



Devon Sevens

October 2020

Newsletter for

Issue 131

The Devon A7 Club



**Nick Hawkins' North Devon Weekend -
see page 7 for a full report.**



Chairman's Chat - October 2020

Another month and we are still not out of the woods, in fact it seems we are going backwards with the introduction of the rule of six. It is all very unsettling especially for us oldies as each year is so precious and we are not able to do any of the things we had planned to do or would like to do. Coupled with all that, we have the likes of Sir David Attenborough telling us that we are all heading for disaster and the rate of extinction of the worlds wildlife is gathering pace.



It all sets me thinking, what is the point of our hobby with the government's push on electric cars? According to an article in the Yorkshire Post recently, the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps was quoted as saying "I'm sorry internal combustion engine fans, I think it's days are overall likely to be numbered." I really do not want to be the owner of two obsolete cars that nobody wants or to be restricted in having to trailer them to a rally field to play. I shall wait until 2022 when I shall be seventy eight and the big one hundred years celebration of the Austin and the Euro tour takes place, then give the cars away and treat that as my swan song and bow out gracefully!

Before I sign off I have just heard that the Re Fuel Revival is taking place so I hope I can meet up with as many members as possible.

Richard Bishop

Secretary's Notes - October 2020

My notes this month start on a rather sad note. One of our popular and active North Devon members, Jane McPhee, died unexpectedly earlier this month. Jane was an enthusiastic, long standing A7 owner who, despite her age and the somewhat unreliability of her A7 Opal, was quite prepared to undertake long journeys with a very relaxed and positive attitude. She was an active member of the North Devon Enthusiasts group for at least ten years, coming out on almost every Wednesday run. If she couldn't be there it was because she was working at night at a Care Home or driving long distances away to see family and look after grandchildren. She coped amazingly well with Alice's (A7) idiosyncrasies, no synchro, little braking, and an ignition key that would fall on the floor, laughing them off in that old school way which we all admired. Finally there were her autumn Quiz Night evenings with food in her cosy little home on Bidna Lane, and her baskets of homemade cakes with coffee which she brought to Jeff Blight's garage meetings. She, her canine companion Poppy and A7 (Alice) will be sadly missed. Jane's funeral will take place at Barnstaple Crematorium on Thursday September 24th at 2.20pm. Due to covid restrictions, the chapel can only accommodate 30 family mourners, but A7s could be taken along to the car park. Family flowers only, but donations can be sent to North Devon Animal Ambulance.



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On a happier note, we have seen a couple of events taking place over the last month, and elsewhere in the newsletter you should find a report on the Bicton Gardens Vintage Weekend and Nick's North Devon weekend. However there has been another cancellation. The planned Devon Vintage Car Clubs Autojumble due to be held on the 4th October has been cancelled. It is hoped to hold one in the spring, but as yet no date has been set.

Whilst thinking of A7 Spare parts, can I remind members that I do have some spares still available from the clearance of Ralph Villis's workshop, so if anyone is looking for a particular part, please let me know and I will be quite happy to have a 'rummage'.

By the time you read this, the Re-Fuel Revival event will have taken place and it looks like we will have a good turnout at what is our first (and possibly last?) official Club Event of the year.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our committee have not been able to meet since the AGM in March but we hope to hold a 'virtual meeting' possibly by 'Zoom' in the near future. With the Autumn now upon us, it is time to start thinking about our 2021 events program so if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please let me know. We are also still keen to have some 'new faces' on the committee and it occurs to me that with the use of the internet, your geographical location in the county will not present such a barrier as it might previously have done. So if you would like to play a more active part in the Club's future, please get in touch.

No one responded to my suggestion to send in pictures of their garage/workshop, but here is mine -



Yes I know it's a mess!!! But there is still time to send in a photo of yours for next month, so you can either show me up or take the lead in the 'Messiest workshop' stakes.

And finally – our webmaster, Steve Day has suggested that it might be a positive move to open a new page on the club's website entitled 'What we did in 2020'. This would include photos of members out and about with their A7s during the year, just to show that members DID use their cars even if there were very few official runs and events to attend. You can send your photos either to me, or to Steve direct at steve-j-day@outlook.com.

Stay safe.

David Aylmore.



Event Cancelled



Due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation the DVCC Autojumble due to be held at the South Devon Railway, Buckfastleigh on Sunday October 4th has unfortunately been cancelled. The next autojumble is due to be held at the South Devon Railway in the Spring of 2021, date to be decided.

