



TOP MARQUE

The Newsletter of the Austin Healey Club Thames Valley Centre

Winter is here, or so they say. Right now it's the middle of November and it's 15 degrees outside. I'm beginning to regret taking my Healey off the road. So what kind of a year have we had? Well, all of those members who still have their Healeys in a state of disrepair, must be kicking themselves. What a glorious summer we've had.

And what did your Centre do this year? Well we had a couple of long weekends away and we had several day trips. But more of this anon.

Our first trip of the year was to Peter Freebody's Boat Yard in Henley. By now you may have forgotten, but the first quarter of the year was plagued by torrential rain and flooding. It was only at the last minute that we got the green light to visit. But what a great trip. Peter Freebody was the builder of the original Thames River Slipper boats, restorer of the World famous Riva marque and restorer of several Healey boats. Now his son Richard has taken the reins and is ably continuing this fabulous family industry.



In May, we had a trip to the RAF museum in Hendon. I've driven past this museum on so many occasions and never visited. But what a great museum it is! If you are into planes of all ages it's a must. The collection of second world war planes are particularly impressive.



In glorious July we had a trip to the National Trust Chastleton House near Moreton-on-Marsh. Another great day out, well attended by shining Healeys.



In June we had the first of our weekends away. On this occasion we toured Cambridgeshire, visited Ely cathedral, an overnight stay at Wyboston Lakes and punting on the Cam. We also visited King's College which is magnificent. I know I said "glorious summer" - but I have to confess this was one weekend when we didn't have perfect weather. However, it was still a glorious weekend.



In September, a two night long weekend to Cheddar Gorge, Cheltenham and the Cotswolds, taking in pubs, motor museums and breweries en route, all in absolutely perfect weather.



Donnington Brewery

A weekend in October gave us the opportunity to combine a visit to the Prescott Hill climb and after an overnight stay a short drive to see 23 Big Healey's with their fabulous noise racing at Castle Combe.



So what next? Well, if you are anything like me, you'll be getting under your Healey preparing for Spring and yet another year of exhilarating motoring with your loved one!



C'mon your club needs you !!
Why not give us a call and join us enjoying our cars.
Visit our new website at www.austin-healey-club.co.uk

THAMES VALLEY COMMITTEE 2015

Chairman	Brian White	01923 772092	brian.moathouse@btopenworld.com
Secretary	Nick Crocker	01344 776091	nick.crocker@tiscali.co.uk
Web-master	Rob Fenton	020 8998 8718	robertjamesfenton@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ian Foster	01442 216781	ianfoster10.680@btinternet.com
Membership	Richard Kidson	01753 831499	richard.kidson@design5.co.uk
General Member	David Gray	07899 667722	davidgray6@aol.com
General Member	Barry Marsh	01844 342651	b.marsh@hotmail.co.uk
General Member	Stephen Hunting-	07801 625197	swhuntington@aol.com
General Member	Peter Freeman	01844 290495	peterfreeman127@btinternet.com
General Member	Robert Slack	07917 077354	robertandrewslack@yahoo.co.uk

