



# Devon Sevens

April 2022

Issue 148

Newsletter for

## The Devon A7 Club



Michael Cooke and his daughter, Louise, meet members of the DA7C at St Gregory's Church, Seaton where his father was vicar in the 1950s.



The Austin 7s pass Axmouth Church .

**The Devon Austin 7 Club were able to help Michael Cooke celebrate his 97th birthday recently- see page 13 for the story and more photos.**



Passenger Michael Cooke, 97, waves as Michael Tabbart drives him through Seaton.



Michael with his daughter, Louise and son, Richard.

## Secretary's Notes

For our first Sunday Saunter since Feb 2020, 9 members returned to The Agricultural Inn at Brampford Speke for a very enjoyable Sunday Lunch and as usual, the 7's in the car park attracted much attention from customers & staff alike. Thanks to Nick for organising the event.



By the time you read this, we should have held our AGM and enjoyed a Sunday Lunch at the Tom Cobley Tavern, and hopefully everything will have gone off without problems – at least the weather forecast, at the moment, is looking good, so I for one am looking forward to catching up with everyone.

I am already aware that one of the mainstays of our Committee will be stepping down at the AGM and I would like to take this opportunity of recording my personal thanks to Richard Bishop for all the help and support he has given to the club during the time he has served both as Chairman and as an active & enthusiastic Committee member.

Our next events will be the Drive it Day run & show, and details of these can be found on page 3. This is always a great day to be out and about with our cars and every year I try to imagine what it must have been like for the drivers and passengers involved in that first long distance reliability event, way back in 1900, from London to Edinburgh and back. Not only the 1,000 mile distance, but just think what the roads would have been like. Much quieter for certain, but the surface condition would have been very challenging.

Thinking about long distance events, I know that a few Devon A7 Club members, myself included, are planning to take part in the A7 Centenary Celebration End to End drive, organised by the S. Wales A7 Club. This will take place over the Easter period and I have no doubt that regular updates will be posted on the club's Face Book page and possibly on the website, so wish us luck!!! There will certainly be some stories to write about for future Newsletters!!

Our next spring event will be a somewhat shorter run over Dartmoor. Starting at Bovey Tracey and finishing at the home of Richard & Nicci Soffe in Kerswell, near Chudleigh for a picnic. This will be a mid-week event on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup> and more information is on page 4.

Later in May, we will be having a stand at the Devon Vintage Car Club's Autojumble on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and will once again be providing the opportunity for you to sell off any of those unwanted A7 spares. Full details are on pages 4 and 5. Even if you don't have anything to sell, why not come along just for a chat? Over the years, it really has proved to be a great social occasion as well as providing the opportunity to buy & sell spares.

The main Centenary Celebration is now very close, and the organisers will soon be contacting everyone who ticked the box, on the application form, to say they were willing to volunteer to help on the event. Please agree to give a hand in whatever capacity you can, as every bit of help will make this a really memorable event. If you do have a ticket, and have not yet contacted Mike Gregson to let him know your planned arrival/ departure date, please do so as soon as possible as we would like to arrange some sort of Club event during the week.

All in all, this looks like being a much busier A7 year than the last 2 so I hope everyone will feel able to get out and about with their cars at some time. If you do, please remember to send Janet your photos/stories and reports.

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And finally – Every two months, I receive an electronic copy of the FBHVC News magazine and it occurred to me that I could easily forward a copy to any members who might be interested. As you are no doubt aware, the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) is very active in promoting the whole Historic Vehicle movement and in particular lobbies Government on any topic that might affect the use of historic vehicles on the UK roads. Each magazine covers a wide range of topics from new legislation to technical items, reports on national events and news from all the member Clubs. Just drop me an e-mail if you would like to have a look at the next edition. My contact details are on the back page.

Happy Austineering.

David.



## Zoom Club Night

A chance to safely catch up with other DA7C members, without leaving the comfort of your own home



**Easter Monday, April 18th 2022 at 7pm**

**Join us at our regular monthly Members' Catch Up Evening**

**Zoom link will be sent out by e-mail 1 week in advance of each meeting**

## Drive-it-Day - Sunday April 24th

National Drive It Day was created by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs in 2005. It is the occasion when historic vehicle enthusiasts and the public at large have the opportunity to celebrate the One Thousand Mile Trial, from London to Edinburgh and back, organised in 1900 to prove the viability of the new invention, the motor vehicle. It's also a chance to raise awareness and support amongst the public for the historic vehicle movement and keeping transport heritage on UK roads.



Below are details of just 2 of the events taking place in Devon this year:

### DA7C Drive it Day Run

Nick Hawkins is organising a run on Sunday April 24th.

**Meet at Whiddon Down Services for a 10.30am start**

The route will take us through S. Zeal, Sticklepath (stopping at NT Finch Foundry), Belstone, Okehampton Abbeyford Woods (possible picnic spot), finishing at The War Horse Museum, EX19 8SN.

Museum, walks, tea room etc.

£6 entry see [www.warhorsevalley.co.uk](http://www.warhorsevalley.co.uk) for more details.

Phone 01271 375730 or email Nick Hawkins at [valhawkins3@aol.com](mailto:valhawkins3@aol.com) to confirm attendance.

