

April 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



'Sno joke! AHC Spring lunch attracts the weather gods!

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Loads going on this month resulting in the Healey getting several outings. I have reported on the Toft lunch in the magazine and, in addition, trips to the H&H auction at Duxford, the Thriplow daffodil festival and to the EC committee meeting at Duxford village blew the cobwebs away although gloves were pretty well order of the day each time.

One of the pleasing things about the Toft lunch was the number of new faces and this combined with June Hebditch and Brett Stead joining the committee and the interest from new members shown at the AGM suggests that we are beginning to tap into this hitherto reluctant body within the membership. I can only give my encouragement because joining and becoming actively involved in the club added a new dimension to my social life notwithstanding Jayne's reluctance to sit in the 'hot' seat! I have toured overseas, attended race meetings and social events, made long-term friends and tapped into a fantastic knowledge base. Don't be shy - the club offers something for everyone.

Looking forward we have Pat and Zara's Drive-it-Day run coming up but before that I am doing the Cambridge Classic run which can be challenging weather-wise but is always a great day out in the Cambs, Herts and Essex countryside. This year the entry list includes the 1970 London to Mexico World Cup Rally Austin Maxi 'Puff the Magic Wagon' repurchased by Bronwyn Burrell and to be driven by her. The start and finish is at Duxford IWM where there is always lots to see and do.

Check out the events pages in Mutterings and come along to One or more of the events - you won't regret it.

Rob

R the Plough Duxford where we hold our committee meetings.



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 March 2019	Carried forward		330
Dave and Pam	22 March 2019	Carried forward		229
Pat and Zara	22 March 2019	NUTS meeting	18	108
Rob	22 March 2019	Toft, Barrington, Duxford and around	112	112

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 book your place as soon as you can.

In 2018 all places were 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

This year is going so quickly, I had the chance to exercise the Hundred taking it to the Toft Spring Lunch that was ably organised by Andrew and Paula Hollick. It was a dry run down and home but there was a hailstorm during lunch, coming out of the blue, which gave Rob Ransom a chance to photograph some Healeys in winter conditions. We were very happy to welcome some new faces to the meal and it was great that we had some Healeys on parade (one in the guise of a very pretty Fiat 124 Spider, if the Healey restoration turns out as well it will be a very good car). I hope you all enjoyed the meal and the banter and I hope the Frogeye has dried out as the hood was off when the hail started. We look forward to seeing you all in the future.

Pat Kimber (pictured with Zara arriving at the Toft lunch R) was handing out entry forms for his Drive it Day run in the Ware area, you should find the forms with your copy of Mutterings, if you would like to join us for lunch before the 14.00 hours start Pat needs to know so the Pub can be forewarned of the numbers expected.



Don't forget if you are joining a run in your area please let us know, with the technology available we should be able to contact others in the vicinity so we can get a few more Healeys out and about.

On that subject I was asked at the lunch if I knew of members in the Hockley area, if you want to meet members in your area the easiest way is to start a group by putting a notice in Mutterings, of course you have to be aware that we need permission to put your contact details in the newsletter but this is really the only way people will be able to get in touch, it needs somebody to start the ball rolling. With the new GDPR rules we all have to give permission for our details to be published so please be aware of that if you wish to be a contact for an event. Contact the chairman if you would like more details on the Club's position on this.

Chairman's Chat continued...

The Euston Park Rural Pastimes event in June is a great event and I plan to be there this year. There is always plenty to see and do for all the family and the way it is run enables us to park together. If you visit their website <http://www.eustonruralpastimes.org.uk/forms/cars2019.pdf> you can download the entry form and make sure you tick the box saying you want to park in a group and don't forget to tell them which club you are in. In the past they have always been very good at sorting things out as long as you apply in plenty of time [the deadlines are on the form] If you are booking for this please let the social secretary or chairman know so we can make arrangements at the venue.



At our last committee meeting we discussed the possibility of a "Year Book" to put into print the highlights of Mutterings and the events of the previous year. We cannot afford to have a monthly Mutterings but once a year in print is feasible. Rob is looking into the production; please let us know if you like the idea.

As always check the events page in Mutterings or on the website to find out what is going on near you and 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

Photo R shows Dave at the March Norfolk noggin' with his new daily driver.



EVENTS IN THE CAMBRIDGE AREA

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/>

3rd August: CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT CLASSIC CAR CLUB – THE ELY CLASSIC

This is a great event in the shadow of Ely Cathedral.

