

April 2018

# Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE  
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



*The Pipemajor emerges from his winter hibernation to  
attend the Toft lunch*

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

## ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Andrew and Paula organised another successful spring lunch at the Toft golf club and you will find a few photos later in Mutterings including one of me being presented with a mole! Regular followers of my typos in Mutterings will remember that I complained about not having put many moles on my car last year. Well I have one now!! Thanks Angela.

A number of familiar faces were missing, not only because of the weather and I was sad to hear that Jim Stevenson, a well known club member from near Royston, had died. You will find details of his remembrance service also later in the magazine.

**Rob**

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## SYMPATHY FROM THE DEVIL

*Rob*

*Reading your article on gaining a cold from grandchildren I feel I must point out that research has shown that germs when incubating in grandchildren generate a side effect on the majority of people connected with the grandchildren, this in turn causes a reaction from said people so "Bless them" and "little darling" and many more sympathetic statements are made as runny noses are wiped. (Or licked!!!)*

*However when these germs mutate and are freely given to Grandparents (I hasten to add here most Grannies/Nannies/grandmas etc. are not affected so badly) but the male when suffering with a full blown flu like cold gets no sympathy but does receive comments such as "MAN UP". It is also proven that energy levels in grandchildren do not change when a cold is present but the mutated version tends to eradicate any energy (if there was any in the first place) from grandparents.*

*Regards*

*Clive Cocks*

## 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	20-03-18			79

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## LITTLE GRANSDEN CAR & AIR SHOW 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

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](http://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 at:

117 Norton Way South  
Letchworth G C  
Herts  
SG6 1NY

I will then submit them all in mid July

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](mailto:secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

01462 623635

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

By the time you read this Spring will have officially Sprung, whether the weather will recognise the official start of the season is another matter altogether. Hopefully all the cars will be raring to attend all the events on the horizon. The Toft Sunday Lunch had members from far and wide, unfortunately I couldn't attend due to other commitments that could not be changed, but I am told all attendees had a fun time and a good meal. There will be photos from the event elsewhere in this newsletter [Unless you have already paid Rob Ransom the appropriate amount to keep them out of the public domain!]

A friend in the Association of Healey owners mentioned there is a Classic car meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> April at the White Lion Inn, Lower Ufford near Woodbridge. It is mainly for earlier cars than ours but is an interesting day out.

I hope you will all find a local run to attend for Drive it Day, our nearest one will be a run into Lincolnshire but there is always the Silverstone VSCC meeting to fall back on if nothing else takes your fancy.

Then the Battlesbridge show on May 13<sup>th</sup> will be approaching, contact Angela Bonner [email [social@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:social@ahc-eastern.co.uk).] if you want tickets to attend. Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the Letchworth Classic Car Picnic, always a fun relaxing family day out. The contact for that is Richard Mayes, email [secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

June also sees the Euston Park Rural Pastimes Show near Thetford on the 10<sup>th</sup> [Let Angela Bonner know [email [social@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:social@ahc-eastern.co.uk).] if you want to attend, usually you book direct with the organisers and mark your entry Austin Healey Club, they then arrange the peg numbers so we are parked together. Check out their website for details. <http://www.eustonruralpastimes.org.uk>

The following events are still a long way off but don't forget if you want to attend the Little Gransden Airshow on 26<sup>th</sup> August it is worth contacting Richard Mayes now as it is very popular, [email [secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk) ] if you want to join the club stand there are limited spaces, but you can still come with your Healey and park in the classic car park and join in the fun. Here again you have to download an entry form [ <http://www.littlegransdenshow.co.uk/> ] and send it with payment to Richard who will make the club arrangements.

## ***Chairman's chat continued...***

The other unmissable event that needs booking early is our Eastern Centre Weekend in glorious Suffolk, the information is available on the Eastern website, contact Chris and Angie Davis for more details [canda3000@hotmail.com](mailto:canda3000@hotmail.com).

If you are coordinating the Healey presence at a show this year please contact the social Secretary, we would like to make every event a Sprite birthday party and we were thinking provision of soft drinks, "nibbles" and maybe a cake where possible would help the party atmosphere. Contact us to discuss your options.

