

February 2020

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Barrington New Year's Day meet 2020 - see inside



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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

It was great to get the Healey out on New Year's Day not only to join the hundreds of cars at Barrington but also to join up with fellow EC members at Roger and Maggi Byford's home in Royston after attending the meeting on the Green. Maggi has provided sandwiches and soup for a number of years now and it is a good way to catch up after the festivities and compare waistlines!

The Barrington event seems to have a new lease of life. Some friends arrived at 10.30 to find a few early birds there already - it used to be possible to arrive at 12.00 and get a place on the green - difficult now. I suspect a lot of it is to do with the promotion that the landlord has done through the monthly summer meets. There are virtually no VSCC cars now, however, which is a shame. Like many events, moderns are taking over.

You will find a very comprehensive events calendar in this month's edition collated by our Events Secretary, Angela Bonner, who also recounts a 'Why Me?' moment that I suspect she would rather forget!

The next event in my particular calendar is a visit to *Rétromobile* in Paris, reprising a trip I did back in 2008, albeit this time courtesy of Eurostar. I'll let you know how I get on.

Dave Haslam of the Mersea Marauders sent me the photo opposite of his 'Nasty Boy' with Stuart Self and Lin Giddings' Car following a recent lunch. Rear of the Year?



Keep the faith.

Rob

TOURING TROPHY - 2020

The Touring Trophy runs from AGM to AGM (October to October).

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	25/1/ 2020	Barrington, Bury and around	222	400
Rob	25/1/ 2020	Barrington and Byford NYD	35	70
Dave and Pam	25/1/ 2020	Out and about	101	101

EASTERN CENTRE SPRING LUNCH Sunday March 15th *Meridian Golf Club, Toft, CB23 2RY.*

Carvery: Choice of chicken, beef or pork to be chosen on the day. Dessert choices from the blackboard on the day.

The price of a 2 course meal is £17.25. Coffee is extra.

Enjoy the excellent food and company!

Andrew

andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I have had a few contacts from new members recently which is always nice, so hopefully we will see a few new faces out and about in the coming months. The January Committee meeting was positive with a few details to the calendar being fleshed out. Don't forget to contact Andrew Hollick to book your place for the **Spring Lunch** near Cambridge and don't be shy, if you think it is a bit far from your neck of the woods why not arrange a lunch in your area. We always used to have three or four spring lunches dotted about the area so there is no reason why we cannot again.

Maggi Byford has arranged for a special visit to the **Twinwoods Airbase** near Bedford, a guided tour and reserved parking will make this an unmissable opportunity, so get in touch with Maggi to book your place. On the theme of Special Visits if you have a similar venue in your area that you think would be of interest to other members please let us know.



There are usually club discounts, reserved parking and tours available at most attractions and your committee will help to get things started if you have an idea you would like to pursue.

Drive it Day will be with us before you know it and there will be organised events in your area, if you plan on joining your local run why not let us know about it so with a bit of forward planning maybe a few more Healeys can join in. Pat Kimber is planning a run in the Hertford area, watch this space for more details.

Do you live in the **Broadland** Area of Norfolk/Suffolk? Have you contacted Neil Turner yet? There will be lots of opportunities in that area for some great drives out with interesting visits and you will be helping to re-introduce a new sub-centre. His contact details are below.

Chairman's chat continued....

Remember, it is possible to join the committee at any time during the year so you can help steer the club in a direction you would like to see, if what is being arranged doesn't suit you, let us know, we need to know what the membership would like. It is only one meeting every two months so not really such a huge commitment.

Tony Withrington our membership Secretary still reports a number of Eastern Centre members with no email address on file or one that is not accepting mail so if you know of a member who is not receiving this monthly Mutterings please encourage them to register with the National Austin Healey Club website where they will be able to access their membership details and update or add an email address. Other than RevCounter we can only send out the information electronically so it is the best way of keeping in touch.

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.

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

BEWARE THE SENIOR MOMENTS!

The other car club I belong to is the SVEC, Suffolk Vehicles Enthusiasts Club, a multi-marque group based mostly around Ipswich, so I don't do many of their events as a rule, but one I really enjoy is their annual Awards Dinner. A formal dress event in a lovely venue, and as I get very few chances to 'dress up' and the food is superb I was looking forward to that Saturday at the beginning of December.

To be on the safe side I put the rugby club post code into Satnav, Ipswich is not an area I am familiar with, and set off in pouring rain, glammed up to the eyebrows - new long velvet dress, gold sandals, hair done, full 'warpaint' and a faux fur jacket as you see on the right.



The car park looked somewhat different to the one I remembered from last year, but things change and I walked confidently into the hall. To one side was a very large table surrounded by a big group of young men already well into a celebration with drinks flowing freely, plus two slightly older men leaning on the bar. It was not quite 'spit and sawdust' but certainly not the plush carpet and snowy linen table settings I had been expecting to find.

