total
Pat & Zara	20-01-18	Barrington	59	79

LITTLE GRANSDEN CAR & AIR SHOW 26TH AUGUST 2018

We shall again have a Club Stand at this popular event. If you wish to be on the Club Stand you **MUST** book through me.

Using the individual form available at the Little Gransden Show website www.littlegransdenshow.co.uk send the completed form together with a cheque made payable to R Mayes and a self-addressed A5 envelope (so that I can post your entry pass to you) to me and I will then submit them all in mid July.

117 Norton Way South
Letchworth G C
Herts
SG6 1NY

The Club Stands are limited to the first 10 people to enter. After that you will be parked in the general classic car area, you can of course still use the facility of the event shelter.

Richard Mayes

secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk

01462 623635

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

It has been a bit damp and dismal recently but it is a good opportunity to check the car over in readiness for the first outings.

I haven't made any headway with the Sprite project but hopefully I will have reduced the amount of oil leaking from the 100 and I am now officially old and boring, I had the interior out to give it a good clean. Is this the slippery slope descending to Concours?

There were a couple of gloriously sunny days when I couldn't resist taking the 100 out for a spin, I only did about a hundred miles but the garage floor is remarkably oil free so hopefully it will remain that way when the longer runs are tackled.

So far everyone I have spoken to likes the new Eastern Website, a big thank you to Mike Quinn who worked tirelessly over the Christmas break to get everything in place. There are additions in the pipeline and we hope to make regular updates to keep it fresh and interesting. One idea being discussed is to have a "Members Car Page" so if you have photos of a restoration, epic trip or if you are a long term owner with some "then and now" photos please send them in, we want to make the site friendly and welcoming.

The electronic Mutterings will usually be available soon after the Rev-Counter is delivered, unfortunately sending the individual member email notifications out has proved more problematic and time consuming than expected so we plan to send them for the next couple of issues but then they will stop. Hopefully getting the Rev-Counter will be a good reminder and I plan to put a short "Mutterings from the East" in each issue of the national magazine [as long as I remember the deadline!]

Don't forget to book your place at the **Spring Lunch** [18th March] with Andrew Hollick email andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk.

The April **Drive it Day** information will be on the website and a full calendar will also be found there as well as in RevCounter. There are plans to attend the May Battlesbridge Show so hopefully we will get the usual good turnout, please contact Angela Bonner [email social@ahc-eastern.co.uk.]

Chairman's chat continued....

June sees the return of the **Euston Park Rural Pastimes** event to our calendar, this was always a great day out and I am gutted that we will be on holiday when it is on, please contact Angela Bonner [email above] to get more details but basically you have to enter directly with them but make sure you mention that you are with the Austin Healey Club on the form, they will then organise the peg numbers so we are parked together.

New Members Day is in the planning stages and I gather it will be a big birthday party for the Sprite, Clive, Sue and all the helpers always ensure it is a terrific day out so make sure you are booked in.

There is a small group of us booked for **Classic Le Mans**, if you are planning on going please get in touch with me so we can make arrangements to meet up over the weekend.

Other than that all I can say is keep an eye on the website, make the most of this modern technology to get the maximum enjoyment from our old technology.

Happy Healeying,

Dave Holman.

EASTERN CENTRE WEEKEND 2018

The weekend is planned to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Sprite, and a special parking area is available for Sprites each day, so if you have a Sprite lurking in the garage dust it off or complete your restoration and bring it along! We look forward to seeing all our old friends and new faces too. As always we are limited in the number of places available, so don't delay - get that form filled in (See January Mutterings) and send it off with your deposit to ensure your place.

