

Ten Tenths – June 2025

Welcome to the June edition of Ten Tenths. Let's start by asking you to open your diary:

Events

The next **CLUB** event will be our **Summer Picnic** on **Sunday 27th July**. Jeff Snell has again 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 planning to attend by sending an email to jeff.snell@hotmail.co.uk. Gates open at Noon and Jeff will confirm his precise address when you email him.

Another four **CLUB** events follow in August:

- **Picnic and Fly-in at Tony Palmer's Farm BN27 4AT on Saturday 2nd – Richard Long**
- **Southern Counties visit to Brooklands Museum on Saturday 9th – Jonathan Woodrow**
- **Cranleigh Car Show on Sunday 10th – Geri Barnden**
- **Capel Classic Car Show on Saturday 16th – Nick Varlow**

The host contacts for all four events would love you to contact them AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE so they know who to expect. Email contact addresses are: richard@leslongs.com
jonathan@woodrow.eu.com geri.barnden@gmail.com nickvarlow@gmail.com

AS usual, these events are shown under Events 2025 on the Southern Counties website, and the National Website. Whilst we currently also list Classics at Penshurst as an August event, we have (so far) not been able to book a Club stand, so popular is the event. Individual passes still seem to be available at the time of typing.

Please note, our August Brooklands Event appears in June edition of Revcounter but with a date typo. The correct date is Saturday 9th August and I would VERY much appreciate people getting in contact with me if you are interested to attend (jonathan@woodrow.eu.com). The closing date to apply is Sunday 27th July. You have been warned...



Looking ahead to September, our **AGM** will be on **Tuesday 9th September** at The King's Head Bessels Green. Please contact carolyn@woodrow.eu.com if you plan to attend.



And we are very pleased to announce a NEW event for this year's calendar on **Sunday 21st September**: a Treasure Hunt (Motoring Quiz), organised by Bob Beaumont. Please contact frogeye61@hotmail.com to register your interest. We still need to confirm the precise details but expect the event to start with breakfast at either Newdigate or Staplefield before venturing out to solve the clues. We will then return to enjoy lunch and learn the results. There might even be some silverware up for grabs...

Before moving on, I feel I should mention that the funeral of **Caroline Curran**, our National Membership Secretary, will be at **St Anne's Parish Church, Nantwich, 12:30pm, Wednesday 25th June 2025**. We are showing the details on our Southern Counties website. Carolyn and I plan to attend and will stay at the Premier Inn Crewe (Nantwich).

Housekeeping

The Committee is working to re-purpose our trophies and you will see these coming back into circulation over the coming months. I hope you agree, this is better than them collecting dust on a museum shelf. We are also looking into the possibilities of insurance if/where possible.

Our NEC Director, Nick, is prioritising work on improvements to the Club databases (membership and technical information) before moving on to look at the Member's Map. There is only so much time the Club Webmaster can offer... We are also looking to re-fresh our own Southern Counties website, so don't be surprised if you see some changes in due course.

The early word regarding the Peter James, Austin Healey Club Insurance Scheme is to phone for the best quote. This may turn out to be apocryphal but I pass on what I have heard on the grapevine. I'm sure Club Members will be busy comparing the cover and price with other options to ensure they purchase the right one for their needs.

As a quick reminder to anyone who is a member of one of our WhatsApp groups: your mobile number is visible to other members of the group and by being a member of the group you accept this is the case.

Our Membership Liaison Officer, Steve, and I have been working on a handout for prospective new members. If you are attending any shows or similar and would like copies to hand out, please contact Steve on southerncountiesmsec@gmail.com.

The Club, at both National and Centre level, is looking for more volunteers for a number of posts. If you are interested, please talk to me (07860 388077) as your Club needs you!

Finally, we are aware that all our Noggins are evening affairs. Perhaps okay in summer months, but maybe you would prefer a lunchtime meeting? Or, a different location? You would be most welcome (nay, positively encouraged!!) to set up a new meeting with other local Members at a time and place of your choosing. Just let me know when and where and I will do my best to publicise it for you.

Who has done what?

Staplefield 26th May. Nick Varlow reports: the weather stayed fine for our Healey group at Staplefield and we had a good mix in the 14 cars - 100's, 3000's, Healey Sprites and Frogeye Sprites. I think a good time was had by all, and it was great to see some new faces. I attach some photos. The close-up is of Keith & Jane Stoner with their camera-shy dog. They are recently returned from a trip with the Healey to St Helier. The coach with observation body was built in Hove in 1939 on a Leyland frame, it's a favourite at Staplefield every year.