Giving an embarrassed smile and wave in response to the shout that went up I decided I must have come in a different entrance and hurried to the other end of the room, a corridor with doors leading off - into cupboards and the toilets! I turned back to the two at the bar, who by now were in fits of laughter at my error and said 'I'm very obviously in the wrong place, so please is there another rugby club nearby?' It turned out they were the entire Ipswich Town Rugby Team, having a leaving party for one who was about to become a pilot. They gave me directions, but also invited me to stay for the evening, assuring me I would have a much better time with them than where I was supposed to be!

Regretfully I declined, were I 40 years younger I might have done, but at my age I didn't think I could have coped!

Angela's angst continued...

Long story shortened, not the other rugby club either, I quizzed several dog walkers and a newsagents, who looked me up and down and said sorry, he was into football. Talk about crushing remarks!

After another cruise past both rugby clubs again, following directions, and several abortive phone calls, one finally suggested I try the new wedding venue, and Satnav took me down several miles of single track, grass in the middle, lanes which in the pitch black I missed and had to go around again. On finally finding my way in the only thing in progress was a cycling club dinner. By this time it was 8.50pm, I was totally lost, hungry and nearly in tears with frustration and disappointment, so I gave up and told Satnav to take me home. The following day I discovered I should have been at the golf club!

The senior moments seem to be coming more often than they used to.

Angela Bonner

DAVE HOLMAN TELLS ALL

The photo in last month's Mutterings was taken during the 1982 Welsh weekend, our first time at that event. We were based in Llandudno then and we had a fantastic time. James was 10 months old and it was his first "international event". He wouldn't fit in the back of a 3000 quite so easily now.



Unfortunately that 3000 went to fund some work to the house. Fortunately we still had a 100 which was work in progress so we could say we still had a Healey, or at least bits of one! Best regards,

Dave.

MY CURRENT 3000 from Tony Withrington

Found a photo of my '64 Mk111 3000 phase 2. These were taken about 3 years ago outside Landwades Hall near Newmarket, before it was sold off as a wedding venue. The weather was perfect for once and shows the car off well!



I had a '65 Mk3 for a few years in the 70's and was determined to find another one as I headed for my retirement! The car was imported from Sweden just before I bought it and the front indicator lights were the wrong way round. The amber should be below the headlight but there is a certain logic to having the sidelight below the headlight so I have left it as is!

The chrome flashes on the wings I have changed - they were broad end facing forwards! How anyone can get this wrong is beyond me! However, I spotted a red Healey in the Haynes museum off the A303 a couple of years ago which had them reversed - think it had a foreign plate!

All the ambla vinyl trim is original and it benefits from an adjustable steering column and an oil cooler. Chrome wires are non standard 72 spoke 6.5J (originals were 4.5J) and I had the thin whitewall tyres fitted. The exhaust is side exit with two silencers rather than the standard four silencer rear exit.

The car has done a number of trips to Cornwall, as well as Silverstone and Goodwood and I find the revised suspension of the phase two comfortable for long runs.

Tony

If anyone else has a 'Me and My car' story please let me have it - Ed.

BARRINGTON AND BYFORD BASH 2020



*Once again Maggi and Roger Byford invited EC members back to their home in Royston after the NYD meeting on the Green at Barrington.
Here are a few photos.*



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.

15th March. 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. There are just a few places left so contact David Wheeler at wheelerd@blueyonder.co.uk very soon if you hope to be there in 2020.

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 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 and to book in.

8th May, FRIDAY Bank Holiday. Royston Rotary are holding their Classic Car meeting on the Market Square, just behind the Town Hall, King James Way, SG8 7DA. Lots happening in the town with the May Fayre and other attractions.

30th May Visit to Twinwood Airfield, Maggi has organized a private visit, just north of Bedford from where Glen Miller took off on his final flight and was never seen again. An interesting collection of 40's museums and memorabilia. Starting at 11.00am in reserved parking for your picnic lunch, then a tour including tea and cakes in the NAAFI. Car plus 2 incl. £10. Booking essential with Maggi at treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk

6th June Letchworth Classic Vehicles picnic, Halls Green, Weston. More details on their website, but pay on the gate for this, refreshments, music, and bar available, we hope to have our gazebo and parking area so we can have the Healeys together.

Events continued...

7th June Euston Rural Pastimes, Real country show, all sorts of events and entertainment in addition to the classic vehicles where we hope to have our gazebo and allocated parking in a group. Contact Angela to co-ordinate entries.social@ahc-eastern.co.uk

11/14th June. AH Lustrum 2020. European Healey Meeting run by the AHOCN, a Dutch club founded 45 years ago. This will be based at the family run hotel Klosterpforte in Marienfeld, Germany. Full details for this one on their website www.healey.nl/events/lustrum and again early booking is advisable. Prices go from £475pp.

28th June. Great Saling Fete and Vehicle Display, Millenium Hall and Grounds, CM7 5DW. This is a friendly and growing event, 130 vehicles last year, great food, a bar and entertainments. Free entry for car and passengers, a lovely relaxing afternoon.

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 you plan to go and would like to meet up.
mutterings@ahc-eastern.co.uk

9th July, THURSDAY Classics on the Green, Friston, Saxmundham, IP17 1NP
Anything on wheels produced before 1970, anytime between 3pm and 8pm, refreshments, bar, BBQ, no booking needed and more food and drink at the Old Chequers. Donations collected for the village church.