Progress on the Sprite is still non-existent, I am out in the garage but have got side-tracked by my niece's Harley Davidson, trying to make it more reliable and service friendly, some custom builds never cease to amaze, why would you want to remove a rear mudguard to get the battery out? Especially when it is an old 1200 V-twin that needs more battery maintenance than most!

Happy Healeying.

**Dave Holman** [westland1606@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:westland1606@yahoo.co.uk)

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## **PICTURE QUIZ**

*It's a bit unfair asking for details such as time and place but the driver is Donald Healey and the place is somewhere in France.*

*Looks pre-war to me. RH drive car - could it be a Triumph?  
DMH worked for them before the war.*

*Come on you brainboxes.*



# LETCWORTH CAR CLUB PICNIC 2ND JUNE

This popular event takes place on Saturday 2nd June at Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston, Hertfordshire, SG4 7DP.

The event is a committee sponsored event and we have arranged to have club space so that we can all park and picnic together, with our event shelter to protect us from the brilliant sunshine that has been arranged.



**HALLS GREEN 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2018**  
Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston, Herts. SG4 7DP

LETCWORTH CLASSIC  
& VINTAGE CAR CLUB

**TRANSPORT PICNIC**

11- 5pm Price: £5 cars • £2 motorbikes • £2 pedestrians  
LOCAL BAND, REFRESHMENTS, ACTIVITIES, STALLS & MORE!

For more details please contact:- [picnic@lgccvcc.co.uk](mailto:picnic@lgccvcc.co.uk) 01462 674347 or visit [www.lgccvcc.co.uk](http://www.lgccvcc.co.uk)

THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ADMISSION

Please let me know if you intend to join us so that I can arrange the appropriate space. For full details see [www.lgccvcc.co.uk](http://www.lgccvcc.co.uk)

**Richard Mayes**

[secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

01462 623635

## COMMITTEE MATTERS

It really does, if you like the fact we have local gatherings for local people please consider joining the committee to have your say on the way Eastern Centre is run. The saying "many hands make light work" holds true for coordinating events and the basic day to day stuff of keeping the Centre operational. Most of the current committee have been in positions for a long time and we would welcome fresh ideas and input, the Healey World is very different to what it was 40 years ago and it would be good to keep the club relevant to modern needs.

Due to new commitments, two of our committee are standing down at the next AGM in October so we will need a new Webmaster and a new Membership Coordinator, computer literacy is useful but the hard work of setting things up is already done so both posts just involve regular updates and won't require programming skills! There are committee meetings every two months which are fun and sociable events and arranged to suit member's convenience, but of course thanks to the wonders of technology it is possible to resort to email communication so full attendance isn't totally essential, though preferred. The departing personnel will both be available for mentoring and assistance for the new post holders; in addition there will be support available from the National webmaster and Membership secretary.

Please contact me to find out what is involved.

**Dave**

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## SPRITE FOR SALE

Kevin Donne is breaking his Sprite and all parts are available or the whole car for £450. He needs to clear his garage so it has to go.

The car is in the Woodbridge area

[Kevin <kjdonne@yahoo.co.uk>](mailto:kjdonne@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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](http://www.ahc-eastern.co.uk)

**19-22<sup>nd</sup> April: Daffodil Weekend**, contact David Wheeler who has agreed to run this popular event again, his email is [wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk). There are a few rooms left, worth getting in touch.

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

29<sup>th</sup> April: Wings and Wheels, Old Buckenham Airfield, Norfolk, NR17 1PU. Classic cars very welcome here, driver free, others £2. Book a space on their website.

