

April 2017

# Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE  
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



**75<sup>th</sup> Goodwood Members' Meeting - report inside**

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

## ROB'S RAMBLINGS

I was lucky enough to get to the Goodwood Members' Meeting in mid-March courtesy of Terry Sprosson who not only did the driving but organised accommodation. I was certainly glad I did as you will gather from my report later in the magazine. We both were glad to get into Terry's Rover, however, for the journey back rather than in an open-topped Healey - when we finally found it in the car park, that is!

I did go open-topped to the Toft lunch organised by Paula and Andrew and caught up with, amongst others, John Raybould who has sprouted a beard since I last saw him a couple of years ago and Alan Pugh who has sprouted hair after his chemo and looks the spitting image of Gru, the (loveable) arch-villain in *Despicable Me* - what do you think?



I am looking forward to the trip to Holland in July, that is if I have any friends left to go with, as Zandvoort is a circuit that I have not been to and the Healey Museum somewhere that I also want to see. Do they have *priorité à la droite* in Holland I wonder?



**Rob**

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## MYSTERY SOLVED?

I can now confirm that the J9 photo is in the car park at the Essex pub/restaurant. I have identified the tin tops in that car park that are in one of my photos taken there.....  
.....I wish that we could remember the name of the place.

**Andrew Hollick**



## **AHC RACING AT ZANDVOORT: 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July**

This event has recently been announced and there is the opportunity to combine the racing with a visit to the Healey Museum on Friday 7th with an Indonesian buffet supper afterwards hosted by the Dutch Club.

If you would like to go as a spectator, please let me know asap as we already have half a dozen cars from EC with a similar number from South Western Centre booked in. If you are interested in racing contact Joe Cox.

**Maggi Byford** [webmaster@ahc-eastern.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@ahc-eastern.co.uk)

01763 242910

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## **MOET & CHANDON CLASSIC DAY AT NEWMARKET RACES**

There will be a stylish garden party atmosphere on the July Course at this prestigious racing day on Friday 14th July with gentlemen invited to take part in the Style Awards, sponsored by the Bedford Lodge Hotel; free to enter and prizes for the 3 finalists.

An exciting new addition to Gentleman's Day will be an amazing classic car display allowing racegoers to enjoy a different kind of horsepower. A selection of high quality classic British marques will be on display in the extended Grandstand and Paddock Enclosure (normally Family Enclosure) right next to the track. There will also be live music and gentlemanly activities to keep you entertained!

Drivers can claim the free ticket offer; passengers can redeem a discounted ticket price of £30 Premier admission or £15 Grandstand and Paddock, both inclusive of a race card.

Please register your interest with Angela soon as entries - British cars only - may be limited. Parking will be in a designated AHC area, depending on how many come.

**Angela Bonner**

[angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk)

## TOURING TROPHY - 2017

The Touring Trophy runs from AGM to AGM (October to October) and I am sure you will have been out in your Healey. If you want to be in with a chance of winning the Trophy let Richard Mayes (not the Editor) know your mileage.

Entrant	Date	Trip	Trip	Total
Pat & Zara	21-03-17			297
Rob	21-03-17	Toft	23	48

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## LITTLE GRANSDEN CAR & AIR SHOW 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017

This year you **MUST** book through me, Richard Mayes. Please send your completed entry form, payment and self-addressed envelope to me at:

*117 Norton Way South, Letchworth G C, Herts, SG6 1NY*

I will then submit them all in mid July. As before Club Stands are limited to the first 10 people to enter. After that you will be parked in the general classis car area. You can of course still use the facility of the event shelter.

*Richard*

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## NEW MEMBER

**Guy Turner of Harpenden** has a red/white 1960 mk 1 Austin Healey in good condition.

*Stuart Self*

*Membership secretary*



## GRAND REUNION SUNDAY LUNCH 12th March

This has become a regular early-season opener to the Eastern Centre calendar and attendees weren't disappointed with either food or company. The weather was iffy as always but as I am one of the nearest to the golf club I felt obliged to take my Healey - and only got a little wet. Normal service is resumed.

Thanks to Paula and Andrew for organising things so well yet again.

Here are some photos taken on the day:



*Bearded Pipemajor and Janine show off their car on the front cover of the magazine at the mysterious venue that is still exercising minds: Puds once again took priority over Lenten promises!*



**Rob**

## TECHNICAL TIPS

I was watching the World Rally Championship the other day and marvelling at the new aerodynamic aids that have sprouted everywhere and how they make driving quickly on slippery surfaces so much safer.