Once again the Crash Box Club are organising their popular annual static classic car show at

**The Lawns, Dawlish in South Devon.**

This is a 'Come and go as you please' event but **please book in advance** on the website: [www.crashboxclub.co.uk](http://www.crashboxclub.co.uk), or with Ray Moore on 07773 276005, e-mail: [eastcliff516@gmail.com](mailto:eastcliff516@gmail.com)

Drive it Day is again supporting Childline, and various fundraising plaques can be ordered at [www.driveitday.co.uk](http://www.driveitday.co.uk), with prices starting at £10.00.



**A Quest For Pearl**  
From Farleigh Hospice, Chelmsford  
To Cornwall Gold, Nr. Redruth, Cornwall



**Starting in Essex on April 24th - postponed from 2020**

Pearl Bonner was a long standing, much loved and very active member of the Essex A7 Club, and fellow EA7C member, Trevor Fleuty is undertaking a charity drive in his 1938 Big 7 (named Bluebell) from Essex to Cornwall in April 2022 to raise funds for Farleigh Hospice ([www.farleighhospice.org](http://www.farleighhospice.org)) who took care of Pearl during her illness.

The route starts in Essex on April 24th with the first overnight stop at Petersfield.

Monday April 25th, Petersfield to Cullompton via Shaftsbury, Yeovil and Honiton, crossing the Devon border at Yarcombe.

Tuesday April 26th, Cullompton to Newquay via Tiverton, Crediton and Bude.

Wednesday April 27th, arriving at Cornwall Gold, Redruth.

We would like to show Trevor some Devon hospitality and, if needed, assistance while he travels through our County. If you would like to be involved in this please contact David Aylmore or Nick Borst-Smith (details on back page) for more information.

More details can be found at [www.questforpearl.com](http://www.questforpearl.com), or if you would like to donate to the fundraising for Farleigh Hospice, please follow this link. <https://pearl-bonner.muchloved.com/fundraising/events/238496874>



**Dartmoor Ramble & Picnic**  
**Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Meet at the Station Rd Car Park, Bovey Tracey  
at 10.30 for 11am start.  
(Coffee shops & toilets nearby.)



The route will take us out onto Dartmoor visiting Manaton Church, Hound Tor, Saddle Tor and Haytor (toilets available). There will be plenty of time to stop on the way, enjoy the view, take photos or even have a stroll – all weather dependent of course, this is Dartmoor after all!!!

The route will then continue through Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh Knighton to Richard & Nicci's home at Kerswell where there is plenty of parking and space for a picnic so bring your own hamper – Richard & Nicci will be happy to provide tea and coffee if required.

Please contact Richard on 01626 853232 for more information and to let him know that you plan to come along.



**DEVON VINTAGE CAR CLUB**

**AUTOJUMBLE**

**THE BEST IN THE WEST**

**SUNDAY, 22nd May 2022**

**SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY, BUCKFASTLEIGH TQ11 0DZ**  
**CONVENIENTLY OFF THE A38**

**Gates open 9am – 1pm Entry £2.**

Details of the DA7C stand on page 5



## DA7C Stand at the Devon Vintage Car Club Autojumble on May 22nd

We have booked a stall at the Autojumble with the objective of providing a meeting point for Devon Austin Seven Club members and to sell surplus parts on their behalf.

**The sale of parts will be a FREE service to members, BUT**

We can only accept parts for sale on the following basis:-

- Every part or collection of parts must have a tie on luggage label attached with your membership number (NO NAME PLEASE), price required, and if it is not obvious, a description of what the part is.
- When the item is sold the label will be cut off and kept with the money to be returned to the member.
- Members can, if they wish, indicate on the label how much reduction they are willing to give to 'hagglers'. This will be indicated by adding a letter, ( A, B, or C ) after the price, 'A' will entitle the stallholder to give a maximum of 10% reduction, 'B' 20% and 'C' 50%.

e.g. a label could read **Mem No 5. - £100 B.**

(Selling for member No.5, price £100 possible 20% reduction)

We are aware that there is always a certain amount of pilfering goes on at these events and whilst the people on the stall will be as vigilant as possible, neither the individual nor the club can accept responsibility for any losses.

Why not come along and help on the stall for an hour or so - that way you can keep an eye on your spares, help the club, and have a good day out. You might also find that elusive part that you have been seeking for ages!!!

If you are willing to volunteer to help out for all or part of the day, or have spares to sell, please contact: David Aylmore - Contact details on the back page.

## Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Eggesford Airfield**

Last year's visit was memorable and we are lucky enough to have been invited again this year. As you may know we are producing a short video depicting "a year in the life of Devon Sevens" and our visit to Eggesford this year will hopefully, weather permitting, include some of the classic and vintage aeroplanes flying, this, and our Sevens will provide some footage for the video.

Tea and coffee will be available . Times tbc but likely to be 11am to 4pm.

If you interested in coming please contact Nick Borst-Smith [nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@outlook.com) or 01363 866819



*Eggesford Airfield is approx. 2 miles West of Eggesford Station on the A377*

## Summer Drive Out Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022



Photo of Derek's previous premises

Derek Vertenten has devised an interesting afternoon drive starting from Mole Avon in Crediton at 11am (tbc) and winding its way to his home and workshops near Silverton for afternoon tea.

