

November 2019

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



AGM 2019: Report and pictures inside



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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

I thoroughly enjoyed the Eastern AGM earlier in October and was pleased to meet a number of less-familiar faces and hope to meet them again at an EC event if not this year, next. You will see that Angela is already on the case where it comes to events so no excuse!

I was very pleased to pick up the 'Mutterings' trophy this year, one I normally give out so a pleasant surprise but don't let this stop you putting pen to paper with a contribution to Mutterings as I am always short (No comments please!).

Elsewhere my ever-trusty Mazda has failed the MOT - on rust, of course, don't they all!

I am considering all options including a replacement so if anyone out there has a rot-free MX5 for sale, preferably a Mk1, please let me know. I did look at a very expensive supposedly sound car but it was just as rotten!

It would be sad to scrap mine but I am conscious that there is always a time, particularly with rust, when the economics of repair have to be considered. A Healey is always worth spending the money on as it is an appreciating asset, the Mazda has no value other than to me and any repairs will just be a stop-gap.

Decisions, decisions!

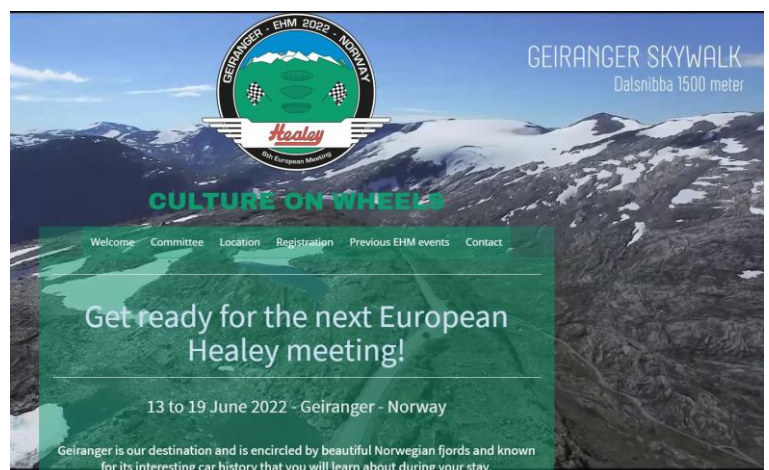
Rob

IHW 2022 13 TO 19 JUNE

Put the date in your diary now.

Further details may be found at:

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



TOURING TROPHY - 2020

The Touring Trophy runs from AGM to AGM (October to October). Congratulations to Dave Holman for winning the 2018/19 competition with 4717 miles in the last 12 months.

The 'Mr Mercury' trophy seen right with Andrew Hollick was presented to the AH Club by National Benzole and rededicated as the Touring Trophy some years ago.



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	25/10/ 2019	AGM and Bury St Edmunds	127	127
Rob	25/10/ 2019	AQGM	35	35

BYFORD SOUP AND A BUN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION.

Wednesday 1st January 2020

Roger and Maggi have again invited members to join them on New Year's Day after the traditional Barrington meet for light snacks and convivial company.

More from Maggi

treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk
01763 242910



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

October was a disappointing month for me, not much going on in the way of Healey motoring. The Norfolk noggin was good with most of the usual crowd but then things took a turn for the worst as I managed to catch a bug of some sort so I not only missed our AGM but also an Association of Healey Owners meeting I was supposed to attend the day after. A huge thank you to Maggi for chairing the proceedings and, of course, thanks to all who turned out on the day, sorry I missed the fun.

Congratulations to all who took Trophies home and many thanks to the organising team Paula and Andrew. The committee took over with the awarding of the Mutterings Trophy as traditionally it is Rob's choice, but this year we all felt that his dedication to producing copy was in need of recognition, so many thanks Rob for doing such a good job with little material.

