

May 2018

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Tony Withrington looks at a Nash Healey at the March H&H auction at Duxford. Find out how much it went for inside.

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

The recent good weather has persuaded me to venture out in the Healey, one trip being to Jim Stevenson's funeral where I was pleased to meet up with his family and a good number of Jim's Healey friends. Whilst a sad event he was given a good send-off and we hope that Jane will keep in contact with or without the HMC.

I also ventured into that alien territory known as Norfolk. I went to Terry Sprosson's to check on progress with his E-type - and very good it looks too - and then onto the Norfolk Noggin'. I will include a few photos of the attendees next month.



The trips out did confirm what I had feared, that my fluctuating oil pressure problem is not cured despite a new pressure relief valve, spin off filter and oil change. I believe this to be a problem of lack of use over the past couple of years - must put more *moles* on the clock!!

Rob

NEW MEMBERS

The following members have recently joined (or re-joined) the Club.

- Richard and Penelope Mace of Norwich have an 1955 M spec red 100 in good condition.
- Dave Haslam of West Mersea has a 1954 red 100 in good condition
- Mike & Margaret Sutton of Bury St Edmunds have a 1963 blue over white Mk2 3000 which has been restored.

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	20-04-18			79
Dave and Pam	20-04-18	Drive it Day etc	149	149
Rob	20-04-18	Drive it Day etc	85	95

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

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

At last we have had some brilliant weather and the Hundred was exhumed from the carcoon and we have bimbled around for a couple of hundred miles visiting friends and taking the sea air at Hunstanton, meeting up briefly with the Daffodil Run to have a chat with the members from around the country enjoying the delights of North Norfolk over the Drive it Day weekend. I have even done some Sprite work, some of it wasn't on mine but it gave me an opportunity to have a play with a supercharged Frog that had toasted it's dynamo but I have made some progress with the A posts on my Austin Sprite rebuild. It has been very frustrating as some of the parts bought a few years back do not really fit so it has been a case of drilling out spot welds, trimming back and re fixing, the A post covers were over 5mm wider than the sill at the bottom which would have looked really weird.

The **Battlesbridge show on May 13th** is nearly upon us, hopefully you will have arranged your passes with Angela by now, it might still be worth contacting her if you haven't as there may be a last minute cancellation. Contact Angela Bonner email social@ahc-eastern.co.uk.

If you have missed your chance to attend that, don't delay with applying for the other Eastern Centre events throughout the year.

Don't forget the **National Sprite Birthday Party at Shelsley Walsh on 20th May**; it will be a good place for Frog Spotting. See the National website for details. Time will be running out for booking the June events as they are always well attended

Saturday June 2nd 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

June also sees the **Euston Park Rural Pastimes Show** near Thetford on the 10th Let Angela Bonner know email 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>

More from the Chairman...

New Members Day will be at Kimbolton on the 8th July, details are later in *Mutterings*. The team involved always make it a memorable event so make sure it is in your diary and keep an eye on the website for updates.

The following events are still a long way off but don't forget if you want to attend the **Little Gransden Airshow on 26th August** it is worth contacting Richard Mayes now as it is very popular, [email 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.littlegransdenairshow.co.uk/>] and send it with payment to Richard who will make the club arrangements.

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 to see if there are any places still available. email 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.

Dave Holman westland1606@yahoo.co.uk

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

DON'T DRIVE IN DUBAI

If you hire a car at the airport, you will find yourself on a dual carriageway driving on the right for miles with six lanes both ways. A Guider we met said she lived in Dubai for two years before she drove there. It is also reputed to have the highest number of accidents of any place in the world, although we did not see any. But it was out of the question to walk across the road so there were long pedestrian bridges across. One from the metro to Dubai Mall had SEVEN walkways. You need to be fit to travel!

After oil was discovered in the 1980's there has been continual building, especially of high rise towers. At one time 40% of the cranes in the world were in Dubai! The highest building in the world is there, the Burj Khalifa which is 2,700 ft high with an observation platform on the 124th floor. Its 240 stories were built in some way alternatively, "to deceive the wind".

Of course there were housing estates for the workers of many nationalities, especially Pakistan, and there were other roads not so immense. A newly built tram, which ran overhead much of the time, crossed a road and pedestrian central island, so beware! But if you want 27 degrees in the day in our winter, go take your life in your hands!

Zara Kimber

2018 MIDGET & SPRITE CHALLENGE

May 19/20 th	Cadwell Park
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



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 Holman westland1606@yahoo.co.uk

CLUB STAND AT THE NEC - ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

This is planned to be larger for 2018 using some of the equipment from 2017. Club members will be needed to man the stand, the proposal is to offer a ticket and have half a day on duty and the rest to look around.

