

July 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Miles of smiles: Dave goes out and about - report inside



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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Whilst I have been away on holiday during June I still managed to put a few miles on the car - not in the same league as the two Daves but enough to keep the mechanics from rusting up!

I have reported on Letchworth and Braughing later in the magazine and enjoyed both and can heartily recommend them to members.

I look forward to the next major event in our region, the **New Members' Day** at Angela Bonner's new house. Years ago when her husband John was alive, NMD at the Bonners was one event not to be missed with legendary hospitality. Angela moved away from the house in Wimbish at which the event was held but now that she has moved with her daughter into what appears to be a great venue she is promising a splendid event with music from Tony Withrington's band and the opportunity to dust off the Speedos and swim in the pool (might give that a miss - don't want to put anyone off their lunch!). 21st July is the date and Helions Bumpsted the place. More details later in Mutterings.

As I have written in Mutterings a number of times I have missed my old Frogeye and so it didn't require a lot of thought when Richard Mayes said that he was selling his cars - would I like to buy his Sprite? Of course I would and have, although due to my holidays it is spending a little longer at his home - I plan to pick it up next week.

Richard restored it from a basket case and I am pleased that I can give it a good home. Although it had been idle for three years or so it didn't take a lot of encouragement to fire up. A testament to Richard's work.

So yellow Frog or red 3000 I hope to be out and about over the summer and look forward to hearing all your tales of life on the road with Healey, big or small.

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	25 June 2019	Carried forward		330
Dave and Pam	25 June 2019	County Durham	728	2375
Pat and Zara	25 June 2019	Carried forward		108
Rob	25 June 2019	Letchworth, Braughing and about	113	310
Dave Holman	25 June 2019	Yorkshire, Euston Park, Bicester	1118	1964

KIMBOLTON COUNTRY FAYRE JULY 14TH

Kimbolton Castle: On B645 between St Neots and Rushden PE28 0EA

We will have a stand available for the Austin Healey Club in our usual place. Tickets (wristbands) enable car and passenger into the showground at the discount price of £10 per vehicle.

Without wristband £10.00 *per person* and possibly car in general car park

For wristband Please contact
Clive or Sue Cocks
01933 551885



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

The Hundred has had a bit more exercise in the last month, starting with a trip to Harrogate and then on up to near Darlington to join the excellent weekend organised by Peter and Dianne Austin who live up there in Teesdale. Wonderful driving country, Buttertubs Pass is so much fun you have to do it twice!



Back home the Euston Park Rural Pastimes event was as good as ever and they even managed to arrange a dry day for it. The day was made better by Steve Hill's 3000 being voted Best Classic Car on the Day.

We then had to attend an Association of Healey Owners event near Bicester. We went over on the Friday to fit in a visit to the revamped Gaydon Motor Museum.



The last time we were there was when Midlands organised the IHW there so it has been a long time between visits.

It was refurbished a couple of years ago and there is now another building so they can exhibit more of the collection, including Jaguar Heritage with a number of interesting concept cars that I had not seen before.

They have a lot of BMC stuff in the main building including the 1959 Sprite Record breaking EX219, this is the way to go if you want a quicker Frog!

Chairman's chat continued...

A few body modifications and a supercharged 948cc engine could take you to 147 MPH. Unfortunately the car was re-used time and again, in 1954 and 1956 it was badged as an MG [it did start with a prototype MGA chassis and a twin cam engine maxing out at 170 MPH as EX179]



The restoration has been badged as the MG version unfortunately, but we know it was really a Frogeye in its last version.

As an aside, it was parked next to the 1998 MG EX255 which is loosely based on the MGF but they used a Rover V8 engine, now there's an idea for a weekend project!



The Association Weekend also included a trip to the Hook Norton Brewery which still uses the gravity system for moving the ingredients and retains its original Steam Engine, used occasionally for running the pulley systems running throughout the building to operate the hoists, electric motors usually run the factory though to save wear and tear.

Concluded overleaf.....



Chairman's chat concluded....

To finish the weekend we ended up at the Bicester Super Sunday Scramble, we arrived a bit late due to the Brewery visit but there were many interesting vehicles and an Autojumble. There were a few Austin Healeys about but I managed to miss the Eastern Centre members I have subsequently found out were there also, it is quite a big site!



Once back home I crossed the border to join the Broome Noggin group as Maggi Byford had organised a tour of the Royston Cave and Rob has reported on this later in Mutterings. I had seen this cave mentioned somewhere and thought it would be interesting, I was not wrong. As with a lot of archaeology there are many theories as to its original uses, and nobody really knows for sure but it is very thought provoking listening to the guide running through all the options from Pagan to Christian to Knights Templar to Masonic...and to think it is under the busy main Road through Royston adds to the intrigue.