Our Membership Secretary Tony Withrington took home the "Chairman's Cup", he has worked tirelessly to maintain the list and send out the Mutterings electronically every month. We felt Simon and Yvonne Parker worthy of the "Members Spirit of the event" award, they attend numerous events through the year every year, and have always helped out with running meetings in their area. Clive and Sue Cocks are always in the mix of things and presented us with a mindbending Quiz for our Members Day Party so have the "Rudd Trophy" in recognition for their work behind the scenes. Last but not least, the "Why Me" trophy is one we would rather not award at all as it will be a reminder of unfortunate happenings, but following Angela Bonner's story with her beautifully restored Hundred and all of its "snagging" over the year we felt her trials and tribulations needed some sort of recognition, hopefully she will be a strong contender for the "Tourist Trophy" next year.

Unfortunately no one stepped up to fill the position of webmaster so it looks like I will be learning a new skill to fill in until we can find someone who knows what they are doing [a bit like the chairman's position really!]

Chairman's chat continued...

Most of my month was filled with house type activities as we had plasterers in but I have managed a few hours in the garage, I am part way through cleaning the Hundred [it was being checked over for a run to the AGM] and I have tidied an area around the BJ8 so I can resume cobbling it back together [maybe ready for next year?] but progress will be slow as I have a lot of woodwork to prepare for the house.

Don't forget to pamper your car over the winter months, a little bit of preventive maintenance can help towards a trouble free season next year. As always there are differing opinions on the best way to prepare your car for inactivity so have a look around and see which procedures suit you. Some like to drain all the fuel, I prefer to use an ethanol inhibitor and fill the tank, I feel this reduces the amount of moisture laden air in the tank, it also means if there is a nice day I can just jump in and go for a run. I usually increase the tyre pressures to help stop the chance of flat spotting, don't forget to leave a note on the steering wheel if you do that, and adjust the pressures if you do take it out. The other options are "tyre savers", shaped cradles that hold the tyre in shape, or of course you could put the car on blocks, this will give you the chance to take the wheels off so you can take them indoors and give them a jolly good clean while you are watching your favourite TV programme.

Removing the indicator bulbs and cleaning the contacts and the holders can help with potential lighting problems, the light units are notorious for letting water in but not out, and there is nothing more annoying than finding the bulb is rusted into the holder when it does cease to function. I find lifting the wiper blades away from the screen helpful, it stops the rubber flattening or sticking to the glass.

I try to make a list of potential problems during the year if I notice something, for example this year I have found my wiper motor seems a bit noisy after it has been running for a while, so I hope to find time to strip and grease it over the winter. I certainly don't want that failing, as generally you only turn them on when you really need them.

Concluded overleaf...

Chairman's chat concluded..

Don't forget if you have a Healey problem or have solved a Healey problem Rob Ransom will always be pleased to share it with the Eastern Centre members in Mutterings so drop him a line [with photos if possible] to help him produce an interesting read.

Remember, it is possible to join the committee at any time during the year especially if you would like to become Webmaster or just become a general member to see what goes on. Remember ask not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for your club, although of course the club can do a lot for you to help you enjoy your car.

As always check the events page in Rev Counter and 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.

OCTOBER NORFOLK NOGGIN

There was a slightly smaller turnout than usual at the October lunch due to various regulars being away, however those that did attend had an enjoyable lunch in good company.



PHOTOS FROM THE AGM



It was nice to meet some less familiar faces alongside the regular attendees: Pat and Zara Kimber can always be counted on: Brilliant carvery once again: Nigel Kirkpatrick and Tony Withrington (L): Newland Andrews, Garry Stone and Steve Sargeant, below.



AGM 2019: TROPHY WINNERS

The Chairman's Cup

Tony Withrington

Awarded the club member that in the opinion of the Chairman and Vice Chairman has stood out with their work and efforts within the club.

Tony has been a stalwart over the last few years and has stepped up to the plate taking on the Membership Secretary role and Mutterings distribution alongside contributing his musical talents on NMD.



The Mutterings Contributor of the Year Cup

Rob Ransom

Awarded by the committee to the club member who they feel has contributed quality and readable articles to Mutterings.

Rob has edited Mutterings since 2007 and in the absence of a long-service award deserves this pat on the back.



