

March 2020

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



French fancies - see inside

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Since last month's issue I have had two trips to continental Europe: A visit to attend Rétromobile in Paris with a few friends and a long weekend with Jayne in Bruges to balance out the Brownie Points!

I had last been to Rétromobile in 2008 and wanted to go back as it is rather like a visit to the NEC Classic Car show but in Paris rather than Birmingham - oysters and champagne rather than bacon butties and beer! I do not jest. There was an oyster bar doing brisk trade - I didn't indulge.

The cars are different too with long forgotten French makes instead of long forgotten British makes although there are a good few of those too. Healeys were well represented with stands from the French Healey Club (see photo) and the French Spridget Club as well as a number of restoration specialists and the usual parts people.

The big problem with all these type of shows and Rétromobile is no exception; they are being taken over by the restoration companies and specialist dealers. It is rare to find an unrestored car on display these days. The Big Healeys I saw had almost all been 'improved' with upgraded interiors and hoods, often side vents, side exhausts and wider tyres. It is almost impossible to find one with an original steering wheel. I suppose all this happened in period too but it does rather cloud the picture as to how they left the factory..

Car of the show for me however, was not a Healey but a 1934 Citroën Light 15 coupé. Sadly this too was over restored in my opinion but what a beauty!

Worth a visit and with Eurostar, very easy and relatively inexpensive.

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	25/2/2020	Barrington, Bury and around	99	499
Rob	25/2/2020	Nul points		70
Dave and Pam	25/2/2020			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.

Please contact Andrew Hollick to reserve a place on andrewhollick48@tiscali.co.uk or 01223 263089.



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Another month whizzed by and boy was the weather horrible. As the Hundred is in a carcoon I decided it hasn't been worth the effort of extricating it. It resides in a concrete garage at the moment and the carcoon makes all the difference, with one of those cheap de-humidifying block containers sucking some of the water out of the air, the moisture reading inside the bubble is generally 20% lower than that in the garage.

Hopefully the Hundred's exile will prove worthwhile as I have been using the time trying to remember how the 3000 goes back together. Taken apart 6 years ago to cure a water leak causing damp carpets, and rattly wind up windows, it now has new floors and B posts plus a bit more. If you have a BJ7/8 check those drain pipes from the rear hood channel, mine had been perished for a long time before I acquired it and the water was trapped under the trim doing untold harm. I also found that the rear seat had been assembled incorrectly so we didn't get the full platform. This has to be rectified as the main idea for getting it back into service is to be able to transport our dog around, this obviously will involve a suitable harness system in the back and I am also looking into the feasibility of inertia reel seat belts for the front, as I find the static type really annoying.

I hope you have booked your places for an enjoyable Spring Lunch at the Toft Golf Club. Here I must apologise as I found I had a previous engagement booked that I cannot change, galling as the Lunch is a great relaxed affair.

Don't forget the Club is only as good as it's active members so please try and come out and enjoy your cars whenever possible, it is a great way to find out about the cars and maybe get an insight to any gremlins you may have lurking under the bodywork. We have a wealth of Healey Knowledge in Eastern Centre, please feel free to access it.

All the upcoming events will be found advertised in Mutterings and on the website and don't forget to let your committee know if there is an event in your area you would like promoted.

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

DAVE HAS A HANDLE ON THIS

Not sure if I ever sent you this but during the Nasty Boy* build, Chris Davis managed to find a method of fixing a grab handle whilst still being able to access the glovebox. A lot of thinking hours went into it.

Regards

Dave

**Followers of the 'Mersea Marauder', Dave Haslam will know that he has a beautifully modified 3000 with a Rover V8 under the bonnet.*

From memory this started out with Roger Byford as a project but amongst other things getting the V8 re-fettled proved to be so time-consuming that it passed into the hands of Dave. Chris Davis, his near neighbour and man for all seasons completed the job.



Many say that the Rover V8 is the engine that the Big Healey needed but never got and as Dave says, 300bhp and 30 mpg, what's not to love!

DRIVE IT DAY: SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020

We are starting at **The Anchor Pub, Wadesmill, Ware, Herts SG12 OTD** off the A1170, where there is plenty of space beside it in Anchor Lane in the Pub car park.

There will be the option of a bar snack or lunch before the start at 2pm.

As the Pub needs to have an idea of numbers for a large group, would you kindly print out and detach the bottom half of this form and return it to us at Dellys, 12 Presdales Drive, Ware SG12 9NS at least a week beforehand. A list of entrants can then be included for everyone.

No acknowledgement will be sent, but the route will be given out on the day. We end, after about 30 miles, at our home in Ware for a free tea with home-made cakes.

ENTRY FORM

Sunday 26 April 2020

First name.....**Car Model & colour**.....

