

Ten Tenths – August 2025

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

Events

There are still three **CLUB** events on the 2025 Southern Counties Calendar. These are:

- **Southern Counties Centre AGM / Awards** at The Kings Head, Bessels Green TN13 2QA on Tuesday 9th September. 6pm to eat. Meeting at 7pm. There will be a £15 meal subsidy for those who pre-notify their attendance to our Secretary, Carolyn Woodrow. Please pre-notify Any Other Business and your attendance at least 7 days in advance.
- **Treasure Hunt (Motoring Quiz)** Planned start and end point the Surrey Oaks, Newdigate. Meet around 9am Sunday 21st September for breakfast – Bob Beaumont
- **London to Brighton Veteran Car Run** See the veteran vehicles and 2pm lunch at the Victory Inn, Staplefield – Jeff Snell has the list for you to pre-book. Places are limited.

As usual, the host contacts for these events would love you to contact them AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE so they know who to expect and can make arrangements for you.

Email contact addresses are: carolyn@woodrow.eu.com frogeye61@hotmail.com
jeff.snell@hotmail.co.uk These Club events are shown under Events 2025 on the Southern Counties website, and the National Website.



I would like to make a SPECIAL REQUEST with regard to the Treasure Hunt (Motoring Quiz), organised by Bob Beaumont. I know weather and other possible commitments cause many of us to make a last-minute decision on attendance but, as this is a new event and Bob is keen to gauge interest, **please register your interest NOW!** frogeye61@hotmail.com Bob can then make sure you receive the up to date details, but expect the event to start with breakfast at the Surrey Oaks, Newdigate, before venturing out to solve the clues. We will then return to the same pub to enjoy lunch (the pub has requested pre-notified food choices) and learn the results. Bob has indicated he is happy for you to participate in a modern car, especially if the weather is not so good, but has promised a bottle of wine for the highest placed Healey. And, there might even be some silverware up for grabs for the overall winner...

In addition:

- **Challengers Motoring Event** on Sunday 28th September – charity run from Porsche Centre Guildford to Lewis collection, Churt – see attached flyer.
- **Rawles Motorsport Open Day** on Saturday 11th October 10am-2pm. We have been invited to fly our flag and market Southern Counties Austin Healey Club to attendees.
- **National AGM** open to all members on Sunday 7th December – nickvarlow@gmail.com

Housekeeping

At the National Executive Committee, Nick, your NEC Director, is working to gather the technical information currently spread over no less than nine Club websites into one place, where they will be indexed and made searchable. The plan is all existing sites will point to the central location. Focus will then move on to fully populating the Member's Map in a way that respects confidentiality.



Don't forget we offer Healey Help to our members for all matters technical. Just contact Nick: nickvarlow@gmail.com

A quick reminder that the Peter James Austin Healey Club Insurance Scheme is up and running. If you are looking to insure drivers who are younger than the usual 25+ age group, or drive another club member's car, then it may be worth a phone call to Peter James when your renewal is due to see what they can do for you. A member I spoke to this week was very pleased with his quote: "better cover, less bureaucracy and better price".

Expect to see an advert in Revcounter to support the National Executive Committee's quest to find a new NEC Chairman and Club Membership Secretary. At Centre level, we are in the process of updating our website and would like to talk to anyone interested to maintain the site once that work is done. Carolyn, our Centre Secretary, would like to pass on the baton. We would also be very interested to talk to someone interested in taking on the role of either Social Secretary or Social Media Influencer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please call me for a chat.

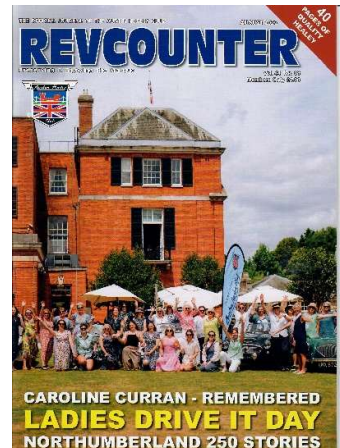
Whilst we now have six successful Noggins, these are all currently weekday evening meetings and may not suit your needs. Maybe you would prefer a lunchtime meeting, a weekend meeting, or a different location? Or, perhaps you would be interested in a run out with other local Club members? If any of these ideas strike a chord with you, please do not hesitate to contact me to talk about your idea and how I can help to connect you with other local members and publicise it for you. I'm sure there will be likeminded fellow members out there who would be interested.

We are interested to trial a new section in Ten Tenths: "My car". Would you like to tell us about the adventures in your car, or how you acquired, or restored, or upgraded it? Please pen a few lines, ideally with some photos (worth many words!) and send them to me. Or, enquire about an interview!

Finally, the Committee is preparing for our AGM (see Events on page 1) and already looking forward to next year. So, if you have any ideas about events you do / don't like, or how we should be spending our budget, please get in touch with me or your local Noggin Organiser.

Who has done what?

Ladies Day 22nd June. I'm sure you haven't missed the front cover of August Revcounter and a great 'lead article': Women with drive – Austin Healey Club Ladies Drive it Day Sunday 22nd June 2025. I can't do better than quote from the article "it was a resounding success with a turnout of 17 classic cars and 34 drivers and navigators. All female of course!". My appreciative thanks to Michelle McDonough, the McDonough family and all who supported this stellar success. A real feather in the cap for all involved and Southern Counties. Michelle, we look forward to next year with eager anticipation. PS: I hear Michelle already has new enquiries for 2026 and recommend early booking.



Summer Picnic 27th July. This event is well established in our summer calendar and is always well attended. As it has for the last couple of years, it took place in the substantial grounds of Jeff Snell's house and is shared with the Midget and Sprite Club. Hence the diverse collection of over 20 cars on display. A big "thank you" to Jeff and Caroline for inviting us all.