The New Members Day Spirit of the Event Cup

Simon and Yvonne Parker

Awarded at the end of the New Members Day event each year to the club member who as in the title, has entered into the spirit of things on the day.

Simon dressed up his 3000 in 60th regalia at Kimbolton to celebrate the Mk1's birthday.



2020 Trophy winners continued...

The Tourist Trophy

Dave Holman

Speaks for itself really. This goes to the Healey (all types included) that has notched up the most miles in the year from 1st October to 31st September

The Why Me?? Trophy

Angela Bonner

Well we all make mistakes or have problems that should or could have been avoidable, but some of us seem to excel at it, so in recognition of their skill this trophy is awarded.

Angela's 100 has worked its way through the fault pages in the Haynes manual since returning to the road!



The Hollick Quiz Cup

Dave Holman

Goes to the clever dick that won the big quiz held at the NMD pool party.

The Rudd Trophy

Clive and Sue Cocks

Presented to the club member who it is felt needs recognition for their behind the scenes work for the year.

Clive and Sue organised both the 60th Birthday Party at Kimbolton and the Quiz held at the NMD party.



EASTERN CENTRE CALENDAR

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.

- 8/12th November Classic Motor Show, NEC, Birmingham. Book your tickets before midnight on 7th Nov to save 15% on ticket prices.

2020

- **1st January: Barrington New Year's Day meet:** 100's of classic come to this long-standing start to the new motoring year.
- **Wednesday 1st January: Byford Soup and a Bun New Year celebration.** Roger and Maggi have again invited members to join them on New Year's Day after the traditional Barrington NYD meet for light snacks and convivial company. 43, King James Way, Royston, SG8 7EF. Please let Maggi know treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk if you hope to be there so she has an idea of numbers for the catering.
- Vintage Stony in the Market Place, Stony Stratford. This time the Market Place will give pride of place to pre-1940 vehicles, but there is usually plenty of parking nearby for a large assortment of later vehicles if the area is a little closer to you than Royston.
- **March Spring Lunch.** Open the season with a social gathering and very good Carvery lunch at the Toft Meridian Golf Club, where we held our AGM recently. The date will be confirmed very soon with details in Mutterings pages, but if you want to get in early and not miss out please contact Andrew Hollick to reserve a place on andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk or 01223 263089.
- 16/19th April **Daffodil Weekend** based in North Norfolk. This is often booked solid from one year to the next but contact David Wheeler at wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk to register your interest soon in case there are any spaces for 2020. More details will be in Revcounter.

Calendar 2020 continued...

- 28th April. **Drive It Day**. Held on the closest date to the anniversary of the Automobile Club 1000 mile Trial first run in 1900 for which there were 65 starters and an amazing 35 who completed the course. There will be many events across the country BUT for Eastern Centre Pat and Zara Kimber have kindly agreed to organize and host a drive around Hertfordshire with teas and cakes on your return to their house. This was a great success last year in spite of inclement weather, so please contact them on pat.kimber@ntlworld.com for more details.
- 14th June, **Euston Rural Pastimes Country fair**. This is an interesting and very varied event, lots going on and a wide selection of classic vehicles. More details later, but we hope to group our members together and make it one of our principal events next year.
- **2020 Picnic Pool Party** - Advance warning: Date to be confirmed. We hope to have a repeat of the Picnic Pool Party at Helions Bumpstead, and are sorting out a date for this which will enable Tony Withrington and the 5 o'clock Shadows to come and play their selection of 60's music, which all those who came in 2019 enjoyed so much.

2020 Advance warning - Maggi and Terry are hoping to organize a couple of extra events this summer, Maggi a revisit to **Twinwoods Airfield** with its strong connections to Glen Miller and his band and a selection of 40's themed museums, and Terry is hoping to arrange a visit to **RAF Marham**, possibly to join in a family day.

Lots going on already so please check Mutterings regularly for confirmed dates and events. Contact me by text or mobile, Angela on 07710 267356 for more information, or landline 01440 730459.