It is not planned to do quite so many miles in July, there are the noggin meetings but of course the essential trip is going to be to New Members Day at Angela Bonner's home. Angela is a wonderful hostess so this must not be missed and with the 5 o'clock Shadows providing the backing for proceedings a good time will be had! Full details will be in this Mutterings and of course on the website.

Happy Healeying to one and all,

Dave

BRAUGHING VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY: Sunday 23rd June

What a lovely day this was.

Healeys were a thin on the ground with mine and a brief appearance from Brian Oakley in his 3000 being the only two on view. I chose discretion and did not attempt to drive onto the *NUTS* display field as the kerb was a bit of an exhaust-killer despite the timber baulks that were used to ease entry.

I met up with Brett Stead and he showed me around the village including his house that he has extended over the past few years - a major undertaking but very worthwhile. The open gardens were in some cases spectacular, many quintessential English Cottage gardens with some rather more modern. There were 10 open and I managed to see about half, circumnavigating the village in the process crossing two fords through the river that bisects the village.

There are three pubs and Brett will give you chapter and verse on their relative merits - the village would be a great destination for a road run or walking treasure hunt - something that we could plan for 2020.

I would certainly recommend anyone who likes old buildings, lovely gardens and convivial hospitality attend next year.

Rob



HERTS AND BEDS GO UNDERGROUND

The Herts and Beds Noggin' group have taken an interesting approach to regular *Noggin' n' Natters* electing to rotate venues rather than a single evening location. This month Maggi Byford arranged a visit to Royston Cave and a general walkabout in Royston with tea and scones at Roger and Maggi's home afterwards.

This proved to be very popular with members from as far afield as Mersea, King's Lynn, Rushden, Ely and Cambridge making up the maximum 18 that could visit the cave at any one time.

The cave itself is pretty well unique and its origins are lost in the mist of time, although the best guess is that it was a place of worship for a persecuted dissident Christian sect, the Knights Templar being one possibility.

The pear-shaped space is hewn from the solid chalk and around 8m deep and 5m in diameter and the lower walls are decorated with mediaeval Christian carvings, probably dating to the 14th century. It was discovered blocked off and largely filled in in 1742 and has remained an enigma since.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royston_Cave

It was a super afternoon and a great initiative combining the social side of a noggin' with a very informative visit.

Thank you to Maggi and Roger: Roll on the next one.



LITTLE GRANSDEN Air and Classic Vehicle show 25th August

Fullers Hill Farm, Little Gransden, SG19 3BP

So far I have only 4 cars booked for this. Details as mentioned in last month's Mutterings: Please let me have your vehicle details urgently if you want to attend this event.

I have reserved a club stand space, (and paid a deposit) so the details are - I have asked for slot arrival between 8.30 and 9am (time to be finalized) to be on the club stand and do not expect to be able to leave until 6pm. There is always a queue to leave and if this will be a problem please enter as an individual and park in the general classic field. You will of course be welcome on foot in our club area and we hope you will join us, but they will have to empty the general field before they release any club stand vehicles.

The cost is £10 per adult (NOT PER CAR) or £5 for a child. Please send me your cheque, and your car details. If at the last minute you need to substitute it can probably be arranged, but they need details for security reasons.

*Mrs A M Bonner: **NEW** Address: Brae House, Helions Road, Helions Bumpstead, Haverhill, CB9 7BT. Tel. 07710267356 if any questions.*

The longed-for house move finally happened, and although still surrounded by boxes we are getting straight, and the venue for the **pool/picnic party** on the **21st July** is safe. Address as above. Further details on a separate page. Still no internet, but text my mobile if attending, reception for calls iffy!

Remember to read Mutterings on line for all the latest information on events in our area.

Take care, stay safe,

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.

- **5th-7th July INTERNATIONAL HEALEY WEEKEND.** 3000 mk1 60th Anniversary. You should be booked in and getting packed!! 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. Contact Clive Cocks on rushme51@live.co or 01933 551885 urgently if you want a ticket for Kimbolton, there are still some available, but time is short when tickets have to go by post. See separate item from Clive.
- **21st July. NEW MEMBERS' DAY PICNIC.** All members welcome for a picnic and pool party from 11.30am at Angela's new house. See separate information in this Mutterings. Please text Angela on 07710 267366 no internet connection yet and phone reception intermittent at best!!
- 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
- **25th August. LITTLE GRANSDEN AIR AND CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW 2019.** Fullers Hill Farm, Little Gransden, SG19 3BP. See separate notification. Email angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk

Events diary continued...

