



HEALEY NEWS SOUTH-WESTERN



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Hello Healey'ers!

As we approach Christmas and 2013 draws to a close, I wanted to get you advance notice of events and dates for the 2014 season. The Committee have met twice since the AGM in October and have pretty-well squared away the events diary for the coming season. It's going to be a busy year!

2013 has been an interesting and largely successful year, both for our Centre and the Austin-Healey marque in general. It was pleasing to report that for the first time in many years (ever?) South Western has passed the 200 member mark – great news! At a time when many clubs are reducing in numbers and struggling to survive, it is a good sign. That said, we cannot be complacent of course and a strong calendar – with varied and interesting events – and good communications are surely at the heart of a strong membership.

More generally it will not have escaped you I'm sure that the Austin Healey has been very well reported in the motoring press this year. I think all of the National classic car publications have run major articles on our cars and there has been much publicity surrounding a number of special cars, NOJ392's sale to name but one. Healeys are seemingly 'of the moment' and increasingly desirable cars and values are climbing as a result. That's largely good news although it does mean that they are already or will be out of the reach of many prospective owners. Two 100Ms have recently sold at just under/over £150k, the 100S is already well over £500k and 'ordinary' Healey prices are rising steadily. Indeed, some suggest that good, original RHD 100/4s will soon be £100k cars! One of the big benefits we have is the Sprite – what better car to offer affordable entry into Austin-Healey ownership? There is a strong will – led by the FBHVC - to foster the next generation of classic car owners and we need to play our part in bringing new, younger members into the AHC. It was disappointing, I feel, that the AHC was not at the forefront of the recently announced young classic driver's insurance scheme and this point was raised at the recent National AGM.

2014 is an 'even' year and that means it is a Le Mans Classic year! If you have not yet been, it is a great weekend away, relatively close and easy to get to and just an amazing mix of on-track action – nearly 400 cars race – and club stands. Last year, for the first time, the LMC was full – nearly 7000 classic car club cars! You will see the notice in the January Revcounter but do email me if you are interested in going as I will be putting in an entry.

Enough I think – you'll have better things to do than read my ramblings! So, all it remains for me to do as we close another busy year is to wish you all, on behalf of the Committee, a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and enjoyable 2014!

Mark

2014 Event Calendar

Main Events January-June

February: 8th: masquerade ball at Hatherly Manor (nr Gloucester) supporting fly2help

Skittles evening v Alfa Romeo Owners Club, date/venue TBC

March: Skittle evening v AROC return match, date/venue TBC!

30th: AutoSolo with Bath MC at Kemble

April: 13th: Corinium Run with Cirencester Car Club

AutoSolo with Devizes MC at Kemble

21st: Coleford Festival of Transport

27th: FBHVC Drive-it Day and Season Opener – planning for North/South start points and central lunch-time rendezvous (Bristol area)

May: 2-5th: Donington Classic (National event)

18th: Breakfast at Twyning (the BAT) fly2help fundraiser

24-25th: La Vie en Bleu at Prescott; Healey hillclimb champs (24th)

June: 1st Defford (nr Pershore) 'wings and wheels' day

8th: Prescott Hillclimb as guests of the JDC

15th: Breakfast at Twyning

29th: SW'ern Drive and BBQ

All enquiries to Mark Knight at:

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Jean Caron in Canada writes:

I have produced a poster for the 50th Anniversary of the Austin-Healey BJ8, copy attached. It was unveiled at this year Austin-Healey Conclave of the Austin-Healey Club of America. This poster measures 30.5cm by 38cm and it depicts an Austin-Healey BJ8 Mark III in the foreground while the background shows the Old Cinema in Warwick that DMH used as showroom and office space. 300 copies of this poster were produced and all are signed and numbered.

I am currently selling this poster for the equivalent of 6 British Pound for individual sale plus postage. If a group of your members wish to purchase these I am willing to package them together to save on shipping. As well, if your Club is interested in selling them as a fundraiser, I am willing to sell them for a little less, however the minimum order for this is 20 posters. I currently have 78 posters left and have offered them to other Clubs as well, so please let me know promptly if interested.

Please email me if you are interested in one and we could put an order together!

