

Ten Tenths – October 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of Ten Tenths. There's plenty to tell you about, so let's get started.

First, and most exciting, our new look website has been soft- (quietly) launched in the last few days. We hope you like the parallel-feel to the National Site. We are indebted to Nick Varlow and the IT skills of his nephew, Joseph Bouqdib (Crispdigital). Nick tells me Joseph has been very patient, both with him and the demands of the



Committee. Stage one of the upgrade is complete and we hope you like it. There is more to follow including, we hope, a secure area where we plan to store the agreed Minutes from Committee Meetings and our AGMs. The idea is that once you have a password, you can access this information and will have the opportunity to read more about what your Southern Counties Committee is talking about and planning. A huge "thank you" from Nick to all those who responded to the call for photos. Nick says he used most of the photos sent in and if any members would like to share (more) photos they own of events, builds etc. then please send them to nickvarlow@gmail.com with a caption. As Nick says, "it's our member's site, please let us know of any glitches, and your suggestions". Enjoy.

Before moving on, I must acknowledge and thank Keith Charie, who has enthusiastically maintained the site we have enjoyed up until this refresh. Nick and Joseph have very much being building on the foundation stones laid by Keith and the Colwell family. "Thank you" all.

Events

2025 is drawing towards a close but there are three items to look forward to, as well as a quick peep into 2026:

- **London to Brighton Veteran Car Run 02/11/25:** See the veteran vehicles and even penny farthings (!) plus 2pm lunch at the Victory Inn, Staplefield, for those who pre-book with jeff.snell@hotmail.co.uk. Jeff warns: last lunch booking this Sunday (26th October).



- **Classic Motor Show at Birmingham NEC 7-9/11/25:** Check our website ahc-sc.org.uk for the advanced ticket discount code. Maybe get a group together and carshare or arrange to meet others at the show.
- **National AGM Leamington Spa CV32 6RN 10:30 am 07/12/25:** A number of us have already arranged to travel up together. Make up your own party and meet us there, to hear what the Club is up to. Sandwiches and chips will be provided by the Club but it would help if you would advise our secretary carolyn@woodrow.eu.com know in advance if you plan to attend, so she can let our National Secretary know for numbers.
- **Dinner at the RAC Club, Pall Mall, London 13/02/26:** Michelle McDonough has kindly arranged for a special dinner at this prestigious venue. Call it our late-Christmas dinner. The advert was circulated earlier this month and Michelle is already operating a reserve list. Mg.mcdonough41@googlemail.com
- **The Daffodil 14-17/04/26:** marketing for this popular 25 car / 50-person event in Norfolk has so far been by 'word of mouth' only. A formal advert will appear in the November edition of Revcounter but we are already full and the Revcounter advert will inform you a wait list has been started. If you are interested to have your name added to the wait list for 2026, or register interest for 2027, please let me know jonathan@woodrow.eu.com
- **Goodwood Member's Meeting 18-19/04/26:** you need to know a member of the Goodwood Road Racing Club to get tickets to this 'petrol-head's heaven'. Ticket sales (for Members) commence 25th October. NB: not an official Southern Counties event but you will see our members there.
- **Drive-It Day 26/04/26:** details to be announced but likely to follow the very successful format of this year's event. And, there's the trophy – see photo under Presentations.
- **Further ahead:** see our website



Housekeeping

Mindful of our plans to add Southern Counties Minutes to our website, this has been a topic of discussion at Committee and we resolved to charge Nick Varlow, our National Executive Committee (NEC) Director, to discuss at NEC level whether there is appetite for them to publish NEC Minutes in the Member's Area of the NEC website. In short, Nick argued "we are a Member's Club and have a right to know what we (NEC) do with our subscriptions". After some discussion, it was resolved that the NEC discusses commercial issues where it would be inappropriate to air them, and also there is "no groundswell of member demand to see the minutes". However, it was resolved that approved NEC Minutes are available on request to the Hon. Secretary, with the caveat that personal information might still be redacted. If you have any issue with this position, I am happy to hear your views.

At NEC, Nick continues to work on the consolidation of the Club's Technical Databases and is now also in discussion about the concept of 'Tech Experts available "on tap"'. More to follow. Pre-population of the Member's Map remains 'work in progress'. Nick tells us there is currently a limit on the IT resource available at NEC level, resulting in slower progress than he would like. He is working on it, but is having to prioritise the order in which he works on projects.