(Photo of October 2019 Autojumble from DVCC website)

New Member

This month we welcome Nick Brooks to the Devon Austin 7 Club. Nick lives in Newton Abbot, and is in the process of building a Special.

We look forward to seeing Nick at events in the future.

FBHVC Matters

2020 Enthusiast Survey



As noted previously, as you are a club member, you are also a member of the FBHVC. This is a reminder for you to please take part in the Enthusiast Survey on their website, which will now run until the 12th October 2020.

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs are having to make the case for historic vehicles retaining their current access and freedoms on our roads more and more strongly in coming years, as we navigate the most challenging period in our history. If we are to defend the use of historic vehicles, then we need to act and act now. The Federation needs your help.

The survey is being conducted on behalf of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs and aims to generate important insights on the sector. The answers you give will help shape the future for historic vehicles within the United Kingdom.

In the light of the devastating effects of Covid-19 and the cancellation of so many historic vehicle meetings it was decided to bring forward the survey to use 2019 as the base year. When you complete the survey please consider your answers in the context of activities undertaken in the year to December 2019.

The answers you give will be used to benefit the historic vehicle movement as a whole and will shape the future focus of the FBHVC acting on behalf of its member organisations and all enthusiasts.

On submission of your questionnaire, you will be given the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win one of the following prizes: A year's Club Insurance policy to the value of £250 including IPT, courtesy of Peter James Insurance, one of three pairs of tickets for the 2020 Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show with Discovery, Courtesy of Clarion Events, or one of 15 display copies of the [FBHVC's](#) historic vehicle wall chart.

Complete the survey here: <https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/2020-enthusiast-survey>

Unfortunately, the survey is only available on-line.

John Turley.

FBHVC Representative.

AUSTIN 7 CENTENARY RALLY



19th - 24th July 2022



It is expected that bookings for this event will be accepted from September 2021

The Fire Services College, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

A week-long celebration of 100 years of the Austin 7 Events, entertainment, accommodation, catering, leisure facilities, and over 1,000 Austin 7s !

Organised by The Austin Seven Clubs' Association

Sponsored by RH Specialist Insurance



www.a7centenary.com

David's Diary

Not so much time spent in the garage this month, but we have actually managed to get out and enjoy some A7 driving.

Our first outing was to Bicton Gardens Vintage Weekend with the Milk Delivery Car, but in fact there was not much driving involved as I towed the 7 with our Campervan so I had some accommodation to stay the weekend. It proved to be a most enjoyable few days with some other A7s there including two of our newer members, Ed & Chris Bird with their 1924 Chummy. They had a bit of a problem on the way to the show, but were helped by another exhibitor and once on the show field, there was no shortage of help and advice to make sure that they could drive home under their own steam. It was a classic 'look for the simple things first' solution. Initially, everything from a burnt out clutch to a faulty magneto was considered. In fact, the problem was that the reproduction petrol cap which had been fitted during the restoration did not have a breather hole resulting in the engine cutting out after only running for a short time.



We are all well used to having photographs taken of our cars at shows, but at Bicton, I had the unusual experience of having someone sitting for about ¾ of an hour sketching our car with a view to doing a full painting when he got home. He was not a commercial artist, just painted for his own amusement.



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Early in September and in preparation for Nick's North Devon Weekend, I took Mabel, our 1934, 4 Seat Tourer out for a run over Dartmoor. When I left, the weather looked fine and I started out with the hood down. I should have known better than to trust Dartmoor weather and by the time I was half way to Moretonhampstead the hood was up and I was considering turning round. However I pressed on and by the time I reached Postbridge and had a look around the new visitor centre, the rain had eased and I enjoyed a cup of tea and hot pastie from the Post Office.



The engine is understandably quite noisy with the worn timing gears but once the ignition timing was adjusted it was getting along quite well and I felt confident to take it to North Devon.

There should be a report of the weekend elsewhere but I would just like to record my thanks to Nick Hawkins for organising the event. For several years Nick has organised a run on the weekend before Widecombe Fair and with that cancelled, it would have been all too easy just to leave it for 2020 so thank you Nick for persevering and it was pleasing to see such a good level of support.

We are now looking forward to this coming weekend and the Re-Fuel Revival meeting on Sunday.

Feels very good to have some A7 miles under the wheels.

Happy Austineering.