Presentations: The Picnic followed a couple of days after the International Event (IHM) at Crewe Hall Hotel. I had been looking for the right opportunity to make a presentation on behalf of the current Committee and Southern Counties to Webmaster / Committee member Keith Charie, and our past Chairman and NEC Director David Colwell, to recognise their substantial contributions to Southern Counties. These two well attended events gave me that platform. I include presentation photos at the IHM as Keith and Sandra,



and at the picnic as Dave and Angela, received cards signed by the Committee on behalf of Southern Counties and gift vouchers.

Whilst both Keith and Dave stepped back from the Committee at the AGM last year, giving others a chance to step up, Keith is still quietly maintaining our website and Dave has moved on to the position of Vice-Chairman at the National Executive Committee. I am very grateful to both for the support they have given and the knowledge they have passed on. A sincere thank you to both.



Picnic and Fly-in at Tony Palmer's Farm 2nd August. This is a yearly event put on by Tony Palmer, an avid aviation and classic car man. His farm, near Eastbourne, has a grass air strip and each year he has an open day and invites flying enthusiasts, and the odd car club, along. Tony is a member of the Alvis Owners Club (AOC) and Richard Long both an AOC and Austin Healey Club member (hence our invite). Richard reports:

The weather held and around 32 aircraft of various types flew-in, and were joined by 2 Healeys, a Frogeye, Mercedes convertible, a number of Alvis's and "Macey", Jeff Snell's French Austin 7! A big thanks to Tony for setting up the event and even bigger thanks to Lesley, his wife, for laying on a great picnic spread, especially the cakes. Donations this year raised £490, which goes to the RAF Benevolent Fund.



Brooklands Museum visit 9th August.



Brooklands has so much to offer from cars and bikes to buses and aeroplanes, plus the historic site – the world's first purpose-built racing circuit (1907 – 1939) and later Vickers

aircraft factory (1946 – 1987). We were invited to park on the Finishing Straight in front of the Club House to display our cars and enjoy a grand day out exploring at our leisure. Some focused on the car and bike collection whilst others focused on the historic aircraft and booked a Concorde experience. Some enjoyed a ride on a Routemaster red bus, part of the London

Bus Museum that shares the site, or investigated the Stratosphere Chamber. There is too much to mention. Thank you to all who supported the visit.



Cranleigh Car Show 10th August. Following the day after Brooklands it was perhaps optimistic to anticipate a big turnout this year, especially when there had previously been reports of heavy traffic. However, Paul Vink was good enough to arrange a stand and was first to park his Healey on it, later to be joined by about 5 other Healeys. The pictures are of





Paul's car plus one more arriving, with a full complement of passengers. Well done! Paul reported the traffic was definitely much better: "with the Lions controlling the lights at the exit, it took about 10 minutes to get out at the end. Paul concluded "its a good day, and well worth it for the small entry fee that goes to charity anyway". We

hope to book again in 2026 (with Paul's help!)

Capel Classic Car Show 16th August. Nick Varlow reports: "Capel is always a favourite because it's



big, beautiful, and easy to get at! With an astonishing 730 historic cars this year, Capel is accessible, just off the A24 near Dorking. There are car spares and a horticultural show for a bit of wider interest, and loads of drinks stalls and eateries. And somehow, Capel seem to avoid queues for getting in and out.

On the Healey stand this year: Bob Wallis brought along his very original Mk1 Frogeye Sprite, joined by Bob Beaumont, with his equally well presented 1275 Mk1 Sprite. 'Well presented' is something of an understatement. Near concours for both of them might be closer. Sadly, there were no Healey 100's on our stand this year, but we had an intriguing variety of 3000 Mk 11's and Mk 111's. As ever, there was much public interest in our beautiful, charismatic and quick cars, including couples who are looking to buy and looking to the Club for advice and support. It was a great day for all".



Noggins.



28 for supper at The Blackboys Inn, Uckfield in July and Healeys reflecting the sunset at The Woodman, Ashted.

If you have photos from your Noggins or events you would like to share, please get in touch with me.



Classics at Penshurst 17th August. We were not quick enough to reserve a Club stand but I know one or two members managed to attend and reported it a good event. We will try again next year for a Club Stand.

Rear View Mirror

July/August 2005: A Sunday lunch meeting was launched on 24th July at the Parrot, Forest Green. I wonder if Eric Clapton was in residence?... Katie Brignall had a sellout stand at Wings n' Things, Tenterden. We were planning Croquet at Reigate and a display at the Shoreham Classic Car Show. There was also talk of a Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Ravenswood Hotel, Sharpthorne, Sussex. Shades of déjà vu in some of these events...

August 2015: A couple of Southern Counties members were signing up for The Challengers Downland Drive, from Loseley house to Hatchlands near East Horsley. There was a report on the Haslemere Classic Car Show and Tour and mention of a forthcoming visit to the Healey Museum in Holland under the stewardship of Ed Friend. The Noggin locations were different back then: The Woodman near Goathurst in Kent, The Surrey Noggin was moving from the Jolly Farmers Betchworth to The Cock at Headley, and The Lamb at Piltdown in East Sussex. We now have six Noggin venues, all in new locations, but I do notice many familiar faces!

As you can see, we have done a lot this year and, as highlighted at the start of this edition, we still have a few events still to enjoy. However, whilst your Committee tries to find you excuses to drive your Healey, it's also down to you to make sure that happens. Please do think about organising your own LOCAL events / meetings and share your ideas with like-minded LOCAL Members. If you would like any help, guidance or assistance in connecting with people, please let me, or any other member of our Committee, or your Noggin Organiser, know and we will do our best to help you. Please do get out there and "get driving".

Jonathan Woodrow

Chairman – Southern Counties

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