



HEALEY NEWS SOUTH-WESTERN

Volume 2, Issue 6, December 2011

The Director's Cut...

Seasons Greetings to you all....

Well that's another year done and dusted, and it's been another successful one for the South West Centre. Lots of events were planned by the Committee for 2011 and I have to thank all of you who got the Healeys out and joined in the fun. Looking back on the year it felt like we were blessed with great weather, certainly in hindsight, and I cannot remember getting soaked once... except maybe at the Gloucester Motor Show and on the Friday evening of the Silverstone Classic. Never mind though, we still had a great time.

Your Committee have already put the bones of next year's events calendar together and are currently working on the detail. Our attention at the moment is being focussed on the Season Opener, which we hope will be held on the 1st April. Again we are looking to hold it at a National Trust site thereby maintaining the 'heritage' link that our marque enjoys within the UK. A couple of new sites are currently being considered, but we may well re-visit Tyntesfield as they are very keen to repeat the success of this year's fantastic day. Keep an eye on Healey News South West, Revcounter and our own web-site for further details, but above all I really hope to see as many of you there as possible.

On the subject of next year's calendar, I'd like to be able to support 'official' SW Centre events further down the patch and into South Wales, but my problem is that I don't have anyone from those areas who has come forward and offered to organise anything. You don't have to go overboard... just organise a simple road run or get together, rally, local car show stand, BBQ, or similar in your part of the world for you and your Healey neighbours and we may be able to help with some funding. If anyone is keen to give it a go, get in touch with me and let me have your ideas/plans as early as possible and I'll see what we can do.

Anyway, once again I'd like to thank all of you who came 'out to play' this year. I really enjoyed meeting you all and I look forward to meeting even more of you in what I hope will be an even busier 2012. Both I and the rest of the South West Committee would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. For those of you who have already started your winter fettling, remember the clock is ticking toward the 2012 Season Opener and we hope to see you all on the 1st April.

Rob Hudson

A plea for help from '5-Live Investigates'!

We're looking into the prices charged by contractors who are called out to put sand down to soak up oil following a break-down or clear away debris following a crash etc.

We are looking at this because we were contacted by a bloke who broke down and spilled a bit of oil on a slip road. He called police to warn them and ask for someone to come and clean up the oil to save other motorists from skidding on it. Later though he was sent a bill for £1,000 which included £141 for the bag of sand. He thinks the charges are massively over-inflated and is contesting it with the company. We wanted to find out if this was an isolated case or whether anyone else had been faced with a big bill following a break-down or similar incident. We wondered if you might be able to help us by getting the message out to members. It would be great to hear from them if anyone else has fallen victim in the same way.

Contact: Nicola.Dowling@bbc.co.uk

Fairford Classic Car Club, Cirencester Car Club
and the Austin Healey Club (SW)

The Post Xmas Run (South Cotswolds)

Fri 30th December; contact member Bunny
Lees-Smith (see email cc)

Silverstone Classic: 20-22nd July

Please see the attached flyer and note
the code for limited availability, Club-
only special '2-for-1' ticket prices:

C12122

New Year's Day!

We're joining the Cotswold Classic Car Club at their
annual NYD meeting, open to all, at The Frogmill,
just outside of Cheltenham, from 11:30 – what
better way to start the New Year?



FEDERATION OF BRITISH HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUBS: Historic Vehicles - MoT Exemption Review

Earlier this month, the Department for Transport published a consultation on the possibility of exempting certain historic vehicles from statutory testing. This can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-27. The consultation offers two options: to do nothing (i.e. leave things as they are); or to exempt all vehicles made before a particular date. Three choices of cut-off date are offered - 1920, 1945 or 1960. The proposals do not differentiate between different categories of vehicle, and the consultation suggests that there are too few pre-1960 vehicles to justify having different rules for different groups - in other words, if there is to be an exemption, it is likely it will apply to all vehicles manufactured before the chosen date, whatever they are, and to whatever use they are put. These proposals also appear to be ambiguous about submitting vehicles for a voluntary MoT test if they fall into the exempt category.

Unlike other consultations, where the interests of historic vehicle owners are obvious, there are powerful arguments for and against all options. FBHVC needs to know what historic vehicle owners think before responding to the consultation.

Time is short (the consultation closes towards the end of January) and the only practical way to assess opinion is by means of an on-line survey that is now accessible at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FBHVCMoT>. We strongly advise that the consultation document is read before taking part in the survey.

Please support the FBHVC and take the time and trouble to make your views known!

And, finally, don't forget that if you are considering heading over to Le Mans for **the Le Mans Classic 2012** event, please register your interest with me no later than 31 December! Email: Info@ahc-southwestern.co.uk

Editor: Mark Knight: Info@ahc-southwestern.co.uk

All articles, pictures and feedback gratefully received – hhhmm, I wonder..!