

March 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



What, when, where and who?

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

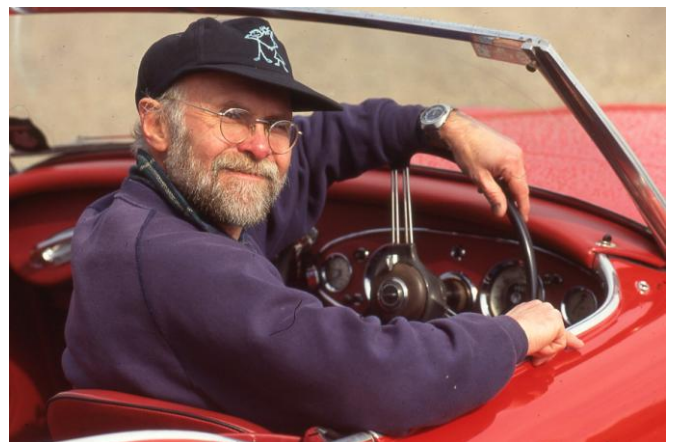
ROB'S RAMBLINGS

No excuses for not getting the Healey out over the last week as it seems that Spring has come early with unseasonably warm weather, buds bursting, daffodils nodding and knees appearing from their winter hibernation!

I did get the Healey out last week and apart from needing a jump start it did not seem any worse for its slumber since New Year's Day, however the local speed bumps seem to have grown in size, either that or the springs have sagged even more! With the Toft lunch coming up and the Cambridge Car Club and Drive it Day runs a few weeks away I may need to get the grease gun out and grovel! Doesn't get any easier with age.

I have had the 'pleasure' of driving a selection of modern cars recently as our RAV4 misbehaved with the famous limp home fault necessitating hire and loan cars and much spending of money. One of the cars we had was a Toyota Yaris hybrid CVT automatic. I very rarely drive automatics but after the obligatory left foot braking that caused Jayne to almost eject from the passenger seat I warmed to the ease of negotiating town traffic. I'm not convinced that the added complexity of the electric drive gives a lot of advantage over the new breed of turbo petrol engines but the automatic gearbox won me, and most definitely Jayne, over, mind you the torque from the 3000 is almost as good, however 20 mpg vs 60 is a significant price to pay!

You will see that I have put a bit of a poser on the front cover this month and I am expecting a flurry of answers to the 'What, where, when and who?' I'd like to say that I know but if I am honest I cannot be definitive so down to you!



There is no wonderful prize for the most comprehensive answer but think of the kudos of a mention in Mutterings!

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 Feb 2018	Carried forward		330
Dave and Pam	22 Feb 2018	Round and about	47	229

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

Hopefully you will have finished all the winter fettling and been able to enjoy the glorious spell of weather we have had. Unfortunately due to other involvements the Hundred hasn't been exercised as it should have been, but I am glad to report that we had three Healeys at our last noggin which made me feel really guilty as mine wasn't one of them. I am looking forward to the Spring Lunch and hoping it stays fine so we can bring the Hundred and not spoil my hairdo.

Pat Kimber has been working hard on the Drive it Day Planned drive for April 28th in the Hertford area, you will find an entry form in this month's Mutterings so please join us if you can. It starts with a Pub Lunch if you desire and ends up with tea and cake at the Kimber establishment, all we need is good weather and your company to make the day complete. Don't forget if you are joining a run in your area please let us know so other Healeys can join in.

I hope the delivery of Mutterings has met with your approval, as mentioned last month none of the committee are really tech wizards so if you can suggest options or improvements we are always happy to listen. While chatting about techy things, our Webmaster wishes to step down in October at our next AGM so if you fancy joining the fun and making a difference running the website please contact me, these things don't operate themselves so please come and help, you are always welcome to join the committee mid-term.

There are lots of smaller events happening all over the area, Angela our Social Secretary has included a few in the calendar so hopefully you will find something to do near you and meet up with likeminded individuals, some of these are Open Garden events and village fairs so they will make entertaining days out for all. And 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.

Chairman's chat continued....

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 photo on the right is from 2014, Dave, Terry Sprosson and son James discuss the condition of the editor's sills at James' workshop in Downham Market.