29<sup>th</sup> April: Cambridge car club classic car run from Duxford. See later in Mutterings

**13<sup>th</sup> May: Battlesbridge Spring Classic Car Show**, always popular with Eastern Centre members. <http://www.battlesbridge.com/events>. Contact me **very soon** as the windscreen passes have to go by post twice!! Free to Healey owners if you want to be on our Club stand. Queuing likely in the morning if you are not early. Bacon butties in abundance!! [angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**20<sup>th</sup> May: National Sprite 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday** celebrations at Shelsley Walsh, near Droitwich. National are planning a big family fun party to mark this important anniversary. Latest details on the website at [Sprite60.org](http://Sprite60.org) or from Tony Curran on [info@sprite60.org](mailto:info@sprite60.org)

27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.elvedencarshow.co.uk)



## **Events continued...**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June: Saturday Letchworth GC Classic CC Picnic.** See flyer in magazine. For booking contact [secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

**10<sup>th</sup> June Sunday: Euston Park Rural Pastimes.** Great country show with all sorts of exciting events including classic cars. Your club contact will be Angela on [angelabonneruk@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

**8<sup>th</sup> 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 Froggy Sprite. Clive Cocks is organising as usual: [rushme51@live.com](mailto:rushme51@live.com)

28 July: Classics on Ely Cathedral Green. <https://www.cdccc.uk/events/2018/>

**5<sup>th</sup> August: Higham Ferrers Chichele Classic Car Show:** Contact Roy Murphy via [Higham Ferrers Classic Car Show](#)

**26<sup>th</sup> August: Sunday Little Gransden Airshow and Classic Cars.** Entries will be limited on the club stand again this year at this popular show. Contact Richard Mayes on [secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

**31<sup>st</sup> Aug/3<sup>rd</sup> 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. There are one or two rooms left so contact them on [canda3000@hotmail.com](mailto:canda3000@hotmail.com) . If you want to go, tell them soon!

**Angela**

## SOCIAL WHEELS APRIL 2018

Our **spring lunch** at Toft Meridian Golf Club was hosted by Paula and Andrew Hollick, a very good carvery with delicious desserts to follow. Despite the extreme cold almost all those expected arrived, nobody brave or foolish enough to bring a Healey out, but Andrew brought his BMW 'soft top'. True, they only live just down the road - if you twist his arm he might let you buy it.

The **Daffodil Weekend** April 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> has a couple of rooms still, worth enquiring if you have a last minute chance to go to this lovely event. David on [wheelerd@bluyonder.co.uk](mailto:wheelerd@bluyonder.co.uk)

April also has **Drive it Day** on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Watford and District CCC are hosting a rally at Milton Keynes Museum, McConnell Drive, Wolverton, MK12 5EL, contact Mark Rolfe on 07538 742980 for joining this one.

Another is a **St Georges Day/Drive it Day** run in north Norfolk in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance starting from Sheringham, NR26 8RE and ending at Holkham Hall, by courtesy of the Earl of Leicester. Please contact Roy Beckley on 01263 837619 or 07775 807567, they would like a minimum donation from classics of £10 please.

Last Sunday in April has **Wings and Wheels** at Old Buckenham airfield, NR17 1PU, see their website for details and to book in, driver free, passengers £2 each please.

**Stratford Festival of Motoring** is on Bank Holiday weekend Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, wrong details were given as 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> July, but all details are on their website at [events@stratforward.gv-c.com](mailto:events@stratforward.gv-c.com). Italian themed this year, but all are welcome to book in.

May 13<sup>th</sup> brings us **Battlesbridge Spring Classic Car show**. Make sure you **let me know SOON** on [social@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:social@ahc-eastern.co.uk) if you want to join us on the stand - for free thanks to Dave Holman's negotiating prowess - the windscreen passes have to come to me Royal Mail and then get out to you same way, don't leave it too late or you may have to pay to join general parking. This is a good day out with extensive auto jumble vendors. Lots of antiques to browse through, the Motor Cycle Museum is fascinating, and some plants as well, don't miss this one!

## *Social Wheels continued...*

The same day there is a new, for us, **Classic Vehicle event at Stody**, this estate is just south of Holt in north Norfolk, where there are beautiful gardens to explore, full of rhododendrons and azaleas, which are expected to be in full bloom then, handy for our Norfolk members not wishing to drive south for Battlesbridge.

The following Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May is the **National Sprite Anniversary** celebration. The entire Shelsley Walsh site has been secured for this event, and there will be opportunities for a drive or passenger ride up the hill and a concours event for Sprites and Midgets only. Please contact Tony Curran to help and/or attend on [info@sprite60.org](mailto:info@sprite60.org)

The last Sunday in May offers a **Classic Car Display** in the walled gardens of **Elveden Estate**, all the information and to book direct is on [www.elvedencarshow.co.uk](http://www.elvedencarshow.co.uk) apart from the lovely selection of cars there are superb refreshments and a gift shop loaded with pretty and unusual presents.

