

January 2020

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



*Wonderful period photograph of Chris Evans in his 3000
taken from his autobiography*



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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

With the Festive Season putting a large spanner in my routine for putting together *Mutterings* I can only apologise that this edition reaches you rather later than normal, however it's not too late to wish you a very happy New Year. I hope that you will be able to indulge your interest in Healeys, Big and Small, throughout the year and attend some of the events that the club has in the diary for 2020.

I hope that you received your copy of the *Mutterings* Review of 2019? If you did not receive one in with the January edition of *Revcounter* please let me know and I will sort one out for you. The feedback that I have received has all been positive and if the finances allow we will try and do something similar for next year as well giving members a hard copy souvenir of the year alongside to supplement the monthly electronic *Mutterings*. The committee hopes that the Review will encourage members to attend more meetings and I also hope that with the incentive of featuring in the Review members will send in reports of meetings and events that they attend. We do not want either *Mutterings* or the Review to feature the same old faces and events.

Talking about old faces, I could not resist including this photograph of a couple of very young faces - Dave and Sue Holman taken by John Bowman in around 1982. Thanks to Maggi Byford for forwarding it to me.



I will let Dave fill in details of time and place in his chat next month.

Rob

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.

The 'Mr Mercury' trophy seen right 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	25/12/ 2019	Carried forward		178
Rob	25/12/ 2019	More snores from the garage	0	35

BYFORD SOUP AND A BUN NEW YEAR DAY CELEBRATION.

Wednesday 1st January 2020

Roger and Maggi 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 at

treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk
01763 242910

Report next month - Ed.



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I hope you all had a great Christmas break and managed to spend some time playing with the Healey in preparation for 2020. Family commitments meant I couldn't join a New Year's Day run but I will endeavour to get some miles on the Healey soon.

Hopefully you will have received the "*Mutterings Review*" with your RevCounter this month. The Committee thought it would be a good reminder of what goes on in the area and give an incentive for more of you to join in. Also if you already regularly attend events with your Healey don't forget to send details and photos to Rob Ransom to put in the monthly *e-Mutterings* so we can all have an idea of the goings on in the Eastern Area. It is far too easy to make it look narcissistic but we can only include the information and photos we have to hand, all articles and photos are more than welcome. Rob is a tireless worker and seems to be able to produce a *Mutterings* from almost nothing but it would make his task so much easier if there were more articles to choose from and it would be good to see more new faces gracing the pages. Don't forget if you have a Healey problem or have solved a Healey problem Rob will always be pleased to share it with the Eastern Centre members so drop him a line [with photos if possible] to help him produce an interesting read.

The next committee chat will be in the middle of January so there isn't anything much to add on the organisation of events. Suffice to say keep an eye out for any emails our Membership Secretary Tony may send out with updates, and also have a look at the Eastern website <http://ahc-eastern.co.uk/>. I have taken on the "caretaker" webmaster role and I think I managed to get the *Mutterings* on the site and I think I have got the hang of adding bits to the events page, [thanks to Mike Quinn's idiot guides he produced for me] but I am struggling with other areas as I would like to add more Sprite Photos and haven't managed that yet. Being a bit of a technophobe there are areas I don't want to delve into too deeply in case I crash the thing! So at the risk of repeating myself if there is anyone out there who would like to take on the webmaster position please let us know.

Chairman's chat concluded....

The Cambridge Spring Lunch at Toft is probably our next event that needs booking, so if you would like to attend contact Andrew Hollick, I am sure all the details will be in the events list.

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 *Revcounter* 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 2020 Healeying to one and all,

Dave.

WANTED: HEALEYS IN BROADLAND

If you are reading this and live towards Great Yarmouth, Norwich or over the border in Lowestoft and the north reaches of Suffolk then how about forming a **Broadland AHC group**? I am happy to get us kick started and create some Healey friendly runs and routes of interest for the summer months and create some social activities in the darker times of year...