Orchard Restorations Open Day 7th June. Jonathan Woodrow reports: Perhaps the forecast wet weather caused people to wait until the morning to decide they could open the door of their garage and venture out in their Healey. Whilst arrivals were therefore slow, there were about 35 who enjoyed an excellent BBQ, using meat from a local butcher cooked by none less than a visiting London chef! Well done, Rob Law. His father, Kevin, was also on hand and the two were as engaged as usual with friends and customers and answering technical questions, however small. I asked Rob if my fan belt was too tight and rather than the usual answer of how much you can lift or depress it, he explained I should try pinching the belt between finger and thumb and then see if I you can rotate it over by 180° to show the teeth, without leaving

impressions in my fingers. Thanks, Rob. PS: Luna (the cat) was also in attendance complete with high-vis jacket, enjoying a sunny elevated position to oversee the event.



The Blackboys Inn, Noggin 11th June.
Nick Varlow reports: You wait all year and then eight come along! From Mark Fole's BN1 to Richard Pearson's BJ7 with an Isle of Wight Frog thrown in! 18 people together for a very pleasant evening, eating outside.



BRCC Natters & Nibbles Summer Special, Saturday 14th June 2025. This was advertised as “a Celebration of Classic Cars and Community” – nostalgia meets summer vitality - where they turned up the summer vibes and delivered in style with all the usual hospitality, raising money for charity, plus a band led by Bill McDonough of Hardy Engineering on his sax. Bill M also ‘coached and encouraged’ Bill R to have a go on his sax. It was quite a party atmosphere. But why am I mentioning this? Because Bill, Jack and Rose had kindly agreed that Steve Barber (our Membership Liaison Officer) and I could promote the Austin Healey Club, and Southern Counties and New Forest sub-Centres during the event. The theory goes that many customers are NOT Austin Healey Club members. Our aim is to encourage those customers to ‘see the error of their ways’! We intend to look for future opportunities to market the club and, if you read down to our Rear-View Mirror May 1995 (below), you will see we can learn something from history...



Rear View Mirror

May 1985: Bob Beaumont was Clerk of the Course at a Grass Auto-Test Southern Counties ran in conjunction with three other clubs at the Bentley Wildfowl Trust. There were 5 classes up to 1,300 CC, i.e. Sprites only, with our Vice President's Cup going to the best Southern Counties member driving an Austin Healey that day. Two attempts, no practicing beforehand, best time to count. Limited Slip Diff allowed but subject a 10% penalty. Bob's wife was Secretary of the Course; Kevin Law was Chief Scrutineer and Ken Jarrett Chief Timekeeper. As a footnote, I can report that our current Committee has plans to re-purposed this cup as an award to someone the Chairman (that's me!) thinks has done something exceptional during the year. I apologise in advance if this re-purposing causes any offence.

May 1995: Southern Counties was doing a 'membership drive' by way of a competition. All members were provided with cards to place under the windscreen wiper of any Healey cars they saw that did not display a membership badge, inviting the owner to join the Club. The

membership application cards were marked with the Membership Number of the person posting the card and the Member successfully gaining the greatest number of sign-ups received the prize. I think our Committee should give consideration to resurrecting this, or a similar, idea.

June 2005: Our then Secretary, George Smith, had just visited the Healey Drivers' Club Dawlish 50th Anniversary Meeting and won the prize for Best non-convertible 3000. There were plans for a pub lunch at the Ravenswood hotel, Sharpthorne, a charity run from Brooklands via Leonardslee to Herstmonceaux in aid of the 'Hospice in the Weald', Wings 'n Things at Tenterden, a croquet day and a planned drive in October.

June 2015: There was a report on the Spring lunch at the George and Dragon at Houghton, an advert for the Summer BBQ hosted by Piers and Anne De Legh at Crawley Down (these days the Summer Picnic at Jeff Snell's residence, just down the road), and a report on an early May Bank Holiday trip to a very stormy Guernsey (participants were warned to take an early ferry home, or wait for the storm to pass). At that time, there were just three Noggin venues: The Woodman near Goathurst in Kent, The Jolly Farmers at Betchworth in Surrey, and The Lamb at Piltdown in East Sussex. Currently we have six.

As always, there is a lot going on but, it's down to you to make sure it happens. Please, organise your own LOCAL events, share them with LOCAL Members and get out there and "get driving". If you would like any help, guidance or assistance in connecting with people, please let me, or any other member of our Committee, know and we will do our best to help you.

Jonathan Woodrow

Chairman – Southern Counties

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