His workshops will be open and his current rare projects will be on view. For those who have not met him or seen his work, be prepared for perfection.

The view from his home is out of this world too!

To let us know you are coming please contact Nick Borst-Smith  
[nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@outlook.com) at or 01363 866 819

## HISTORIC VEHICLE GATHERING POWDERHAM Castle, Nr Exeter.

### 9th & 10th JULY 2022

Organised by the Crash Box & Classic Car Club.



One of the major events this year will be our Club stand at the Historic Vehicle Gathering at Powderham Castle, Kenton near Exeter. The club will once again cover entry fees for DATC members who display their cars on our Stand and we plan to have the A7 Centenary as our theme this year.

You can exhibit on one or both days and cars can be left on the stand overnight on Saturday or driven to and from the venue. Space is also available for trailer parking.

The show is organised by the Crash Box & Classic Car club of Devon Ltd, and is widely recognised as one of the very best in the country. It offers a huge range of attractions and displays for all members of the family.

Have a look at their website [www.historic-vehicle-gathering.info](http://www.historic-vehicle-gathering.info) it really is a great day out.

July may seem a long way in the future, but with the amount of planning necessary for an event of this size, entries need to be in early and the latest date for reserving a space on our stand is **Saturday May 21st** so please don't delay.

An entry form has been sent with the newsletter and should be filled in and sent to Mike Gregson, Penpark, Bickington, Newton Abbot. TQ12 6LH. E-mail [mike@penpark.co.uk](mailto:mike@penpark.co.uk) as soon as possible.

If you would like any more information, just give Mike a ring on 01626 821314.

## Austin Seven Centenary Rally

Would members who have a confirmed booking for the Centenary Rally at Moreton in Marsh please send their details to Mike Gregson - contact details on the back page.

When your committee are aware of who will be at the rally and when, they hope to organise some Devon A7 Club activities during the week.



## RHS Garden Rosemoor Classic and Vintage Weekend

RHS Rosemoor, Great Torrington, EX38 8PH

July 30 & 31 2022



We have been invited once again to this excellent show now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. The event is held at the Arboretum Lawn on Lady Anne's side of the garden, which gives a beautiful backdrop to the cars.

This is a free to enter event for vehicles, which will provide you with entry to all of Rosemoor Garden for you and a guest. There will be an exhibitor's pop up beverages tent, where you will be able to enjoy free teas and coffees and separate portable toilets will be available just for exhibitors.

There is onsite overnight stays for those of you that have caravans, vans or mobile homes. There will be a professional security person on site for the Friday and Saturday.

**Please Note that dogs are not allowed at Rosemoor.**

All Devon Sevens entries are being collated by Nick Borst-Smith so please contact him for reservation details. [nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@outlook.com) or 01363 866819

## Other events recognising the centenary year of the Austin 7

### SHUTTLEWORTH - FANTASTIC OFFER FOR AUSTIN SEVEN OWNERS - SEPTEMBER 2022

One of the world's most prestigious collections of vintage aircraft and vehicles is held at Shuttleworth, Old Warden, Bedfordshire, and Austin Seven owners are being given the opportunity to visit the Collection on **Saturday 10th September** - which is the 'Moth fly-in' event. De Havilland aircraft of the 1920s and 30s from all over the country will be congregating on the Old Warden airfield.

The full price of public entry is £17 a head but if you arrive in an Austin Seven with a pre-purchased ticket the entry is just **£10 per car including driver and all passengers**. There are currently 200 tickets available, first come-first served. Get yours now by going to: <https://www.shuttleworth.org/the-austin-sevens-shuttleworth>

For more information about the venue have a look at: <https://www.shuttleworth.org>

### THE CLASSIC, SILVERSTONE - AUGUST 2022

The Austin Seven Clubs' Association have been invited to The Classic to be held at Silverstone between **Friday 26th and Sunday 28th August 2022**. To help celebrate the centenary year a dedicated discount booking code has been set up for all Austin Seven owners, giving them a classic car package consisting of two adult admission tickets plus a vehicle display pass. The discounted packages will be available until Tuesday 31st May 2022, subject to availability. To avoid disappointment, please book early. To celebrate the 100th anniversary all Austin Sevens that have booked through the discounted booking code will be invited to take part in a track parade\* around Grand Prix circuit during the race lunchbreak on Sunday 28 August.

**Booking must be done on-line at:** <http://www.silverstone.co.uk/classic-car-clubs>. This will take you to the booking page where you can enter the following club code: **223CCDP22**. All A7s will be parked together in a dedicated area. Please note that to gain access to the club area and take part in the parade you must arrive before 9am and not leave before 5.30pm, otherwise you may be required to park in the public car park.

