

Ten Tenths – April 2025

Welcome to the next edition of Ten Tenths.

Easter has happened, as indeed has the Daffodil Event in Norfolk. The 'Daff' is a good place to start my newsletter as it is the first **CLUB** event on the Southern Counties Calendar. Whilst this is today very much an event that draws Healey folk from across the country, it has enjoyed significant Southern Counties support for many years. My wife Carolyn and I, assisted by Steve and Kath Everest of Eastern Centre, have just completed our second running of the event since taking over, and are already looking forward to our third event in April 2026. There will be a full article and front cover (!) in Revcounter next month. Sufficient to say: the event ran from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th April, staying at the Le Strange Arms Hotel in Hunstanton. We enjoyed good company, trips to Blickling Hall (National Trust), the Mid-Norfolk Railway for a trip to Wymondham where there was a quiz to compete for the Egg Cup Trophy (an old Southern Counties Quiz Trophy), and a visit to the RNLI Hunstanton who were presented with our raffle proceeds. We also voted in a Concours de Daffodil (people's favorite car) competition with the winner receiving the Alan Holmes Memorial Trophy (Alan and his wife were the instigators of the event 33 years ago). There was even hot competition for the Breakdown Trophy... Below: Blickling Hall, parking at Dereham Station and RNLI presentation (photo acks: Richard Laudy/AHC-SC, Chris Bishop/RNLI)



The second Event mentioned in our Calendar is the Goodwood Member's Meeting. Not a Club Event, as we don't formally organise anything, but a number of our members do attend and informally meet up. This year, the event was summed up in the Gurney Cup, held in the fading light of Saturday evening, when a Ferrari Dino 206S piloted by Frank Stippler raced from the back of the grid to first in around 20 minutes of awesome car



control and competitive driving, passing GT40's along the way. The car had barely turned a wheel ahead of the race meeting but with just enough set-up time and over 300bhp from a 2.0-litre four-cam V6 in a 600kg package and all-round disc brakes, it was going to be quick and left people talking and smiling. Note the dented front – "I think he missed a gear and we were really close.."



Mention should also be made of Bill Rawles Classic Cars and Jack Rawles, who was racing a recently re-commissioned Dutch Healey 3000 Mk II in the Moss Trophy. We found the car and mechanics in the Paddock on Saturday night undergoing urgent work. A half shaft had cracked and the replacement would not fit, so the differential was being changed to accommodate half shafts that would fit. It sounds as though they need to find a few more bhp and tweak the set-up before Jack will be able to run as well up the field as he did last year, but it was good to see the family at the event.

"The Rear View Mirror"

April 1985: All Southern Counties Members received a 'Special Bulletin', seeking help "to assist at all levels during the running of (a special) three-day event at Brands Hatch", the International Healey Weekend 1985. No less than seven members of the Healey Family were expected to attend, along with 15 Ex "Works" Drivers and mechanics – the largest gathering of these "Names" for 25 years and anticipated coverage from a TVS Television Unit. Seven European Healey Clubs were to be represented and the expectation was for 1,500 Austin Healey enthusiasts and a projected 10,000 members of the public attending the Sunday 'Thunderloot Championship Race Meeting' with parade celebrating 40 years of Healey. The official souvenir brochure mentions gymkhana, auto test, planned drive, concours, Brands Hatch Racing School tuition, go-karting, 'Expovilion' with 16 stands, a Marque with Regalia and Club Stands, Insurance, Registers, Revcounter, video shows etc. There was also mention of a BBQ, Disco, creche (yes, the kids came too). They certainly didn't do things by halves in those days. Oh, and they camped...

April 2005: Derek Edwards was planning a Scatter Rally, starting from the carpark on Wray Lane, Reigate Hill, stopping at two or three villages to find the answers to cryptic clues before a pub lunch. Some members were planning a stop in Hampshire or Dorset for “one or two nights...ideally with a croquet lawn or putting green”, on their way to the Healey Driver’s meeting in Dawlish. Anne de Legh was organising a club display on Madeira Drive, Brighton in conjunction with the London to Brighton Classic car Run.

