

September 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Great day at Gransden - see inside



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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

We had our annual two weeks' holiday earlier this month that sadly coincided with the rain, wind and generally inclement weather which coming after my soaking at Silverstone made me wonder what I had done to upset the weather Gods.

Whilst at the coast I always get my trusty steed out - a pre-war Police pedal bike that my dad found on a scrapheap - a running wreck - a bit like me really! Before I could enjoy its 28 inch wheels and three-speed Sturmey Archer gears however, I had to fix punctures in both that bike and a couple of others. I have pretty well given up mending however and replace tubes now as they are relatively cheap and more reliable than my mending.

'Hercules' and I made our way to the Hunstanton Kite Festival (R) again this year, and what a good day out it was. The associated Classic car display is always worth a look and the WI cakes worth the trip. The kites were splendid and it is always fun to see if the raptor handler can get his feathered friend back from eying juicy pigeons from a remote tree-top!



There are a few more events that I intend to attend so our paths may cross, if not do try and get to the AGM on 19 October at Toft as it's a great opportunity both to catch up and put a last few miles on the car although the Touring Trophy will be out of my reach unless I nip down to the south of France to catch a bit of Autumn sun. Knowing my luck, however, those weather Gods will see it as an opportunity to squeeze out the clouds once more.

Stay dry,

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 August 2019 | Gransden and out and about | 243 | 1144 |
| Dave and Pam | 25 August 2019 | Local stuff | 95 | 3124 |
| Pat and Zara | 25 August 2019 | Broom lunch | 59 | 252 |
| Rob | 25 August 2019 | Gransden and about | 86 | 647 |
| Dave Holman | 25 August 2019 | Derbyshire and around | 479 | 2569 |

FROM ZARA KIMBER

A nun was driving along the A10 so slowly that the police stopped her. "Why are you driving so slowly, only 10mph?" they asked. "Well" she replied. That sign says A10. I don't know how I can manage when I get on the A120 as I don't think I can drive that fast" !

Another snippet:-

A mother was struggling to open a bottle of tomato ketchup when the phone rang. Her four year old daughter went to answer it. She said: "I am sorry Mummy cannot get to the phone at the moment. She is hitting the bottle"!

Zara

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

We were out and about in the Hundred a bit more in August, a lovely run across to Derbyshire for a few days ending with a visit to the Midlands Centre planned Drive and Sunday Lunch. It just proves that running a Healey is a great way to get out and about and have a great time with friends. Other mileage added has mainly been testing.

I had the car MOT'd when we returned and took the opportunity to have a look around while it was up in the air, there had been a few more spots of oil underneath recently and the traces were there showing the pinion seal was weeping, along with a rear hub seal and the rear shock absorbers. The front carburettor was showing signs of a fuel leak and the jet didn't raise fully when off choke so I have been spending a bit of time fettling. I had also noticed a bit of vibration at higher speeds so I decided to bite the bullet and fit a new propshaft as I was ordering bits anyway. The propshaft seems to have done the trick, the UJ's were fine but I think it was wear in the sliding spline allowing some lateral movement.

We will be doing a few longer trips in September so hopefully it will be smoother running and less of a trail of oil to follow. With the carburettors rebuilt I am hoping for at least 40mpg!

I couldn't get to the Little Gransden Air Show but I have been told it was a brilliant day out with great air displays. The Club Gazebo was in demand giving some much needed shade and the row of Healeys looked magnificent. Probably just as well I wasn't there to lower the standard with my well "patinated" old wreck. I gather Angela Bonner's Hundred had a bit of fettling done to the charging circuit and I know of another Hundred that suffered a fuel pump problem on the way home, hopefully all sorted now.

September still has some events to tempt you out; there is the Redbourne classic car show and the Sywell Pistons and Props airshow. All details are in the calendar on the website or contact Angela Bonner for more information.

Chairman's chat continued...

I know several Eastern Members will be at the Goodwood event along with many from other centres so it makes for a great chance to catch up with what is happening in Healey circles as well as enjoying the classic atmosphere.

October is going to be here all too soon bringing the Eastern Centre AGM. Don't forget that if you were presented with a Trophy last year our Trophy Master Andrew Hollick would like to see it returned so he has time to get Paula to polish it before the big day. Andrew and Paula are also in charge of arrangements with the venue so if you would like to join us for lunch please book in with them, all details will be in Mutterings.

