

May 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



*Sunny Hunny: Daffodil weekend 2019 was blessed with
good weather*



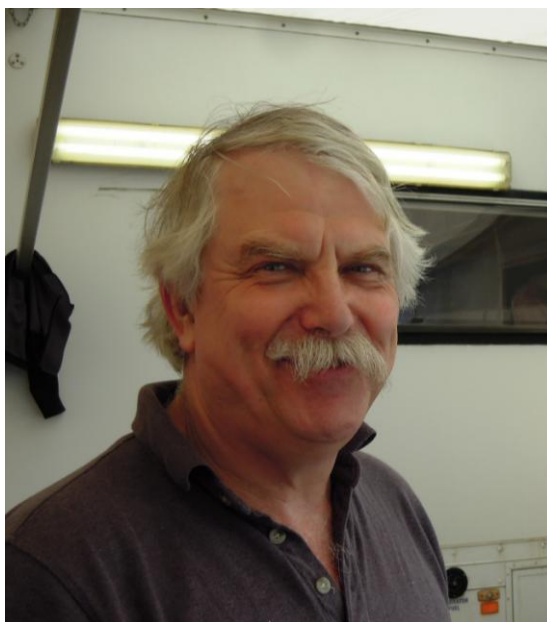
<http://new.ahc-eastern.co.uk/>

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Being a Brit I have an obsession with the weather and we have had a fair cross section of weather events over the last month from the hailstorm I mentioned in the April Mutterings to summer sunshine. Needless to say that when I have been out and about in the car the temperature seems to drop, wind gets up and clouds move in, particularly when I go motor racing. No surprise then that recent trips to Silverstone and Snetterton tested wind and waterproofs.

Silverstone was particularly good from a Healey point of view as there were several races that included Healeys, generally Big Ones it has to be said although also a smattering of Sprites, a Speedwell and WSM being two of the special-bodied examples on the track.

Paul Woolmer's race support organisation was there with a number of cars and it was a nice surprise to bump into Andrew Haywood-Smith who was part of the AH EC committee when I joined in 1991 and with whom I went to Le Mans in 1994 as part of a convoy of a dozen cars led by an overloaded Safari Land Rover that was carrying everything imaginable including a fridge! Just to show that old wine matures and does not age here he is today - as he was in 1994 next month!



I also attended Pat and Zara's run and the Cambridge Car Club road run, both of which you will read about later in the magazine alongside the April Norfolk Noggin', enjoyable as always.

So on to 'real' spring. I wonder what we can expect? Whatever the weather I will try to get the car out, however I don't see me challenging for the Touring Trophy - we already have some serious mileages to contend with!

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	28 April 2019	Carried forward		330
Dave and Pam	28 April 2019	Essex and about	182	411
Pat and Zara	28 April 2019	Carried forward		108
Rob	28 April 2019	Cambridge Car club run	60	172
Dave Holman	28 April 2019	Mileage since AGM	846	846

BRAUGHING VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY: Sunday 23rd June

N.U.T.S. (the Nostalgic and Unusual Transport society) have invited members of the AHCEC to join them to display up to ten Healeys. It is an enjoyable event and for a good cause, so please contact AHCEC general committee member, Brett Stead brettoliverstead@gmail.com in order to secure a display space. Places will be given on a first-come, first-secured basis. We are not looking for "concoours" cars, so if your Healey is on the road, enjoy it and bring it along!

N.U.T.S. need to have some idea of the likely turnout, so it would be appreciated if you could give some indication of your likely interest in participating to Brett please.

Braughing is just off the A10, south of Buntingford and in addition to the Healey reserved parking there will be plenty of public parking.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I hope you all had the chance to enjoy some great Healey motoring while the weather was so brilliant over the Easter break. Unfortunately the heat had run out by the time Drive it Day arrived but apart from driving through a few showers on the way down it stayed dry on the run so we didn't have to cope with *papier maché* route instructions. Many thanks to Pat and Zara for sorting out a really interesting route, my meal at the Pub was very good and with the 2 for 1 deal an absolute bargain. The end of the route at Pat and Zara's home was a great finish to the day with excellent cake, copious tea and coffee and of course great conversation with other motoring enthusiasts. Photo below of my 100 outside Pat and Zara's home in Ware. We had a good selection of cars with, if I remember correctly, 4 Frogeyes, 4 Hundreds, 2 3000's and a Vauxhall estate. I am sorry I didn't get to chat to everyone but it looked as though everyone enjoyed themselves, I certainly did. Hopefully Rob will have done his usual excellent job of photographing everything in sight to capture the day. I am sure he will welcome any other Drive it Day stories and photos for next month's issue.

May will be busy, with some off to Cornwall and Scotland and at the end of the month rolling into June there is a gathering in North Yorkshire so there will be a few Healey Miles racked up in the coming weeks. Add to this all the local shows that we have invites to attend there is really no excuse to leave the Healey in the garage, whatever you are planning enjoy your Healey.

Some events need booking such as Euston Park Rural Pastimes in June. 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.

Chairman's chat continued...

Last Month I mentioned the possibility of a "Year Book" to put into print the highlights of Mutterings and the events of the previous year. We haven't had any comments on the proposal yet, 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.

