

August 2020

Mutterings

THE NEWSLETTER of the EASTERN CENTRE
of the AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



Roger and Maggi Byford's Sebring Sprite in lockdown

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

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

So sad to hear of the death of Lin Taylor earlier this month. She was a lovely lady who sadly suffered a long and very distressing illness, cared for over a ten year period by husband Peter.

I met her thorough Pete when I joined the EC committee back in the early '90's and enjoyed her company at many events alongside Pete and inseparable friends Pat and Angie Harris. Before she became ill she would attend race meetings as supporter to the EC competition trio of Pete, Pat and Brian Bedford, disappearing off to the car boot sale at Snetterton with the girls between events.

I have included some photos from those days later in the magazine and one opposite from Snetterton in 2010 which, sadly was one of the last times I saw her.



Rob

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee welcomes all new members to the club and looks forward to meeting with you when normality resumes. New members are asked to let the editor have a brief 'Me and my car' article for Mutterings.

- **Mark and Sally Bramall:** Nayland, Suffolk
1962 3000 Mk II
- **Scott Rose:** Norwich
3000Mk1, 1959, Red, Good condition

Tony Withrington

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	25/7/ 2020	Down the shops and round and about	84	816
Rob	25/7/ 2020	Newmarket and Round the houses	45	193
Dave and Pam	25/7/ 2020	Covid lockdown	0	101
Dave Holman	25/7/ 2020	Covid lockdown	0	16
Joanna Hill Jonathan Pearson	25/7/ 2020	First test drive (See below)	0.5	0.5

From Joanna Hill

Here is my first submission for the Touring Trophy (the first of many I hope!!)

A bit of a slow start as the car hasn't actually been signed off by the DVLA yet BUT, the wonderful team at Scott Racing invited up to the garage on my 40th birthday for a quick test drive on some private roads.

Hopefully the next submission will be a little higher but hey, it's a start!

Joanna

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

More sad news this month, we heard that Linda Taylor passed away after a long struggle. Pete, her husband, was on our committee for many years before her illness meant he became her full-time carer. Over the years Lin and Pete could be found at Healey events all over the globe and Linda was one of the willing helpers that always made the Essex events such fun. She is much missed and our sincere condolences go to Pete and the family. There will be a family funeral but Pete has mentioned that once bigger gatherings are possible he is hoping to arrange a charity event, so we can get together to celebrate her life. In the meantime if you would like to remember Linda there is a charity donation page set up <https://lindataylor.muchloved.com>

The lockdown is easing, but it is still impractical to arrange a noggin or larger gathering. The committee has started looking into the AGM for October, but at the moment at our usual venue we would only be allowed 20 people at the meal and we feel an AGM has to be available for all to attend if they wish so that is really a non-starter.

We had our last committee meeting using the video conferencing system that the National Club Executive set up for their meetings, they included a "room" for each centre to use and I think it worked very well. It can have up to 50 contributors but with limitations, as I understand it only 12 could be connected with a video link, the rest having microphone contact only although they would be able to see those on video. I would think this could mean the committee could be seen on screen but others would only be heard. This will obviously make for an interesting meeting and a show of hands probably wouldn't work very well. Please let me know your thoughts on this possibility, we really need an AGM to happen and we really need members input for the club to work.

A possible benefit of virtual meetings is that it might make it possible to attract new members to our committee, no tedious drives to the meeting and we could revert to evening meetings, which could mean members that still have to work for a living could join us to help steer the Centre into the future. We really need younger members to help move the Club forward, all of the Committee at present have served for a number of years so we may well be stuck in a rut.

Chairman's chat continued...

We need to be able to appreciate the history of the Eastern Centre but we also need to know what newer members require from the Club. We have a meeting every two months so it is not a huge drain on your time. Please consider joining the Committee to see what is involved, it would enhance your enjoyment of the cars we all love. Please contact me, or any member of the Committee, to find out more

In this issue Andrew Hollick is asking for any trophies to be returned, hopefully this will give time for those of you in possession of a trophy after last year's AGM to get them passed back towards Cambridge via committee members or anyone who passes that way. We still hope we can have some sort of presentation in due course.