See you soon, take care,

Angela

SOCIAL WHEELS

Hello everyone, firstly many thanks to the stalwart group of club members who attended the AGM in Toft Golf Clubhouse. A disappointingly low number of you came to take part but gave some valuable input, and we enjoyed the usual excellent carvery lunch, all organized by Andrew and Paula. Our thanks to them for that and to Paula for much polishing of the trophies for their re-issue to this year's winners.

There will be a presentation of the cheque to St Denys church restoration fund, as a result of the excellent summer monthly Breakfast Club mornings in Colmworth village hall, at the beginning of December, with mince pies etc. This will be on the first Sunday of the month, which this time is actually on the 1st December. As there will not be bacon butties this time the starting time is a little later than usual, 10am with the cheque presentation rather later, around 11am and possibly a tour of the church for those who would like to see where the money is destined for at around 11.30am.

We are already looking forward to next year's events, quite a lot now have confirmed dates, but do watch for more details and possible date changes in your ON-LINE Mutterings!! A few new ones are hoped for, a couple with RAF connections as it will be the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. To allow people to commemorate this the early May Day Bank Holiday is being moved to Friday the 8th May instead of on a Monday.

After a very wet and dismal October the weather has improved (for 5 minutes anyway) so I expect there will be a few fur lined hats and gloves out there today with you driving your Healeys in the beautiful autumn sunshine. I certainly am going to do just that as soon as I send this report off to Rob, seeing as my 100 seems to have stopped sulking and is starting to let me enjoy her again.

Mr. Mercury trophy - look out, there might be a lady polishing your 'nether regions' for 2020!! I bet that's put the mockers on it, but we shall see!!

Remember to read Mutterings on-line for all the latest information on events in our area. Take care, stay safe,

Angela

SPRITE FOR SALE

Austin Healey Sprite 1966



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

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

Membership Secretary

H&H AUCTION OCTOBER 2019 AT DUXFORD

The H&H auction preview day at Duxford is one of the best classic car shows you can ever have with free entry, a wide range of vehicles and access to the IWM. I always try and go along to have a look at what is on offer - I have only once bid, unsuccessfully as it turned out - a supercharged Sprite that went for about £9000, well over my bid. It also does give an indication of the health of the 'collectors' market with those indicators of fashion, E-types, Merc pagodas and Ferraris always there in number with, as this time, a smattering of Healeys

It seemed to me that this auction was successful with the majority of the lots selling, probably because the estimates were realistic. Car of the 'show' for me? An Alfa Romeo Giulia Spider 1600 - a beautiful car that I would have loved to take home. Daft price of the day? A BMW/Frazer Nash 326 rolling chassis for £15,750, albeit with history and valuable number plate. Fun lot? A Toylander electric child's toy car and caravan.



LOT 34

Add to Favourites

1964 Alfa Romeo Giulia 1600 Spider

Estimate: £32,000 - £36,000

Sold For: £38,250

Status: CLOSED

Registration No:

BHE718B

Chassis No:

AR379178

MOT:

October 2020

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

*Terry Sprosson
having a snoop under
the bonnet: 1600
twin-cam is a
beautiful piece of
work*



H&H auction continued..



LOT 77

1937 Frazer Nash-BMW 326 Rolling Chassis

Owned by pre-war racing driver A F P Fane

Estimate: £20,000 - £25,000

Sold For £15,750

Status CLOSED

Registration No: FMX 1
Chassis No: 80038
MOT: Exempt

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

Add to Favourites



Bit of work to do on pre-war Beemer: Tidy all-steel Sprite fetched a good price: BJ8 looked sound and un-messed with reaching top estimate.



LOT 37

1959 Austin-Healey 'Frogeye' Sprite

Estimate: £14,000 - £18,000

Sold For £16,875

Status CLOSED

Registration No: 512 VMV
Chassis No: AN513951
MOT: Exempt

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

Add to Favourites



LOT 44

1967 Austin-Healey 3000 MKIII

Estimate: £40,000 - £45,000

Sold For £48,375

Status CLOSED

Registration No: GKU550E
Chassis No: HBJ8-37757
MOT: August 2020

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

Add to Favourites



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 2019/20

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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.