Dipping into Donald Healey's books show that he was always experimenting and trying to advance the performance of his cars so with those two thoughts in my head I wandered out into the garage to improve my 100. A chin spoiler on the front was quite easy as you can just extend the existing valance with a bit of an angle to aid airflow. For the rear downforce a little more thought was required.

Searching through my boxes of spares yielded a suitable spoiler eventually. A Porsche 911 Tea Tray fits beautifully on the boot lid and only a handful of holes were needed to secure it. I am now just waiting for a suitably wet day to try it out and find out if my aquaplaning has been cured.



Enjoy your better Healey motoring,  
**I. B. Kwick.**

*PS. Didn't they ban Group B because the cars were getting too quick?*

*PPS. The Committee are looking for a technical secretary to cover performance and comfort modifications combining this role with advice on the running and repair of Mazda MX5s. Applicants to Dave Holman not before 1<sup>st</sup> April.*



## HIGHAM FERRERS CLASSIC CAR SHOW 2017

The 2017 Show will be held on **Sunday 6 August** in the Castle Fields, Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers.

This event always has a good turnout from Eastern Centre so contact Austin Healey Club member Roy Murphy, Cedar Lodge, 128 Northampton Road, Rushden, Northants NN10 6AL to register your interest or use the email contact below:

Email [highamclassic@btinternet.com](mailto:highamclassic@btinternet.com)

Telephone—07831898138

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## THE BATTLESBRIDGE CLASSIC CAR SHOW, SUNDAY MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

The Battlesbridge Classic Car show in Essex is a firm favourite for many with a good selection of cars and motorcycles attending and usually a good Autojumble so you can find those elusive parts.

We are planning on entering as a club so please contact Angela Bonner (details on the committee page) to request an entry. As I write negotiations are under way but entry will cost no more than £10 per vehicle.

*Entry has to be confirmed by the middle of April so contact me now if you want to go.*

**Angela**

[angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk)

*The photo on the right was taken At the 2008 event and shows the kind of weather we would like again this year please!*



## EVENTS FOR 2017

Main events organised by AHC or where we have a club stand or attend regularly will be shown in **bold**. Check on the website for the latest information: [www.ahc-eastern.co.uk](http://www.ahc-eastern.co.uk)

**20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April: Daffodil Weekend.** Fully booked, but David is trying for extra rooms, worth a phone call if you are not yet booked in. Call 07984 862334 or email [wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk)

**23<sup>rd</sup> April:** Drive it Day Classic Road Run. Cambridge Car Club invite us to join their Charity Classic Road Run, starting and ending at IWM, Duxford - details from <http://www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk>

**23<sup>rd</sup> April:** Drive it Day Classic Charity fun run around south Essex, starting from RHS Hyde Hall, Chelmsford, details in Feb. Mutterings or details and entry form from [Alan@two-services.com](mailto:Alan@two-services.com)

Or as alternatives on DiD Kersey Mill, near Hadleigh, Suffolk are having an open day, some of us went last year, please let Steve [steve@delarabell.co.uk](mailto:steve@delarabell.co.uk) know if you would like to attend, but no need to book, it just helps with numbers. Railway enthusiasts can meet at Colne Valley Railway, Sible Hedingham, where they have a whole weekend of Classic and Vintage vehicles.

**1<sup>st</sup> May:** Royston Rotary Classics at the town centre car park, behind the Town Hall, meet about 11 / 11.30 am.

**14<sup>th</sup> May: Battlesbridge Spring Car Show:** Details to follow. Negotiation on price under discussion, but please let Angela [angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk) know with address details if you want to go because of posting out passes.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June: Letchworth Picnic LGCC & VCC** allsorts of classic transport invited to this relaxing and entertaining picnic, BYO or there are refreshments available, real ale bar, live music, £5 on the gate, more details from [picnic@lgccvcc.co.uk](mailto:picnic@lgccvcc.co.uk) or through Richard Mayes.



## **More 2017 events:**

**11<sup>th</sup> June: Euston Park Rural Pastimes.** Please contact Dave Holman if you plan to attend this one, so he can get us parked together, but entry forms from [eustonruralpastimes.org.uk](http://eustonruralpastimes.org.uk)

**11<sup>th</sup> June: Marham Summer Event** just S E of Kings Lynn. They are very keen to have our Healeys join in the classic vehicle section of this entertaining family day.