To find out more about this event visit the website at: <https://www.silverstone.co.uk/events/the-classic>

*\* Track parades cannot be guaranteed and are subject to weather and the racing schedule. Track parades are therefore subject to change and, in extenuating circumstances, may be cancelled.*



## Long Awaited 1929 Chummy Restoration continued from February 2022 'Devon Sevens'

*Back in February, Peter told us that he has owned his Chummy for 52 years and travelled many miles in her, but for the last 20 years the car has been laid up in a dry barn, and inevitably, the years have not been totally kind to her. Peter told us that he had decided it was time to get the car back on the road, and that he had removed the radiator, wings - front and back, running boards, doors, windscreen, seats, dashboard and all electrical wiring. Peter told us that the car was original and had never let him down, but he had always been dubious about what may be lurking under the paintwork! He continues....*

I have polished the wings front and back for 50 years never suspecting what lurked below the perfect paint but on shot blasting the revelation was startling - old holes for side lights exposed and poor quality repairs to bottom ends of front wings where they mate with the running boards, same along the bottom edges against the flitch panels and a little rust on the bottom ends of the rear wings. Stripped of their paint these turned out to be closer to lace than steel. A long time ago someone had done a very good job with filler.

I took the front wings to a local man who I had heard was good but when I got around to presenting them up the match was not quite good enough so they have gone back for adjustment.

We had pleasant day out looking for someone as local as possible to Dartmouth to tackle the back wings. (Her indoors was very patient, although it did cost me lunch!) Having identified several businesses on the internet I settled on a company on Dunkeswell Airfield. The boss, Peter, was so helpful and interested I was immediately committed.

With obvious pride in his team and their work, he showed me the half dozen cars in his workshop - all 1950s and 60's, what are now called classics - then introduced me to the young lad who would be doing my work. He too took a serious interest in how the job could be done. Peter said it was unusual, even for them, to have work like this and the young man was motivated by the challenge.

The bottom line is, it was cheaper to make new wings than to repair the old, the only real disadvantage being the poorer quality metal than the original but I was assured modern coatings should compensate. If anyone wants to know how such panel shaping is done, the answer is a visit to Peter but do have time to spare.

I was sent a succession of email photos of the first wing in course of manufacture, on the basis that if I was not satisfied, then there would be no charge. In the event I visited 3 times before the 2 wings were completed.

It was asking quite a lot to make new panels without having the car in the workshop, even with the original wings to go on, so I was not altogether surprised when on fitting to the car I found a small discrepancy. When I took them back it was explained to me that a small allowance had been made in 2 places to accommodate any deformation of the body once the old wings were removed, and at time of writing are being corrected.

Of course anyone contemplating this sort of work will want to know the cost and time frame. In this case, though I said there was no rush, the job, including 2 coats of epoxy high build primer, was done over a 3 week period at a cost of £400 per wing, all of which I was very happy with. Skilled custom work is never cheap these days.

The next stage is wood work, more familiar to me. The Chummy has a wooden top edge round the back and along the sides to the doors. Ash was traditionally used for body work with aluminium panels. In this case the wood had almost turned to powder in parts. No wonder the screws holding the hood down round the back kept letting go.



Examining the wood with John Moody, the expert wood supplier in Modbury, we decided it probably was ash but he thought the bending properties and durability of Canadian Rock Elm might be better. Surprisingly, this part was originally bent in one continuous piece from door to door. I wonder if anyone has any knowledge of the body shop at the Longbridge factory? They would have had a steel pattern frame to work to, lots of clamps and a 9' steam box though that does seem a little too hand-made for volume production.

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The other wooden parts with the adjacent aluminium - the doors, the door frames and the cross member under the windscreen - are in perfect condition and all secure.

Small but important jobs such as removing the small steel plates strengthening the wooden joins came off, cleaned and painted ready to be replaced.

While waiting for the wood, I have been able to examine the rest of the body. I have to admit that in 50 years of my ownership I had not examined some of the darker corners closely enough so there were some surprises. Again, someone had done a very expert job with fibreglass.

The Austin 7 is built on a sheet steel floor pan, the various sections riveted together with the body sides and scuttle in aluminium on a wooden frame as was traditional. For the most part the body is sound but contact between steel and aluminium has had the inevitable results. On the Seven the sills under the doors from wing to wing have the bottom edge of the aluminium turned into a 1" 90° flange which supports the running boards, in my case with rusty self tappers, but originally riveted. The deteriorated aluminium flange had been strengthened by fibre glass extended up the inside of the sill and across under the foot wells. After so many years some areas were insecure so those parts came off where free and the underlying surface, for the most part sound, was treated with Rustins rust killer and will be painted. Because this grp sheeting extends between the floor pan and the chassis members it seems that the old repairs were done with the body off which explains the good quality of the work.

I found a similar deterioration round the lower back edge. Here the aluminium skin is also riveted to the steel floor pan and in acceptable condition.



The top edge of the body skin is again turned in a flange over the wooden frame and capped with aluminium strip which has always been loose in parts. When removed the reason was immediately visible - the deteriorated wood did not hold the screws, many more had been added so the flange was not pretty though still good enough to secure the skin to the new wood. Steel screws are originally used everywhere which can make extraction difficult.

The biggest problem is in the driver's foot well. The body pan has a vertical steel plate round the outer edge running from forward of the door hinge post, along under the door sill and up the door latch post so as to strengthen the doorway with the aluminium skin laid over it. Inevitably, being the driver's side this area has suffered most. The steel plate in way of the door is badly deteriorated due to inevitable wet and contact with the aluminium skin has started a few small external blisters. The answer of course is to replace this steel plate, a major operation realistically only possible with the body off.