The Sprite bodyshell is more or less complete, it is now in a queue for final fettling and paint by someone who is far better at that sort of thing than I, so I am now returning to assembling my 3000 taken apart 5 years ago, I was thinking about a full restoration but I have changed my mind so it will be returned to the road as a "Rat Look" Healey, main reason being the Dog can go on the back seat and there is no point in having a really smart vehicle covered in dog hairs, and of course those that know me will know I don't really do "smart" on any level of the word!

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.

*PS: To show that
I practice what I
preach I have entered
the Touring Trophy
this year and hope to
give Dave Haslam
some competition!!!*



EVENTS IN THE CAMBRIDGE AREA

Friday 3rd May: Barrington Green First Friday Club: this popular informal gathering of classics has restarted. The Royal Oak arranges a BBQ and sometimes outside bar for the many that turn up regardless of the weather. 5pm onwards.



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/>

DAFFODIL WEEKEND 2019

This early spring event has been running for 20 plus years now, originally organised by the Midland Centre but recently taken over by the Southern Counties branch. Eastern Centre has always had good representation, not the least because it is based in Hunstanton at the Le Strange Hotel, right in the heart of our region.

The organisation is such that a convivial social weekend is combined with some planned drives to local attractions, this year Oxburgh Hall and the Prickwillow pumping Museum.

Whilst not staying at the Le Strange I joined a number of familiar faces for afternoon tea on the terrace which was a real joy as it faces west towards the setting sun over the Wash.

Rob



CAMBRIDGE CAR CLUB RUN

This charity run is organised by the Cambridge Car Club, a long-standing sporting motor club and this year it was part of the Historic Rally Car Register's Scenic Tour series starting and finishing at Duxford. Over 100 cars entered what was an interesting route through the Herts, Essex and Cambridgeshire countryside with a break at Carver Barracks where an Autosolo was taking place on the old runway. I had not come across Autosolo before but it was an entertaining watch and more entertaining to take part in it would appear with much belting around a coned circuit with 'gates' and slalom sections - Autotest without the reversing and garages.

Main interest amongst the cars was the 1970 London to Mexico World Cup Rally Austin Maxi 'Puff the Magic Wagon' recently repurchased by Bronwyn Burrell and driven by her and her surviving co-pilot, Tina Kerridge, Bron on the right and Tina on the left below. It was a chilly day but very enjoyable with plenty of time for looking around Duxford and chatting to participants.



PAT AND ZARA'S DRIVE IT DAY RUN

When Chairman Dave Holman challenged the membership to come up with ideas for Drive it Day 2019 Pat and Zara stepped up to offer a reprise of their popular road runs in the Hertfordshire countryside near their home, an offer gratefully received. A dozen or so teams from the Austin Healey Club, 750 MC and Midget and Sprite clubs assembled at the Anchor, Wadesmill for an enjoyable, and very well-priced, lunch before receiving route books with tulips comprehensively drawn up to ensure that no one got lost on the run. Sadly we did, but that is down to me not knowing my left from right but with an unerring homing instinct when it comes to Zara's home baking we bumbled our way around the back streets of Hertford returning to Pat and Zara's before the hoard arrived!

It was a super day out not the least because Terry Sprosson picked me up from Cambridge en-route to show me that his overheating has been put to bed once and for all!!

Many thanks to Pat and Zara and I for one, hope that they will organise something similar for next year.

Rob



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.

- 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.
- **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.

Eastern Calendar continued...

- **21st July. NEW MEMBERS' DAY PICNIC.** Keep the date but depends on a house move going as scheduled. A garden party/picnic with 60's music from Tony Withrington's band, *The Five O'Clock Shadows*, is hoped for.
- 26th-29th July Silverstone Classic race meeting, details on line.
- **3RD August. ELY CLASSIC** - see separate notification.
- **4th August. HIGHAM FERRERS CHICHELE CLASSIC CAR SHOW**
The Castle Fields, Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8DU **Roy Murphy** highamclassic@btinternet.com Telephone -07831 898138
- 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

There are events throughout the year at Battlesbridge:

- 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/>

Please note Angela's contact number will only be 07710 267356 or email for the present, angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk as she is moving house.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

This month we had a press release from the FBHVC regarding the change in MOT exemption dates, apparently there have been incidents where the police have not been aware of the new dates so the DfT have sent out a letter explaining the details and the FBHVC have suggested that printing a copy and keeping it in the car may prevent misunderstandings in the event of being stopped for a supposed infringement. This letter will be available on the FBHVC website, if you have any problems finding it please contact me, I have a copy saved that I can email to you.

Mike Quinn is standing down from the webmaster role at the October AGM so we would like a new committee member to join us to look after the website. We need this position to be filled by someone who enjoys Healeys and the technical side of life, to be able to update the website and keep it running smoothly, as this is now our main form of communication it is an essential position. Please contact me to discuss the options if you are in any way interested in helping Eastern Centre continue on line.

I don't feel it essential to attend all committee meetings as any communication could be electronic, I understand that distance and time issues may put people off joining the committee and I would be willing to visit anyone if a face to face meeting was needed, and of course any help needed in taking over the website would be available.

