

March 2018

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



*Terry Sprosson and 100 somewhere in France en-route
to Classic le Mans 2012*

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

I have got myself rather behind with things this month and apologise for the late posting of *Mutterings*. I would like to say that it is because I have been busy fettling the Healey or failing that that I have been on some exotic cruise but no, I have had a cold. Not one of your namby, pamby common or garden colds but one I inherited from those germ incubators known as grandchildren and I am sure that you know how bad they can be!

Sympathy would be most welcome as I haven't had much from Jayne - or anyone else for that matter! As you would expect I don't complain and manfully battle on but losing a couple of days did not help with hitting deadlines.

Rob

NEW MEMBERS

Some interesting figures were tabled at the recent National committee meeting showing the membership numbers for each region and I include them below.

Centre	2016/7 Peak	Oct 2017	Current	Gain since Oct
National	29	26	26	0
Eastern	223	219	229	10
HealeySport	97	89	92	3
Midland	340	317	335	18
New Forest	173	169	176	7
Northern	346	337	351	14
South Western	232	228	241	3
Southern Counties	257	253	259	6
Thames Valley	164	163	169	6
Totals	1861	1801	1878	67

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	20-02-18			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 is surprising how quickly the days go past, the short month of February has been so damp and dismal up here I haven't had a chance to exercise the car this month but it will soon be time to enjoy open air motoring again [think positive!]. I have been doing a bit of reading to refresh the memory as I had a question about the changes made to works 3000's as a replica is in the offing. I look forward to having a chance to see the work in progress.

I have been advised the **Noggin and Natter at Ingatestone** has ceased as the Pub has closed, if you have a good "Local" in the surrounding Essex area and want to arrange a meeting please contact our Social Secretary Angela Bonner email social@ahc-eastern.co.uk. or the Membership secretary Stuart Self membership@ahc-eastern.co.uk

Whilst on events this may be your last chance to check with Andrew Hollick email andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk. to see if there are any places left at the **Toft Spring Lunch** 18th March and don't forget Saturday 2nd June, 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

The **Wonderful Weekend** organised by Chris and Angie Davis at Ufford Park near Woodbridge [August 31st/ Sept 3rd] is filling up fast so if you want to celebrate the Sprite's birthday in the East don't delay, book soon. The form was in the January Revcounter but is also available by email if you have misplaced it, contact email is canda3000@hotmail.com

Don't forget if you have a favourite event you attend in your area and would like to see a few Healeys attend don't be afraid to contact Angela Bonner, or get a mention put in Mutterings by contacting Rob Ransom, it is always good to have options on the calendar.

Back to the garage now, unfortunately just to work on doors for the house, maybe next month I will get back to the Sprite.

Happy Healeying.

Dave



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.

As of the end of February there are a few places left so please get in touch ASAP!

Angie & Chris Davis
canda3000@hotmail.com



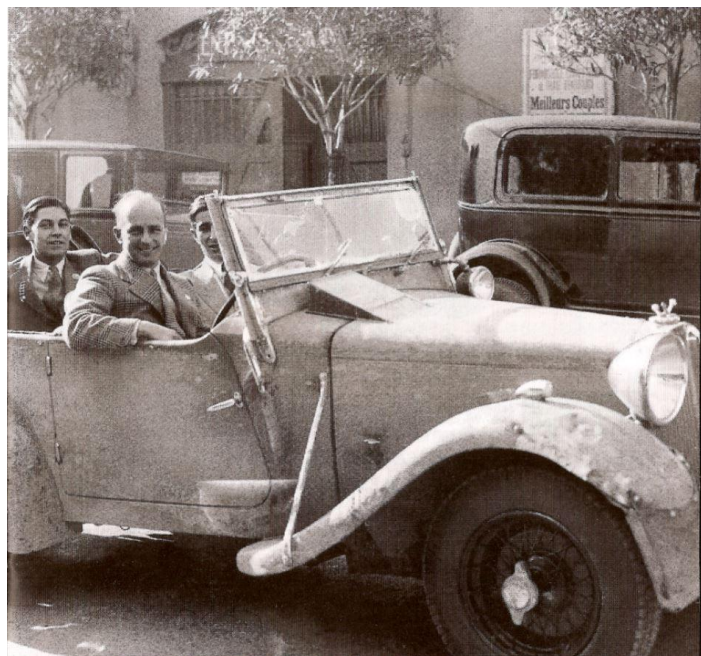
NEC 2018 9-11th November - are you able to help?

Club members will be needed to man the stand, the proposal is to offer a ticket for them to attend and have half a day on duty and the rest to look around. This would be dependent on the number of volunteers.

If you fancy helping out please contact Maggi Byford or any other Eastern Committee members.

PICTURE QUIZ

*Chris Davis sends this photo in:
Who are the occupants of the car, what is its make and the occasion?*



BRAKE FLUID

There is a degree of confusion regarding the specification of brake fluid and this article sets out to clarify the situation.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) classifies brake fluids to defined specifications. These specifications relate to their boiling points and chemical composition, both of which are important. All currently available brake fluids are covered by one of the following specifications; DOT3, DOT4, DOT5 and DOT5.1.

The laws of thermo-dynamics dictate that the energy from motion is turned into heat through friction. A braking system only works efficiently if the fluid remains incompressible. If the brake fluid boils, it turns to gas, which is compressible and the braking system becomes "spongy" or in extreme cases fails completely.

A brake system is not perfectly sealed and moisture can get into the system and be absorbed by the fluid. The effect is to reduce the boiling point of the fluid, which reduces the efficiency of the braking system, as described above.

The DOT specify two reference tests for brake fluids:

- Dry boiling point - the boiling point of fresh fluid
- Wet boiling point -the boiling point once the fluid has absorbed moisture (representing brake fluid after time spent in a real situation).

