

June 2018

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



The spirit of Shelsley: Simon Parker takes to the hill

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

I managed to have a great weekend at the Sprite 60th celebration at Shelsley Walsh courtesy of Roger and Maggi Byford, Roger lending me his black Sebring Sprite and Maggi organising the accommodation and route book. I will do a proper write-up for next month's Mutterings but suffice to say that it ticked all my boxes. I have always wanted to go to Shelsley and having been to the 40th and 50th Sprite celebrations (and bought the t-shirts to prove it) attending the 60th there was the icing on the cake.

Otherwise I attended the Barrington first Friday classic meeting in the 3000 which coincided with a glorious early summer evening and also the west Norfolk noggin' albeit not in the Healey. Both are recommended and I will be a regular attendee through the summer.

I have still not bottomed out my fluctuating oil pressure issues on my car which is worrying me a little as Terry Sprosson and I are going to Classic le Mans in early July and it is the backup to his 100 that is also having problems.

It seems summer is here but for how long?
Better enjoy it and what better way than
top down in the Healey.

Rob



NEW MEMBERS

Mr Barney Freeman from Ipswich has recently joined the club. He has a 1957 Black AH3000Mk2 in very good condition.

We look forward to meeting you at one of our summer events.

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 | 20-05-18 | Drive-it-day | 34 | 113 |
| Dave and Pam | 20-05-18 | Devon and Suffolk | 885 | 1086 |
| Rob | 20-05-18 | Sprite 60 | 385 | 480 |

LITTLE GRANSDEN CAR & AIR SHOW 26TH 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, send the completed form together with a cheque (£10pp) made payable to R Mayes and a self-addressed A5 envelope (so that I can post your entry pass to you) to me:

117 Norton Way South
Letchworth G C
Herts
SG6 1NY

Please let me have your entry by the end of June and 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

01462 623635

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Our luck continues, the weather has been mostly brilliant in Norfolk and the hood has stayed down. We had a great run down to Devon to join the Healey Drivers Club event at Dawlish and even though the initial forecasts weren't promising it stayed dry during the drives out, although a bit chilly at times. The Hundred performed well but a Frogeye we were travelling with misbehaved itself a bit so will be getting a stern talking to shortly.

I am not doing too well on the Club event side of things, I missed Battlesbridge as we were in Devon, I had to miss the Shelsley Walsh event due to relatives from Australia popping in, I will also miss Euston Park as we will be in Scotland and New Members Day as we will be at Classic Le Mans. I am hoping to attend the event in Ely at the end of July, and have booked Little Gransden in August as I have not done that before.

The Ufford Park event is fully booked with a waiting list so it looks like there is still some activity in the Eastern Centre. Don't forget it is more fun using the Healey than polishing it, if you want to join in please let the co-ordinators know well in advance, we need to make arrangements with the organisers and it is better to be sorted out well in advance. As mentioned last month 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.

I have done a little to the Sprite but it is at the stage where everything has to be trial fitted [and remade!] and there are still some body repairs to attend to so it seems like one step forward, two steps back. It looks unlikely to be on the road this year; I will have to have a 61st anniversary party!

Of course as it is a "last of the line" Austin Sprite I have a few years to finish it before its own 60th!

Happy Healeying.

Dave

LETCHWORTH 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.

Please let Richard Mayes secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk know if you intend to join us so that he can arrange the appropriate space.

For full details see www.lgcccvc.co.uk

Richard Mayes

secretary@ahc-eastern.co.uk

01462 623635

COMPETITION

2018 MIDGET & SPRITE CHALLENGE

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| June 2/3 rd | Silverstone gp |
| July 14/15 th | Donington Park |
| Aug 4/5 th | Croft |
| Aug 27 th | Castle Combe |
| Sept 29/30 th | Snetterton |

Dates may change so check the website:

www.mgmidgetchallenge.co.uk

I mentioned that Pat Harris will be seen out in his Minor this year and to prove that he scrubs up well here is a picture of him in his bespoke Healey 'weskit' looking every inch the gentleman driver. Not sure that it passes the fire safety regs, however, and probably won't be seen on the circuit.



DRIVE AND PUSH

That was what happened on April's Drive It Day when Pat's Sprite came to a halt on the A120. A good Samaritan helped push it downhill to a side road, and after cooling down our yellow frogeye started going again, homewards this time.

Alas, going up the hill out of Standon it again went on strike and once more a good Samaritan came to our aid, pushing it up the hill before we got in and free-wheeled down the other side, across the busy road which thank God was empty for once, and right into my son's drive at Puckeridge.