If you would like to put your name on the volunteers list contact Maggi Byford:

treasurer@ahc-eastern.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

13th 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: angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk

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. National are planning a big family fun party to mark this important anniversary. Latest details on the website at Sprite60.org or from Tony Curran on info@sprite60.org

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. 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

Events continued....

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: 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. Contact 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. There are one or two rooms left so contact them on canda3000@hotmail.com . If you want to go, tell them soon!

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 **6th May and 26th August** for car shows, but these are 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

PICTURE QUIZ

My plea last month for further information on the photo on the right was successful with both Dave Holman and Chris Davis suggesting answers that set me hunting through old Healey books.



Here Dave replies:

I expect you are wading through hundreds of replies to your DMH picture but I thought I would add my tuppence worth.

I would guess it would be 1934 just after he started with Triumph, he prepared two "Glorias" which I don't think would meet any of the regulations for production cars! In his book "My World of Cars" he says he substituted "Southern Cross" Chassis frames to increase ground clearance and ran oversize low pressure tyres increasing overall wheel diameter from 28" to 32" changing the final drive ratio to compensate. These were run in the Monte Carlo Rally with some success in 1934, DMH took 3rd overall and first in class, driving with Tommy Wisdom and Norman Black. Triumphs were also entered on the 1934 Alpine rally but had to be identical to a minimum of 100 cars already sold to the public.

The stance of the car in your photo I think means it must be the "bitsa" on the Monte.

Best regards, Dave.

From Chris Davis - who should know having provided the original photo:

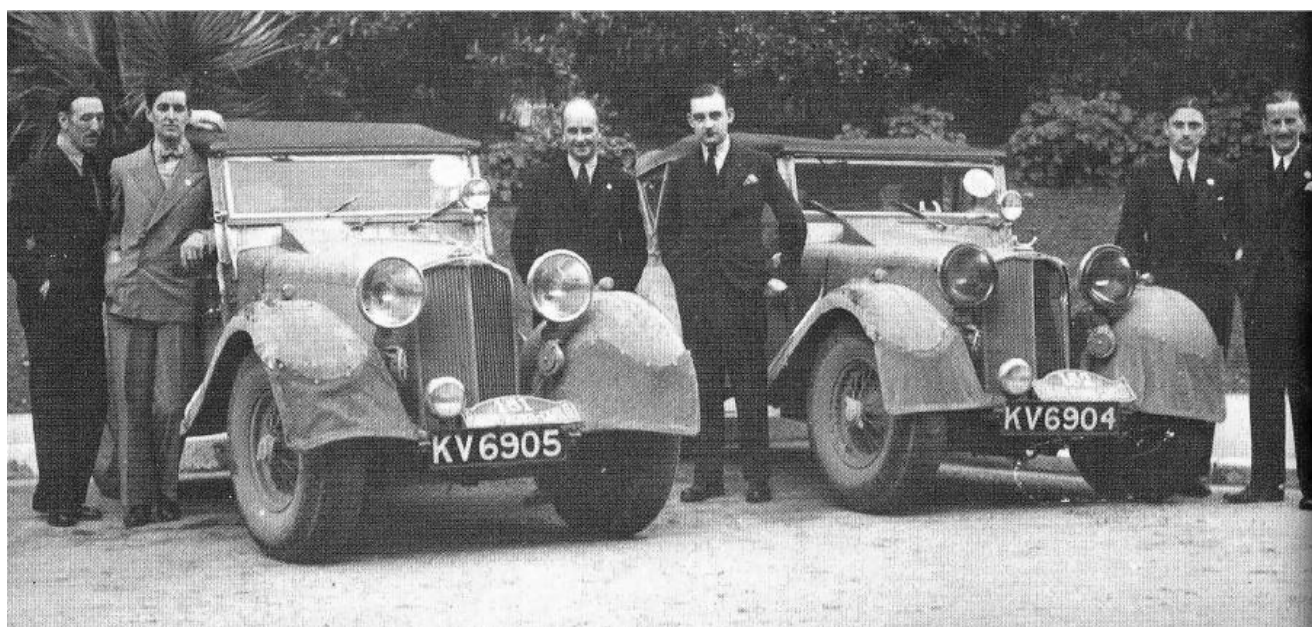
Another photo shows a 'similar' car, as Dave rightly says in the 1934 Monte. Reg KV6905. Page 26 in "The Healey Story". I have no idea where I got the photo I sent you!

Regards, Chris

Picture continued.....