DRIVE IT DAY 2019: SUNDAY 28 APRIL

On this day let us all drive our Classic Cars! Where to? Well why not join us for an optional pub lunch or bar snack at The Anchor, Cambridge Road, Wadesmill SG12 OTD before leaving its car park from 2pm. A route of just under 30 miles will be given out on the day. It has an option of an additional half hour or so, but both routes end at 12 Presdales Drive, Ware for tea and home-made cakes.

An entry form is required so we can inform the pub of numbers and we also plan to give a list of entrants to everyone, which is helpful in getting to know other enthusiasts.

Forms from pat.kimber@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01920 420642

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.



CLASSICS IN THE NETHERLANDS

I happened to be travelling through the Netherlands recently and came across the Gallery Aaldering near Bremen. A modern classic car showroom on four floors displaying some 300 vehicles.

We introduced ourselves to the staff and asked if we could look around as it is a sales showroom and not a museum. They were welcoming and we browsed for 40 minutes or so, keeping our wallets firmly in our pockets as we drooled over the extensive displays finally relaxing in the comfortable coffee shop.

A great place to stop off for a coffee and a look around en route to, or from the Healey Museum (well worth a visit!). The Dutch love the British classics and there were a good selection of more affordable MGs, TRs and Healeys, as well as high end Astons and Ferraris etc. Look up the *Gallery Aaldering* on the web for more info.

The photos show the range of cars that can be seen.



Tony Withrington

Gallery Aaldering continued...

*Beautiful Facel Vega
below: Coffee shop
provided caffeine
recharge after the
stress of resisting
temptation!*



*Healey amongst other
Brit classics.*



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.

- **17th March Grand Reunion Sunday Lunch:** See elsewhere in Mutterings: Andrew Hollick; andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk 01223 263089
- 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 see the form in this month's Mutterings or 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.
- 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.
- 7th Sept. Redbourn Classic Motor Show and fete, tickets available, see their website and this month's Social Wheels. If there is enough Healey interest we would be able to have our own area in their Clubs section, I guess something like Battlesbridge and Letchworth do?
- 21st/22nd Sept. Sywell Aerodrome PISTONS and PROPS, Northampton. Tickets now available, variety of vintage machinery, see Social Wheels

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.

Keep this top half

AUSTIN HEALEY EASTERN CENTRE
MIDGET & SPRITE CLUB

DRIVE IT DAY

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2019

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this Classic Car event. We are starting at The Anchor Pub, Wadesmill, Ware, Herts SG12 OTD where there is plenty of space beside it in Anchor Lane.

There will be the option of a bar snack or lunch before the start at 2pm. As the Pub needs to have an idea of numbers for a large group, would you kindly detach the bottom half of this form and return it to us at Dellys, 12 Presdales Drive, Ware SG12 9NS at least a week beforehand. A list of entrants can then be included for everyone.

No acknowledgement will be sent, but the route will be given out on the day. We end, after about 30 miles, at our home in Ware for a free tea with home-made cakes.

Tel: 01920 420642

Pat & Zara Kimber

ENTRY FORM

Sunday 28 April 2019

First name.....Model & colour.....

Surname.....Registration No.....Yrs owned.....

Address & postcode..... Yr of manufacture.....

.....

Email address.....

Sunday lunch.....

Bar snack.....

Tea.....

Tel.No. (inc.code).....

Navigator/Second driver.....

My own insurance covers me for taking part in this event and no claim will be made against the Organisers for any accident.

Signed.....Date.....

