

February 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Luke and the family 3000: See inside

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

We received the sad news just after Christmas that Kate Mayes had died. Members will have met her over the years at many EC and National events as she and husband, Richard, were regulars travelling in their red 3000 or alternatively more locally in their Sprite. They were regulars at the Toft lunch that is our season opener and you will see both Richard and Kate in the photograph from a few years ago that I have used to promote this year's event.

Maggi Byford has written a very nice piece later in the magazine and I am sure many others will have happy memories of Kate. I shared many trips, mainly in France, with Richard and Kate, particularly to Angoulême - a regular pilgrimage made all the better when we followed one of Kate's 'green' routes through the rural French countryside knowing that a coffee or lunch break would always be on the agenda. We will all miss her and I think she would have been pleased that so many members attended her funeral to pay their last respects.

I have not yet sorted out my personal motoring calendar for this year yet but owning a Mk1 3000 I plan to attend the International Weekend in Bath celebrating 60 years since the first 3000 rolled out of the Abingdon gates. It is amazing and a testimony to the basic design that so many survive, mind you that is more due to the ease of repair and availability of parts than design for longevity. Planned obsolescence was the name of the automotive game in the '60s until Volvo, in particular, realised that they could sell more cars if they were able to say that they would last 10 years and do more than 100,000 miles!

I am also thinking of going across to Jersey for their International motoring festival that I understand is a good event but as Jayne is planning to retire getting a pass out may be more difficult. You may ask why I don't plan to take her? Three words: Hot, wet and uncomfortable: Unlike Kate she does not have any affinity with old cars. Her father and elder brother were car nuts and she gravitated towards anything with four legs rather than four wheels!

Rob

TOURING TROPHY - 2019

The Touring Trophy runs from AGM to AGM (October to October).

If you want to be in with a chance of winning the Trophy let the Editor mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk know your mileage in the following format.

Entrant	Date	Trip description	Trip	Total
Angela Bonner	22 Jan 2018	Carried forward		330
Dave and Pam	22 Jan 2018		182	182

2019 HIGHAM FERRERS CHICHELE CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday 4th August 2019. The Castle Fields, Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8DU

This is the sixth year of the event and due to the limitations on the number of entries that can be accommodated at The Castle Fields I would encourage you to book your place as soon as you can.

In 2018 all places were again reserved before the stated cut-off date, and whilst a waiting list will be made available, we allocate places as entries are received.

If you require any further details please email me otherwise I hope you will bring your Classic Car to the 2019 Show and submit your Pre-Registration Form with the details requested.

Email highamclassic@btinternet.com Telephone -07831 898138

Roy Murphy

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

A month into 2019 and nothing done on the cars, I have been working on a new staircase and some door frames in the house, so I haven't just been sitting in front of the fire! The joys of owning an old house as well as old cars! My son is working on a 100/6 at the moment and I can report the quality of remanufactured parts for the big Healey is as good as the Sprite parts! A rear cross member purchased had the suspension eyes welded on 20mm too far apart, now that would have made for a bit of tension when the springs were attached so not ideal. The rear seat deck is also miles out, the original pans don't fit and the general shape is not right, it is exactly the same as one I bought a few years back so obviously no notice was taken of the comments made. Are we just really unlucky or are we the only ones that check these measurements?

Our Committee meeting was a couple of days ago and I am happy to report that Tony our new membership secretary is having fun playing with the techy side of life. Hopefully you should have received a copy of Mutterings with an email, there were a few non delivered mails so if you know of a member who didn't get Mutterings please ask them to check that we have a correct active email address for them, it only takes a stop or a comma in the wrong place for things to go awry.

We are looking at ways to streamline the procedure so if any of you out there have experience of mass attachment mailing we would love your input, none of the committee are tech experts. Tony also produced the postcode map with the number of members in each code that you will see below, the spread of numbers surprised us a bit, who would have thought there are 27 of you in the IP area?

As mentioned before, if you haven't got a noggin near you why not start one?

If you contact the Membership Secretary in the first instance he can try and put you in touch with nearby Healey owners [observing due diligence on the Data Protection front], or put a request in Mutterings, every Noggin had to start somewhere!