Changing the petrol pump did not work. A neighbour gave us a lift to Ware as my son and wife were away, while the RAC brought HEG home the next day.

The trouble was caused by the coil, which had in its turn damaged the points.

Eventually, at the second attempt, the right parts arrived in the post, but still the Sprite would not start.

The solution was to be found in the points which, although new, needed cleaning.

We are working on it so hopefully we shall not again need to.....

DRIVE AND PUSH!

Zara Kimber



Editor's note: I had hoped to stage a photograph of Pat and Zara pushing an appropriately yellow Frog up the hill at the Shelsley meeting but for some reason they were reluctant and so I have had to use an old photo of them both at a very cold New Year's Day at Barrington from some years ago.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

We have just had another of our bi-monthly committee meetings, enjoying lunch while we sort out the Centre! The good news is that we still have a Webmaster, Mike has decided he would miss us too much and will carry on, for which we are truly grateful.

We still need to replace our membership secretary and Angela our long suffering stand-in secretary would like to be able to concentrate more on social stuff so if any of you would like to join us on the committee please contact me.

At present we meet at lunchtimes but that can be changed if necessary.

The Membership Secretary post involves receiving information on new members from national and sending out welcome emails and information explaining how Eastern Centre can be of benefit, also sending the occasional email reminders for events.

The Secretary post involves booking the Pub, taking minutes of meetings and producing agendas and the like for the committee. It can be a lot of fun and you get the benefit of getting to know more Healeyists.

This could be the perfect opportunity to get involved and shape the future of Eastern Centre, come along to a meeting to see what goes on, chat to your nearest committee member or collar us at an event and see if this could enhance your Healey experience.

Your Healey Club needs you.

Dave

Dave (R) receiving the HDI Distance travelled trophy from Stuart Self at the May committee meeting.



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

2nd June: Saturday Letchworth GC Classic CC Picnic. See flyer in magazine. For booking 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 contact 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

28 July: Classics on Ely Cathedral Green. This very popular Cambridge and District Classic Car Club event is open to all Healey club members.

<https://www.cdccc.uk/events/2018/>

5th August: Higham Ferrers Chichele Classic Car Show: Becoming a favourite with EC members. Contact Roy Murphy via [Higham Ferrers Classic Car Show](#). 220 cars and 40 stalls have already booked.

26th 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

2018 events continued..

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. The weekend is sold out but if you want to be put on the waiting list contact them on canda3000@hotmail.com.

OTHER EVENTS 2018

1st Saturday pub meet at **The Horse and Groom, Cornish Hall End**, 1st Sunday Breakfast Club at **Colmworth village hall**, 3rd Saturday pub meet at **The Bluebell, Hempstead**, and 1st Friday at the **Royal Oak Barrington**, near Cambridge. **Duxford** has **26th August** for its summer car show, but this is now PRE-BOOKED ONLY, see their website.

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.

Angela

THE ROYAL OAK FIRST FRIDAY CLASSIC MEET



Keith Rudge shows images of his 3000 restoration that is nearing completion.



Lovely evening, lovely venue.

BATTLESBRIDGE SPRING CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The day started badly, it was cold and raining when we were getting ready to go to Battlesbridge. There was a discussion as to whether to go or not, but we decided to brave the elements and get the Frogeye uncovered and leave the house. It was not a pleasant journey but as we neared the venue we could see blue skies in the distance, and eventually the sun shone and it was quite warm. Unfortunately a lot of people were put off by the weather and the event was not as well supported as other years.

But there were enough hardened Healey Drivers to create a good looking stand and we had a great day chatting with folk that we have not seen for a while. Pete Taylor and Toby Powell as ever had been busy getting the stand prepared and erecting the flags and Gazebo which gave us some welcome shelter when the wind blew. The guys were kept busy with the auto-jumble, all searching for that elusive car part that they cannot live without; some were lucky I believe. We girls were enjoying the Antiques Centre and managed to spend our pocket money quite easily.

Our thanks to Angela Bonner for co-ordinating the event and to Pete and Toby for a splendid day. If you have not been to this event put it on your bucket list.

It really is a lot of fun.

Angie Davis



OTHER EVENTS AT BATTLESBRIDGE 2018



- 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/>

NASH HEALEY

I mentioned last month that the Pininafarina-bodied Nash-Healey is a better looking car than its more commonly seen stablemate and here is photo I took at the Dutch Healey museum for you to judge.



As a bit of unwanted information I also include a photo of the closely related Alvis-Healey, basically a Nash - Healey with a 3-litre Alvis engine for sale 'Over here'.



