

October 2018

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



*EC celebrate the 60th birthday of the Sprite: Cars
outside Otley Hall - more inside*

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

It's AGM time again and we are fortunate to have a guest speaker this year that will make attendance worthwhile even if you do not normally attend AGMs.

The issue of generating more attendees at our events through the year is one that has exercised the committee for some while now. With this in mind one of the topics that will be raised at the AGM is whether the issuing of Mutterings electronically rather than in printed form is having a detrimental effect in publicising our meetings. The decision to go electronic was twofold: One; electronic distribution is seen to be the modern way of communication and secondly it was considered a financial expedient as the cost of printing and distributing Mutterings has to be borne out of the EC budget. The second factor has largely gone away now with the EC forecasts showing that we could afford to go back to paper should members want that.

As editor I want to ensure that all members see Mutterings and the committee would like members' opinions on the best way to ensure this. If you can't attend the AGM please let me have your comments so that they can be tabled at the AGM.

Rob

NEW MEMBERS

- **Richard and Linda Mintern** of Milton Keynes: Car details not known
- **Paul Aukland** of Beccles has a 1967 golden beige BJ8 in good condition
- **Luke Bradley** of Bedford has a 1964 Blue BJ8 in concours condition.

Welcome to the Club and we look forward to meeting you at one of our summer events.

Stuart Self

Membership Secretary

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 the Editor on mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk know your mileage in the following format.

Entrant	Date	Trip description	Trip	Total
Pat & Zara	25-09-18	Ufford and elsewhere	377	643
Dave and Pam	25-09-18	AHC Weekend, Switzerland & France	2595	5645
Rob	25-09-18	Round and about	90	930

CLUB TROPHIES AND AGM

Please would all trophy holders return cups and trophies awarded at last year's AGM to Andrew Hollick or a committee member ready for new inscription as soon as possible.

Contact Andrew also about the AGM and Autumn Lunch which is to be a carvery to choose on the day. So no need to choose your meal now but we do need the numbers.

See the notice elsewhere in *Mutterings*.

Please ring or email Andrew on 01223 263089 or email andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to attend.



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Another month of mixed fortunes, Chris and Angie had organised brilliant weather for their Eastern Centre Weekend at Ufford Park. A great weekend with interesting drives and visits, with the bonus of meeting up with lots of friends and having a good laugh.

Our Norfolk Noggin and Natter in the middle of the month saw a couple of Healeys on parade and the committee meeting the day after also had some Healeys in attendance with fair weather to make an enjoyable drive out. Then came the Welsh Weekend! This coincided with the arrival of another cast-off storm from the Atlantic. Those that drove up on the Wednesday had branches hurled at them, we drove over on the Thursday and the best form of transport would have been a submarine, the Hundred's "weather equipment" didn't stand a chance. The hood stayed firmly up all weekend but as always the Welsh sub-centre made us very welcome and with good food and great company it was a hugely enjoyable weekend despite the weather. At least the drive home on Monday was dry so the hood was off to help dry out the interior, having said that the carpets were removed and hung up as soon as we got home and they are still dripping two days later.

More disappointment with the Sprite panels, I have fitted the door skins, but the profile on the top edge wasn't very good and the recess for the quarterlight was non-existent, so more time was spent with the hammer and dolly before attaching them to the carcass.

Good news in that Rob Ransom has made arrangements with a guest speaker to attend our AGM. He has a long association with Austin Healeys so it will be an interesting follow up to our AGM and meal. Make sure you have contacted Andrew Hollick to reserve your place. See you there.

Happy Healeying

Dave

PAT AND ZARA GO SPRITELY IN SUFFOLK

31 cars attended the Eastern Centre's three night weekend near Woodbridge and what ideal weather we enjoyed! The Ufford Park Hotel was very good, as were the runs arranged by Angie & Chris Davis to celebrate 60 years of the AH Sprite. On the Saturday we drove 36 miles to Otley Hall, a magnificent Grade 1 Listed Tudor Hall for a fascinating tour. Then we enjoyed a buffet lunch before having time to explore some of the ten acres of beautiful gardens.

51 miles on Sunday took us to see the Suffolk Scallop on the beach at Aldeburgh before going on to the 39th Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum housed in the original wartime control tower of RAF Framlingham, a place very familiar to Neil Williams who had worked there in an upstairs office. Coffee and cakes were consumed before going round the many artefacts of the USA Air Force which were on show. The size of the engines and bombs was staggering, making us wonder about their construction. We also learnt about the secret British Resistance Organisation. There was much to see with clear views for those who climbed up the control tower.

Again we had time to enjoy the hotel, swim in its pool or wander round Woodbridge. This was especially appreciated.