David

September North Devon Weekend

When Nick Hawkins said that he was planning to organise his traditional September weekend away despite Widecombe Fair being cancelled, and that he was basing it in the Hartland area, we just had to put our names down. We love the North Devon coast but haven't spent much time around Hartland before. What a wonderful weekend it was, wall to wall sunshine, magnificent scenery, (very!) interesting lanes and good (socially distanced) company. I won't even try to list everyone who supported the weekend as it varied day to day, but there was generally 10 - 12 cars out at any time from Devon and Cornwall.

We trailed our A7 behind the camper, and arrived at Hartland Caravan and Camping Park on Friday lunch time - shortly before Nick was due to head out for the Friday afternoon run to Tamar Lakes. We decided to have some lunch and drive directly to meet the others at the lakes. All was well until we pulled into the car park and the engine died - apparently nothing serious and it was miraculously fixed by the time I'd had an ice cream! A walk around the lake for those who felt energetic and then back to the campsite for the evening, with some of the group sampling the village pub. Unfortunately, Bob and Ann Downey had a problem with their car when they took it out during the afternoon, and were unable to join us on Saturday or Sunday.

Saturday was another beautiful morning and we set off through the Devon lanes for Hartland Point. Some of us parked at East Titchberry car park and enjoyed a beautiful walk around the coastal path to Hartland Point, while others drove to the car park at the point. Unfortunately the refreshment hut wasn't open, so those who hadn't had the foresight to take a flask of coffee with them, had to wait until we got to Hartland Quay. After a short, picturesque drive through the lanes we arrived at Hartland Quay, where we had our picnic lunch and spent a couple of hours enjoying the sunshine.



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When Nick led the group back towards Appledore for our fish and chips supper, David decided that he would like a walk along the coast, before going a more direct route to Appledore. Our drive to Appledore took us through Westward Ho! where we were amazed at the number of people milling around - it looked more like a mid August Saturday than mid September. We arrived to find that Brian had got a problem with his van - but with many heads under the bonnet giving advice, it was soon ok. Nick recommended we try 'The Royal Plaice' for our fish and chips, and they were amazing. Some folk tried different venues and were equally happy - Appledore is obviously **the** place to go for fish and chips! Rosemary and Nigel suffered a puncture on the way back to the campsite, but before any of their fellow A7 travellers could assist them, a local good Samaritan stopped to help them - lending them a warning triangle and even going to his home to collect some tools to help.

Sunday was another beautiful day and we left the campsite soon after 10am heading for Welcome Mouth - somehow, we found ourselves volunteering to lead! Nick's route took us through some amazing lanes - some very steep, some very narrow, some quite rough - and some all three (particularly the track leading down to Welcome Mouth)!! It was an interesting drive but well worth it when we arrived, a beautiful spot to get the chairs out and relax in the sunshine for a while - even if it was rather busy! Nick did suggest that we could walk up the adjacent hill to see the Devon/Cornwall border - no one took him up on this offer!



From here our route took us to Morwenstow - some of the party unintentionally taking a more scenic route than others. However, we all eventually arrived safely at Rectory Farm where we all enjoyed our picnics plus teas and ice-creams from the café. A very pleasant, relaxing afternoon followed, enjoying the sunshine and chatting, and some of the party took a short walk to Hawker's Hut, the refuge of poet Reverend Robert Hawker. By the time we were ready to leave, Nick decided to abandon the rest of his route and we headed straight back to the campsite at Hartland. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend - thank you Nick!



We decided to make the most of the weather and spent a lovely morning at Clovelly on Monday before heading home in the afternoon.

Janet and David

Out and About

Stuart Palmer was out on the Exmoor Clouds Trial run by the Minehead Motor Club. For the first time in it's 49 year history, the trial was run as a single venue event. Stuart says that although the Ulsteroid got a bit dirty, he was pleased that the new exhaust system worked well and wasn't too loud.



Devon Austin 7 Club member, Mike Pallett took part in the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, coming 1st in his class. Mike says it was a great day but he still has lots to learn!



Photo courtesy of Peter McFaden

Meanwhile, Andrew Grabham and Paul Sleeman have been holidaying in the New Forest and Bala in Wales.





Below is a list of the new films on the Association website which you may not have seen yet, <http://archive.a7ca.org/collections/films/>

All that is England.

An Austin promotional film showing a tour round the country by many Austin models from the Seven to the Ascot. Cinema promotional film. B/ W Sound Running time 20'.

Cornwall Calling.