Angie & Chris Davis

canda3000@hotmail.com



CLUB TROPHIES 2018

The Chairman's Cup: Awarded to the club member that in the opinion of the Chairman and Vice Chairman has stood out with their work and efforts within the club. *Angela Bonner*

The Mutterings Contributor of the Year Cup: Awarded by the editor of Mutterings to the club member who they feel has contributed quality and readable articles to Mutterings. *David Singer*

The New Members Day Spirit of the Event Cup: Awarded at the end of the New Members Day event each year to the club member who as in the title, has entered into the spirit of things on the day. *Tony Withrington*

The Tourist Trophy: This goes to the Healey (all types included) that has notched up the most miles in the year. *Pat and Zara Kimber*

The Sprint Shield: Awarded by the Competition Secretary to the club member who has been most outstanding with an Austin Healey in motor sport that year.

The Sprinzel Trophy: To the Member who has done most for/in Sprites. *Pete Taylor*

The Why Me?? Trophy: Well we all make mistakes or have problems that should or could have been avoidable, but some of us seem to excel at it, so in recognition of their skill comes this trophy.

The Hollick Quiz Cup: This goes to the clever dick that wins the big quiz that we usually hold at the AGM social evening.

The Rudd Trophy is presented to the club member who it is felt deserves recognition for their behind the scenes work for the year. *Maggi Byford*

The Battlesbridge Cup: Awarded each year to a member who has contributed to raising the profile of the Eastern Centre at a local event. *Pete Taylor*

NEW YEARS DAY AT BARRINGTON

The weather was not good and this put a bit of a damper on proceedings but did not stop Pat and Zara, Dave Leary and Tony Withrington turning out in their Healeys. Pat and Zara had one of those character forming experiences that can only come with a drenching caused by the heavens opening when proceeding top down to one's chosen destination, in this case *chez* Byford. At least they were able to dry off and enjoy the soup and sarnies on offer. I thought a Mk1 3000's hood was difficult to erect, well it would appear that a Frogeye's is no better.



Dave Leary and his Frog braved the weather; Angie shows off Pat's smart Healey waistcoat: Soup and sandwiches were very welcome on a miserable day.



EVENTS FOR 2018

Main events organised by AHC or where we have a club stand or where we know AHC members are attending will be shown in **bold**. Check on the website for the latest information: www.ahc-eastern.co.uk

18th March: Sunday Spring Lunch. Season opener at Toft Meridian Golf Club, super roast lunch just to the west and slightly south of Cambridge. Contact Andrew Hollick on andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk

Daffodil Weekend, probably in April, details to follow, but David Wheeler has agreed to run this popular event again, his email is wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk

22nd April: Drive it Day: There will be lots going on marking this important motoring heritage event, keep a look out for your favourite.

29th April: Wings and Wheels, Old Buckenham Airfield, Norfolk, NR17 1PU. Book a space on their website.

4th/7th May: Northern Lakes Weekend based at Backbarrow, Cumbria. Paul Johnson on 01270 650593 is your contact for this one, his email is chairman@ahc-northern.org.uk

13th May: Battlesbridge Spring Classic Car Show, always popular with Eastern Centre members. <http://www.battlesbridge.com/events>.

13th May: Stody Classic Vehicle event, just south of Holt, north Norfolk. Beautiful rhododendrons and azealeas in the gardens of Stody estate, perhaps an alternative to Battlesbridge for our Norfolk members?

20th May: National Sprite 60th Birthday celebrations at Shelsley Walsh, near Droitwich. NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE. Tony Curran is planning a big family fun party to mark this important anniversary. Latest details on the website at Sprite60.org or from Tony on info@sprite60.org

Events continued...

27th May, Sunday. Elveden Estate classic car show in the walled garden in aid of NSPCC and Rotary charities. Information and please book through their web site direct www.elvedencarshow.co.uk

2nd June: **Saturday Letchworth GC Classic CC Picnic**. Relaxed afternoon with a real country picnic atmosphere, music, beer tent, teas, etc. Contact secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk

10th June **Sunday: Euston Park Rural Pastimes**. Great country show with all sorts of exciting events including classic cars. Your club contacts will be Angela on angelabonneruk@yahoo.com but please visit their web site as there is a lot of information re access points, programme deadlines, and entry forms. Please use the form then send to Angela well before end April so we can be parked together.