**25<sup>th</sup> June: Great Saling Classic vehicle display and fete,** free entry for classics and their passengers, refreshments and entertainments, about 80 vehicles last year, arrive early for 1pm official start, leave at leisure.

**6<sup>th</sup> July: Friston, Saxmundham.** Thurs. evening. 8<sup>th</sup> Classics on the Green from 3pm until about 9pm. Charity collection, no need to book, more info from 01728 687999 or from Tony on [tonyemorley2000@aol.com](mailto:tonyemorley2000@aol.com)

**8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July: Zandvoort Motor Racing** including Healey racing and a strong Healey presence with a 'Healey Village' created by the Dutch Healey Club, plus an opportunity to visit the Healey Museum [maggibyford@gmail.com](mailto:maggibyford@gmail.com)

**9<sup>th</sup> July: Kimbolton Country Fayre and AHC New Members Day.** Arrive from 9.00am. Further details in due course.

**14<sup>th</sup> July, Friday, Newmarket Moet & Chandon Classic day.** This is Gentlemen's Day, a chance to dress up a bit (competition and prizes!) and enjoy superb racing, parking your classic in a dedicated display area. Details to follow.

**6<sup>th</sup> August: Higham Ferrers Classic Car Show** Kimbolton see Feb. Mutterings but there will be a closing date and waiting list. Details from 07831 898138 or from Roy on [highamclassic@btinternet.com](mailto:highamclassic@btinternet.com)

**27<sup>th</sup> August: Little Gransden Classic Car and Air Show:** see later in Mutterings.

## GOODWOOD MEMBERS MEETING

The Goodwood Members Meeting over the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> held a race for A-series engine vehicles - The Weslake trophy named after Harry Weslake, the designer of the A-series cylinder head.

There was a full grid of 30 vehicles the vast majority period racing Sprites and Midgets including WSMS, Lenhams, Speedwells, Ashleys, Sebrings and one or two oddballs such as an Ogle and a Turner.



The race was held on a very chilly and blustery Sunday at 9.00 - the early start exercised the spectators as well as the participants.

Richard Woolmer was in pole in dad's yellow peril, BXN, with former EC chairmen Paul and Clive Cocks respectably placed mid-grid, the former in a Turner, the latter in his 'Wuzzum'.

Richard was there or there about until a coming together that put him out of the race, Paul suffering a similar fate. Clive (R) succumbed to the dreaded fuel vaporisation following a red flag as the debris was removed, so all-in all not so good for our racers but a spectacle all the same.



It was nice to see Dave Owen's old 'Lumbertubs' again after so many years - Dave having restored and sold it about 10 years ago - it could have been more.

## *Goodwood 75<sup>th</sup> Members' meeting continued...*

Elsewhere notwithstanding the bitter conditions the racing was exceptional with much power sliding from Cobras and the like big-engined cars. The photo on the front cover shows part of the grid of Listers that has particular interest for me having been built locally in Cambridge - Brian Lister being a stalwart of the local motoring scene (and accomplished jazz drummer!).

I had not been to a Members' Meeting before and found, as always at Goodwood, the event was well organised with plenty of food outlets, parking marshals and, most importantly bearing in mind the chill weather, plenty of loos!



*From top, clockwise: Terry Sprosson, Paul and Yvette Webb well wrapped up against the cold; Lumbertubs Sprite: Richard Woolmer set a cracking pace in dad's WSM; Big bangers: Something for everyone.*



## **EASTERN CENTRE COMMUNICATION**

As the committee of an Austin Healey Club we really want to help you, the Eastern Centre members, enjoy your cars to the full and would like to see you get full benefit from your membership. As with most things, communication is the key and we would like to hear more about your likes and dislikes on the way our Centre works. You are always welcome to email the committee with your comments and ideas (the list is always on the back of Mutterings).

At the last committee meeting the following areas were discussed and we would welcome some input and help from more computer orientated members:

### **Eastern Centre Website**

Unfortunately at the moment the Eastern Centre Website is not working, the platform used is out of date so we really need to make a fresh start with new software.