There is a limitation on the number of cars that can attend so get your application in quickly.

Contact:

events@cdccc.org.uk



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

<http://questbrothersclassiccars.com/>



H&H MARCH AUCTION AT DUXFORD

I attended the March Norfolk Noggin' with Terry Sprosson which gave me the opportunity to see how he is getting on with his E-Type that he is restoring from basket case to concours standard. It is looking fabulous and has reached the stage where the engine and transmission are about to be fitted following completion of the bodywork and interior trim. Terry has 'previous' with restorations having completed AH 100, Alfa Guilia, Jag 140, Healey boat and fettled his Model A. Apologies, Terry, if I have forgotten one or two!

We generally attend the H&H Duxford preview day together and it is informative to hear his comments on the Jags up for sale! This year as usual there were loads of Jags including a batch of LHD imports for restoration including the wreck below that had a estimate of £16-20K. Not surprisingly the latter did not sell, there not being any redeeming features that I could see!

The only 'Healey' was a Sebring big Healey replica that sold for £18.5k, not the most attractive of the 'clones' in my eyes, the windscreen pillars being chunky apparently due to US roll-over requirements.



Car of the sale for me was the Alfa Guilia Sprint special that was way out of my price range at £52k. Full results can be seen on their website:

<http://www.online.handh.co.uk>

Rob



AHC EASTERN CENTRE SPRING LUNCH

The EC Spring Lunch took place on Sunday 18 March at the Meridian Golf club near Cambridge. For those interested in trivia it is so called because the Greenwich Meridian bisects the course.

21 members, their partners and friends turned up making it one of the best attended for some time. We were especially pleased with the number of new faces and the 4 Healeys in the car park: 2 Big, 1 Hundred and a Frog. Farthest travelled were Frank and Doreen Rush from near Southend in a very nice green over white 3000. There were anxious looks from those top down during the lunch as the weather turned somewhat inclement. There was a thundering on the glazed roof of the dining room and a fusillade of hailstones as you will see from the photo on the front cover. Martin and Joanne Berrington carried out some rapid hood-raising on their red Frogeye and Martin gets the hero of the day award returning cold and soaked! The weather improved following a second shower and the journey home was very pleasant if a little cold.

The spring lunch is to catch up and that we did over an excellent carvery meal and the usual indulgent puds! Great to see Chris Pugh there thanks to Patrick and Pam who picked her up from the bad lands of Milton Keynes, perilously near Midland Centre!

Other new faces were Steve Sargent who has a Healey for restoration and Tim Ryan and Paul Large who arrived in a fabulous Fiat 124 Spider seen behind my snowy 3000 in the photo. They are restoring a LHD American import 3000 and it was interesting to hear about the progress of the work including the difficulties of getting it back to bare metal.



It was also fascinating to also about spray-on protective coatings - a new technique that I have heard of but not examined closely.

Once again many thanks to Andrew and Paula Hollick for the impeccable organisation.

Toft lunch continued...



Steve Sargent with
Andrew and Paula:
Martin Berrington
after his dash to put up
the Frog's hood: Frank
and Doreen Rush and a
general view below.



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 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 <http://www.battlesbridge.com/>
- **28th April DRIVE IT DAY** slightly later this year as Easter is on the usual date for this event around St George's Day. Pat and Zara Kimber have organised 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 HALL RURAL PASTIMES.** A family day out with all manner of amusements for every age group, including a wide selection of classics. More details in Chairman's chat..
- 15th June. Burwell Fete and Carnival. Proper carnival event, all usual attractions and a classic vehicle display area. More details soon.

There are events throughout the year at Battlebridge: See separate listing.

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.** 3000 mk1 60th Anniversary. Based near Bath, 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 car 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 AUG. ELY CLASSIC** - see separate notification elsewhere.
- 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.