6th/8th July: **Classic Le Mans**. Super event well supported by Eastern members To link up with other local people or to travel as an AHC group contact Rob Ransom mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk

8th July: **New Members' day at Kimbolton School**. One of our major events in the year will return to its old format with the theme 'A Birthday Party' to celebrate 60 years of the Frogeye Sprite. Clive Cocks is organising as usual: rushme51@live.com

5th August: **Higham Ferrers Chichele Classic Car Show**: Contact Roy Murphy via Higham Ferrers Classic Car Show

26th August: **Sunday Little Gransden Airshow and Classic Cars**. Entries will be limited on the club stand again this year at this popular show, so keep abreast of developments later in the year. Your contact will be Richard Mayes on secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk

31st Aug/3rd Sept: **Eastern Centre Weekend, Ufford Park, Woodbridge**. In honour of the Sprite anniversary, Chris and Angie Davis are organising this one in the lovely Suffolk countryside. Please register your interest with them on canda3000@hotmail.com . If you want to go, tell them soon!

EVENTS AT BATTLESBRIDGE 2018



- May 13th - Classic Car Show and autojumble
- June 16th and 17th - Essex Vee Dubbers Volkswagen Show Contact: Scott Walker 07504 951014
- July 1st - Classic Motorcycle Show & Bike jumble
- August 12th - Classic Ford Show & Autojumble
- September 2nd - Essex Boat Jumble & Small Boat Sale Contact: Chaddock & Fox Promotions 02392 381405 (www.boat-jumbles.co.uk)
- September 30th - Thirty Second Annual Grand Motorabilia Day and Classic Vehicle Show including cars, bikes & autojumble

Visit the website for further details <http://www.battlesbridge.com/>

Dave Holman

OTHER EVENTS 2018

There will be two Classic Car Shows at Duxford, dates not available yet, 1st Saturday pub meet at The Horse and Groom, Cornish Hall End, 1st Sunday Breakfast Club at Colmworth village hall, (this starts again in the spring), 3rd Saturday pub meet at The Bluebell, Hempstead, and of course our regular Noggin and Natters, see back of Mutterings for details, not to mention all the race meetings, most classic events have Healeys competing, check the websites for details and dates.

Plenty already for you to note in your new diary, keep watching the website, don't forget now that Mutterings is electronic, without your current email address you may miss out, make sure we have this.

Stay safe, keep Healeying!!

Angela Bonner

SOCIAL WHEELS FEBRUARY, 2018 from Angela

With the New Year well behind us now I hope you are doing the final fettling to your precious Healey in preparation for a busy season ahead. There are nineteen firm dates on my list so far, not counting all the Noggins and once a month pub meets, so I'm sure you can find plenty to choose from to plan your spring and summer.

We start off with the **spring lunch** at Toft Meridian Golf Club, please advise Andrew on andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk of your intention to attend, so they have an idea of numbers. It will be a popular carvery so you don't have to choose your meal yet, only if you have special dietary requirements. Come and meet up with all the friends who have been hibernating through the winter!

There are several brand new events on the calendar this year, scattered around our area, and of course the **National Sprite Anniversary** celebrations at Shelsey Walsh, where there will be the chance of driving the hill climb course, but not under timed conditions, as there will be no marshalling available. Contact Tony Curran for details on this one, to attend and especially if you can offer to help out.

Some of the events are free to attend, but some charge for entry - as this is usually in aid of assorted charities I don't feel this is unreasonable. I know a lot of you have raised objections to this, as without the cars there is no show, but as owners we are a pretty privileged group - in my opinion, anyway - I hope you will attend, and pay with good grace!

Later on in the year the **Kimbolton Castle Classic Vehicle and Country Fayre** will be back to its popular themed Healey stand, Clive in charge again and he has decreed it will be 'A Birthday Party' in honour of the Sprite. No details yet, but I envisage paper hats, jelly, balloons etc so please contact Clive on rushme51@live.com to confirm your entry.