Surname.....**Registration No**.....**Yrs owned**.....

Address & postcode..... **Yr of manufacture**.....

.....
Email address..... **Tel.No.(inc.code)**.....

Navigator/Second driver.....

Bar snack.....

Sunday lunch.....

Tea.....

My own insurance covers me for taking part in this event and no claim will be made against the Organisers for any accident.

Signed.....Date.....

Return to Pat & Zara Kimber, 12 Presdales Drive, Ware SG12 9NS

Tel: 01920 420642, Email: pat.kimber@ntlworld.com

NORFOLK NOGGIN - FEBRUARY 2020

The February Norfolk Noggin' had a good turnout as usual including a couple of new faces that I am sure will become more familiar: Steve and Kath Everest.

They have moved up to near Kings Lynn from 'the South' where they were members of the Southern Counties centre of the Austin Healey Club. Steve edited their equivalent of Mutterings, 'Ten Tenths', so he is now my new Best Friend! Both Steve and Kath have expressed an interest in joining the EC committee which would be a great help to us as we have a couple of vacancies.

You will not be surprised to hear that I tweaked Steve's arm about a 'Me and my car' article for Mutterings!



*Maggi and Angela
enjoy a (soft) drink:
Good turnout as
always: Steve and
Kath Everest.*



The next Norfolk Noggin' is 12 March, again at the Three Horseshoes pub at Roydon, near King's Lynn.

CARS AS TV STARS

Having seen the trailers and subsequently the first episode of *Ms. Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries* I wondered how I had missed the previous programmes, given the lovely Austin Healey 3000 which features so prominently, and is a favourite of mine.



On investigation, it seems the first Miss Fisher, aunt of the current heroine, drove a Hispano-Suiza sports car, which back when the first series is set (1930's) was a rare and expensive vehicle, now even more rare, and the one featured is believed to be the only one in Australia, where it was filmed.

The Spanish designed car was mostly produced in France until the beginning of the Second World War, when manufacturing ceased. The company has now emerged again with an electric model called the Carmen being unveiled at the 2019 Geneva Motor Show, and pre-orders are being taken at a cool 1.5 million Euros!! Only 19 cars will be produced in the first production run, 2019/2021, so you'll have to be quick.

I first heard of Hispano-Suiza in the early Leslie Chatteris novels about *The Saint*, subsequently a television series with Roger Moore in the title role but driving an updated car, the Volvo P1800, now also comparatively rare and always referred to as 'the Saint's Volvo'. The producers' first choice was apparently a Jaguar, but they failed to secure a favourable deal with the company and Volvo scooped the contract and the publicity.

Jaguar must have learned from this and of course probably the most famous model of all, the Mark 2 has featured not only in innumerable years of Inspector Morse, but in countless other TV and film roles, both as a 'cop' car and as a 'getaway' car for hordes of criminals, prized for its speed, handling and capacity for a gang and their 'swag'.

Television detectives seem to have a monopoly on desirable vehicles, Bergerac zoomed around the island of Jersey for six years in a 1949 Triumph Roadster, which was on loan to the production team and when returned it is believed to have gone into a private museum.

Cars on the screen continued...

Early episodes of Inspector Lynley featured a Jensen Interceptor II, to be later replaced with a Bristol 410, both cars of character and rather 'out of the ordinary', as befits a titled member of the aristocracy, an Earl who is also a detective.

The hint, I think, to any aspiring television actor is perhaps to become a detective, and the chances are you might be able to have some version of a very desirable set of wheels to chase around in. Whether or not you would then be able to go on the list for the new Hispano-Suiza is another matter! I think maybe you should aim for the big screen to have any chance of that.

Angela Bonner

Editor's note: Years ago Pete Taylor started a list of Healeys on the screen - I can't recollect where I saved it in my infallible (!) archive so shall we start again?

My starter for one:

- ***Bullitt*** - A 100 is passed repeatedly in the car chase which must go round in circles because the car is parked up!
- ***K-PAX*** - Kevin Spacey film. The consultant psychiatrist drives a 3000
- ***Beach Boys Docu Drama*** - some weird channel. When they get famous they all buy smart cars, one a 100.
- ***Tears for Fears music video: Everybody Wants To Rule The World (below)***. A BJ8 is featured as the backbone to the video. You can get it on You Tube.



Let me have your contributions and I promise I will keep them safe!!!

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

15th March 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.

12th April. Battlesbridge Easter Fayre and Fun Day, Antiques Centre, Muggeridge Farm, SS11 7RE. Family fun in addition to the usual antiques and bygones, starting at 10am.

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.

19th April. Battlesbridge Classic Vehicle Breakfast Club, Muggeridge Farm, SS11 7RE. The first of their monthly breakfast meets, vehicles and antiques galore. Start 9am.