Drop us a line at

neil.jason.turner@gmail.com

Neil Turner

ME AND MY CAR: MY SECOND AUSTIN HEALEY by Andrew Hollick

It is curious what sparks off an article for Mutterings, but being a member of our jovial and invaluable Eastern Club Committee, the post of secretary was taken up by June Hebditch whose late husband, Rob, established *Robsport* from where Paula and I bought our first Healey 100/6 in 1992, read on.....

While travelling down to Ware on the A10 to deliver skincare products to a garden centre, we spotted an Austin Healey outside a garage. I had had a Healey 100/4 way back in 1972 for a short time, loved it and sold it for £110. We thought we would drop in on our way home having made the delivery. Needless to say, it was not there on our return.



After making enquiries at the garage, we discovered it had been resprayed and returned to Robsport in Barley where we eventually found it being restored and converted to right hand drive. We bought it and collected it several weeks later.



The photos on the right show the car in its unrestored state and below at Robsport's workshop.



Me and my car continued....



So started a new and exciting adventure in our newly married social life. At that time I was working with a herbalist whose secretary happened to be Jayne Ransom who mentioned to me one day that her husband, Rob, also had a Healey and would like to meet me. It was not long before we all drove over to Norfolk to meet up with Dave Holman. Exciting times and new friends were to follow. We experienced our first visit to Holland with Neil and Pam Williams. What fun we had that Easter at the hotel and meeting Dutch people handing out Easter eggs in the street and at garages. We experienced snow and hail that weekend and well remembered racing down a slip road onto a busy motorway and having to accelerate hard to avoid being caught up on the back bumper of a big passing lorry. Those were the days!

We had that Healey 100/6 for a few years, making new friends and going to car shows, but realised that the 100/6 did not have wind up windows and other refinements that seemed to be desired. We were also aiming for the more desirable model like the 3000 Mk 111 which we hoped might slowly increase in value. After much searching and a few viewings, we dropped in at the Murray Scott-Nelson garage in Scarborough on our way back from Scotland. We were looking for a two tone 3000 ice blue over old English white being a traditional colour type. He had none available at that time, but we fell in love with a red over white 3000 which needed work done on it but looked really attractive and eye catching. The two tone turned the car into a pretty and attractive car that was not aggressive. That pleased us and when we learned that its previous owner had been Ian Hall, Chairman of Fox's Biscuits, you might as well have said that it clinched the deal.

We took delivery of KKD 34D in December of that year 1994. Thus started a new chapter that may be revealed another time.

Andrew

GLORIOUS GOODWOOD REVIVAL, *continued from last month*

There is so much going on in addition to the racing. The area they call "Over the Road" has bars, food outlets, live music, a fun fair and a drive in cinema! As usual, the public classic car park is well worth a visit with hundreds of vehicles on display, including many Healeys.



Glorious Goodwood concluded....

Sky Cinema put on some great films in their free "Drive in" experience - we finished off the day with "Grease!" - unfortunately too late to book a classic yank tank!



Cheers from a fabulous Goodwood Revival! Colette and I are already looking forward to next year!



Tony



EASTERN CENTRE CALENDAR 2020

Eastern Centre supported events are shown in bold. Any 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.

1st January, 2020 New Years Day. Barrington Classic car meet on the village green, and afterwards Maggi and Roger Byford have invited us back to thaw out and enjoy hot soup etc. at their home in Royston, 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.

15th March Spring Lunch. Sunday Spring lunch. Our popular season opener at Toft Golf Club, near Cambridge with their excellent carvery and appetizing desserts. Let Andrew know for numbers, choose meat on the day. 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.

26th 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.

10th May Bank holiday Sunday. Waterbeach Beer Festival. Our own Tony Withrington and the 5 o'clock Shadows will be playing at this one. Should be a great day!

2020 Calendar continued..

30th May. Visit to Twinwood Airfield, from where Glen Miller took off on his final flight and was never seen again. An interesting collection of 40's museums and memorabilia. More details soon.