Please check the Events calendar on the website for full details on all our activities in 2018, it will be regularly updated as new events details come in.

HISTORY OF A CAR

How many of us know the full history of our car I wonder? As David Singer mentioned in his recent articles, history can help in enhancing the value of the car particularly if it is of the 'Stirling's bum sat here' variety. It is interesting to read therefore this description of a 100S up for sale in the Netherlands and to hear about the 15 recreations being made using it as a reference car. My thanks to John Bolden who sent it through.

AHS3708 was shipped to Gough Industries (California) on the 21st. of April 1955 and the car was purchased by Jim Parkinson of Burbank Sports Cars. Jim was a very competent racing driver and he raced most cars that he bought for a short period of time before selling them.

The only documented (to date) race that Jim raced the car was at the 29th. of January 1957 at the Los Angeles Country Fairgrounds in Ponomo, California. At this time Richard Shipman owned the car. It is highly likely that Jim raced the car on several occasions during 1955 and early 1956.

In early 1956 Jim Parkinson sold AHS3708 to Richard (Dick) Shipman for \$5,000 with less than 1,000 recorded miles in "almost new" condition Dick recalled in the year 2000 during an interview. Dick was a member of the Sports Car Club in California and he raced the car during 1956, 1957 and 1958. Dick always raced the car with the number 331.

In August 1958 Dick raced AHS 3708 for the last time at the Paramount circuit. Two drivers were killed during that specific meeting, and having recently got married. Dick decided to end his racing career.

In 1958 Dick over painted the Old English White over Lobelia blue paintwork with a coat of red paint as he thought that it would be easier to sell a red car. Dick traded AHS3708 for a Jaguar XK120 to Hal Eugene Conrad, who raced the car before selling it to Joel Ohnstad in 1963. Joel owned a large wrecking yard in West Los Angeles.

100S continued...

In 1966 Sherman Boring bought AHS 3708 from Joe Ohnstatd but only drove it occasionally. Whenever Sherman drove the car he tried to avoid the police, for fear that the car was illegal, due to it being a racing car without a full windscreen and bumpers.

In 1976 a well-known car collector Paul Haus bought AHS 3708 but he never used the car, but always stored it under a cover. In 1997 Jonas Liden from Sweden bought AHS 3708 and sent it to Jaye Engineering (Peter Jaye) in England for a restoration. In the two years that Jonas owned AHS 3708 he covered only 10 miles.

In July 1999 Colin Beasley from England purchased AHS 3708 attending many Austin Healey shows and historic racing events. In March 2005 Charles Matthews bought AHS 3708 using it on many European Austin Healey events winning the Healey Drivers Club Donald Healey Memorial in May 2006 and in September he competed with the 100S at Prescott Speed Hill Climb.

This Healey 100S is according to a variety of specialists known as 1 of the 2 most original 100S cars in the world. As this was the case, the restorers were given the opportunity by former owner Charles Matthews, to use this 100S as the example for the so called '100S project'.



15 Extremely detailed copies of the 100S are being built after recreating all of the 100S parts. Also enough spare parts are being produced to properly service the remaining original 100S's in the future.

I guess this car is one that the majority of us could only dream of owning but it is worth a look at their website: <http://www.houtkamp.nl/> as they have another Healey there and more photos.

CAMBRIDGE CAR CLUB CLASSIC CAR RUN 2018 - 29TH APRIL

This year the event is part of the Historic Rally Car Register's Scenic Tours Series.

The run will again start and finish inside Duxford Imperial War Museum
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford> .

Entrants will have a choice of longer or shorter circular tours around interesting country roads with stops for breaks and refreshments. The entry fee of £55 will include the entry for driver and passenger into the War Museum for a complete day out.

Enjoy the drive, meet fellow entrants and still have time to enjoy Duxford IWM and other places of interest.

