



# HEALEY NEWS SOUTH-WESTERN

Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2011

## Happy New Year...

Well here we are in 2011, and where did that last decade go? Hopefully everyone had a great Christmas and New Year despite the pretty cold and harsh weather we experienced in the South West. Lots of snow put pay to just about everything, including the Alternative Boxing Day event, which was to be our Healey "fix" until April. (March for those taking part in the Auto-Test Series... more about that later.) Mes Edwards' photo offers one alternative though... I don't think his car is actually underneath!



Not a lot happening between now and the Season opener at Tynesfield, so an opportunity for all of us to get our cars "fettled" and ready to go for April 10<sup>th</sup>! On a personal note, my 3000 engine is now out and stripped down, and the block and bottom end are away for pocketing and balancing respectively. My car has always made "popping and banging" noises on over-run during deceleration, and investigations during strip down may have identified the problem... My timing chain tensioner just wasn't working... When the timing chain cover was removed I discovered that no "tensioning" had ever taken place... the heel was fully retracted and there was no sign of wear on the rubber pad! Has it ever been working then? I measured a gap of about 2mm between the rubber heel and the chain, so I'm assuming I've had "wobbly" cam timing since I've had it. The stock BMC item is quite a nasty design so a new hydraulic one from Denis Welch is in the post. What with that and a new tubular exhaust manifold too, this job is suddenly getting very expensive... nothing new there then!

Next year's Calendar of Events is growing all the time, and I now have the dates for the Auto-Test series as well as a couple of extra activities, including the Silverstone Classic, which despite last year's disappointing event, looks like being much improved for 2011. The event itself is being managed by a new organisation, who, following a lot of feedback from me (and others no doubt) appear to have got the message. *No more Jedward and thousands of 911s!* I've updated the Calendar accordingly on page 2, so make sure you replace last November's "Issue 1" on your notice board with this latest version.

Finally, as we have a relatively quiet couple of months ahead of us, I thought I'd like a few items of interest to fill the pages of the next couple of issues. Don't forget that you can send me anything you think might be of interest to your fellow members, and ***Yes this is a blatant request for submissions... Surely you don't want to be bored with the continuing saga of my engine rebuild!***

***Rob Hudson, Director SW Centre.***

# AHCSW Calendar of Events 2011 (issue 2)

## **MARCH**

- 20<sup>th</sup> – Round 1 of the South West Auto-Test Series. (13:00 Start)

## **APRIL**

- 10<sup>th</sup> – Season Opener at Tyntesfield, 7 miles SW of Bristol.
- 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – Bristol Classic Car Show, Bath & West Showground.
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Coleford Festival of Transport.

## **MAY**

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Round 2 of the South West Auto-Test Series. (11:00 Start)
- 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – La Vie en Bleu weekend at Prescott.

## **JUNE**

- 12<sup>th</sup> – SW Centre Regularity Run
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Round 3 of the South West Auto-Test Series. (11:00 Start)

## **JULY**

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Austin Healey Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend at Chesford Grange, Nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – Silverstone Classic.
- 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> – SW Centre “Prescott Weekend”

## **AUGUST**

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

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Thornfalcon Classic, Nr Taunton, Somerset. (Date is currently provisional) <http://www.thornfalconclassics.com/Event.aspx>
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Round 4 of the South West Auto-Test Series. (11:00 Start)

## **OCTOBER**

- 16<sup>th</sup> - Round 5 of the South West Auto-Test Series. (13:00 Start)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – SW Centre AGM (Venue TBA)

## **NOVEMBER**

- Isle of Wight weekend (Date TBA)

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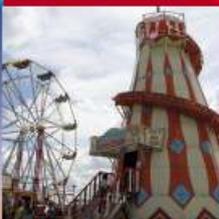
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BOOKING CODE: **C11047** EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS END 31ST MARCH 2011.

Since last year's event I have been in regular contact with the organisers of the Silverstone Classic, in an attempt to try and improve the experience for Austin Healey Club members. The event's management team changed just weeks before the 2010 event, and as such were unable to make any changes to that event, which frankly was disappointing. This year however the organisers have promised us good "infield" parking and as it's the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, we will have the opportunity to "cavalcade" around the new Grand Prix circuit between a couple of the races.

It's also the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the "E-Type Jaguar" and they are using this event to celebrate also. We are going to be massively outnumbered by them as there are rumours of up to 1000 of them turning up from all over the world, so that'll be a sight well worth seeing.

As usual I expect the actual racing to be fantastic, just as it was last year, and I am told that a full grid of up to 40 lightweight E-Types will race as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Bottom line here is that I want us to put on a good show too, so I really am looking for as many cars as possible to turn up. If last year is anything to go by, Saturday will be the best race day, so if you can only do one day, I suggest you make it the Saturday.

As last year, we have managed to secure a 2 for 1 deal on tickets, but **this offer is only good until 31<sup>st</sup> March**, so if we act promptly we should avoid the disappointment we experienced last year.

Get tickets from [www.silverstoneclassic.com](http://www.silverstoneclassic.com) and use discount code **C11047**. (See the advert on page 3 above)

## 2011 South West Auto Test Series

### REGISTRATION FOR THE 2011 SERIES IS NOW OPEN

After the successful 2010 competition, the organisers are looking forward to an even more competitive season in 2011. Costs for this year have risen slightly due to the recent increases in VAT, but despite this, the SW Committee have agreed that the "on the day" cost of competing will remain at £15 per driver, per event. Not bad for a day's motorsport!



A small discount is still being offered to those who wish to register and pay for the whole season up-front of £70 for the season, so don't delay... register today!

You can just turn up at Kemble Airfield on the day and pay your £15, or for those wishing to pay in advance, please send a cheque for £70 made payable to "Austin Healey Club South West" to our Treasurer, Tony Alden, 4 Dawes Close, Southrop, Gloucestershire, GL7 3PR. Please mark the back of the cheque "Auto Test Series".

If you would like more information about Auto-Testing or about taking part in the 2011 series, contact Mes Edwards on 07764 429035.

### Contact Healey News South-Western

Contact Healey News South-Western at  
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