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 and 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!!

Continued overleaf...

Events continued...

Unconfirmed date mid July **Kimbolton Castle Classic Car Show**, details as soon as available

Advance warning -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.

2nd August Higham Ferrers Chichele Classic Car Show. A popular event amongst EC members in the west of our region and always overbooked so contact Roy Murphy early if you plan to attend. 07831 898138.

30th August Little Gransden Air and Classic Vehicle Show. Wide selection of vehicles, stalls and amazing flying displays. We will have the gazebo and our club area as usual here, but early booking is essential as security on a working airfield is strict. Please contact Angela with car details so she can order passes.

social@ahc-eastern.co.uk

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

See you soon, take care,

Angela

FREE TICKETS TO CSCC RACE MEETINGS



CSCC would like to give away a number of free tickets to the Austin Healey Club Eastern Centre for any of their UK race meetings this year, as well as arranging dedicated group parking for EC members.

CSCC has eleven different series racing including Snetterton on the weekend of 28/29 March, with a number of series dedicated to classic cars.

2020 will see even more Austin Healeys in competition within the CSCC series, from classic Sprites and 100/3000's to Jensen Healey's and unique race prepared Austin Healey Modsports.

Email: arron@classicsportscarclub.co.uk Web: www.classicsportscarclub.co.uk

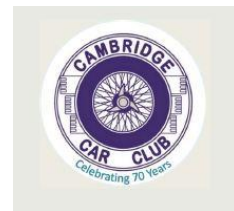
NEW MEMBERS

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

CAMBRIDGE CAR CLUB CLASSIC RUN 2020

Sunday 19 April 2020



The Cambridge Car Club has the use of The Imperial War Museum at Duxford as the base for the 10th running of their Classic run. The entry fee is £60.00 per car with two occupants. An additional fee of £22 will be charged for each additional passenger to cover the cost of entry to the venues. A road book, numbered rally plate and any other documentation will be handed to participants at signing on.

Participants will follow a scenic circular route of approximately 80 miles on quiet roads through Cambridgeshire and neighbouring counties. A shorter route will be available for anyone wishing to do less miles and return to the museum earlier. As last year there will be a coffee stop at Carver Barracks airfield the WSMC will be holding an AutoSolo event.

To make it more interesting this year, there will be a sample AutoSolo test which you can attempt in your own car. This is completely optional and without official timing. You will be able go round the test at your own pace. It should be great fun. You will also be able to see other competitors doing the actual timed sections on the AutoSolo proper which will be running on other parts of the airfield.

Participants will have full access to the IWM on their return to Duxford.

Contact Rob Ransom or www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk

SOCIAL WHEELS

Hello everyone, the calendar is now filling up very nicely and I do hope there are plenty of events which take your fancy in the summer to come. I have taken the **Waterbeach Beer Festival** off the list as although I'm sure it will be a great day it is not actually a classic car event, and as far as I know there will not be any specially allocated parking.

Our next official Eastern event will be the **Spring Lunch** at Toft Golf Club, so if you haven't already done so please contact Andrew Hollick andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk if you intend to join us. Menu selection is not required unless you have any special dietary needs, but they need to know numbers for the catering team to make sure there is plenty to choose from.

Shortly after that is **Drive it Day**, which Pat and Zara Kimber pat.kimber@ntlworld.com have kindly agreed to plan a drive and host with tea and cakes afterwards. This is a combined event with the Midget and Sprites, and Pat will need your details to comply with regulations, another one to make sure you have booked in for very soon.

There is an early **May Bank Holiday** on a Friday, the 8th May, and the Rotary Club of Royston are holding their Classic Car gathering on the market square, which is handily placed for the town centre, and just behind the Town Hall.

There is more information about the visit in May that Maggi Byford is organising to **Twinwood Museum** opposite.

I am checking details about **Little Gransden** air show as they have a change of administration for the car section this year. Although this is not until August, the security for a working airfield is very strict and details must be sent as soon as possible, I will be co-ordinating entries and forms as fast as I can get the information together.

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

Take care, stay safe,

Angela

VISIT TO TWINWOOD MUSEUM NEAR BEDFORD

SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2020

We have arranged for a private group visit to Twinwood. This WW2 airfield has a very interesting set of original buildings including control tower (R), mess, fire service, mechanics workshop and NAAFI which have been conserved so as to appear still in use.



There is also a Glenn Miller (R) section as the band leader and his musicians played at Twinwood whilst billeted in Bedford during the war.



The programme for the visit is -

11:00 - 11:30 Arrival. Park cars in a reserved area. Chat and enjoy own picnic lunch.

12:30 - 14:59 tour control tower and out-buildings

15:00 -15:59 tea and cake in 'NAAFI '

16:00 depart for home.

The Twinwood museum is located a few miles north of Bedford, and directions can be found on the website <https://twinwoodevents.com/museums/>

Our event entry cost, for a car plus 2 people, and including the afternoon refreshments in the NAAFI is £10.

Please ensure you book with **Maggi Byford** asap to avoid disappointment.
treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk

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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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

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.