Return to Pat & Zara Kimber, 12 Presdales Drive, Ware SG12 9NS

NEW MEMBERS

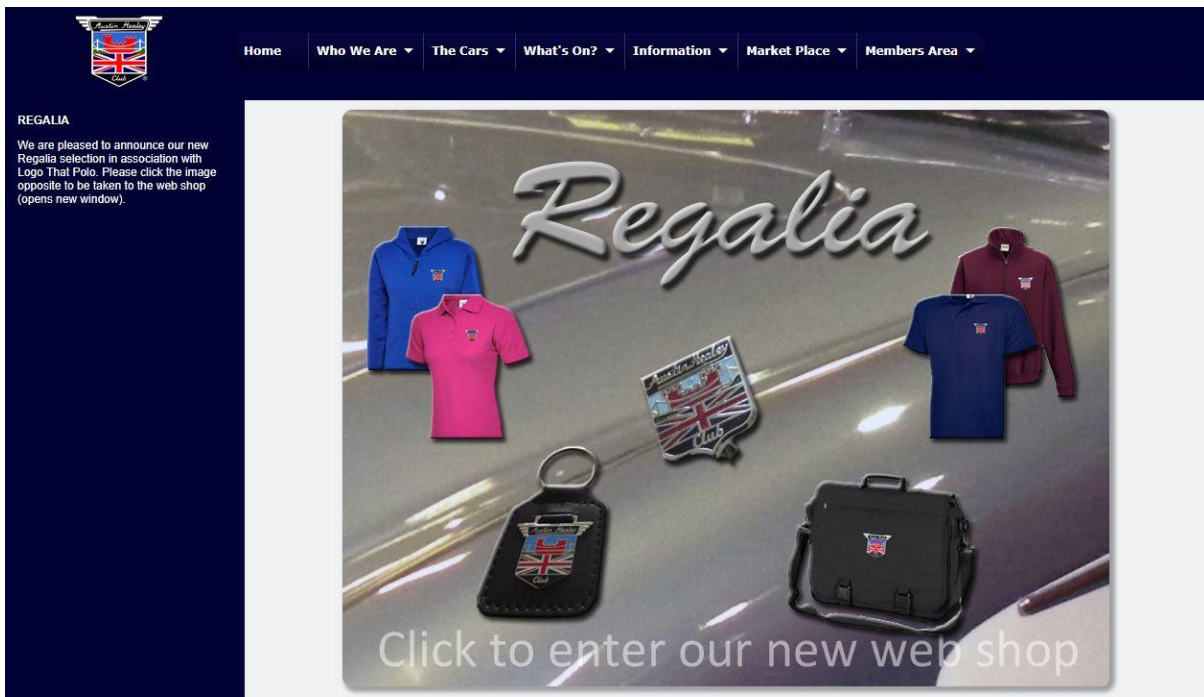
Welcome **June Hebditch** who is also becoming our new secretary!

New members are asked to let the editor have a brief 'Me and my car' article for Mutterings.

Tony Withrington
Membership Secretary

REGALIA UPDATE

The link that follows shows progress on a new national regalia supplier. Members will be able to order online for standard items and regional groups can have a specific design approved by the company secretary before ordering regalia for events, tours etc. <https://www.austinhealeyclub.com/pages/regalia2.html>



REGALIA

We are pleased to announce our new Regalia selection in association with Logo That Polo. Please click the image opposite to be taken to the web shop (opens new window).

Home Who We Are The Cars What's On? Information Market Place Members Area

Click to enter our new web shop

Facebook Webmaster Information & Press/PR enquiries Legal statement Privacy notice flickr

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Maggi Byford
NEC Director

ME AND MY CAR: MIKE SUTTON

I would like to report that after 4½ plus years my BJ7 is now with the trimmer being a basket case of bits from the USA. The car has been rebuilt from a new chassis up using all Alloy panels etc.

I estimate THAT after a 500 mile shake down I will collect the car in late spring from *11 Engineering* in the midlands who are friends of mine. They do a lot of the restoration work for many of the big Healey names/companies etc and he's been doing this car for me, as and when time permits.

We are putting our own twist on it, with slightly different wire wheels, as I say aluminium body and tweaking the interior colour with a German grey colour soft top.

Whilst a BJ7 but we opted for a new Dennis Welch BJ8 chassis stiffened as the rally Healeys

I have tons of photos & a depleted bank balance

Hope it's of some interest

Regards

Mike Sutton



Mike on his car continued...



IS THIS HOW THEY ALL START OUT?

Seeing the 'before' photo from Luke Bradley last month reminded me of my car before it was restored (R)!



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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BRETT STEAD	brettoliverstead@gmail.com		07538 495324

TECHNICAL SECRETARIES

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SPRITES (All Marques)	PAT KIMBER		01920 420642
WARWICK HEALEY	JOHN KEENER		01494 728360

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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.