Like most early cars the body is a totally separate entity from the chassis which carries all the strength. As long as bits are not actually falling off or so weak as to a present the slightest risk of the passengers falling out then I estimate, all other things being equal, the car is road worthy. I have therefore taken the decision to leave the body repairs till next winter when the body will come off to allow full access for a proper repair. In short, although this sounds like a tale of woe the problems are individually relatively small and localised.

I hope this will give other owners of unrestored cars of potential body problems which can come to light once work starts.

The final stages of this refit will be straight forward mechanical work - strip down of the hubs and brakes with replacement of bearings if required, new felt oil seals, new brake linings, springs and cables - all fairly routine inexpensive stuff. I replaced the brake levers and their bushes some years ago so the brakes have always been good for a Seven - on my Chummy separate front and rear.

While under the car I found some limited surface rust on the very back ends of the chassis and the extension arms. Although not pretty, all insignificant and in the short term requiring no attention. The shock absorbers will come off and the back axle dropped for cleaning and painting though there is no reason to dismantle it. Oil on the bottom of the diff casing indicates an oil leak, probably from the drive shaft end so easily repaired with a new felt seal but it could easily be something as simple as the fibre washer in the drain plug!

*Continued on page 10*

Continued from page 9



For the moment I will not touch the engine. It starts and runs smoothly, pulls well, no oil leaks apart from the usual and all quite clean so no point in looking for trouble where it does not exist. Only the silencer to replace which proves to be a remarkably expensive item.

Roll on the summer. Good motoring to all.

*Peter Gregson*

## New Member

This month we welcome Malcolm Hayes to the DA7C. Malcolm lives in Lapford and owns a 1935 black Ruby. We look forward to meeting Malcom and his car at future events.



## FBHVC Matters Carbon Balancing Scheme

The FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs) announced a carbon balancing scheme to the historic vehicle community last December.

Whilst recognising that the carbon footprint of the historic vehicle movement is extremely small, with the entire community accounting for less than 0.25% of the total mileage on UK roads, the offer of carbon balancing has been incredibly well supported by historic vehicle owners.

So far since last December the historic vehicle community has successfully carbon balanced 553,564 miles.

The carbon balanced to date has been achieved through a combination of individual contributions from vehicle owners via [www.trees.fbhvc.co.uk](http://www.trees.fbhvc.co.uk) and those of clubs and event organisers. The Federation and Tree-V scheme employs a carbon calculator, which uses annual mileage and mile per gallon data to calculate the tonnes of CO2 emitted by a vehicle each year. Then this figure is used to purchase the equivalent amount of Carbon Units.

When an individual carbon balances his expected annual mileage, he receives a welcome pack through the post explaining how his contribution is to be used and what his impact on carbon balancing has been, plus a sticker for either the vehicle's bumper, windscreen, or other easily visible area to show the public that the vehicle owner has contributed to the scheme.

As news of the scheme has spread throughout the historic vehicle community, individuals, clubs and museums have now been joined by a wide variety of businesses. These have already covered companies like Genus Digitisation, who are now capturing their fleet of work vans that cover mileage in the execution of their work on the preservation of historical artefacts and documents.

You can see more information and offset your mileage at [www.trees.fbhvc.co.uk](http://www.trees.fbhvc.co.uk).

*John Turley, FBHVC Rep*

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Farrier makes a fast car (7)
- 5. Firm paid for space traveller (5)
- 8. Reject and adapt a pure diet (9)
- 9. Look and learn (3)
- 10. Poems about the racecourse (5)
- 12. Ideal, but could be tense (7)
- 13. I got medallion sent round eventually (3,2,4,4)
- 15. Replace pin near basket (7)
- 17. Salad plant is back in the lesser catalogue (5)
- 19. Find a Greek letter in four hours (3)
- 20. Codger with box found in car (9)
- 22. New, very excited and jittery (5)
- 23. Incessant and objectless (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. Military power in favour of church (5)
- 2. Letters seen in a cemetery (3)
- 3. Stomach an awfully bad sign (7)
- 4. Prep topiarian has to change it's not suitable (13)
- 5. US singer with hesitation gets applause (5)
- 6. Emir seems to be repositioned to entrance (9)
- 7. Settler suffering mishap gets support (7)
- 11. Dancing old prunes show brilliance (9)
- 13. Remedy for pain processed in Paris (7)



- 14. Removed carbon from engine in a month – fine with journalist (7)
- 16. Some eldritch yarns are irritating (5)
- 18. Discards huts (5)
- 21. Drink found foremost in approved local enterprises (3)

**CENTRE WORDS**

Insert a word into the space between each of the following pairs of words, which, when added to the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word will form new words.

|            |       |        |
|------------|-------|--------|
| 1. COW     | _____ | SHOD   |
| 2. POND    | _____ | KILLER |
| 3. CUR     | _____ | PIPE   |
| 4. GRID    | _____ | MONGER |
| 5. TOUCH   | _____ | RIGHT  |
| 6. CENTRE  | _____ | AWAY   |
| 7. CAR     | _____ | LOAD   |
| 8. POWDER  | _____ | BALL   |
| 9. MONK    | _____ | CAKE   |
| 10. HONEY  | _____ | SHINE  |
| 11. GREASE | _____ | SAW    |
| 12. BANK   | _____ | PAPER  |

**EIGHT TO TWO**

Working your way down from the word of eight letters at the top to the two at the bottom, rearrange the letters to make a new word on each row, using one letter less than in the row above it.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | B | S | T | A | C | L | E |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| T | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | E | L | A | T | I | N | E |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |

You still have a few days to send your answer to Julie's prize puzzle from last month. Let Julie have your solution by March 31st to be in with a chance of winning an epub copy of the book named in the puzzle.