Chairman's chat continued....

If you would like to be a co-ordinator for an event near you please contact the committee, there is a gazebo and some flags for use to provide a focus for the group and don't forget there is funding available for hospitality to encourage members to attend so don't be afraid to ask for assistance, we all had to make the first step into organising at one time.

Make sure you look out for the details of the **Spring Lunch** that Andrew and Paula Hollick are organising, it is at the same venue where we had the AGM, not convenient for many I know but not that many years ago we used to have three lunches over the winter period spread about the area, if you know of a suitable venue in your area why not arrange one for local members. It is a great way to keep in touch when there are no shows to attend and you don't really want to expose your cars to the salt and damp.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for emails from the club and keep a check on the website as the events calendar will be the first place any changes or new events appear.

Happy Healeying to one and all.
Dave

The map on the right shows the number of club members within that post code area.

The largest number appears to be in PE, followed by CM and IP.



CAMBRIDGE CLASSIC RUN 2019

The Cambridge Classic Car Run organised by the Cambridge Car Club is now a well established event held each spring. The 2019 Run will take place on **April 14th**. It is again a round of the Historic Rally Car Register's Scenic Tour series.

The road book gives a circular route, defined by easy to use tulip diagrams, of 80 to 100 miles, starting and finishing at Duxford.

Some photos of cars taking part in previous years' can be found on:

<https://www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk/event-calendar/cambridge-classic-run/>

OTHER EVENTS IN THE CAMBRIDGE AREA

3rd August:

CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT CLASSIC CAR CLUB - THE ELY CLASSIC

Contact:

events@cdccc.org.uk

Cambridge and District Classic Car Club



The Ely Classic Rally

Old Palace Green,

Ely Cathedral

Saturday 3 August 2019

www.cdccc.org.uk



The Cambridge and District Classic Car Club is holding a Classic Car Rally on the Old Palace Green, directly opposite the west door of Ely's historic cathedral, on Saturday 3 August 2019.

Participation is open to all classic car owners, whether members of CDCCC or not, and the Club invites participants to join us to make it a great day out. Participants are encouraged to make a voluntary donation to our chosen charity, Head to Toe, a charity that helps NHS staff to provide even better care and treatment in the community and which supports people of all ages receiving mental health, community and social care across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (www.headtotoecharity.org), and we will be collecting for them throughout the day. All money donated and collected will be passed on in full.

Access to the show for the public will also be free. Our intention is create a community atmosphere around the friendly enjoyment of and interest in classic cars, and the memories they evoke.

To register, please complete the attached form and send it to

CDCCC Events, 5 Blacksmiths Close, Abbotsley, St. Neots PE19 6UQ

For more information, please contact events@cdccc.org.uk or Roger Carr chair@cdccc.org.uk 07708 163785

31st August: A CLASSIC AFFAIR at Hemingford Grey near St Ives, Cambs.

<http://questbrothersclassiccars.com/>

GRAND REUNION SUNDAY LUNCH 17th March

Once again this starter to the social season will be held at Toft golf course,
near Cambridge <http://www.cmgc.co.uk/>

It will be the usual excellent menu choice of roast beef, pork or gammon and of course their famous roast potatoes. Desserts are chosen on the day from the blackboard. £17.25 for two courses. Coffee is extra. You don't have to choose your meal yet, only if you have special dietary requirements.

A great get together to start the Healey year.

Numbers please to:

Andrew Hollick; andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk 01223 263089

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.



KATE MAYES

Sadly Kate Mayes (R) died on 6th January after a battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Richard - until recently our club Secretary - and their 2 sons and their families. Kate was always an outgoing person who liked to join in, and was a very active member of the Austin Healey Club.

Roger and I really got to know Kate and Richard in the early years of this century, when they were competing in continental rallies with one organisation and we with another. Club night discussions were mostly about our various triumphs and disasters, and we also shared useful tips and techniques.