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.

10th May. Battlesbridge Spring Auto jumble. SS11 7RE.

17th May. Battlesbridge Breakfast Club, SS11 7RE.

2020 events continued...

30th May Visit to Twinwood Airfield, Maggi Byford 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, Fairclough Hall, Halls Green, Weston, SG4 7DP. More details on the LGCCVCC website. They have asked that in order to facilitate a group area could we assemble elsewhere and arrive en masse at the gate, which will make the marshalls life a bit easier. I suggest we meet at the Rising Sun pub, SG4 7DR just along the road, at 10.45am. Hopefully this will give us a spectacular arrival, all good publicity for the club. Please let me know if you plan on coming so our little 'convoy' doesn't leave without you if you are 5 minutes late!! Have your money ready, £5 per car.

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 of the year. eustonruralpastimes.org.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. Please look at the website for some details of this event. (You will need to click on the translate button).

21st June, Fathers Day. Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club are holding an open day in aid of the air ambulance service, they would love a classic car presence and are offering trial flights for £25 per person. An idea for a present perhaps? Held at WW11 Wormingford airfield near Colchester, again more details on their website.

28th June. Great Saling Fete and Vehicle Display, Millenium Hall and Grounds, CM7 5DW. Free entry for car and passengers, a lovely relaxing afternoon.

2020 events continued...

28th June. Battlesbridge Breakfast Club. SS11 7RE. Start 9am.

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 want to meet up at the circuit.

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.

12th July Kimbolton Castle Classic Car Show, details and passes to be ordered in advance from Clive Cocks, but as this clashes with IHW at Stanbrook Abbey, above, he will not be organizing a designated Healey parking area this year.

19th July. Battlesbridge Breakfast Club, as above.

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!!

2nd August Higham Ferrers Chichele Classic Car Show. Always overbooked so contact Roy Murphy early if you plan to visit this one. 07831 898138. More details later in the magazine.

16th August, Battlesbridge Breakfast Club, as above.

30th August. Little Gransden Air and Classic Vehicle show SG19 3BP. We will have the gazebo and a strong Healey presence at this fantastic air show. They do need individual details for security at this one, if you are interested let Angela know as early as possible, there is a CLOSING DATE and we nearly missed it last year. Remember you MUST stay until the end of the flying, and this can be variable. More details as soon as available.

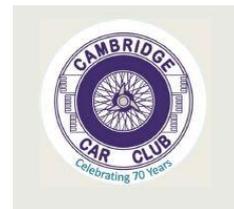
NEW MEMBERS

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

Contact Rob Ransom or www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk

HIGHAM FERRERS CHICHELE CLASSIC CAR SHOW: 2ND AUGUST

Following the invitations to Pre-Register that were sent out last November we have received a high demand for places again this year and the show is filling up fast with less than 90 places remaining.

So, as last year, we anticipate that all spaces will be reserved before the proposed 'cut off' date, which this year is 28th June.

Contact Roy Murphy now to secure your place:

<mailto:highamclassic@btinternet.com> Tel. 07831 898138

SOCIAL WHEELS from Angela Bonner

Hello everyone, the calendar is virtually full, and I do hope there are plenty of events which take your fancy in the summer to come.

Our next official Eastern event will be the **Spring lunch** at Toft Golf Club, very soon now, 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 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.

pat.kimber@ntlworld.com

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 Town Hall car park, King James Way, SG8 7XB. This is a slight change of the venue stated last month. Please get the entry form from their website to reserve you a space, arrival between 11.00 and 11.30am please.

Maggi now has more information about the visit to **Twinwood**, so please check the calendar for this, and as booking is essential for this please contact her on treasurer@ahc-eastern.co.uk as soon as possible. This is an interesting collection of WW2 memorabilia and detailed information about band leader and airman Glen Miller, who made his last flight from that airfield.

Little Gransden air show - although this is not until August, the security for a working airfield is very strict and details must be sent as soon as possible. Remember vehicles are not allowed to move on the showground between 10am and close of show and the entry fee is £10 PER PERSON not per car. I will be co-ordinating entries and forms as fast as I can get the information together, so please contact me as soon as you can commit. There is a closing date.

Remember to read Mutterings on-line for all the latest information on events in our area, there are some slight changes again to last month's Mutterings, (mainly due to more 'senior moments' I'm afraid!).

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, 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.

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

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

16:00 depart for home.

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

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

SLIPPERY SLOPES ON A SUNDAY

Not really my cup of tea but I caught up with Geoff Spencer, former AHEC member and Sprite owner, at the Cambridge Car Club winter trial at Harlton, near Cambridge, in January.



The car is a Dellow.

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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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.