As our webmaster has now taken on the duties of Eastern Centre Director we are looking for someone to take on the opportunity of giving Eastern Centre a new image in the digital world. As web design is in the school curriculum now perhaps one of you has children or grandchildren who love the cars and would like to get involved, anyone with enthusiasm and an Eastern Centre connection would be welcomed. They would of course have to liaise with the committee as to style and content but that could all be done electronically so attendance at committee meetings would not be essential (but of course we would welcome the company of any new faces).

### **Facebook**

At the last committee meeting Facebook was mentioned as a possible way forward for communication with members. I understand there are different options for group pages or community projects but I do not have a full understanding of these options or the possible downsides of this type of communication (still working with pen and paper!).

## *Communications continued...*

If any of you have knowledge of this media we would welcome some input. We don't want to start something that doesn't really fulfil the Centre's needs.

Please get involved and help your centre develop into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

*Dave Holman on behalf of your Eastern Centre Committee.*

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## **LETCHWORTH CAR CLUB PICNIC**

This popular event takes place on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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*

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## **TOFT LUNCH: FROM ANDREW AND PAULA HOLLICK**

What a great lunch and group of people, 23 in total. One Healey and an MX5 both red. Thanks to all those that attended and made it a great start to the Healey season.

*Andrew*



## IT STARTED WITH A SUNBEAM

*Last month I asked members to let me have a few words on how they got into Healeys. Here is Angela Bonner's story....*

My Healey dream started with a completely different car - a Sunbeam Rapier Fastback to be precise.

My late husband John was soon to retire - for the first time - and we needed a car to replace his company vehicle. We saw an attractive Sunbeam advertised and went to view it at the home of Sharon and Paul Woolmer. Car chat turned into longer car chat, cups of tea and pictures on the walls of racing Healeys, which both of them drove.



This further fired our enthusiasm for a fun car as we were currently looking after a 100/6 for a friend in the process of emigrating to Canada. We bought the Sunbeam, starting a lasting friendship with the Woolmer family, and the car brought John home from his retirement party.

We occasionally drove the friend's 100/6 around the garden to keep it 'ticking over' until its shipment to Canada, and in the course of conversation with our daughter we discovered her friend's family had a 'sports car' under piles of stuff in their garage. This family were also emigrating, but to USA, and the car had to be sold.

The 'sports car' emerged as a Mark 2 3000 in a sorry state of disrepair and partial restoration and after some negotiation we duly bought it and dragged it home at the end of a rope, to be John's retirement project.





## *How I got into Healeys - Angela Bonner continued...*

Originally registered as KL 3000, she rested in our barn for some years as John and I bought a cat show penning business, which took 24/7.

We joined the Austin Healey club as a way of learning more about the Healey and ended up hosting an Autumn Weekend, which was enormous fun. Two summers later, as they were short of a venue, we did it again, and as KL was still untouched we decided to find a Healey 'ready to go'.

This was when WVS, our 100/4 came into our lives, and we had many miles of enjoyable motoring. The car was a bit of a Fred Kano's, having been sent to Mozambique when new, but there were no major problems and she only seemed to break down in places not only safe but easy for the RAC to find. John then had his first stroke and it was quickly apparent he would be unable to restore the 3000, so the car was sent away.

Years passed, and sadly so did John, but the 100 was still plodding along well. My new partner and I decided to take the newly restored 3000 on an organised European tour, to include the Stelvio Pass. Unfortunately there were still many problems with KL's restoration and she was not ready when we had hoped, so after a quick check over we set out with WVS. The car was running well until the fan belt broke on the Saturday afternoon. The spare we had packed was the size for the 3000 so we lost a good 48 hours while we were recovered to a garage and waited for the correct belt to be sourced and fitted.

By this time the rest of the tour were long gone, oblivious to our plight, and we decided to try and catch up. This was a disastrous mistake - we were tired, mostly lost and finding the route very hard to follow. The result was the car hitting the side of a mountain pass and flipping onto its roof. The damage was severe. Eventually the wreckage was returned to England and wrapped in tarpaulins whilst I came to terms with the loss of my new partner, and also my trusty little 100.

*To be concluded next month....*

## 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>				
Ongar Area	2nd Wednesday	Contact	Jim Sweetingham	01268 545429
<i>Old Kings Head, Stock, Ingatestone, CM4 9PQ</i>				
Biggleswade Area	First Tuesday	Contact	Clive Cocks	01933 356251
<i>The Cock Inn, Broom.</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 2016/17

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## GENERAL MEMBERS

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## 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	<a href="mailto:david@overseasair.net">david@overseasair.net</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.*