7th 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.

11/14th June. AH Club of the Netherlands, Lustrum 2020. European Healey Meeting run by the AHOCN founded 45 years ago. This will be based at a family run hotel Klosterpforte in Marienfeld, Germany. Full details for this one on their website.

3/5th July Classic Le Mans. The very best of European Classic Car racing at this exciting meeting. Make a short break of it and support our British Healey drivers. Contact Rob Ransom if going to arrange a meet up on site.

10th/12th July 2020 International Healey weekend Stanbrook Abbey, 5 miles from Worcester. Initial interest has been high, so contact www.healey-weekend.com quickly if you want to attend this event in a luxurious Grade II listed converted former convent in 26 acres of parkland.

26th July Picnic Pool Party - Date is now confirmed, Tony Withrington and the 5 o'clock Shadows will come and play their selection of 60's music by the pool, which all those who came in 2019 enjoyed so much. Bring your picnic, chair, swimming kit and some sunshine please!!

Advance notice - Terry Sprosson is hoping to arrange a visit to **RAF Marham**, possibly to join in a family day, probably a Thursday around the end of July.

Contact **Angela** by text or mobile on 07710 267356 for more information, alternatively landline 01440 730459 or email angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk

Angela

DECEMBER NORFOLK NOGGIN AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH

There was a very good turnout for the pre-Christmas Norfolk Noggin, once again held at the Three Horseshoes at Roydon. Attendees included a number from further afield including Bob and Linda Kemp and Sandra Leyland from the Midlands, John and Janine Raybould from darkest Suffolk and Tony Walden with Sheila Allen from Derbyshire.

The Norfolk group will continue to meet there throughout 2020 for the monthly Noggin' held on the second Tuesday, so if you are interested in meeting like-minded enthusiasts over a good and reasonably-priced lunch come along.

The next is on Thursday 9th January.



NEW MEMBERS

- **John & Glynis Leonard, Stowmarket, Suffolk**
Car: 1966 Mk3 in good condition
- **Brian Oakley, Ware, Herts**
No car notified
- **David Grunberg, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London**
Car: AH3000Mk2, Year: 1963, red/white in Good condition

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

CAMBRIDGE CAR CLUB CLASSIC RUN 2020

Cambridge Car Club presents the Cambridge Classic Car Run 2020

We are pleased to announce the 10th running of this classic car tour. Once again, we are privileged to be able to use the Imperial War Museum at Duxford as our start and finish venue. Additionally we shall include a stop at an AutoSolo event where our entrants can have a run (or two) on a sample AutoSolo test, if they wish. The run is a scenic circular tour of about 80 miles. A shorter route will be available for those who prefer a shorter route and more time at the museum. The entry fee of £60 includes entry to the museum for two people, rally plate and road book. We will again be supporting the work of St. Nicholas Hospice, Bury St. Edmunds.

SCENIC TOURS
DRIVING EVENTS FOR CLASSICS

monit rally

CAMBRIDGE CAR CLUB
Celebrating 70 Years

Book the date
19 April 2020

HISTORIC RALLY CAR REGISTER

COULSON BUILDING GROUP

KGD

MANILUX - MARSEILLE

alongside you

Visit the Club website to see details and the entry form as they become available at <https://www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk/event-calendar/cambridge-classic-run/>

St Nicholas Hospice Care More information also from Clive Grounds, chair@cambridgecarclub.co.uk

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FAB FIBRE

Reading the recent articles in *Revcounter* on the Fiberfab Jamaican reminded me of the Fiberfab product opposite that I saw at *Rétromobile* in 2008 - a *Fiberfab Caribe*, also on a Healey 3000 chassis, this time a tri-carb 1962 Mk11.



This example is apparently unique being open-top whereas the basic concept had gull-wing doors as you will read from the brochure extract I reproduce and also see in the brochure images below.

