

HEALEY MUSEUM UPDATE



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1. HEALEY 100 CELEBRATION & GERRY COKER AWARD

The Healey 100 Celebration on June 28 was very successful. The Gerry Coker Award had two nominees:

A. Stewart Cuninghame from South Africa. Stewart owns a Healey 100 and is a strong believer in classic



Stewart Cuninghame of South Africa.



John Wheatley, right, receiving the Gerry Coker Award from Hans van de Kerkhof and Jack Hoogland.

All The Big 6-Cylinder Models, from the well-known "Super Profile" series. Now at 84 years of age, John bought his Healey 100 exactly 60 years ago and drove it all those years with his wife, Heather. In the early years even his children were taken along in good old OOM 552.

John was nominated by his wife.

wheels. All of his life he has been active in all sorts of rallies, runs and shows all over southern Africa. Until last year, Stewart, at age 92, took part in the Durban-Johannesburg Run on his vintage Norton 350. That's about 600 kilometers on a pre-war motorbike!

Stewart bought his Healey 100 in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the sixties. He then ordered a Le Mans Kit and rebuilt the car to his own needs. Stewart has constantly improved the performance and economy of his 100. In 2006, at the age of 85, he totally restored his 100 himself.

Stewart was nominated by the Austin-Healey Club of Southern Africa.

B. John Wheatley from England. John Wheatley is the author of the books *Austin-Healey 100: The Original 4-Cylinder Models* and *Austin-Healey: 100/6 & 3000*,



Françoise and François Schnyder of Switzerland.

After some deliberations by the board and the initiators of the award, Gerry Coker and Bill Emerson, the Gerry Coker Award for 2013 was granted to John Wheatley.

John was originally invited as "Special Guest" at the Healey 100 Celebration at the museum, and so John and his wife, Heather, were then of course present at the Healey Museum. John was extremely surprised to receive the award, personally presented by the president of the museum foundation, Hans van de Kerkhof. Many of the guests had brought their copies of one of John's books and had these autographed by him.

During the Healey 100 Celebration, the Healey Museum organized a popularity poll. All guests present chose, as the most attractive Healey 100, the 100M belonging to a Swiss Healey friend, François Schnyder. François and his wife, Françoise, were very pleased with the souvenir connected to winning this prize, a painting depicting a fifties workshop and some Healey 100 car items.

2. NEWEST ACQUISITION

For some weeks now, a special car has been displayed in the Healey Museum: the legendary ex-Ian Walker Sebring Sprite WJB 707. This is the car that eventually formed the basis for the now well-known Sebring Sprite Replica. This car is owned by Stephen Bowen, who formally loaned it to the Healey Museum.

The famous rally team of Pat Moss and Ann Wisdom drove the original WJB 707 in the 1960 Tour de Corsica. After that, Ian Walker bought the car and had it converted by Williams & Pritchard with the lightweight Sprinzel body. In 1961, Ian drove various important British races in which he always finished first in class. On May 22, 1961, he even set a lap record on the Crystal Palace Circuit, a record that still stands.

3. HEALEY MUSEUM MEETS HEALEY CLUBS IN SWITZERLAND

In early June, Jack and Ine Hoogland represented the Healey Museum at the Swiss Pentecost Meeting 2014 in Pfäffikon on the banks of the Zürich lake. This annual meeting is by turns organized by the German, Swiss, Austrian and Italian Healey Clubs.

Public relations on behalf of the museum consisted of distribution of brochures in their "goody-bags" and networking. Their organized drives into the countryside included a run over the Klausenpass, known for the world famous Klausenrennen.

Jack and Ine travelled together with Erik and Corine van de Klippe so that the Dutch Healey Owners Club was well represented too.



WJB 707 now at the Healey Museum.

The reception and the stay at the Pentecost Meeting were excellent and relaxed at the same time.

Jack and Ine received from Bruno Verstraete an official Swiss Healey Club badge for the museum collection, and some numbered copies of the commemorative brochure from the "Healeys Return to Bonneville" for the museum archive.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Healey Museum will be organizing a big Spridget event open to all types of Sprites, Spridgets or the like. The event will take place at the Museum. Clive Baker, works racing driver with the Donald Healey Motor Company, and Martin Ingall, leading figure in the Sebring Sprite world, both will be present at the Healey Museum. Martin runs a special Sebring website as well: www.sebringssprite.com

Saturday, September 27, in the Healey Museum

At 10 a.m., a meeting of participating Sprites, their owners and other Austin-Healeys, followed by a wonderful drive into the mid-Netherlands countryside, a take-away lunch included. Prize-giving for most desirable Spridgets and big Healeys present. Drinks and buffet dinner. After dinner, a lively presentation by Martin Ingall.

Several special works Sprites will be present in the Museum to be admired. For example, both Coleman Sprites, which will be brought over from the States especially for this event. From the UK alone, about 30 Spridgets have already registered.

Sunday, September 28, on Zantvoort Circuit

On Sunday, September 28, all AH Sprites and MG Midgets – which took part in the Healey Museum's Spridgets Meet – will take part in the program of the Zandvoort Circuit. An exclusive spot will be reserved in the paddock. Drivers will have free access to Sunday's DTM (Deutsche Touring-wagen Masters) races. There will be opportunities for Spridget participants to drive the circuit. **HM**