The first Sunday in June is the popular **Letchworth car club picnic**, a great chance for a chat and catch up with other classic enthusiasts, we are hoping for proper 'picnic' weather to enjoy this lovely and relaxing event.

Please check the Events calendar on the website for full details on all our activities in 2018, there are no more paper Mutterings, and this will be your only guide. It will be regularly updated as new events details come in, so don't miss out on anything.

### **Angela**

*Seen R presenting your editor with Miles the Mole at the recent Toft lunch.*



## EVENTS AT BATTLESBRIDGE 2018



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

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

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## OTHER EVENTS 2018

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday pub meet at **The Horse and Groom, Cornish Hall End**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Breakfast Club at **Colmworth village hall**, (starting 1<sup>st</sup> April), 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday pub meet at **The Bluebell, Hempstead**, and 1<sup>st</sup> Friday (starting in the spring) at the **Royal Oak Barrington**, near Cambridge. Don't forget 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.

**Duxford** has **6<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> August** for car shows, but these are now PRE-BOOKED ONLY, see their website.

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

Stay safe, keep Healeying!!

**Angela Bonner**

## JIM STEVENSON

Sadly we had news in the middle of March that Jim had lost his battle with cancer and he died at home on 10th March aged 71 years.

He was a regular at his local meetings and had taken part in the "Daffodil Run" events up at Hunstanton and the famous French Forays, amongst others, in his rare HMC, one of the few Healey recreations sanctioned by the Healey family.

He left very clear instructions as to what was to be done after his death, so Jane is arranging a private, family funeral and burial at St Nicholas Church, Codsall near Wolverhampton where he was born and brought up.

It was his wish for friends and family to celebrate his life nearer his last home, so Jane and the family invite you to attend a Thanksgiving Service for Jim's life at St Peter & St Paul Church, North End, Bassingbourn, Royston, SG8 5NW at 12 noon on Thursday 26th April and then to join them afterwards for a reception and buffet at Steeple Morden Village Hall, Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Royston, SG8 OPD.

If you plan to attend please let Jane know for catering purposes.

[Jane Stevenson](#)



Our thoughts and condolences go to Jane and the family.

# CAMBRIDGE CAR CLUB CLASSIC CAR RUN 2018 - 29<sup>TH</sup> 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>

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## ONGAR NOGGINS

I live in Ongar and have a 3000 Mk2, although I'm not around all time, I would be very interested in meeting up if there was an N & N locally.

Kindest regards

Del Roll

0203 362 4462

07557 368900

If you are interested in a regular meet-up please contact Del or our membership secretary Stuart Self

<mailto:membership@ahc-eastern.co.uk>

## CAMBRIDGE SPRING LUNCH 2018

This is a great season-starter organized by Paula and Andrew Hollick and this year's saw attendees from across the region: Mersea, the wilds of Suffolk, Norfolk and Northhants-ish alongside those that could walk to the golf club!

It was good to catch up and to hear many a shaggy dog tale and plenty of excuses regarding the winter overhaul that somehow was overtaken by fitting a new bathroom or some other such diversion!

Food was great, company exceptional but I will be glad when I am able to remove my long-johns and put my shorts on - the weather was against top-down motoring - even in a Healey.

**Rob**



*Plenty of familiar faces but it was nice to see some less so: Matthew and Stephanie Welch, above, joined Pam and Neil Williams having met on a Healey event in Germany.*



## 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>				
Biggleswade Area	Varies	Contact	Clive Cocks	01933 551885
<i>Contact Clive for venue and timing</i>				
W Norfolk area	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 2017/18

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SPRITES (All Marques)	PAT KIMBER	01920 420642
WARWICK HEALEY	JOHN KEENER	01494 728360

## VALUATION OFFICER FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

DAVID SINGER	<a href="mailto:david@classicresearch.co.uk">david@classicresearch.co.uk</a>	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.*