We would love to see you there and maybe sign up for a stint on the committee, we are still looking for someone to take over as webmaster so if you have any IT skills please give it some thought.

Happy Healeying to one and all,

Dave

SPRITE FOR SALE

Austin Healey Sprite1966

Heritage shell and full restoration 2006/7 over £18k spent. Little used since restoration.

Black with cream disc wheels, cream leather

Garaged in Cambridge

Ian Perry:

01223 426520 or 07889 693866

SILVERSTONE CLASSIC 2019

I drove across on the Friday to meet with Terry Sprosson and had a foretaste of what was to come driving through torrential rain en-route. Silverstone was dry auguring well, so I thought, until those more in the know than me sucked their teeth and referred to various doomsday and apocalyptic weather apps that hinted, nay, stated that the weather was going to become seriously inclement over the weekend. How right they were!

Despite the weather the meeting was enjoyable, however the number of 'moderns' in the infield rather pointed towards a change in emphasis, the racing, however was varied and competitive although finding a good viewpoint at Silverstone nowadays is problematic.

As the weather was not good there was no real incentive to stand around watching the tribute bands that this year were recreating the bill at Woodstock with Hendrix, Who, 10 years and others after being represented - it didn't help in that some had to compete with 100-decibel racers blasting past.

The real enjoyment at these events is meeting up with friends and it was the case this year with a number of EC members attending, most joining the track parade.

The AHC does not provide support or indeed attracts much attendance these days - I can remember the time we got 100 Hundreds out at the same event, so I had to rely on my new friends of the Healey Drivers Club who had a splendid and very dry gazebo and were very helpful to a waif from the 'other' club.

It was one of the early cars that caught my eye, a Healey Elliott that had taken part in the Mille Miglia this year. They are good-looking cars and from my conversation with the co-pilot, Terry Bracy-Wright, go very well. I remember Richard Van Maanen who attended the recent NM day owned an Elliott that competed in period.



Silverstone Classic continued...

Elsewhere there were plenty of interesting cars some of which you will see below.



Midget and Sprites were well represented: Polished aluminium Bristol was a real head-turner: the pit garages in the Wing are always worth a visit: Paddy Hopkirk was celebrating his Monte win with the mini.



SOCIAL WHEELS

Hello again, lovely to have my Healey wheels under me again, and to meet so many of you out and about at events in the fantastic summer weather.

I have been to two smaller local car shows recently, but as I write am freshly fried from Little Gransden car and air display, where the sun was merciless, a far cry from last year's unfortunate wash-out. The gazebo provided welcome shade as we watched a truly wonderful and varied flying display from some beautiful aircraft and their skillful and daring pilots. How on earth they know which way is up for long after their feet are on the ground again I shall never know, the aerobatics were incredible.

There was also a fascinating display, listed as Little and Large, where a model aircraft was flown in mirror image to a full sized one. If you have any interest in aircraft at all the Gransden show really is one not to miss next year, and of course our Healeys were much admired on our club stand.

The inevitable 'bonnet up' situation involved my 100 this time, I have had trouble recently with lack of charge to the battery, meaning journeys have had to be reasonably short, relying only on the 'juice' in the battery to get me home.



However, with the kind and experienced help from fellow club members, the problem seems to have been resolved.

The help involved a very large stick (screwdriver to the 'technical minded' among you) and some talented pushing and wriggling of parts under the bonnet - I leave that to your imagination!!

Social wheels continued...

I have yet to check how many volts are in the battery now, but certainly all seems good so far.

There are a few more events left on the calendar this year, including the AGM in October, so please make the effort to attend, we really value your company and ideas, and as always ask for new committee members to join our group.

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

See you all soon, the summer is now flying by, make the most of the weather and the light evenings, the clocks change next month - every year someone raises the point of not changing them, but still the argument goes on. Why on earth they don't change it for half an hour, one way or the other and be done with it I don't know.

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.

On the right Terry Sprosson proudly shows off the 'Why Me?' Trophy which he won last year for disasters above and beyond the call..

He may be in line this year as the Italian job lost its clutch at Silverstone and his 100's fuel pump threw a wobbly on the way back from Gransden.



EASTERN CENTRE CALENDAR 2019 from Angela Bonner

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.