See page 11 of your March issue of Devon Sevens for details.

## David's Diary

After many changes of heart and weeks of indecision, I finally sent in my entry this month for the S. Wales A7 Club, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary A7 End to End Run. Over the years, I have read lots of reports about previous LEJOG/JOGL's and often thought that it would be something I would like to attempt, so when the S. Wales event was first mentioned, I was certainly interested. It did however take some time for me to commit to going and the final catalyst was starting to read Clive Ball's book 'Seven years with Samantha' the story of a drive around the world in a 1929 A7 Saloon. If he can do that, then 'End to End' didn't seem far at all. However, after sending in my entry, I have now got further into the book and realise just how many repairs he had to do along the way!! – At least the road surface and availability of fuel, food & water will be better where I am going. I don't plan to break any records for the time taken on the trip because I want to enjoy the drive as much as possible, especially once I clear the more heavily populated areas. So, watch this space for the story of how I get on – Have a look at the Club Facebook page as well, as I will try to put some updates on there during the trip.

With regards to other A7 happenings, things have been a bit quiet as we have been rather busy with family matters, welcoming a new granddaughter – Florence- to our family and also moving our youngest daughter from Brixham to a house just around the corner from us in Ideford.

I have however, found time to take Mabel, our 4 seat tourer out for a few short runs, once to the Sunday Saunter at Bramford Speake, and again for a shopping trip to Torbay. Both trips went well and helped to restore my confidence in the engine following the problems with the timing gears. I am rather ashamed to admit that 'Ernie' the Milk Delivery Car has not been out for several months now and must be feeling rather neglected sat alone in a lock-up garage.

Work on the Box Saloon is progressing – slowly – The new repair panels arrived from Andrew Goodfellow, but unfortunately the carrier had not been very careful with the package which meant that the door skin panels were bent in all the wrong places (see photo). However, after a phone call with Andrew, they were packed up and sent back. He re-made and returned them within a couple of days, even refunding the postage costs. That's what I call excellent service, so thank you Andrew.

Next step is to get the new panels welded in place which will hopefully restore some strength into the front end of the body. Still lots to do but so long as the project keeps moving forward, I am happy – there is no deadline to work to which is what makes it enjoyable.

Our next A7 outing will be to Seaton on the 19<sup>th</sup> March to meet up with some other 7's and give a birthday drive to a 97yr old gentleman who used to live in the town when he owned an A7 back in 1952. This will be followed the next day by a drive to Spreyton for the AGM. At the moment the weather is looking like a 'Hood Down' trip might be possible on both days.

Spring just might be in the air at last.

*David.*



## Always fancied a holiday on a Narrowboat?

I am lucky enough to own a 59 foot Narrowboat named Iris after my late Mum.

The boat is based at Alvechurch, just south of Birmingham in a very friendly marina. I do not hire Iris out but do like offering it to friends and relations, Devon Sevens members I count as friends but the boat is very definitely not for the use of 'Joe public'. Users are asked to make a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support which my Mum was a great ambassador for.

Iris can sleep 4/5 people, (but there is only one loo!!). Excellent shower, central heating, full size cooker, fridge etc.. Lovely cruising routes with and without locks. If you might be interested e-mail me and I will send you the web-site address and log-in details.

*Steve Herwin*    [pielago@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pielago@hotmail.co.uk)

## DA7C helps 97th birthday boy celebrate with a tour of his town in an Austin 7

Captain Mike Cooke, Royal Artillery, bought his first car, an Austin 7, in Seaton in 1952. Mike who was returning from Army service in Hong Kong, was told about the car by his father, vicar at St Gregory's Parish Church. "I remember it well. Registration YY751," Mike said. "It was 20 years old at the time, blue, with a sliding roof." Mike bought the car and used it to get from home in Seaton to Larkhill in Wiltshire where he was stationed. When Michael Cooke told his son, Richard, that, approaching his 97th birthday, he had just renewed his driving licence, Richard decided to try to arrange a surprise trip down memory lane for his father.

Richard contacted the DA7C with the hope of getting a ride for his father for his birthday. He was put in touch with club member, Michael Tabcart, who owns a 1932 RN box saloon, the same as Mike Cooke's A7 - a wonderful coincidence. Michael got in touch with other members, asking if they would be able to help out, and on Saturday 19th March 2022, Michael Tabcart, David Aylmore, Judith Dale, and Chris Clover drove their cars into St Gregory's church yard, to surprise Mike Cooke. Mike enjoyed some time chatting about these wonderful little cars, before setting off for a drive through Seaton and the local villages, receiving smiles and waves from everyone they passed.