There were two incidents: Our yellow 1958 Sprite began making a strange noise and losing power. The fault was found to be due to a plug lead which had jumped off due to vibration, so was soon remedied. The second problem was on another Sprite when the exhaust pipe broke in two places, but AH helpers fixed it with wire so it completed the Sunday Run.

The winner of the Best Sprite competition was one of our Dutch friends and the tombola raised a worthwhile sum for the RNLI.

So again an enormous 'thank you' to Angie & Chris for organising such a splendid weekend and **THREE CHEERS FOR THE 'FROG-EYE' SPRITE ON ITS 60th BIRTHDAY.**

Pat and Zara



**Austin Healey Club
Eastern Centre**

2018 AGM Autumn Lunch and talk

**The Eastern Centre AGM and Autumn Lunch will take place on
13th October 2018 at the Cambridge Meridian Golf Club
Comberton Rd, Toft, Cambridge CB23 2RY**

The AGM is at 11.00hrs followed by a carvery lunch at 12.30hrs .The cost is £17.75 per person for a 2 course meal, [coffee extra]

Come and enjoy a great meal, a fun social event and have your say about the way Eastern Centre should move forward.

Please contact Andrew Hollick to reserve your place.

Telephone 01223 263089 or email andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk



STOP PRESS: Dick Best, former BMC development engineer and Healey owner for 50 years has agreed to talk to us following lunch. This is not to be missed as Dick has plenty of tales from his Longbridge days.

SUMMER PICNIC IN ST IVES

This event has been running for a couple of years now sponsored by a local restoration specialist, Quest Brothers. Last year it incorporated a drive-in cinema presentation but this relied on attendees staying at the event until the light was suitable and is heavily weather-dependent so that this year it was cut back to a picnic on the Hemingford Grey recreation ground. The weather turned out to be fabulous and the venue excellent with access to the clubhouse with its bar and balcony from which the whole field could be observed.

Should one feel the need for exercise the riverside walk is a short distance away passing Lucy Boston's ancient house upon which the Green Knowe childrens' books https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Knowe are focussed.

Whilst a multi-marque event Healeys were well-represented not the least by Dick Best, his brother, Bob, and a friend. By good fortune the conversation turned to EC matters and Dick agreed to talk at our AGM (see elsewhere) with the caveat that if his daughter gave birth early he would need to cancel as she is in Indonesia!

The event is well worth attending and I will keep our social secretary Angela Bonner posted so that we can get it in to the 2019 events calendar.

Rob



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 more details and the latest information: www.ahc-eastern.co.uk

Regular events 2018

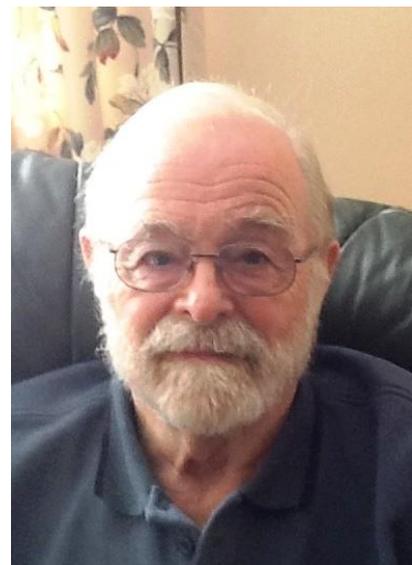
- 1st Saturday pub meet at **The Horse and Groom, Cornish Hall End**
- 1st Sunday Breakfast Club at **Colmworth village hall**
- 3rd Saturday pub meet at **The Bluebell, Hempstead**
- 1st Friday at the **Royal Oak Barrington**, near Cambridge

Saturday 13th October: AGM and Sunday lunch 2018: Toft Meridian Golf Club. See notice in Mutterings

Angela

MORE ABOUT OUR SPEAKER AT THE AGM Dick Best

Dick and his brother were Austin apprentices between 1960 and 1966 following which Dick then worked as a BMC design and development engineer (1965 to 1968) under Alec Issigonis. 1968 to 1970 saw him as the Hillman Avenger project controller with Chrysler UK before the imminent and obvious demise of the U.K. Motor industry led him to join the RAF, retiring as an Air Commodore engineer in 1996.



Dick also worked with Special Tuning and the Competitions Dept, drove works cars and, amongst other things, helped Timo Makinen pass his UK driving test. He has owned Healey 3000s since 1965 for all except 2 years and rebuilt two.

SOCIAL WHEELS OCTOBER 2018

A last minute reminder to let Andrew Hollick know of your intention to come to the AGM and carvery lunch on 13th October at Toft Meridian Golf Club. You ARE coming, aren't you? We need your input and assistance to keep the Eastern Centre club running and provide interesting events for all to enjoy. A reminder too that if you were lucky enough to win a trophy last year, it needs to be back with Andrew - like yesterday - for engraving with this year's winners name.