The Alvis image is taken from Bill Emerson's 'The Healey Book' that is the bible for Healey and Austin Healey enthusiasts.

NORFOLK NOGGINS

The west Norfolk monthly noggins that take place at The Three Horseshoes, Roydon have become very popular with EC members not the least because of the two course pensioners lunch for £10. I have been to the last two and can vouch for the excellent food and the company. Give it a go if you are free on the 2nd Thursday contact either Neil Williams wilhaven@lineone.net or Dave Holman whose details are on the back page.

To whet your appetite here are a few photos.



I am not sure whether Pamela Longmate is about to throttle husband Tony or whether she is showing signs of endearment. Rosemary Thorpe and Paula Hollick await their turn so I suspect it's the former.

Invitation to a Birthday Party



***Calling all Sprites to a Birthday Party at
Kimbolton Country Fair on July 8th 2018 to
celebrate 60 glorious years of this magical motor
car***

Usual delicious birthday fayre.

***Party frocks not required and definitely no
birthday suits.***

RSVP

We would like a selection of Sprites: Frogeyes, mk2's, 3's and 4's in-fact any type of Sprite or variant

If a Sprite is not available all Healeys are welcome...
....but not necessarily at the front of the display, but in front of any other make that decides it would like to be at the party.

This year Kimbolton will be using wristband system (payment still at the gate)
I should have wristbands by mid June

Please reserve wristband ASAP
Clive and Sue Cocks rushme51@live.com or 01933 551885

HEALEY DRIVERS CLUB WEEKEND 10TH TO 13TH MAY 2018.

I don't know if you really want to hear about another Club's weekend but Rob is always hassling for copy so here are a few lines.

The Healey Drivers Club events are always well organised and good fun so a good excuse to flee Norfolk for a few days. The run down on Thursday was uneventful for us; we travelled on our own as we had to deposit the dog at a sitter so couldn't get away until mid morning. This meant we could stop at a favourite pub for lunch while skirting round Oxford. While there we heard friends were not so lucky as their electronic ignition had failed, sorting that out meant they were running well behind us so it was agreed to carry on and meet up in Devon. Arriving at the Hotel we saw many long standing friends and many from Eastern Centre.

There was a group of Australians there who had brought cars over for the European Weekend, a little sad as larger than life Frogeye exponent Tony Bennetto wasn't among them, though his wife Kerry was there to present a trophy in his memory. For those that don't know Tony passed away after a tragic diving accident, he was the life and soul of all the parties at the last few European meetings and they always included the Healey Drivers Club Event when they were over here.

As is the norm an excellent meal was followed by a bit of chat in the bar to catch up.

Friday saw a drive out to Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre. A wonderful place with Dodgems, merry go rounds, penny arcade, in fact all the fun of the Fair, a place where you can act your real age [about 8] The entry for us included as many rides as you wanted on some of the attractions, the dodgems seemed to be the busiest, but the Gallopers, Ghost Train and the '30's Moon Rocket were also in great demand. Only the thought of the evening meal finally dragged people away for the drive back to the hotel. The evening saw the famous Cornish Auction and then an entertainer.

Healey drivers' club weekend continued...

Saturday was the day to go underground, Beer Quarry Caves have been supplying stone for major buildings since Roman times. The tour was fascinating and covered all periods the caves were in use up to the 1920's when a new quarry was opened and covered the social aspects from smuggling to the Stonemason's guild.

After the tour we went to Seaton for a ride on the Tramway up to Colyton for lunch. Another interesting glimpse of how things used to be. After Dinner Charles Matthews had arranged for a "Skype" interview, with John Sprinzel in Hawaii and Mike Garton and Clive Baker on stage. Their combined Sprite experiences made for an interesting chat and it was great to find out what went on in period, it was over all too soon.

On Sunday there was the option of a planned drive to Dartmoor, a video presentation or a walking Treasure Hunt in the vicinity of the hotel. As it was yet another glorious day we opted for the planned drive, always fun to get a few more miles in the Hundred. After Lunch the awards were presented and goodbyes were said.

It was, as always, over far too soon. If you get the opportunity the Healey Drivers Club weekends are well worth trying.

Dave Holman

MORE COMPETITION

Rockingham

June 16

Entry Fee: £299

Lydden Hill

July 8

Entry Fee: £249 [Enter Here](#)

Snetterton 300

August 4/5

Entry Fee: £299

Donington

September 29

Entry Fee: £299

Brands Hatch

OCTOBER 27,28

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 2017/18

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| 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. | ANGELA BONNER | social@ahc-eastern.co.uk | 01223 890311 |
| SECRETARY | | | |
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| 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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