Following up the lead in Chris's email I found this photo with the explanation reproduced here.

*Monte Carlo Rally 1934:
The two Triumph Gloria
cars display their large
section tyres. The scoop
at the base of the
windscreen was an early
defroster. Note the front
mud flaps (Motor)*



Geoffrey Healey writes in his book 'More Healeys':

The following year, 1934, DMH joined Triumph, first as experimental manager, and later becoming technical director. With Tommy Wisdom, he took a Triumph to third place in the 1934 Monte Carlo Rally, starting from Athens. One feature on this car was its Dunlop 9.00 x 16 tyres: the use of wide tyres on sports cars was not to return until thirty years later. Seven Triumphs entered this event, all fitted with Coventry Climax engines of 1232 cc with overhead inlet valves and side exhaust valves, and all seven cars finished the course.

Nice when it all comes together.

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/>

H&H AUCTION AT DUXFORD MARCH 2018

Of interest to Healey enthusiasts was this original-looking LHD Nash Healey. It went for a staggering amount of money. Nash's are very much an acquired taste,



LOT 76

Add to Favourites

1951 Nash-Healey Roadster

Sold For £81,000

Status CLOSED

Registration No:

Un-Reg

Chassis No:

N2017

MOT:

Exempt

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

Much more attractive is the Pininfarina bodied version in my opinion - I will put a picture in next month's *Mutterings* if I can find one.

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

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS: FAVOURITE BOOBY TRAPS

Lucas has long been known as the 'Prince of Darkness' by our colleagues across the pond as they seem to believe that there is something inherently unreliable about the electrical components, generally by Lucas, on British cars of a certain age. It does make good press however and here is a fun little piece, with an element of truth it has to be said, sent in by Chris Davis.

The Bullet Connector, or more formally known by the Prince as a snap connector. These little beasties cause more trouble than you might think. They corrode, they get loose, the solder goes 'dry' and generally they spend their time working ceaselessly toward giving you a headache and more to the point an electrical malfunction.

Mostly trouble when outside the cockpit and on dark, cold, rainy nights

Always difficult to reach

Lots of swearing involved

F- you know what starts with 'f'!

Unlikely to be obvious

Not easy to get apart unless too loose

Constant source of trouble

To be suspected at all times

Inbuilt sense of when it will be most inconvenient to you to give trouble

Outwardly OK but inside..... watch out!

Never, never, never to be trusted.

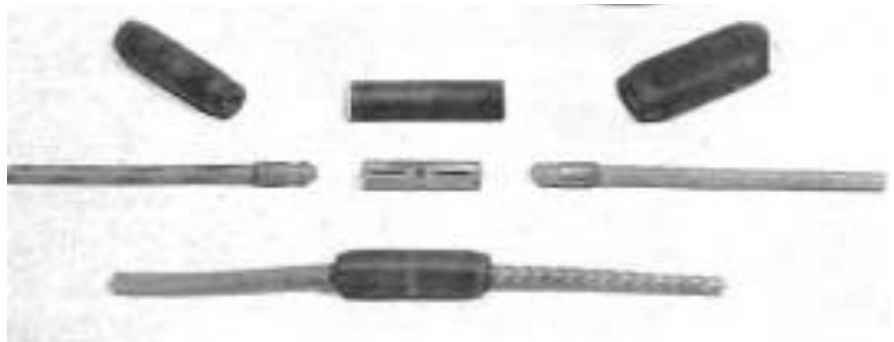
Some of you may think I being somewhat unfair and you are perhaps in certain cases I am. Remember though that these little terrors are in a lot of cases older than you are. The loom on your car may have been renewed at some time but in the majority of cases the outer connectors have been reused. Fatal mistake number one in my opinion and that's the voice of bitter experience talking. I did it and have regretted it ever since. They are good when new but age will take its toll - much like us really. The tension will go out of the spring tube but most importantly there will be corrosion build up.

Prince of Darkness continued...

Any damp that gets in will cause oxidation and ultimately rust on the steel part. That means resistance in electrical terms and then the troubles start.

So if you have got dim lights (or none at all) and the bulbs are good, go for the earth connections first - these come top of the list. Pull them apart - check that they are tight, clean and the solder is good. Re-assemble with new outer tubes and some electrically conductive grease to keep the corrosion at bay.

There we are; something else to keep you amused....



COMPETITION

Angela Bonner mentions that there are generally Healeys competing in most race meetings and here are a few dates for your diary.

I can't guarantee Healeys but it is a good bet with a fall back that EC member



Pat Harris is likely to be out in his Minor.

Mallory Park

May 28

Entry Fee: £299

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>				

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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.