WVS continues to provide raffle prize rides at local events. I stay local in the hope I won't come unstuck with collecting a winner from miles away, and have so far been lucky, no point in spending more on fuel than I could have given in a donation. Nearly had a problem at the latest one though, on inviting a group to buy raffle tickets it turned out three of them were from Portugal and the fourth was Venezuelan!! Don't think my navigational skills could cope with that, even with a Sat-Nav.

Although our local events are now coming to an end for the year there are still a few race meetings around, especially at the beginning of October, and if you are short of ideas just try putting 'classic car events' into Google and you may find something that takes your fancy. Please don't forget to check the Noggin and Natters details elsewhere in Mutterings for Healey related groups and for general interest groups the Colmworth Breakfast club has a last meet on the 7th, but the evening meets in Barrington (1st Friday) and lunchtime meets in Cornish Hall End (1st Saturday) and Hempstead (3rd Saturday) will always be on offer for a car chat with likeminded enthusiasts. Why not take the chance of a country drive with lunch at these last two, we are bound to have some good driving weather still, hopefully right until Christmas anyway.

I look forward to seeing MANY of you at the AGM, give Andrew an idea of numbers, but choose your carvery meat on the day.

If you set an automatic reminder to yourself - when Revcounter drops on your doormat go as soon as possible to the web pages to read the latest issue of Mutterings, or it may get forgotten and you might miss something.

Happy Healeying,

Angela

COMMITTEE MATTERS

This will be the last reminder for our AGM, it would be good to see some new faces on the Committee so please give some consideration to joining us. Hopefully every member should have had an email with the AGM details and contact details for booking lunch. Contact any of the committee members on the list on the website to find out more about the running of the Centre and find out how much fun it can be. We could really do with a secretary to replace Richard Mayes, it would be good to find someone who can keep us organised and take minutes. It is a great post to get to know people and be the first to get new information so please consider giving it a go.

Even if you don't want to join the committee please come along to say hello and give us your opinion on how the centre can better serve the members, we can't improve if we do not know what the membership wants.



Austin Healey Club
www.eastern.austinhealeyclub.org.uk Eastern

Notice of the Austin Healey Club Eastern Centre AGM

To be held at **Cambridge Meridian Golf Club** Comberton Road Toft Cambridge CB23 2RY

Saturday 13th October 11.00 am. 2018

Agenda.

1	Apologies
2	Welcome
3	2017 minutes
4	Secretary's report
5	Treasurer's report
6	Director's report
7	Webmaster's report
8	Membership report
9	Mutterings report
10	Social secretary's report
11	Technical secretaries reports; Sprite; 100; 100/6-3000; Warwick
12	Trophies
13	Voting in of new committee
14	Rob Ransom, proposal on future of Mutterings.
15	A.O.B.

We welcome new nominations for the committee, please email nominations to the chairman
westland1606@yahoo.co.uk

Contact Andrew Hollick to book your meal, see the notice of AGM on the website and in this Newsletter and the Agenda above.

Your Healey Club needs you.

Dave

EASTERN CENTRE CALENDAR OCTOBER, 2018

AGM - AGM - AGM Toft Meridian Golf Club

Please note, the date is Saturday, 13th October, 11am meeting, with an excellent carvery lunch and dessert for £17.75 at approximately 12.30pm. We need your support and input of ideas so please come, it's your club, be part of it. Contact Andrew quickly to book your place on 01223 263089.

The following events for the remainder of this year are not especially Austin Healey events, but I think may be of interest to some of you:

- **14th Oct. 2018 Sunday. Canvey Island Transport Museum - Big Wheels** rally and end of season event open to all enthusiasts of historic vehicles.
- **20/21st Oct. 2018 HSCC SILVERSTONE** historic car racing.
- **21st Oct. 2018. Newark Auto Jumble** at Newark and Notts Showground.
- **3/4th Nov. 2018 HSCC SILVERSTONE** historic car racing.
- **9/11th Nov. 2018 NEC Classic Motor Show**, Birmingham.
- **18th Nov. 2018 Newark Auto Jumble** at Newark and Notts showground.
- **9th Dec. 2018 Newark Auto Jumble** at Newark and Notts showground.

2019

- **NEW YEARS DAY:** several events likely, including Barrington village green and probably Stony Stratford market square, details to follow.
- **28th April DRIVE IT DAY:** slightly later this year as Easter is on the usual date for this event around St Georges Day. It would be nice if Eastern Centre could organise their own drive for this important commemorative date, ideas welcome please.
- **3/6th May Northern Centre Weekend** - usually booked well in advance, contact Mike Stonier is probably the best to start with 07521 515746 as he looks after their calendar and events dates.