- 7th September Redbourn Classic Motor Show and Fete, Redbourn Common, AL3 7BU. Ticket application form available on-line, first come first served, prizes for outfits and vehicles.
- 21st/22nd September Sywell Pistons and Props air and vehicle show, Northampton, see their website for details.
- **19th October AGM EASTERN CENTRE** Please keep this date free, we need lots of support from our members and this is an ideal opportunity for you to meet and give your ideas for the future of the Club.

There are events throughout the year at Battlesbridge:

- 21st July Breakfast Meet
- 18th Aug. Breakfast Meet
- 22nd Sep. Breakfast meet
- 29th Sep. Auto Jumble



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

Contact by text preferably at present, Angela 07710 267356.

See you soon, take care,

Angela

TROPHY HOLDERS

It may seem early but would trophy holders please return them to our trophy master, Andrew Hollick, by the end of August in preparation for engraving for presentation at the October AGM.

STOP PRESS: The Hollick Quiz Cup is to be resurrected with a quiz at New Members Day at Angela's.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Your Eastern Centre Needs You!

As mentioned last Month [and the month before!] we will need a new **Webmaster** at the next AGM. We would like to recruit a newer member with IT skills and a passion for Healeys. The website needs to be kept up-to-the-minute and it is not really in the comfort zone of the old fogies on the committee at present. I realise that committee meetings are not liked by all but in all honesty I don't think that regular attendance would be essential as long as we communicate regularly. The job involves uploading the Mutterings every month and it would be great if we could expand the content generally.

If you would like to make a difference to our Healey Community and bring Eastern Centre up to date we would love to welcome you. It could be an ideal opportunity to meet us at the New Members Day and see how much fun you can have. There is also a committee meeting at Duxford on the 18th July, contact me if you would like to find out more on: westland1606@yahoo.co.uk

Happy Healeying,
Dave Holman.

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee welcomes all new members to the club and looks forward to meeting with you at future events.

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

Tony Withrington

*(R): Chris and Caroline Whittering
at the Letchworth Picnic.*



NEW MEMBERS' DAY SUNDAY 21ST JULY.

Picnic and live 60's music from the 5'oclock Shadows (Pictured below with our membership secretary on bass) by the pool at Brae House, Helions Road, between Helions Bumpstead and Steeple Bumpstead, CB9 7BT.



Please bring your own picnic, tea and coffee provided. There may also be a barbeque for you to use, but not sure until we move in!! There is an outdoor heated pool and changing place available so bring swimsuits if the weather is half decent. Plenty of safe parking on the back garden, please let me know if you hope to come so we have an idea of numbers.

Ring/text 07710 267 356 or email angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk

Angela

IHW 2022

Put the date in your diary now.

Further details may be found at:

<https://www.ehm2022.com/>

EVENTS IN THE CAMBRIDGE AREA

Friday 5th July: 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/>

LETCHWORTH PICNIC 2019

This event is a real favourite for EC members having been introduced to our calendar around 10 years ago by Richard Mayes, a long standing EC committee member and also a member of the Letchworth Classic Vehicle club that organizes it. Richard is not in the best of health and does not travel far these days so it was great to meet up with him at the picnic. *(Below with Terry Sprosson).*



The photos give a flavour of what was a very enjoyable day.

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>			

EASTERN CENTRE COMMITTEE 2017/18

CHAIRMAN and MSA Liaison	DAVE HOLMAN	chairman@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01366 347412
NEC DIRECTOR & TREASURER	MAGGI BYFORD	treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01763 242910
WEBMASTER	MIKE QUINN	webmaster@ahc-eastern.co.uk	
COMPETITION	Vacant		
EDITOR	ROB RANSOM	mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01223 524821
MEMBERSHIP	TONY WITHRINGTON	membership@ahc-eastern.co.uk	07903 542903
SOCIAL SEC	ANGELA BONNER	social@ahc-eastern.co.uk	07710 267356
SECRETARY	JUNE HEBDITCH	secretaryl@ahc-eastern.co.uk	01763 848157
TROPHY MASTER	ANDY HOLLICK	andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk	01223 263089

GENERAL MEMBERS

JOHN KEENER	healeynutjk@yahoo.co.uk	01494 728360
BRETT STEAD	brettoliverstead@gmail.com	07538 495324

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	david@overseasair.net	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.