- **Friday 6th September: Barrington Green First Friday Club:** The Royal Oak arranges a BBQ and sometimes outside bar for the many that turn up regardless of the weather. 5pm onwards.
- 7th Sept. 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.
- 22nd September Warren Classic and Supercar Show, Woodham Walter, Maldon, Essex. CM9 6RW. Drive in classics £12 driver and 1 passenger. Look at the website, may not be your cup of tea.
- 21st/22nd Sept. Sywell Aerodrome PISTONS and PROPS, Northampton. Tickets now available, variety of vintage machinery, see their website
- **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.
- 19/20th October HSCC Silverstone Finals motor race meeting.
- 27th October National Restoration Show, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LZ for all those vital and elusive parts for your on-going restoration.
- 8/12th November Classic Motor Show, NEC, Birmingham. Book your tickets before midnight on 7th Nov to save 15% on ticket prices.

There are events throughout the year at Battlesbridge:

- 22nd Sep. Breakfast meet
- 29th Sep. Auto Jumble

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



Please note Angela's new landline contact number 01440 730459.

GREAT DAY AT GRANSDEN

This has always been one of my favourite events that combines a classic car gathering and a great flying display with all sorts of aircraft.

So it proved to be again this year with the only disappointment being the reduced number of classic cars including Healeys. The dozen or so EC members attending had a great day, however, catching up sheltering from the sun under the club event shelter and watching the display. An added bonus was that the third Ashes test was underway and the climax was played out on a tiny personal radio around which an enthusiastic group of members huddled, letting out a massive cheer when Ben Stokes hit the run that gave England an improbable win. Made my day.

Airwise the star for me was the De Havilland DH88 Comet G-ACSS, star of the London to Sydney air race in 1934 and also of my Dinky Toy collection. This is a unique aircraft now based at Shuttleworth and a rare attendee at any airshow.



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 26th September, contact me if you would like to find out more on: westland1606@yahoo.co.uk

Happy Healeying,
Dave Holman.

BIG HEALEY FOR SALE

Austin Healey 1954 BN1 100/4

Cardinal Red

15,000 miles - Buff Log Book - Owned by me for 10 years

Insurance/and Club Valuation - £55,000

Enquiries :Tel: 01268 545429

e-mail: l.sweetingham@blueyonder.co.uk

Jim Sweetingham

NEW MEMBERS

- **Mr & Mrs Peter and Yvonne Soar**
Romford, Essex
Car: 1967 Mk3 3000, BRG, in excellent condition
- **Mr Timothy Hollingsworth**
Kings Langley, WD4 9AA
Car: AH3000 Mk3, Year: 1965, Colour: Blue, Condition: In good order
- **Mr Newland Andrews**
Ipswich, Suffolk
Car: 1960 3000 Mk1 in need of a rebuild

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
Membership Secretary

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO SPEAKING ESSEX

Alma chizzit - A request to find the cost of an item

Amant - Quantity; sum total ("Thez a yuge amant of mud in Saffend")

Assband - Unable to leave the house because of illness, disability etc

Awss - A four legged animal, on which money is won, or more likely lost ("That awss ya tipped cost me a fiver t' day")

Branna - More brown than on a previous occasion ("Ere, Trace, ya look branna today, ave you been on sunbed?")

Cort a panda - A rather large hamburger

ELY CLASSIC 2019

The Cambridge and District Classic Car Club has been running this charity event for four years now, numbers attending growing every year. EC members regularly attend as the location is unique on the green directly opposite the magnificent Cathedral main door and it gives an opportunity to explore the attractive riverside town of Ely.

The green was full with the maximum allowed of 100 cars, however, Keith and Ruth Farnfield had a prang on the way up, fortunately no one was hurt but the car was in a pretty sorry state as you can see having to be trailered away. Horrible when this happens as I know to my cost, my accident in France some years ago resulting in similar, but in my case not terminal, damage.



The car is at Keith's now awaiting VW repair and we hope to see it on the road as good as new before too long.

The cross-section of vehicles at the event was extreme from concours Jags to the 'Stig of the Dump' VW microbus. You can see below.



Ely classic continued...

An informal Car of the Day competition is held with a public choice. Committee and this year, the Mayor's as well.



The prize winners were: Public Choice - Scimitar GTE: Committee - Citroën DS Décapotable: Mayor's - pre-war Morris Oxford. Plenty of opportunity for R&R as Simon and Yvonne Parker and Tony Withrington chill on the Riverside.



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 | 01440 730459 |
| 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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