April 2015: Dave Colwell had taken over as temporary Ten Tenths Editor whilst Steve and Kath Everest who were undertaking a Healey related holiday in Australia. Their invite was born out of help to an Australian couple when their Healey needed an electrical ‘kiss of life’ before continuing a European tour across the Channel post the Crieff European Healey Meeting. Dave was (again) planning the route for Drive it Day, taking us from the Lakeside Café at Horam Manor Farm down to Bexhill-on-Sea, described as the location of the Inaugural British Grand Prix held in 1902, before ascending ‘the back route to Beachy Head’ and on to Filching Manor Motor Museum near Polegate, courtesy of arrangements made by Clive Timothy (current organiser of our NW Kent Noggin). There was also mention of a go-kart Track for an additional £10 for a 15-minute session.

Events

Looking forwards in our Calendar of Events, we are only a few days away from **Drive It Day (Sunday 27th April)**. The event has been well trailed and I can only encourage those who have not yet contacted one or more of the three Noggin Organisers (Gerry Barnden 07812438211, Clive Timothy 07549 179463, Nick Varlow 01273415184) to do so, although table space for lunches is now getting tight. As Nick Varlow has separately mentioned by email, there is also our new trophy to compete for: The Derek Edwards Drive It Trophy. Ladies and Gentlemen, “start your engines” and have a great day. Just in case, **Rob Law** has said he will make himself available for **mechanical problems** (we don’t have any of those, do we?!). His mobile is: **07765 407292**

Staplefield Show Monday 26th May: Nick Varlow reports eight cars as already signed up but is looking for more entries. Please email Nick on nickvarlow@gamil.com to express your interest. For £3 cash entry fee on the day for local charity, you can’t go wrong.

Orchard Restorations and Southern Counties Open Day Saturday 7th June: As Rob Law says, this will be the usual mix of teas, coffees, cakes, fixing bits and a great opportunity to mix with like minded Healey enthusiasts and exchange ideas. Not to be missed, the event will run from 10am to 3pm. Rob would appreciate you letting him know in advance if you plan to attend so he can cater appropriately: info@orchardrestorations.co.uk

Ladies Event Sunday 22nd June: Michelle McDonough, mg.mcdonough41@googlemail.com is organising our inaugural event for Lady Drivers and their Navigators. The plans are all in

place: meet for coffee at Hardy Engineering followed by a planned drive through the Surrey Hills to the RAC Club at Epsom. Park on the grass in front of the Club, a tour of the Motor House, and a cream tea. Price £35 per person. A few places are still available for this special event and I can only encourage any aspiring Lady Drivers to contact Michelle as soon as possible.

The Summer Picnic Sunday 27th July: Jeff Snell has again very kindly agreed to open his large garden for this event, that we share with members of the Midget and Sprite Club. Located near Copthorne, this is always popular. By way of reminder: this is a bring your own picnic and ideally chairs but it would really help Jeff if you let him know you are coming by sending an email to jeff.snell@hotmail.co.uk

Brooklands Museum, Weybridge Saturday 9th August: We have a green light for this one-off visit with discounted advanced purchase tickets costing £19.99 per person (Brooklands advertise regular admission costs are £25.30 on the day before adding a Gift Aid donation). In due course, we expect to be able to send you a booking code to direct purchase these discounted tickets on their website. Brooklands Members will of course be able to enter using their Membership Cards. All the usual attractions of the museum will be available i.e. cars, aviation, pre-bookable Concord Experience (additional £7 per person), bus museum, pre-bookable 1 hour '360' walking tour (additional £5 per person) etc. We are hoping many of you will be prepared to commit to this summer day out and subject to your responses, we will arrange to enter through the Campbell Gate and park on the Finishing Straight in front of the Club House. Please would you therefore email your interest to me in the first instance (asap, please) at jonathan@woodrow.eu.com - please let me know if you are a Brooklands Member or not, or would be interested in the add-ons mentioned above. I look forward to hearing from you.

Capel Show Saturday 16th August: Nick Varlow is booking a Healey stand. Members should book using the following link: <https://www.capelshow.co.uk/product/capel-classic-car-and-bike-show-2025/>. When booking, it is important you check the "Car Club" button and key in "Austin Healey Club" so the Organisers know you are part of our group.

Housekeeping

If you would like take some photos and, ideally, pen some words about Drive it Day, or any other event you attend, I would be pleased to receive these from you to include in a future edition of Ten Tenths. Depending upon how quickly we can put something together, we might even be able to submit the article to Revcounter.