With the easing of restrictions I have managed to cross paths with some Healey friends in the last couple of weeks but nothing really makes up for the fun gatherings we have all missed. There is some optimism about, there are a couple of "first Sunday of the month" outdoor meets in the offing and the Cambridge car club is hoping to reschedule their Ely meeting for 26th September albeit in a rather different format. The Healey Drivers Club have sent out their invites to their meeting next May so let us hope everything keeps going in the right direction and some events can go ahead.

Don't forget even though we can't carry on with the noggins your committee is just an email away if you have a question regarding your Healey and with the extended fettling period I hope to see many of you about later in the year. We would like to think that normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. Keep an eye on the website and look out for emails from our membership secretary, we will pass on any news as soon as we get it.

Best wishes to all,

Dave

PS. Our National Treasurer is stepping down this year so if you know of anyone who may be suitable please pass their details forward to the National Committee, details of the post will be found in Rev Counter.

SOCIAL WHEELS

Hello everyone,

I could now see you if we were able to meet as wonder of wonders - I had a haircut!!

Update on the postponed **Pool / Picnic Party** here in Helions Bumpstead. With regret I don't think it can happen this year for several reasons. Social distancing is still in operation, many of us fall into the vulnerable group, private pools are off limits outside the household, and it is unlikely we would be able to have all Tony's 5 o' Clock Shadows either now. Add all this to the (vital at our age) toilet facilities available and it really is a non-starter. I am so sorry and will do my utmost to hold it again next year.

My Healey is now raring to go with a brand new battery, so I think the coming month will bring a whole new set of non-essential travel which simply has to be carried out, especially if the weather picks up again. I might have an urgent need to find a far-away picnic spot.

Most larger events have already posted their date for 2021, including the **MG LIVE** and **Goodwood Revival**, so make a list until you have a next year's diary available. Goodwood are offering to accept your ticket for this year on the new date in 2021 if you don't want a refund. On the grounds that the already expensive ticket price will possibly increase for 2021, if you can commit to a date so far in advance I suggest carrying it over might be the way to go.

THEY are lifting Covid restrictions gradually, but I am sure many of you are still being very cautious about where and who you come into contact with. Those of us fortunate enough to have come through unscathed are thanking our lucky stars and the last thing anyone should do now is take chances.

All information correct at time of writing but changing by the minute, so be careful if you book advance tickets on line. The small print may say they are under no obligation to refund or replace tickets for reasons beyond their control, and I suspect Covid is one of those reasons. Check before travelling anywhere.

Social from Angela continued...

There will be a large event on 6th September at **Glemham Hall**, just off the A12 heading towards Ipswich, out between Wickham Market and Saxmundham, to which our Healeys are invited. Please visit their website, details on the Mutterings calendar page and make your own arrangements. When you book in mention Austin Healey Club and they will try to put us together, we have decided not to have an official stand there.

Take care, stay safe and hope to see you soon.

Best wishes,

Angela

We are all used to sanitising our hands at every opportunity such that it has become an involuntary reaction.

Such was the case with Angela after a distanced coffee recently.



Not sure that that the spray was very effective as a sanitiser but it worked fine on Tony's windscreen!

Rob



REMEMBERING LINDA TAYLOR

Linda Taylor passed away at home on 5 July after a long battle with illness. As Maggi says below she was a great supporter of Eastern Centre over many, many years and her ever smiling face will be missed by us all. She was diagnosed with dementia ten years ago and as a result both she and Pete increasingly could not attend EC events. Rather than a tribute in words I reproduce several photographs that I hope capture Lin as most of us remember her. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Pete, sons Paul and James and their families.

Rob



*Clockwise: On the EC stand
Battlesbridge 2008 and 2007:
With partner in crime, Angie
Harris at the Queens' College
Dinner 1996: Pete and Lin at the
EC Valentine's Dinner 2004 and
the EC Barn Dance, 1997*

Linda Taylor 1948 - 2020



A TRIBUTE FROM MAGGI BYFORD

Lin was a great supporter of all Eastern Centre events when she was well. A regular face in the paddock for sprints, hill climbs and races, she attended several social events on the continent, was always around when regalia or raffle tickets needed selling at Eastern events, and could be relied on, along with Angie Harris, to keep the ladies laughing. One of our last meetings with Lin & Pete before the disease took hold was in LA. We were driving Route 1 from Seattle to San Diego, and called in on them when they were staying with some petrol head friends. Pete had just bought himself a modern Mustang, and they were looking forward to driving Route 10 to Florida where they planned to leave the car at their villa for future use.

