



HEALEY NEWS SOUTH-WESTERN

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Last bits and pieces for 2010...

Well it's been two months since the last issue of *Healey News South-Western* and as I write, the 2010 season has just about drawn to a close. Several important events have taken place over the last few weeks, not least of all the AGM...

It was decided to hold the 2010 AGM at "The Compass Inn" in Tormarton, as advertised in the last issue. The Committee decided to try and attract a few more members this year by holding the event nearer to Bristol & Bath, but despite this we got the same old faces turning up. Never mind... at least the most important part of the AGM, the election of officers, was a success. All of the existing Committee were re-elected for another year, with just one change of role agreed at the meeting... that being the election of Tony Alden as SW Treasurer, following the standing down of David Morgan, after many years of faithful service to the centre in this role. The full minutes of the AGM are available via the SW Web-site for those who wish to see them. (As are all the Committee Meeting minutes actually!) The first meeting of the newly elected Committee took place on 7th November, the focus being on planning the 2011 diary of events. A list of the events proposed so far appears later in this issue.

The final round of the SW auto-test series took place on 24th October, with a field of 10 drivers competing for the last points of the season. Across the five rounds this season we have seen 18 different drivers attempt the challenge, and we hope that the number will rise next year as popularity increases. If this year is anything to go on, next year should again be great fun and I'd encourage any of you who fancy a gentle introduction to motor sport to come and give it a go. It's a very friendly atmosphere, and not at all competitive... yeah right! As expected Mes Edwards won the title again this year, with Paul Mead in second and Colin Dimbelow completing the podium in third. Yours truly came fourth, just two points behind Colin, but more through persistently turning up than performing well... anyway it just goes to show that even in your first year you can achieve a decent result. Now that I've got the bug I'll be "going for it" a bit harder next year.

The final meeting of the season took place a couple of weeks ago (Nov 12th, 13th & 14th) on the Isle of Wight. SW Centre were, as usual, guests of the IOW Car Club, and a tremendous weekend of competition was had by a joint field of about 70 cars. A very impressive turn-out of Healeys made it across the water on Friday with all variants in attendance, ranging from David Smithies full-race 3000 to my wife's little frogeye Sprite. The IOW Car Club made us very welcome and their organisation of both Saturday and Sunday's competitions was absolutely spot-on. Unfortunately they forgot to cancel the rain on Sunday, but it made the event much more interesting! Keep your eyes open for details of next year's IOW trip later in 2011 if you're interested in some friendly competition and plenty of socialising. A great weekend.

Well that's all for 2010 I suppose. Personally I have a programme of work to do on the 3000 this winter including the fitting of a new DWR8 cam and triple SUs... and all in time for the season opener on **April 10th** ??? (Get the date in your diary now!)

The next issue of *Healey News South-Western* will be in early 2011, so from the whole SW Committee, may I wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous new year. Don't forget, as always, if you have any local events you want including in the calendar of events for next year, get the details to me and I'll include them, and don't forget to study the calendar of events below, and get the dates for those you want to attend in your diaries nice and early. The more of you I see in 2011, the happier I, and the rest of the Committee, will be. This stuff doesn't just "happen" so your continued support next year will be much appreciated. Until 2011 then...

Rob Hudson, Director SW Centre.

AHCSW Calendar of Events 2011 (issue 1)

APRIL

- 10th – Season Opener at Tyntesfield, 7 miles sw of Bristol. (Provisional)
- 16th & 17th – Bristol Classic Car Show, Bath & West Showground.
- 25th – Coleford Festival of Transport.

MAY

- 28th & 29th – La Vie en Bleu weekend at Prescott.

JUNE

- 12th – SW Centre Regularity Run (See details later in this edition)

JULY

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd – Austin Healey Club 50th Anniversary weekend at Chesford Grange, Nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire.
- 30th & 31st – SW Centre “Prescott Weekend”

AUGUST

- 21st – SW Centre Navigation Test (See details later in this edition)
- 31st – Bredon Classic Car Show / Pershore Plum Festival

SEPTEMBER

- 4th – Thornfalcon Classic, Nr Taunton, Somerset. (Date is currently provisional) <http://www.thornfalconclassics.com/Event.aspx>

OCTOBER

- 22nd – SW Centre AGM (Venue TBA)

NOVEMBER

- Isle of Wight weekend (Date TBA)

NOTE – *This calendar of events is at issue 1 and will be updated as further events are planned / arranged. Dates for all rounds of the SW Autotest Championship are still being agreed with Kemble and will be published as soon as negotiations are complete.*

International Healey Weekend 2011



Arrangements are moving at a pace for the Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations at Chesford Grange next summer. If you think you would like to be there, you need to register your interest NOW ! You won't be committing to anything at this stage, but you will be put on the mailing list for regular updates about what is being arranged for you. **DON'T DELAY – REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY.**

Want to know how to register your interest? – Simply go to the club's National web site at <http://www.austin-healey-club.com/index.html> and click on the big green button.