I mentioned our search for trophies in the previous edition of Ten Tenths and am delighted to report that I received communications, and then a box, from Club Member John Poulton. He was the last winner of the Park Langley Trophy. This trophy was awarded for the best score on a grass auto test that was held at Bentley Wildfowl Trust. The competition would

have tested skills such as parking in a box, stopping astride a line, driving around a pylon, the course probably run in both directions, and might have also involved the use of a stop watch... I am tempted to re-instate this sort of competition but first would love feedback as to what people think of the idea, now we have all 'got a bit older' and our cars a little more 'precious'. Would you be up for it? Or, up for it but without the stop watch? We would also need to find a suitable venue – suggestions?

For further background to this event, I enquired of Bob Beaumont, who's name appears on the Park Langley Trophy for 1984. It seems one of the three founder members of the Southern Counties Sprite Club was Doug Worgan, who ran a Healey dealership at the Chinese Garage, Park Langley and Bob thinks Doug may well have presented the trophy. If I have got any of this wrong, I am happy to be corrected and publish a correction. The other two founder members were Derek 'Willey' Williams and Raymond Baxter. In case anyone does not know, Raymond was a television presenter, commentator and writer, and kindly presented the Centre with a silver rosebowl, known as The Ten Tenths Trophy. We also have the Vice President's Trophy and the Steering Wheel mentioned in the last Ten Tenths.

The current thinking in the Committee is to find appropriate events and reasons to breath new life into these trophies and, as that event or reason presents itself, to present them at our AGM. With this in mind, Carolyn and I are endeavouring to visit our various Noggin venues in the coming months and bring as many of our current trophy collection with us as we can,



so you can see what you might win... Here are four of the cups on display at the Welldiggers Noggin (photo ack: Geri Barnden/AHC-SC).

Bob may not thank me for saying this but he revealed in our recent conversation that he used to run 'the Egg Cup Series' (I mentioned earlier that this trophy has found new life in the Daffodil Quiz) and has recently found his old routes. Bob, if you fancy setting up a Treasure Hunt later in the Summer, perhaps breakfast at the Welldiggers and a circular route, or involving another suitable location, we would be excited to hear from you.

At our **most recent Committee Meeting** we heard from Nick Varlow, our NEC Director, that negotiation with Peter Best is near complete and we can anticipate a June launch for a car insurance scheme. He also confirmed he is working on combining the various Club Technical Databases, pre-populating the Members Map to make it more effective as a tool to discover

other Club Members local to you, best use of Club budget to run the various Austin Healey Club websites, being able to separately address our Joint Club Members, and better record the Membership Data so we can use it effectively (e.g. Southern Counties wishes to split our membership by County but this presently requires some manual input). Nick also advised the following upcoming events in the NEC Calendar:

7-8 June	Silverstone by Equipe (Jack Rawles will be racing)
13 July	BMC 70 th Anniversary
20-21 September	Castle Coombe
7-9 November	Classic Motor Show, Birmingham

There is always too much going on at our Committee Meeting to cover it all but I am very pleased to confirm Michelle McDonough will hold an **inaugural North Surrey Noggin on Monday 28th April** from 7pm onwards at The Woodman Pub, 238 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2DA. This is designed to have a different catchment area to any other Noggin. Part of the discussion at the first meeting will be to ask how to tackle the Monday date-clash with the bank holidays in the summer months. So, please turn up and have your say, or watch for further updates.

Rob Law is considering writing an article about **winter storage** and avoiding the problems that might arise when you re-commission your car in the spring. If you have any input you would like to share with Rob, please email him at info@orchardrestorations.co.uk.

Whilst NOT a Club event, I have been asked to mention Tenterden Lions Club are again (7th year) organising **Pistons & Paws** on Sunday 3rd August. Their website: <https://tenterdenlionsclub.co.uk/pistons-paws-2024/> (sic) will provide information.

Finally, recalling the motto “Healeys are for Driving”, I would like to trailer that the Committee is giving consideration to awarding the Steering Wheel trophy to the Club Member who gets out and about the most, i.e. to both our Noggins and Club events. I hope we will have more detail on this very soon.

Now, get out there and get driving.

Jonathan Woodrow

Chairman – Southern Counties

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