There are two main types of brake fluids.

- DOT 5, which is based on Silicone.
- DOT 3, DOT 4 and DOT 5.1 which are based on poly glycol compounds.

Note the two types of fluid are not compatible and must not be mixed in a braking system.

Silicone based **DOT 5** was originally introduced to give higher temperature performance over glycol DOT 4. Silicone fluid also has other advantages, it does not damage paintwork and it does not absorb water. However, silicone fluid is a poor lubricant and does not lubricate ABS pumps as well as PAG fluids.

Brake fluids explained....

It is also more compressible than PAG fluids, which can result in a sluggish or spongy pedal. It therefore requires special design considerations in braking systems. Further, because it does not absorb water, any water remains as globules, which can pool in low spots in the system and cause corrosion. This water can vaporise when heated under heavy braking giving a disastrous effect on braking efficiency.

DOT5 fluids are not recommended for motor sport applications.

Glycol based **DOT 4** fluid is the current mainstream brake fluid, and you will see that the specification is considerably better than DOT3 which it replaces. DOT 5.1 has higher specification still and is for fast road and occasional track day use.

Listed in the table below, are the minimum dry/wet boiling point specifications for each DOT level.



Boiling Point	DOT 3	DOT 4	DOT 5 (Silicone)	DOT 5.1 (PAG)	Racing Brake Fluid 300 Plus
Dry	205°C	230°C	260°C	260°C	300°C (310typ)
Wet	140°C	155°C	185°C	185°C	195°C

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

19-22nd April: Daffodil Weekend, contact David Wheeler who 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 azaleas 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. 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), **1st Friday** (again starting in the spring) at the Royal Oak Barrington, near Cambridge, **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 Healeyng!!

Angela Bonner

SOCIAL WHEELS MARCH, 2018 from Angela

By the time you are able to read this on the website it will be nearly time for the **spring lunch** at Toft Meridian Golf Club on 18th March. If you are not already booked in, please advise Andrew Hollick urgently 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 out of hibernation and meet up with all your Healey friends, it might even be warm enough to exercise those precious and cosseted wheels.

Keep an eye open for several brand new events on the calendar this year, I am adding them as the details come available, and don't forget 'on line' is your only information route now. The **Daffodil Weekend** 19-22nd April is probably fully subscribed, but it is always worth enquiring about cancellations to David on wheelerd@bluyonder.co.uk

April also has **Drive it Day** on 22nd I have details of two so far - 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. The other 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 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.

May 13th brings us **Battlesbridge Spring Classic Car** show. Make sure you let me know soon on 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.

Social wheels continued...

This is a good day out with extensive auto jumble vendors, so if there is a particularly elusive part you seek, you might be lucky here. Lots of antiques to browse through, the Motor Cycle Museum is fascinating, and some plants as well, don't miss this one!

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, 20th 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

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 apart from the lovely selection of cars there are superb refreshments and a gift shop loaded with pretty and unusual presents. Please check the Events calendar on the website for full details on all our activities in 2018 as there will be 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.

Happy Healeying, stay safe,

Angela

PS Late news - 27th May **Burston Classic Car Day** around the Burston Crown and Maypole near Diss. Run by East Anglian Practical Classics this event invites vintage dress and offers plenty of refreshments, with lunch available at the Crown if pre-booked. Contact Peter Ashford on 10449 722759 and look at their website eventseapc@gmail.com

ANDREW HOLLICK WRITES...

This 1918 100 year old Bianchi has been restored by Clive "King Bianchi of Rio de Stanwick" Cocks.



Paula and Andrew spent a lovely day with Clive and Sue reminiscing about past happy travels in the Healeys.



6 WAYS TO NOT GET WET IN A FROG-EYE

Last month's front cover showed a rather wet Patrick Kimber battling with the hood of his Frog in the rain. Zara has the following advice for Sprite drivers:

- FIRST Go prepared with plastic to put over your lap.
- SECOND Take or get from a friend en route some plastic bags to insert along the bottom of the windscreen.
- THIRD Stop under a roof in a petrol station to put up the top preferably one which does not have a chain preventing entry as it is shut,.
- FOURTH If putting up the Sprite roof has to be done in the pouring rain, passenger should hold a canvas chair over his/her head.
- FIFTH Keep going and avoid stopping for junctions, traffic lights etc. as rain only comes in when the Sprite is not moving.
- SIXTH You could always wear a bathing costume!

Zara Kimber

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>

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.

Innocenti Sprite, top.

MaRS car with 1600 MGA engine and SuperSprite which I think had a Coventry Climax engine.



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>

HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR HEALEY?

Last Saturday, our local group, Woolpit Area Classics had their first gathering of the season.

Arriving at the George, Cavendish, one of our group handed me "Classic Car Weekly" publication dated 31st January 2018. The main feature was providing a league table, in terms of auction results, of the popularity of the top 25 classics. To my surprise the Austin Healey used in this feature was our BJ7 registration number 1477 KZ.

In the table big Healeys were ranked 14th out of 25, so probably a fair & realistic positioning.

The caption below the picture sums up their enduring appeal nicely & in my view, got it spot on. This is precisely why, until we can afford a Bristol engine AC Ace, the Healey remains our preference.

Regards

John Bolden



14 AUSTIN-HEALEY
100/4, 100/6, 3000

PRICE RANGE £22,000-75,000

While some pub bores will say that the 'big' Healey lacks the elegance of an early E-type, it's likeable, quick, easy to work on and a first-rate classic companion.

ONE THAT SOLD
1967 Austin-Healey 3000, £56,750 (H&H)

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 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

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WARWICK HEALEY	JOHN KEENER	01494 728360

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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.