Nick also tells us to expect a new NEC Chairman to be appointed at the AGM and the search is on to find a new National Membership Secretary. If you are interested in this latter position (which pays an honorarium), please respond without delay to me, or Nick.

We would also like to remind you that booking for IHM2026 is open. It is hosted by Thames Valley and you can anticipate a boat trip on the Thames and visits to Windsor Castle and Brookland Museum. Dates: 31st May – 3rd June. More information is available via the 'What's On? Action Planner' tab of the National website.

The Syd Seigal Memorial Trophy Healey Race will run again on 5th July 2026, moving to Donnington. This year's race was the subject of the cover article in the July issue of Revcounter.

Booking remains open for the European Healey Meeting 14-20 June 2027 in Holland. It sounds as though over 25% of the 190 or so registrations are from the UK.

The Committee is hearing favourable feedback from East Kent about "Fair Weather Friday" drives out, organised via WhatsApp. If this idea appeals, perhaps you should consider organising something with members who live in your area.

Both West Sussex and North Surrey Noggins will not take place in October due to pub refurbishment.

Who has done what?

A Ride in a Sprite 6th September: Southern Counties were approached by a gentleman whose Uncle Carl, an US Airforce Veteran, was visiting. Carl bought and ran a Mark II Sprite whilst he was stationed in the UK in the early 1960's and his nephew, Ian, was hopeful we could arrange

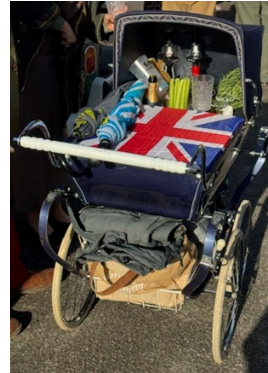


for his uncle to have a ride in a Sprite. One of our members, Nick Leviton, kindly agreed to help. The photo shows Carl sat in Nick's Sprite. An article has been submitted to Revcounter and I hope you will be able to read all about Carl and his ride in a future issue. But for now, a big "thank you" to Nick.

Southern Counties AGM 9th September: We try to encourage attendance by moving the location of the AGM each year. This year we chose the Kings Arms, Bessels Green, in North West Kent. For those interested to read what happened, please see the other attachment in the covering email.



Goodwood Revival 12-14 September: Whilst not a Southern Counties event, I know a number of our members attend, and there were Healeys racing! Special mention must go to Jack Rawles and Jake Hill, who raced DHD100 (a 100S, chassis AHS 3603) from 15th on the grid to finish 3rd in the Freddie March Memorial Trophy on the Friday evening. Both drivers played their part with storming opening laps from Jack, and Jake keeping his calm when conditions became stormy later in the race (Healeys do well in the rain). See below the car in the Assembly Area shortly before the race. Saturday's racing also featured Healeys, including Jack Rawles partnering with Jaap Sinke, this time in 54FAC (the original works Sebring entry) in the Stirling Moss Memorial Trophy – it was an attritional race. I should also mention, two of Donald Healey's trophies were auctioned at the Bonhams auction, including The Rallye International de Monte-Carlo 'Challenge de L'illustration Automobile' trophy, permanently awarded to Donald Healey in 1934 after being 1st 1931, 2nd 1932, 3rd (1st in class) 1934. Generally, it was a wet and windy weekend but people still had fun. The central themes were the 1960's, hippies and Jim Clark. I hope the photos below give a small taste of what you missed, if you were not there.





Castle Coombe Autumn Classic 20-21 September: Healeys were again racing at Castle Coombe. Whilst not a Club event or on 'our patch', it makes a good day out if you enjoy classic car racing and the opportunity to get up close to the cars in the makeshift paddock area.



Final recce for the Daffodil Event 2026 took place 26-30 September: For those who don't know, Southern Counties has a long association with the 3-night annual Daffodil Event, held in Norfolk. As the name suggests, it is held in Spring. Carolyn (your Hon. Sec.) and I currently organise the event with the help of Steve and Kath Everest of Eastern Centre. We were up in Norfolk in late September for our final recce, visiting Thursford Steam Museum, Royal Sandringham and Heacham Manor Hotel. This is a promotional photo with our cars at the hotel.



Rawles Motorsport Open Day 11th October: This popular annual event invites customers and friends to visit the workshop, see what the team is up, ask questions and socialise. Free tea, coffee, nibbles and burgers are laid on and people are encouraged to make donation to the chosen charity: Naomi House. £713 was raised for this



good cause. The event was supported by AH Spares (people could pre-order parts and pick them up, saving postage) and the Austin Healey Club (Southern Counties and New Forest Centres) were encouraged to fly their respective flags and market the Austin Healey Club to prospective new members.