An Austin promotional film showing the building and journeys of the sailing vessel 'Ettrick'. Fitted with a 'Triton' Marine engine. B/W Sound Running time 15'19"

Signing Off.

An Austin promotional film showing many aspects of Longbridge works featuring workers arriving and leaving. Shows around Longbridge works featuring workers arriving and leaving. Much is made of the process of paying the weekly wages. With circa 20,000 employees, average weekly wages appear to be £4/6/6d B/W Sound Running time 7'52"

When the Solder Sets

An Austin promotional film showing all aspects of Austin radiator manufacture. Cinema promotional film. B/W Sound Running time 10'58"

As time goes by.

An Austin promotional film showing the social history of the car concluding in "You invest in an Austin" B/W Sound Running time 10' 40"

Austin Assembly Line 1931/32.

Suspected to be only part of an Austin promotional film showing motor car manufacture. B/W Silent running time 9' 25"

Precision Makes Perfect.

Austin promotional film showing accuracy that has to be adhered to when building an Austin car. Cinema promotional film. B/W Sound Running time 10' 30"

Non-Stop Utility.

An Austin promotional film on the many uses of the Austin car as a transport utility and how cars and engines can be used in other ways. B/W Sound Running time 10' 18"

Over the Hills.

An Austin promotional film Lake district endurance in 1939 Austin 8 driven by Thomas Wisdom a famous racing driver & motoring editor of the Daily Herald and J.F. Bramley of The Austin Magazine. Colour Silent running time 11' 20"

Within the White Line

An Austin promotional film showing Austin's focus on safety. Sponsored by Triplex glass & Chekko brake linings. B/W Sound Running time 10'25"

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1929 Ulster TT

Film of the event of unknown origin. Shows highlights of the entire event from initial entrant line up to presentation of winners trophy. B/W Silent 19 www.da7c.co.uk Running time 7'22"

Colombo to London in an Austin Van 1937

What appears to be almost a home cine film of a journey made with an Austin 10(?) van from Colombo to London in 1937. Possibly historically important. B/W (some elements in colour) Silent Running time 1hr 10'

Central Australia 1934

A cine film of an anthropological research journey through Central Australia in 1934 made by Prof H.W. Davies. An incomplete film of the journey edited to show transport modes and for brevity. The original film resides in the national film archive of South Australia. Kindly provided by Russell Curtis. B/W Silent Running time 7'45"

Today in Morocco

Travelogue in Morocco featuring Austin tens. B/W Sound Running time 9' 20"

It Happened Today

Road safety film by the West Riding Constabulary B/W Sound Running time 20'55" The Austin Golden Jubilee 1905-1955 A BMC film showing the Austin Fiftieth year celebration's. Colour Sound Running time 10' 7"

Tests such as these

A BMC film showing testing to destruction (mid 50's). B/W Sound Running 9'20"

World on Wheels

Colour film produced by Leyland cars, promotional film. Colour Sound Running time 26'22"

Austin 7 Golden Jubilee

Silent film of the 1972 Longbridge Golden Jubilee Rally. It is planned to add a commentary to this in the future. Running time 9' 06"

750 MC, Colin Chapman and the 'Garagistes'

John Snow tells the story of the roots of the British F1 success based on the work of the likes of Colin Chapman, Jack French et al. Colour Sound Running time 8'36"

Stanley Edge After Dinner Talk

1979 South Wales Austin 7 club 30th Anniversary with guest speaker, Stan Edge. The event was a dinner dance held at Miskin Manor and Stan is introduced by Harry Hales. At the end of the film is a few minutes of the 1982 Crofton Park Diamond Jubilee Rally and the award of the Practical Classics Austin 7 competition, presented by Stan. Running time 1hr 12'

Tophat Restoration

Excellent pictorial record and voice over description of the restoration of a Top Hat saloon by Rex Grogan. Real example of how to persevere with a restoration. Running time 18'00"

Article first published in the Dorset A7 Club newsletter – August 2020

For Sale

1930 Austin heavy 12/4 Open Road Tourer. A most attractive primrose cream gives the car its name, Primrose was given the livery of Lords Cars (look online) a very large chauffeur hire service some 40 years ago, hence the colour, the pinstripes and the white wall tyres. A very original car, 12v coil/distributor, overhauled AutoVac primed by inline (Austin) fuel pump, fuel filters, complete brake rebuild, brand new starter motor, leak free radiator etc.