STOP PRESS – IMPORTANT UPDATE

The organisers of the Bristol Classic Car Show have just advised me that the date of next year's event has been moved forward 2 weeks to the 16th & 17th April, to avoid the Bank Holiday weekend. Please amend your diaries accordingly.

Advance tickets are on sale NOW at a special club only reduced rate, a saving of £5.00 per ticket, so please take advantage of this for club members and friends who want to visit. Just go to www.bccsl.co.uk and follow the links to buy tickets. Use code "Club32".

Important - This reduced price deal is only available until the end of December, when sales will revert to normal for the VAT increase to be applied. It's important therefore to act NOW so as to avoid disappointment. *Remember what happened with the Silverstone Classic tickets!!!*

MORE "DRIVING" EVENTS?

The Committee have received feedback this year about providing more events that involve planned drives and tours out and around the SW countryside. Consequently our Chairman, Steve Jones, has offered to organise a couple of events for next year to do just this.

Firstly Steve is putting together a "Regularity Run", which is planned for June 12th. The idea is to test the driver's and navigator's ability to comply with road regulations on a planned route. Adhering exactly to speed limits and arriving at check points within precisely timed "windows" will form the basis of the challenge. The winner will be the driver / navigator team who are the most "compliant" on the day.

Secondly Steve is also planning a "Navigation Test" planned for 21st August. The idea on this event is to test the driver / passenger's ability to successfully navigate a planned route between points of interest using basic ordinance survey map-reading skills. More details of both events will be published shortly, but for those who like travelling around our beautiful countryside in their Healeys, get these two dates in your diaries now!

2011 Season Opener



For next year's season opener we plan to visit Tyntesfield House and gardens, near Wraxall, Somerset. Changes to the date of the Bristol Classic Car Show have meant that we have had to move the date of this event too, so at the moment the provisional date for this event is **10th April 2011**. (I'll confirm the arrangements in the next issue, but for now I think it's perfectly safe to put this date in your diaries). *Tyntesfield are dead keen to have us so I imagine they'll be fine with the new date.*

As an addition to this event, the Committee have decided to extend invitations to a couple of our sister clubs from the southwest with whom we have close ties. Consequently the Glavon TR Club, with whom we shared a very enjoyable BBQ last summer, and the Aston Martin Owners Club are both expected to bring some beautiful cars along to support the main body of Healeys.

As usual, the event will be a simple "turn-up" on the day, to meet up with lots of your fellow members (I hope) to enjoy a visit to the lovely National Trust house and gardens, and hopefully we'll enjoy the lovely weather. (that's me tempting fate!!) Watch this space in the New Year for details of arrival times, rendezvous points, etc.

Tyntesfield is a spectacular Victorian country house and estate, situated on a ridge overlooking the beautiful Yeo Valley and now cared for by the National Trust.

Inspired and remodelled by John Norton in 1864, for William Gibbs, a successful merchant, the house is an extraordinary Gothic Revival extravaganza, bristling with towers and turrets, plus an original Victorian interior.

Tyntesfield was a family home for four generations and contains an unrivalled collection of fascinating and decorative objects, as well as a sumptuous private chapel. Its surrounding 500 acres include formal gardens, a walled kitchen garden and woodland.

Anyone for Skittles?

If you live in the top end of the patch and fancy a game of skittles, here's an opportunity for you...

As we develop our links with other local Car Clubs, one idea put forward for the winter "off-season" is to get together at suitable local hostelrys and challenge the other marques to a skittles match. The SW Centre has already been challenged by our friends in the Glavon TR Club and the MG Owners Club, so we need to pull a team together for the New Year. Initially we plan to play at "The Railway Inn, Ripple, Nr Tewkesbury, but as the other marques organise return matches, we will probably have to travel a bit further south. Watch this space for details of any "away" matches.

So, if you want to offer your services to the SW Centre team, and by the way, no previous experience is necessary as this is more about getting together for a good time than thrashing the opposition!!! simply get in touch with Mark Knight on 01684 274938.

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