After his Austin 7, Mike went on to drive many other cars, won a rallying cup in the BMC Germany Rally at Minden in 1952 and drove the Nürburgring twice, though just for fun. He still drives in his home city of Plymouth, and takes a few 'old ladies' to the weekly church group 'Tea Break' started by his wife Gillian 35 years ago.



Captain Michael Cooke RA stands in front of his car in 1952.



Michael Tabcart with his 1932 RN Box Saloon, ready to take Michael Cooke on his birthday drive.

*More photos of the day can be found on the front cover.*

## Answers to puzzles on page 11

### Crossword

#### Across

1. Ferrari 5. Comet 8. Repudiate 9. See 10. Epsom 12. Perfect 13. All in good time 15. Pannier 17. Cress 19. Rho 20. Crankcase 22. Nervy 23. Endless

#### Down

1. Force 2. RIP 3. Abdomen 4. Inappropriate 5. Cheer 6. Mesmerise 7. Trestle 11. Splendour 13. Aspirin 14. Decoked 16. Itchy 18. Sheds 21. Ale

### Centre words

1. SLIP 2. WEED 3. TAIL 4. IRON 5. DOWN 6. FOLD 7. CASE 8. PUFF 9. FISH 10. MOON 11. BAND 12. NOTE

### Eight to two

OBSTACLE LACTOSE CLOSET STOLE LOST SOT TO  
GELATINE ELEGANT NEGATE AGENT GNAT NAG AN

## What makes a good workshop?

A good workshop seems to me to be in need of 4 basic things:-

Plenty of space.

Lots of both natural and artificial light.

13amp sockets in abundance.

And, of course, at least one Austin 7!

Other goodies will include work benches at a nice working height and the largest vice, (engineering!), that you can lift into position. Power tools and a movable tool chest make for a happy Austin owner.

When I built mine it was designed so that a 7 would easily fit across the end with a large sliding door giving access to the carport. No less than eight double sockets are available, coupled to a discrete consumer-unit along with three strip lights.

I make, not always successfully, an effort not to clutter all the wonderful space, if you do it rather negates the design!

After rebuilding a 998cc Mini engine for my step-son it was put into a large crate, which being on casters makes a useful moveable work-top.

All in all a great sanctuary!!



Steve Herwin

### For Sale

1937 A7 Ruby. Drives well and is in good overall condition. Interior appears to be original. Engine & Chassis numbers show it is likely to be the original engine. Will have full mechanical check and 2 new tyres prior to sale. Can be viewed at the Moretonhampstead Motor Museum



**£6,500 ono.** Contact Frank on 07773 554257 for more details

### For Sale



*Instrument Panel - £8*



*Late 1937 3 bearing crankcase - £25*

**Early Banjo Axle.** Bolt on Torque Tube type, but no torque tube or pinion shaft included. Diff and Crown Wheel look to be in good order. Complete with back plates and hubs. Space needed so all sensible offers considered.

Contact John Pine on 01803 851256

### For Sale

1936 Ruby & 1934 Box Saloon. Both cars have been in dry storage for 9 years so will need some re-commissioning. Engines turn over on the handle. Interiors are in good overall condition. Bodywork on the Ruby is in better order than the Box but both cars were in regular use before being laid up. Cars are in the Torbay area.



**Offers in the region of £5,000 would be considered for each.** Please contact David Aylmore for more information or to view. (contact details on back page)

### For Sale

Various spares including;- Ruby Chassis, 2 rear mounted petrol tanks, various door handles, late type torque tubes, propshafts, track rods, drag links, oil pump drive, dynamo housing, updraught inlet manifold, exhaust manifolds, early style gear lever, timing gears, fan blades, fan pulley assembly, Ruby throttle pedal, advance/retard steering column assembly, various 19" wheels, 'D' type back axles, complete front axle, L.C. cylinder heads, Alloy brake shoes—both widths, front & rear springs, windscreen wiper motor, water manifolds and lots, lots more small bits.

Please contact Peter Gregson - [peter@woodenships.co.uk](mailto:peter@woodenships.co.uk) or tel 07747 826281 for more information.

*Continued on page 16*

### Wanted

Usable 4.00 x 17 tyres  
Ignition switch (circa 1937)  
Any part of the back seat of a 1937 Ruby  
Please contact Alan on 01803 882264

### For Sale

1939 Forlite Big 7 - EYA 600. Just 80 miles since engine rebuild. Handbook, paperwork, photos etc.



Contact Jeff Horell on  
01392 841574 for more details.

### For Sale

1935 Austin 7 Opal. Has been stored for over 20 years, following a light restoration.



Please contact Paul Manser on 07833 333538 for further details.

### For Sale



Buttercup, a 1937 Ruby, reg. CUR548, can be seen near Taunton.

**£6,000 or near offer.**

More details from John Miles-Taylor  
01823 490595  
Email: [johnemtee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnemtee@yahoo.co.uk)

### Wanted

Sports front spring, flat or 1" camber.

Please contact David Aylmore (details on back page)

### For Sale

CAV DFL4 Dynamo—circa 1928. Tested and is working but would benefit from new bearings. Cover is missing and there is one chipped gear tooth. Sensible offers considered.