The full red leather interior is definitely all original, the drivers seat having been reassembled without any new holes in the leather or frame. We believe the trunk to be the cars original, again remarkably good for 90 years use, the three lightweight suitcases, yellow silk lined, bear the sticker 'Hotel Regina Vencia' which is interesting. Sidescreens stored in doors.

Starts well, everything works, no smoke, annual professional maintenance, a lovely vintage car. Sadly for sale as creaking joints seize up!

£16,000 ovno

Please contact Bob on 01884 798021 or email: itsmebobogle@gmail.com



Wanted

Petrol filler cap for a 1924 Chummy.

(Sec's Note - any screw type cap from an A7 with a gravity tank should fit)

Please contact Ed Bird if you can help. Tel: 07515 688907 or e-mail: edward_bird@msn.com

Wanted

I have been contacted by someone looking to buy an A7 Opal. If you are thinking of selling one, please contact me in the first instance and I will put you in touch.

David Aylmore - contact details on back page.

Austin 7 related items 'Wanted' or 'For Sale' can be advertised in Devon Sevens free of charge. Items will be removed from the listings after 3 months unless you have notified me that you would like the advert to continue.

Thank you - Janet (Editor - contact details on back page)

Devon A7 Club - 2020 events

Sunday 4th Oct. 4th DVCC Autojumble at Buckfastleigh Steam Railway. **Cancelled**

November To be arranged.

November Newsletter:-

Please send your letters, comments, articles and photos to devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk or by post to Janet Aylmore, Corner Cottage, Ideford, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 0BG.

Copy for inclusion in the November issue should be with me by **Wednesday 21st October 2020** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 28th October**.

To avoid any possible problems with copyright, please confirm, when sending in articles, photo's diagrams, maps etc, that they are free from any copyright restrictions. For information, the copyright remains with the originator of any photos etc for 50 years and the originator's permission is required before they can legally be reproduced or distributed. Within the very friendly A7 world, there is generally not a problem, so long as the originators copyright is acknowledge but I need to be made aware of the situation before publishing.

Many thanks. Ed.

Keeping Informed

For those of you with a computer or smart phone etc, you might find the following websites a useful source of information and news. Don't forget you can also follow the Devon Austin Seven Club on our Facebook page.

www.devonsevens.co.uk - welcome to the website for the Devon Austin 7 Club. Here you can find out all about the 'Devon Sevens'. How we started, what we do and how to join.

There is a **Members Only** section that we are developing. Currently it has the latest and past Newsletters, plus entry forms that can be downloaded for all club events and many others.

The website also has a fully updated list of 'Trusted Suppliers'.



www.austinsevenfriends.com - the one stop web site for Austin 7 enthusiasts across the world. Austin 7 news and events throughout the country and beyond!

Useful Facebook Groups: Austin Seven Spares Sale / Exchange
Austin Seven
Pre1939-Vintage Autojumble

For advice on how to make the best use of our website you can contact Steve Day at:
steve-j-day@outlook.com

DA7C Badges.

Car Badge.

There is a choice of 2 styles of Car Badge. Both have the same Green & White motif with black lettering.

1. A small windscreen self adhesive badge which is ideal for a "Modern" if space for a larger external badge is not available. - £1 each
2. A high quality Chrome & Enamel external badge as shown in the Illustration.
1 badge £13.50 inc. 2nd class post, 2 badges £25 inc. 2nd Class post.

Embroidered Badge.

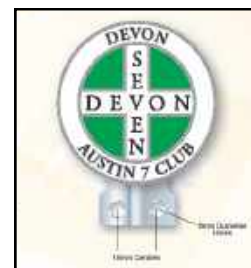
We also now have a very smart embroidered club badge available. It is 3 1/4" (80mm) in diameter and is, as shown in the picture, very similar in design to the car badge.
Cost is £3.50 (plus 50p postage)

Lapel Badge.

Following requests from members, we can now offer lapel badges. These metal badges measure 25mm diameter, and the cost is a very reasonable £2.25 inc p&p.

All badges can be purchased by contacting David Aylmore by phone, post or e-mail or can be collected from any club event.

Contact details are on the back page.



Trusted suppliers of A7 goods & services.

You should have received your hard copy of the 2020 list of **Trusted suppliers of A7 goods and services** when you renewed your membership. If you haven't received yours please contact David Aylmore (details on back page) and he will put one in the post for you.

If any member has received good service from an A7 supplier, please forward details to the editor. Their details will be published in the Newsletter and added to the next hard copy edition, due in January 2021.

A full list is available on the club's website. (see above)

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