In 2006 a team of 3 Sprites from our area competed on *Le Jog* in December, and whilst the 'boys' were going to be away the ladies decided we should have an away weekend too. So while the men battled their way to Northern Scotland the hard way, the ladies flew to Barcelona and basked in 20 degrees and sunshine. Roger was navigated on the rally by Willy Cave, who was between wives, so Kate eagerly took the spare place. Kate soon taught us all about tapas and the better Spanish wines, and not to eat at any establishment where the only menu was a plastic laminated sheet of colour pictures! We all had a really enjoyable break.

In 2013 Roger and I had organised a Foreign Foray, but he had to go into hospital and was home for only 2 days before the event was due to start. We phoned Richard and Kate, and they readily agreed to take over the file with all the arrangements and lead the Foray.

Remembering Kate Mayes, continued....

Well - yes we had done all the routes, menus, quizzes etc, but what we had not organised was the weather, there was 6 inches of snow (at least) by the time they got to Arras; several roads had been closed, and there was a biting wind all weekend. However, all the participants returned with smiles on their faces, now they could look back on a good challenge, all had gone to plan, and Richard said he only had to follow instructions, as usual, as Kate had taken care of everything.

Kate will be greatly missed, and I think her mantras of 'Life is too short for cheap wine or bad coffee' will stand us all in good stead.

Our condolences and best wishes go out to Richard and the family.

Here a couple of photographs to remember her by.

Maggi



SOCIAL WHEELS, February, 2019

We have a busy year ahead planned already, some dates are confirmed with no details available yet, so keep checking our website, Mutterings and the events own websites, with most weekends now offering something to tempt you, don't miss out. Please contact me direct if you need further information, it is not always possible to squeeze everything into the magazine, and we are usually welcome to join other clubs in the area, for instance the Cambridge and District CCC are planning their popular **Classics on the Cathedral Green** at Ely later in the year, see the flyer elsewhere in Mutterings.

There are several new events this year, **Battlesbridge** have scaled down their car shows but their Easter Fun day will have a classic vehicle display area, with lots of family attractions as well. Pat and Zara are working on plans for **Drive it Day** on 28th April, see the calendar for details.

Bardwell (S.E. of Thetford), Burwell (N.W. Newmarket) and Braughing (West of Bishops Stortford) villages are all hosting classic vehicles as part of other village events, and all look like being a good family day out.

Most events have a useful website of their own, and the most up to date information can be found here as it becomes available.

I am moving house, and if all goes according to plan will have a venue to host an Eastern Healey event of our own in the summer.

I'm sure the cobwebs have been well and truly blasted away now, so get the polish out, see you all very soon,

Happy Healeying,
Angela.



EASTERN CENTRE CALENDAR 2019

Eastern Centre supported events are shown in bold. Other events are for information. If you attend a good event please let me know and we will look to get it in the Calendar for next year.

- 14th/17th Feb. LONDON Classic Car Show at the ExCel, details on line.
- 22nd/24th Mar. CLASSIC CAR AND RESTORATION show, NEC, Birmingham.
- 14th April Colne Valley Steam Railway 1940's event, with classic cars.
- 21st April Battlesbridge Easter Fun Day, with classic cars and lots of other attractions.

- **28th April DRIVE IT DAY** slightly later this year as Easter is on the usual date for this event around St Georges Day. Pat and Zara Kimber have offered to organise a drive based around their home near Ware, Herts. If their previous offerings are anything to go by, DO NOT MISS this, it will be a lovely drive. Please contact them on pat.kimber@ntlworld.com

- 6th May. ROYSTON HISTORIC and CLASSIC CAR SHOW, Bank holiday Monday.
- 26th May. CARS ON THE GREEN, Bardwell, Bury St. Edmunds. IP31 1AW. Contact 01359 253525 for info on this one.

- **1st June LETCHWORTH CLASSIC VEHICLE PICNIC** Saturday afternoon, a super chance of a relaxing picnic with friends, refreshments also available.
- **9th June. EUSTON RURAL PASTIMES.** A family day out with all manner of amusements for every age group, including a wide selection of classics. More details as they become available.