Happy Healeying,

Dave Holman.

chairman@ahc-eastern.co.uk

*Pictured R with Sue at
the recent Norfolk
Noggin'*



NEW MEMBERS

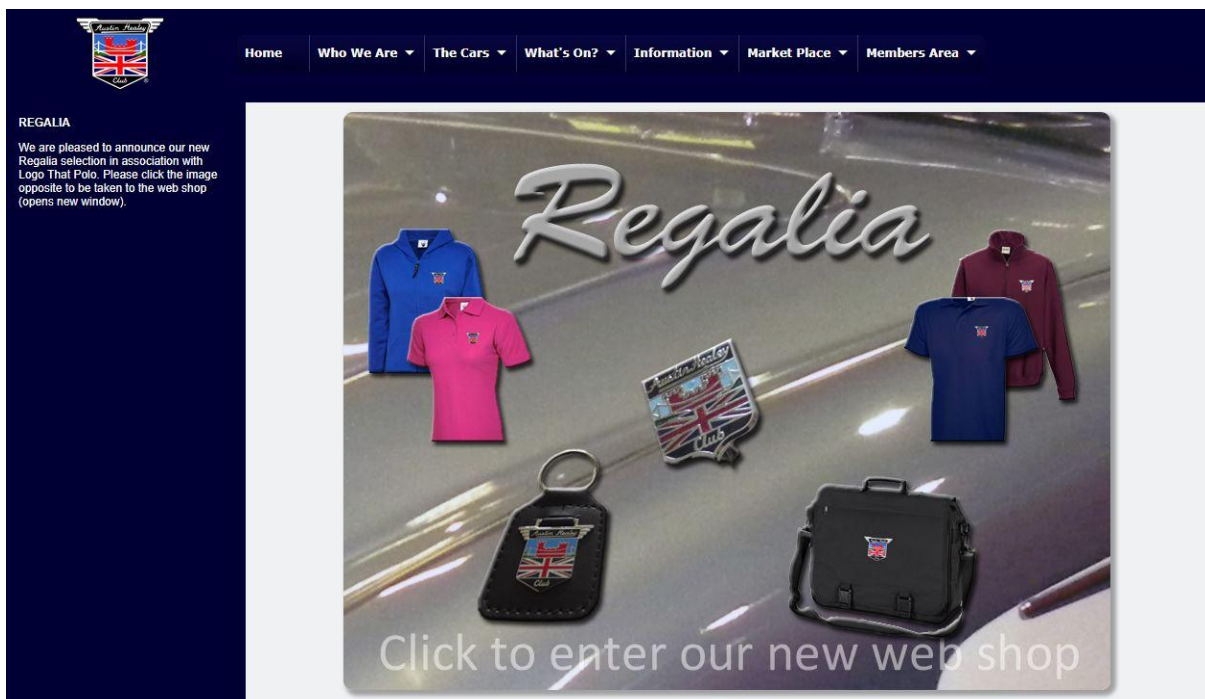
We will bring you details of new members on a regular basis,

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



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Maggi Byford

FBHVC BREXIT CHECKLIST

The following are areas which the Federation considers you should think about if you are intending to travel in the EU post-Brexit, either as a driver or passenger.

- You should consider your insurance, both vehicle and personal.
 - The Insurance Directive will cease to be effective and there could be changes to how claims would be dealt with. Ask your motor insurer.
 - You may require a *Green Card* to visit EU countries, and not all EU countries accept the same *Green Card*. Your motor insurer should know the various rules
 - Your *European Health Insurance Card* will no longer be of any effect. Thus you should consider establishing that your insurance cover includes full health insurance, including, if required, cover against the occurrence of existing medical conditions.
- You may need any driver to acquire an *International Driving Permit*
- You will require to show a separate *GB* plate even if your vehicle is identified as being registered in the UK by the EU '*GB*' number plate.
- The *Roadworthiness Testing Directive* will no longer apply. You may wish to submit your vehicle to an *MOT* test, even if it is exempt, so that you will be in possession of evidence that the vehicle has passed a roadworthiness test if local law enforcement requests.
- Not all local *Low Emission Zones* currently exempt historic vehicles. There may be some which exempt only historic vehicles from the EU. You will need to check locally.

As a FBHVC affiliated club we get regular updates on matters such as this and will advise members either through *Revcounter* or *Mutterings* on important issues.

COVER PHOTO CONUNDRUM

Those in the photo on the March Mutterings cover from the 2004 IHW weekend held at Wyboston Lakes Conference centre organised by Eastern Centre are gradually being identified. In addition to Joe Cox with the microphone those seated from L-R are believed to be:

- Peter Jackson
- Unknown (peak of cap)
- Jim McManus
- Colin Stokes
- Tony Walden
- 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 and Bill [Jock] Reid but to identify which is which needs your help.

This month thanks to Paul Woolmer and Tony Walden who provided a couple more pieces of the jigsaw. If anyone can identify the others or correct the list please get in touch.

Photo right shows Bob Kemp and John Bowman having a go at the Gymkhana.

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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