The Regulations and entry form are available at
<http://grounds.org.uk/CCC/Classic/CamClassicEnt.html>

I have taken part in this run for a number of years as do one or two others from the Club including Joe Herbert who can be seen on the right at last year's event. It is highly recommended and is an excellent day out.



Rob

PS Joe's cv would put most of us to shame and I was particularly interested to see that he has written a paper entitled 'Testosterone: sex, power and the will to win'. Having just watched a documentary about the rivalry between James Hunt and Nikki Lauda this would appear to me to be the ideal title for a biography of our 1976 F1 World Champion!

ONGER NOGGINS

Frank Rush is hoping to reinstate the *Onger Noggin 'n' Natters* and asks that members located in the South Essex Postcodes SS, CM, & RM be asked if they would be interested in a centrally located meeting somewhere to be agreed on a monthly or by-monthly basis.

If you are interested in a regular meet-up please contact our membership secretary Stuart Self <mailto:membership@ahc-eastern.co.uk>

FROM THE 50TH

Every month running up to the Sprite 60th Anniversary celebrations I will include pictures from the 50th held at Goodwood in 2008



From top right: Pat and Angie Harris arrive in style. Angela Bonner's 100 in its maroon days with my old Sprite behind, Roger and Maggi Byford.

NOGGIN `N` NATTERS

Colchester area	Varies	Contact	Tony Poulter	07835 653199
St. Albans area	First Tuesday	Contact	John Keener	01494 728360
<i>Crown and Sceptre at Bridens Camp, Water End, HP2 6EY</i>				
Suffolk area	Varies	Contact	Garrow Shand	01394 389013
<i>Regular road runs and pub meets - contact Garrow for details</i>				
Cambridge Area	2nd Wednesday	Contact	Rob Ransom	01223 524821
<i>St Ives Golf Club, Joint meetings with Cambridge and District Car Club</i>				
Ongar Area	2nd Wednesday	Contact	Jim Sweetingham	01268 545429
<i>Old Kings Head, Stock, Ingatestone, CM4 9PQ</i>				
Biggleswade Area	Varies	Contact	Clive Cocks	01933 551885
<i>Contact Clive for venue and timing</i>				
W Norfolk area	2 nd Thursday	Contact	Dave Holman	01366 347412
<i>Varies: Contact Dave for the latest information</i>				
Bury St Edmunds	Varies	Contact	John Bolden	01359 240153
<i>Location varies</i>				

EASTERN CENTRE COMMITTEE 2016/17

CHAIRMAN	DAVE HOLMAN	chairman@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01366 347412
NEC DIRECTOR & TREASURER	MAGGI BYFORD	treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01763 242910
WEBMASTER	MIKE QUINN	webmaster@ahc-eastern.co.uk	
COMPETITION	Vacant		
EDITOR	ROB RANSOM	mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01223 524821
MEMBERSHIP	STUART SELF	membership@ahc-eastern.co.uk	
SOCIAL & INT. SECRETARY	ANGELA BONNER	social@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01223 890311
MSA LIAISON	RICHARD MAYES	secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01462 623635
TROPHY MASTER	ANDY HOLLICK	andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk	01223 263089

GENERAL MEMBERS

JOHN KEENER	healeynutjk@yahoo.co.uk	01494 728360
PATRICK LOUSADA	p.lousada@skikitz.co.uk	01908 582851
TONY WITHRINGTON	tony.withrington@gmx.co.uk	07903 542903

TECHNICAL SECRETARIES

100, 100/6 & 3000	DAVE HOLMAN	01366 347412
SPRITES (All Marques)	PAT KIMBER	01920 420642
WARWICK HEALEY	JOHN KEENER	01494 728360

VALUATION OFFICER FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

DAVID SINGER	david@classicresearch.co.uk	01787 476264
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Produced by the Eastern Centre of the Austin Healey Club. Comments and opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club or the Committee.