Plenty more to follow when the details are confirmed, keep an eye on Mutterings.

EASTERN SPRITE BIRTHDAY PARTY AT UFFORD PARK

Having knowledge of Angie and Chris Davis' organisational prowess we knew this was a weekend not to be missed and several others obviously thought the same!



There were over 60 attendees including some from Holland, with 10 Frogeyes ranging from Pat and Zara Kimber's very early example to Sandra Leyland's Supercharged Frog, one square Sprite and 17 big Healeys making up the rest of the entourage, with a couple of extra cars with local members adding to the numbers at the planned drive venues.

Friday was the arrival day and of course there was much greeting and discussion of journeys while enjoying the welcome coffee and cakes [including Frogeye face cakes, not made from real Frogs I hasten to add] and diving into the Goodie Bag given with the weekend information pack, before freshening up ready for the bar and evening meal. I am not sure what problems they thought we might encounter over the weekend but with Super Glue, WD40 and a torch amongst the very useful contents I was wondering if there would be some sort of challenge competition. The venue chosen was well placed and very comfortable with good food, a spa with pool and steam room and a nice 2 mile footpath around the golf course, which meant you could burn off a few calories before the next sitting.



Parking in front of the hotel (L)

Sprite birthday party continued...

The planned drive through scenic back roads on Saturday took us to Otley Hall, a privately owned Tudor Hall with 10 acres of beautiful gardens where we could park in front of the building to get a great backdrop for some photos, one of which you can see on the front cover. The fascinating house tour was included, with plenty of time to take in the surroundings and ask questions, it was a very important part of the country's history and has many of its original features as well as a few newer ones added for filming at one point. The tour included stories of dodgy builders [part of the house fell into the moat], political intrigue, ghosts and flickering lights, banging doors and footsteps in unused areas. A buffet lunch in their cafe followed so we could chat in peaceful surroundings keeping an eye out for any sandwiches being moved by poltergeist.

The rest of the day was unplanned but with the delightful Suffolk coast and many historic towns and sites nearby. We visited Sutton Hoo the Viking Burial ground before returning to the hotel for the evening meal.

Sunday's drive out took us to Parham Airfield Museum, the base was used by the American 390th Bomb Group and there is a comprehensive display of USAAF equipment and period photos, most of the runways have been removed but some of the buildings and the Control Tower are still there housing the exhibits and the volunteers are up there to show you how vast it was in period. There is also a unique replica bunker as used by the British Resistance Organisation, this was a group set up to disrupt any invasion force should the worst have happened, with secret bunkers all over the country. Of course no Healey visit would be complete without coffee and cake and the Museum's Tea room duly obliged. If you are interested in WW2 history this place is well worth a visit if you are in the Woodbridge area. Again the afternoon was unplanned so we took the chance to visit Aldeburgh and have a walk along the beach.

Sunday night was for the Gala Dinner, Tombola and entertainment. The Tombola raised over £300 for the RNLI. The young entertainer sang songs from many periods from the '40's onwards so I think everyone had a song to recognise and a number of the party threw caution to the wind and took to the dance floor.

Continued overleaf...

Sprite birthday party continued...

During the dancing there was a short break; over the weekend we had been asked to vote for our favourite cars so there was a small presentation ceremony, Angie doing the presentation. The cutest Frogeye was deemed to be from Holland, brought over by Frank van den Broek and Maarten Seggers, Frank (seen R being presented with the goodie bag by Angie).



The favourite Square Sprite belonged to Simon and Yvonne Parker (L below) and the favourite Big Healey was the 3000 Mk3 of Ralph and Linda Aldridge (R).



Sprite birthday party concluded...

Tony and Caroline Curran organised a little collection from all the participants to show our appreciation of all the hard work the Angie and Chris (below with Tony) had put in over the year, after that was handed over the dancing and chatting carried on for quite a while.



We had a lovely time meeting up with friends we hadn't seen for a while, there was much chatter and lots of laughing going on all weekend, whether at mealtimes or when out and about, which is always a good indication of a great weekend. It was great fun catching up on Healey experiences and being regaled with stories of the steam room and the yoga instructor [if you want to know more send a stamped addressed envelope], the Healey Club has a great variety of characters so it is impossible to get bored on an event such as this.

Many thanks to Angie and Chris for providing us with a brilliant weekend, the hotel staff for being attentive and to all the participants for being such good company.

Dave and Sue Holman.

[Photos courtesy of Robert Kemp]

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>				
Herts and Beds	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

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VALUATION OFFICER FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

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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.