Presentations:

The Vice-Presidents Trophy has been re-purposed as the Chairman's award and is awarded at the discretion of the Chairman to recognise a member of Southern Counties (who might or might not be a member of the Committee) for their efforts over the year. It has been incredibly difficult for me to pick one person but, this year, I have decided that for volunteering to join the Committee, starting and running a new Noggin, starting and running a new event this year (The Ladies' Drive-It Day), and planning another new event for 2026 (Dinner at the RAC Club on Pall Mall), Michelle McDonough is a very deserving recipient. Having announced the winner at the AGM, I was able to present the trophy to Michelle at the North Surrey Noggin. Congratulations Michelle!



Drive-It Day 2025 was stewarded by Graeme Hogg, who encouraged people to drive to as many of our Noggin locations as possible. Two members visited all six Noggins and achieved the same highest mileage within one mile (I count that as the same in Healey miles) and the trophy was therefore shared between Peter Bennett and Steve Barber. Graeme (centre) is pictured presenting the award at the West Sussex Noggin. Well done Peter (left) and Steve (right)!



The **Noggin Attendance Awards** are new this year and I would like to see the idea developed in 2026, from simple attendance at Noggins, to bonus points being awarded for attending in a Healey, visiting Noggins other than your 'Home' Noggin, and for attending Club events during the year. An 'all-rounder' Attendance Trophy if you will. I hope the Committee will discuss ideas at our next meeting. Meanwhile, I can confirm the winners for this year have each received £25 to spend at their Noggin. The six winners are:



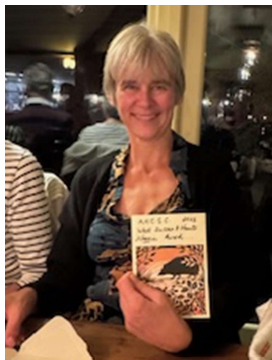
North Surrey: Michael Apse



South Surrey – Tim & Helen Ward



East Sussex: Richard Hayden



West Sussex: Louise Goacher

Awarded but pictures not available

North West Kent: James Barton

East Kent: Mark Lilly (by ballot)

Rear View Mirror

October 1995: The AGM was looming. The list of Committee positions included Competition Secretary (a busy role back then), Regalia Secretary and Ten Tenths Editor. Ten Tenths stated the Committee tries to keep to four 2–3-hour meetings each year with meetings in the Gatwick area (these days it's hopefully nearer to 2 hours but every 2 months). Some familiar words were written "Remember, if there are changes you would like to see, or events you would like to be organised, we need you to get out to the AGM and help us organise things as you want them". A lunch was planned at the Victory Inn, Staplefield to watch the London to Brighton Veteran Run and a Christmas Party was in the planning.

October 2005: In addition to the events mentioned for October 1995, there was mention of a Planned Drive and Pub Lunch to be organised by Derek Edwards, departing from the Reigate Hill car park (Autumn Leaves) – attendance was encouraged "even if it is wet, or your Healey is off the road" (no excuses!).

October 2015: There was an article about the International Healey Weekend in the Cotswolds. Southern Counties was charged with putting on a gymkhana i.e. a fun test for cars and their crews: Test 1: 'know your distance' (parking), Test 2: 'welly wanging' (hurling wellington boots at a target), Test 3 'The Cotswold Tour' (driving skills test). Dave Colwell was the force behind the gymkhana and said afterwards "The thing is, it was a demonstration of real team working for which I feel proud. We have demonstrated our ability to contribute successfully to an International Event. A real big thank you to everyone". There were also articles about the Classic and Prestige Car Day at the Lamb Inn, Piltdown, and the Bluebell Railway Vintage Transport Weekend, with Southern Counties showing nine cars on the Saturday.

Summer is rapidly turning into autumn but the year is not quite over yet and I hope you will manage a few more Healey miles before winter arrives. I certain hope to. I also hope to squeeze in one more issue of Ten Tenths before Christmas (after the National AGM and our final Southern Committee Meeting of the year). That and the February issue might be a little slimmer as we do less miles. So, if you would like to share with me any stories about your own recent exploits (trips, days out, work on your car etc.), preferably with photographs and captions, these could be published in a future edition of Ten Tenths. Let me know.

Jonathan Woodrow

Chairman – Southern Counties

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