Sadly less than 2 years later, at the Spridget celebration at Burghley, Lin could not recognise us.

Maggi

ME AND MY CAR(S): STEVE AND KATH EVEREST

We have recently moved from Sussex (Southern Counties Centre) to Norfolk, (Eastern Centre) so as requested by Rob, here is a quick look at our cars, starting with the Big Healey, 222HAE.

I acquired my 1960 3000 Mk1 BN7 car in 2002. It took a fair bit of time to find the right car as at that time there were a lot of people trying to sell Healeys, that needed a lot doing to them, for over inflated prices. Having literally travelled from one end of the country to the other looking for a Mk3 BJ8 car, I decided to widen the search for other models.

Trawling through one of the many magazines, I found a Mk1 BN7 2-seater car for sale at a Rolls Royce and Bentley dealership in Henley on Thames. No, it wasn't a typo, they were selling the Healey on behalf of a client who had stored it with them while he was working in the USA. Armed with information and tips on what to look for on earlier cars provided by Healey restoration specialist, Kevin Law of Orchard Restorations, I went to Henley to take look at the car.

Without a doubt, it was the best car I'd seen. A look under bonnet to check the numbers proved that everything was in order and that it was one of just 157 BN7 2-seater right hand drive cars built for the home market.



The test drive went very well: I didn't end up with a mangled stump of a finger while checking for scuttle/door shake! The choke was sticking and there were a couple of other issues, all of which the owner agreed to have fixed.

I collected 222 HAE on 23rd December 2002. In the intervening 18 years, I've covered some 40,000 miles almost trouble-free miles. I'm a firm believer that our cars are there to be driven. I've attended umpteen Healey rallies including the 2nd, 3rd and 4th European events.

Steve and Kath's cars continued...

The engine was rebuilt by Kevin and his team in 2017. Bill McDonough of Hardy Engineering has rebuilt the gear box in 2008 and last year, exchanged the original 3.9 differential for a 3.5 version. The replacement diff really does give the car great touring capabilities.

I spent my working life as an electrical engineer, so I have converted the lighting on the car to L.E.D. throughout. Let's face it, 50/55watt lamps, even halogen ones are no match for today's modern cars coming the other way at night! As the original headlamp reflectors were suffering from corrosion, I replaced them with 'pilot/side' lamp versions. This allowed me to install discreet, relay-controlled daylight running lights (DRL's). I can now be seen during the day as well!! I've retained the original dynamo, so the reduction in power consumption from the battery is a big help. The improved level of lighting at night was well worth the effort.

As always, there are plenty of jobs to be getting on with on the car, but that's all part of the fun of owning them isn't it?

Steve and Kath

Next month ...the Sprite



CUPS AND TROPHIES

Awards are presented annually at the AGM and we are looking at ways to do this in a Covid-safe way. Please arrange for the return of cups and trophies to our Trophy Master, Andrew Hollick as and when you can.

It could be more challenging this time to get them back to Andrew or a committee member, but hopefully we are all resourceful. Those who want to can post to him at 73 Swaynes Lane, Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7EF.

A good excuse for a trip out and a socially distanced coffee, perhaps?

CARS AS TV STARS

- **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** A BJ8 is featured as the backbone to the video. You can get it on You Tube.
- **10cc album cover: How dare you!**
- **AXA Insurance advert - current:** Sprite is seen in the main character's garage business

- **School for Scoundrels**
(starring Ian Carmichael, Terry Thomas and Alastair Sim - to name a few) used the 1958 ex works demonstrator 100/6 registered PJB 828.



- **Utta Danella. TV series 'Libe mit Lachfalten'** 2011
(Love with Laughter Wrinkles).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zSnOG9FNPs>
- **NSW Road safety film.**
(Frog and occupants come to a nasty end!)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/320831618126118/permalink/1394400770769192/>
- **1995 Father of the Bride 2.** Steve Martin comedy.
https://youtu.be/Bbvndlu_Zjc
- **The Bank Job 2008.** Gritty crime drama
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB3oylmcFzg>
- **Poppet on a swing.** Harry Enfield, 1990: Spoof on '60s London.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4yFJO6MvII>

The list has stalled this month so please have a hunt around and let's add to it in the next Mutterings.