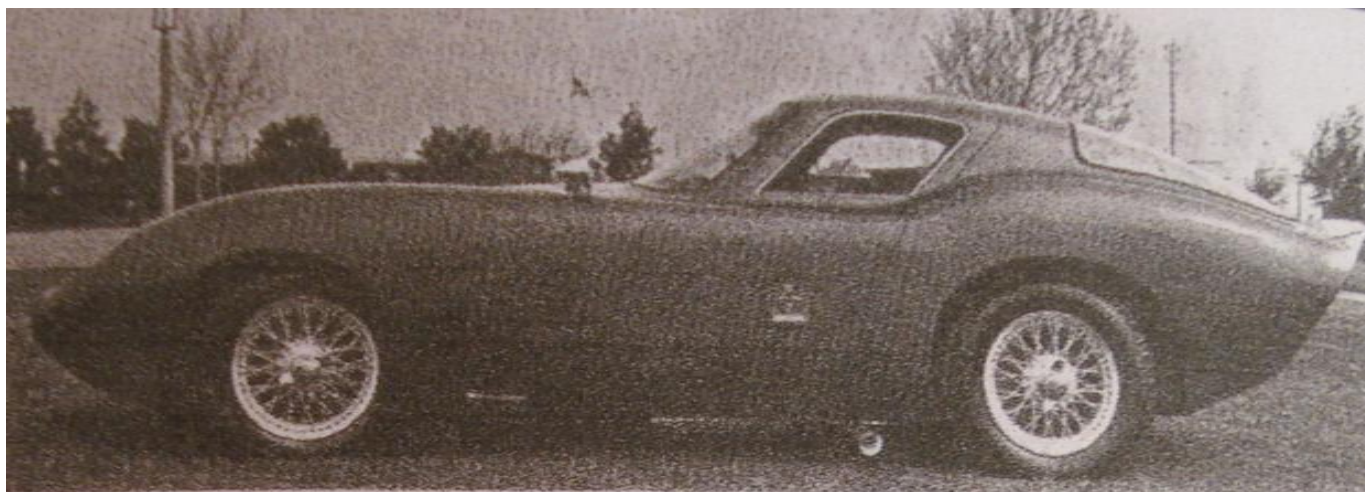
FIBERFAB CARIBEE

'The Caribe fibreglass body is Fiberfab's latest design innovation intended exclusively for front engined cars. Fitting into the design spectrum between sports car and grand touring styles, the Caribe incorporates features which are usually found only on prohibitively priced factory prototypes. Smoothly contoured head indents, saucy rear spoiler and exciting gull-wing doors all serve to enhance the flawless and eye-catching appearance of the Caribe's flowing aerodynamic lines.'



Caribee continued...

The Caribee is suitable for use on a number of well-engineered and readily available sports car chassis. By utilizing the existing metal inner panels of the various chassis, coupled with the built-in panelling of the Caribee body, easy installation is facilitated on the MGA, Austin Healey 4, Austin Healey 6 and Triumph TR3. With slight modifications, the Caribee can also be mounted on the Triumph TR4 and TR4 (IRS).'



Like all Fiberfab body kits, the Caribee is constructed with extensive inner panels, reinforcements and wide flanges which contribute to ease of assembly and unsurpassed quality of the finished product.



Le Mans Classic 2020

Here we go again! Le Mans Classic in 2020: 3-5 July

If you wish to join an AHC group entry, please register your interest ASAP, but no later than 31 December, to ensure you receive an entry form.

Email Mark Knight: Comms@austinhealeyclub.com



Note: this entry will not include travel or accommodation, but note the AHC ferry discount scheme on the AHC website



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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GENERAL MEMBERS

JOHN KEENER	healeynutjk@yahoo.co.uk	01494 728360
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TECHNICAL SECRETARIES

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SPRITES (All Marques)	PAT KIMBER	01920 420642
WARWICK HEALEY	JOHN KEENER	01494 728360

VALUATION OFFICER FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

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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.