Please contact David Aylmore. 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)*

## 2022 Events

### Club Events

- Monday April 18th** Zoom Club Meeting, see page 3 for details
- Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>** Drive it Day – see page 3 for 2 Devon events.
- Wed. May 11th** Dartmoor Ramble and Picnic, starting in Bovey Tracey - see page 4 for details.
- Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>** DVCC Autojumble – see pages 4 and 5 for details.
- Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>** Visit to Eggesford Airfield, details on page 5 or contact Nick Borst-Smith.
- Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>** Summer Drive Out, see page 6 for details, or contact Nick Borst-Smith.
- Sat/Sun July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** Historic Vehicle Gathering, Powderham. Full details on page 6.
- Tues/Sun July 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>** A7 Centenary Rally. Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. Members who have a confirmed booking please notify Mike Gregson (details on back page)
- Sat/Sun July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>** Rosemoor Vintage Weekend. Details on page 6, entry forms to Nick Borst-Smith
- Monday Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>** Merry Harriers Classic Car Show, entry forms not yet available
- Tuesday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** Widecombe Fair, details to follow or contact David Aylmore (details on back page)
- Saturday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** Sidmouth Classic Car Show Entry forms not yet available.

### Other Events

- Sat June 4<sup>th</sup> June.** Classic Vehicle Gathering to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Joint display at The Lawns, Dawlish & The Den, Teignmouth Contact Angie Weatherhead, Events, Projects and Tourism Officer. Tel: 01626 863388 / 07584 052306  
e-mail [Projects@dawlish.gov.uk](mailto:Projects@dawlish.gov.uk) for more details. Entry form also available from David Aylmore (details on back page)
- Sun June 12<sup>th</sup>** Lynmouth Valley Classic Car Show. Contact [lynvalleyclassic@gmail.com](mailto:lynvalleyclassic@gmail.com) or see [www.lynvalleyclassic.co.uk](http://www.lynvalleyclassic.co.uk) for full details and an entry form.
- Sun July 3<sup>rd</sup>** Beaulieu A7 National Rally. The special theme for this event is **Austin 7s of the 1920s**. Entry forms available on the Pre-War A7 Club website. [www.pwa7c.co.uk](http://www.pwa7c.co.uk) or from David Aylmore.
- Sat/Sun July 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** Chickerell Steam & Vintage Show. Contact e-mail – [info@chickerellsteamshow.uk](mailto:info@chickerellsteamshow.uk) or look at [www.chickerellsteamshow.uk](http://www.chickerellsteamshow.uk) for full details
- Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup>** Dawlish Classic Vehicle Gathering, The Lawns, Dawlish. Contact Angie Weatherhead, Events, Projects and Tourism Officer. Tel: 01626 863388 / 07584 052306  
e-mail [Projects@dawlish.gov.uk](mailto:Projects@dawlish.gov.uk) for more details.  
Entry form also available from David Aylmore.
- Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>** Honiton Lions Club Classic Car/Vehicle Show, to include a classic car run around the town. Details at [www.honitonlions.org.uk](http://www.honitonlions.org.uk) or from Kevin Linsdell on 01404 42464 or 07855 249638.
- Friday/Sunday Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>** Torbay Steam Fair. Entry forms available on [www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk](http://www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk) or from David Aylmore.
- Sat/Sun August 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>** West Somerset Railway Association, Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally, Norton Fitzwarren Fields, TA4 1BH. More details from rob Lindley on 01823 433315, email: [roblindley59@gmail.com](mailto:roblindley59@gmail.com) or see the website: [www.steamrally.org.uk](http://www.steamrally.org.uk)
- Sat. August 13<sup>th</sup>** Throwleigh Village Fete - 2pm start. Details from Pete Gilbert on 07879 483529
- Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>** Seaton Carnival Committee Classic Vehicle Show on Seaton Esplanade. Enquiries to June Millman on 01297 599625 or email: [june.m@talktalk.net](mailto:june.m@talktalk.net)

## 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.

[www.devonsevens.co.uk](http://www.devonsevens.co.uk) - welcome to the website for the Devon Austin 7 Club. The Club Website is currently undergoing some changes, so it might not be fully functional at times. We hope that once the improvements have been completed it will have a more modern look and will be much easier for us to keep up to date.

Don't forget you can also follow the **Devon Austin Seven Club** on our Facebook page.



[www.austinsevenfriends.com](http://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  
Austin 7 Spares/Cars for sale Group

For advice on how to make the best use of our website you can contact Nick Borst-Smith at:  
[nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@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 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.

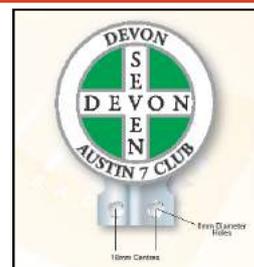
Cost is £3.50 (plus 50p postage)

### Lapel Badge.

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.



## May 2022 Newsletter

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

Copy for inclusion in the May issue should be with me by **Wednesday 20th April 2022** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 27th April**.

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.

## Devon Austin 7 Club - Officers & Committee members 2021/22

### Secretary, Membership Secretary & DVLA Rep.

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