GIVE US A CLUE

This strange vehicle was spotted at a farm shop in the Cotswolds. Enquiries revealed that a certain so called celebrity resides in the area of Chipping Norton. Enquiries also confirmed that they own the farm and said shop!

Does anyone have a clue who the owner might be?
All suggestions to Rob.

Tony Withrington

To be revealed next month.



THE NEW NORMAL



In the absence of events, tea on the terrace has become one of the ways to keep up with friends; in this case Angela Bonner, Tony Withrington with Collette and Roger and Maggi Byford. Let me have your photos for future editions.

EASTERN CALENDAR JULY 2020

Subject to change

*Please be aware that many events are now cancelled or postponed where possible due to the Coronavirus, so even when restrictions are lifted **please check** before you attempt to attend anything listed at the moment. I am keeping the diary going in the hope things will return to normal soon, but currently all events are cancelled or on hold until further notice.*

BATTLESBRIDGE ANTIQUES CENTRE is now open for most of their traders, with strict social distancing guidelines. The toilets will be open and cleaned regularly. Takeaway refreshments also available, so if you fancy a little retail therapy this is the one to visit.

- **2nd August CANCELLED. Higham Ferrers Chichele Classic Car Show.**
- **7th/9th August POSTPONED Practical Classics Car and Restoration Show, NEC Birmingham. New date will be 26th/28th March, 2021.**
- **Event 16th AUGUST Battlesbridge Breakfast Club, Battlesbridge Antiques Centre, SS12 7RE.**
- **30th August. POSTPONED Little Gransden Air and Classic Vehicle show new date 2021.**

- **Quest 'A Classic Affair' 5th September, Hemingford Grey Sports ground, near St Ives.** Entries for this excellent event need to be submitted directly to Quest - the application forms are available on their website <https://www.aclassicaffair.co.uk>. Quest are hoping that this will still go ahead, but it is not certain at present.

- **6th September Glemham Hall Classic Motor Show, Little Glemham, IP13 0BT.** This is between Wickham Market and Saxmundham, just north of the A12 heading towards Ipswich. Advance tickets available for exhibition vehicle and up to 4 passengers for £5 total. State club membership when applying and they will try to group us together. Arrival between 8.00 and 10.00 prompt please because of vehicle movement restrictions when public are allowed in, as per usual. www.classicsglemham.org.uk

Events continued...

- 11th/13th September. **Goodwood Revival**. POSTPONED until 2021. Tickets can be rolled over to next year or refunded if you wish.
- **EVENT 20TH SEPTEMBER Battlesbridge Breakfast Club**, Battlesbridge Antiques Centre, SS11 7RE.
- **Possible** Auto Jumble 27th SEPTEMBER. Battlesbridge Antiques as above, Please check their website for current information.
- 13th/15th November. **Classic Motor Show**, NEC, Birmingham. STILL ON, check their website regularly.

Lots of changes, so please check Mutterings regularly for confirmed dates and events. There have been some date adjustments recently so please check dates carefully and check with organiser. Contact by text or mobile, Angela on 07710 267356 for more information, or email angelabonneruk@yahoo.co.uk

I am hoping there might be some late season events to list but so far have not managed to find any. If you hear of anything in this area for the autumn please send me details for publication.

Angela.

Drive Through
CARS & COFFEE
at
QBCC
QUEST BROTHERS CLASSIC CARS



Looking for somewhere to go in your classic?
Quest Brothers Classic Cars, in conjunction with The Rural Coffee Project, invites you to
Drive Through Cars & Coffee at our St Ives, Cambridgeshire, workshop.

• **QBCC display cars** • **Artisan coffee served from a Land Rover** • **Contactless payment**

SUNDAY AUGUST 2 9AM - 12PM

16 Stephenson Rd, St. Ives
Cambridgeshire, PE27 3WJ
www.questbrothersclassiccars.com

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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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.