- 15th June. Burwell Fete and Carnival. Proper carnival event, all usual attractions and a classic vehicle display area. More details soon.

Eastern Calendar continued....

- 23rd June. Braughing Open Gardens. Red Cross fundraiser, group of up to 10 Healeys invited, £5-10 entry includes entry to all open gardens Please contact Brett Stead on brettoliverstead@gmail.com asap, first come, first served!
- **5th-7th July INTERNATIONAL HEALEY WEEKEND.** Based near Bath, lots going on, details on healey-weekend.com , register quickly if you want this one.
- 5th-8th July Goodwood Festival of Speed.
- 11th July (Thursday) Friston Classics on the Green, near Saxmundham, IP17 1NP 3pm 'til about nine, come and go as you please, , bar, BBQ.
- **14th July. KIMBOLTON COUNTRY FAYRE AND CLASSIC ACR SHOW.** This is still under discussion, it is hoped to swing the current bias away from more modern classics towards our era again, more details soon.
- **21st July. NEW MEMBERS' DAY PICNIC.** Keep the date free, depends on a house move going as scheduled, but a garden party/picnic, live 60's music is hoped for.
- 26th-29th July Silverstone Classic race meeting, details on line.
- 3rd/4th Aug. FESTIVAL OF WHEELS, Trinity Park, Ipswich. This is a huge event, lots going on apart from the classic vehicles. See the website.

Remember - 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.

Please note my contact number will only be 07710 267356 or email for the present, angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk as I am moving house and the address/landline is not confirmed yet.

Angela.

NEW MEMBERS

Please let me have details of your car(s) and its history and I will forward them to Rob for featuring in *Mutterings*.

Tony Withrington
Membership Secretary

ME AND MY CAR (1)

From Philip Oldman

My car is a 1956, 100/4 in M style.

The car has been completely rebuilt around ten years ago and little used since, the only problem with her is she does not have a roof, and I don't do rain. So she is off to have a hood fitted in the New Year.

I have changed the number plate to 33PO.



Kind regards
Philip

ME AND MY CAR (2)

From Luke Bradley

Dear Rob

I recently had my Austin Healey restored and welcome the opportunity to send you photos and a short description.

The Austin Healey has been in my family for 42 years having originally been bought by my grandmother in 1976. The car was passed down to me through my father, it really was his pride and joy and he would be proud now it's been restored to the original specification. The full restoration was completed in the latter part of last year, shortly before being exhibited at the NEC 2018, the car coincidentally is the blue Austin Healey 3000 as captured in the background of the green 100M displayed in the December 2018 copy of *Mutterings*.

I have a full documented history of the restoration as well as history dating back to 1964 backed up by the original RF60 logbook. I am now the custodian of the car and as a tribute later this year plan to take the Austin for its first road trip back to its original home in Abingdon.



Best regards

Luke



FROM THE WEB

Have a look at this <https://www.carandclassic.co.uk/car/C784238>



This 1956 Austin Healey 100-4 BN2 was recently discovered in a garage in Maine where it had been off the road since 1962. It is now an artifact displaying the passage of time and the effects of natural forces on its surfaces. Its white coves have become finely cracked, and it has taken on a beautifully muted color palette as a layer of dust wraps its pocked and faded paint. This 100/4 is a fascinating example, wearing its story on its skin, with an intricate and irreplaceable patina.

Price \$49,500

Who makes up this stuff - Estate Agents?

Having lived in a wet part of the US and not used since 1962 there has been plenty of time for the rats, mice and tin worm to eat away at it. I am amazed it didn't fall apart when it was dragged out of the barn!

In my opinion I don't think it is even worth \$25k

Whilst on values for the first time in over a year, the values of AH cars has changed. The big losers being 100/6 cars and big gainers being the mark 2 & 3 Sprites - in case you were interested.

Best wishes to all

David Singer

NOGGIN `N` NATTERS

Colchester area	Varies	Chris and Angie Davis	canda3000@hotmail.com	
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>Joint meetings with Woolpit Area Classics</i>				

EASTERN CENTRE COMMITTEE 2017/18

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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.