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 0TD 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

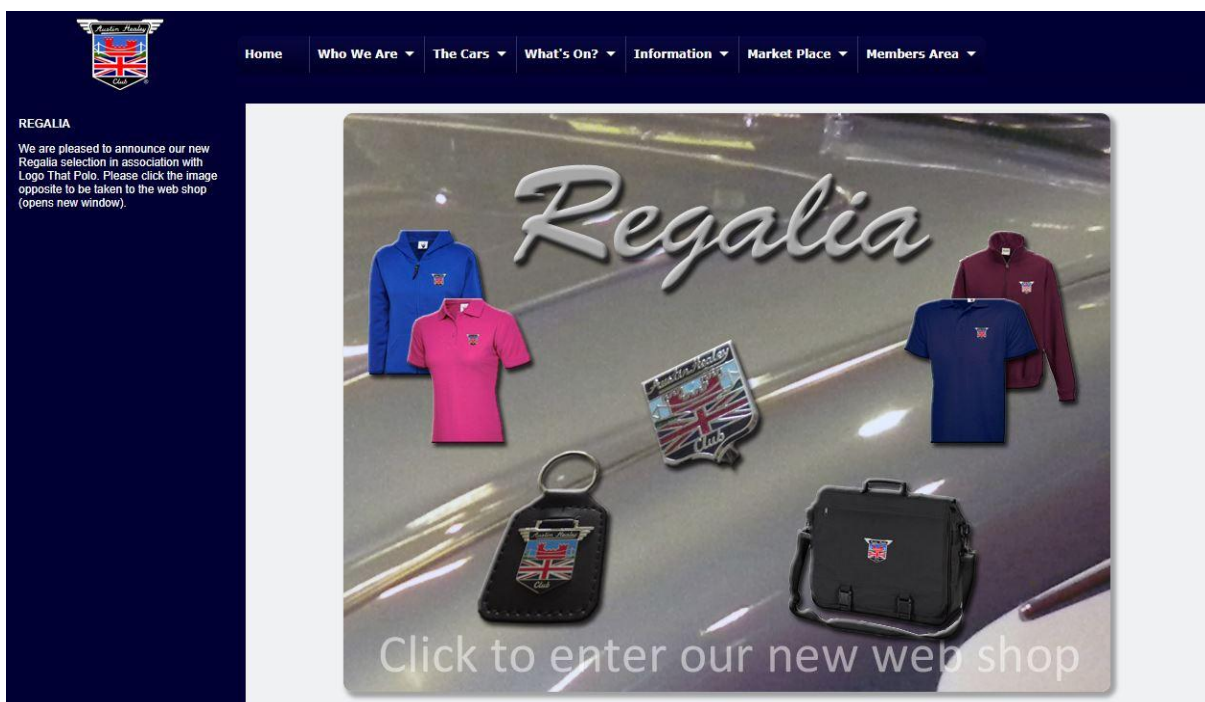
Our membership secretary is away in the Antipodes at the moment but we will bring you details of new members on his return,

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>



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Maggi Byford

BATTLESBRIDGE 2019

- 28th April Battlesbridge Breakfast Meet, arrive 9am, leave at will, rolls, coffee etc available to buy.
- 12th May Auto Jumble
- 19th May Breakfast Meet
- 16th June Breakfast Meet
- 21st July Breakfast Meet
- 18th Aug. Breakfast Meet
- 22nd Sep. Breakfast meet
- 29th Sep. Auto Jumble



<http://www.battlesbridge.com/>

WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH AUSTIN-HEALEY?

This is Donald Healey's Jensen 541 S photographed outside the former Healey Cape works in Warwick. In May 1962, a Jensen 541 S, without engine or gearbox, was delivered to The Cape where it was fitted with the short block Chevrolet 327 cu. in. V8 engine and automatic transmission.

DMH used it for his regular commute from Warwick to Trebah in Cornwall.



I am indebted to the Warwick Healey Motor Company Archive for the photo. More information on Warwick built Healeys can be found at

<https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-863-672>

COVER PHOTO CONUNDRUM

The photo on last month's cover has caused some scratching of heads. The year and event has been identified as the 2004 IHW weekend held at Wyboston Lakes Conference centre organised by Eastern Centre and in addition to Joe Cox with the microphone those seated and visible from L-R are believed to be:

- Unknown
- Unknown
- Colin Stokes
- Stuart Turner
- John Chatham
- Mike Garton
- Peter Riley
- Douglas Wilson-Spratt
- Unknown
- Margot Healey
- Don Morley
- Unknown



The unknowns are thought to be Marcus Chambers, John Harris, Peter Jackson, Jim McManus and Bill [Jock] Reid but who's who will have to wait until next time.

My thanks to Dave Holman and Maggi and Roger Byford for their help. If anyone can identify the others or correct the list please get in touch.

The photo on the right appeared on the cover of the promotional flyer that I am attempting to find in my archive - don't hold your breath!



Rob

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>			

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