



# Devon Sevens

October 2023

Issue 165

Newsletter for

## The Devon A7 Club



Nine Austins made it through biblical rain to an evening event at ReFuel



Plymtree Fair

Out & About  
with the  
DA7C



Chanter's Classic  
Car Show



Sidmouth



## Dauids Diary

Both our A7s have been out and about again this month. We drove Mabel, our 1934 AH Tourer, up to Throwleigh on the 19<sup>th</sup> August for their annual Village Fair. It is a very small traditional Dartmoor event and as Pete Gilbert is involved with the organisation, we always try to attend. The setting is just superb and it is a good excuse to have a run out across Dartmoor with the hood down.

A week later and the plan was to take Ernie, the Milk Delivery Car, to the Seaton Show. However, he clearly did not fancy the drive, as when I opened the garage, the first thing I saw was a flat tyre. Being a little short on time, I took Mabel instead. At this show, all the cars are parked up along the seafront and Michael Tabcart had managed to get all of the A7s which attended, parked up together which attracted much attention. With the cars parked up on a public road, many of the people looking around had just come out for a walk on the seafront rather than with the intention of looking at cars. An ideal opportunity to 'spread the A7 word' especially amongst the young. Another very enjoyable day with no mechanical issues.

Back home and I found that the flat tyre had been caused by a faulty valve. Not being able to find a replacement one, I cleaned it up with some brake cleaner fluid and screwed it back into place and all was well.



We did take Ernie out on the 12<sup>th</sup> September to the Widecombe Fair. This is just such a unique annual event and the A7 owners are made really welcome. This year we were given two parades in the show ring with yours truly being roped in to do the commentary. The organisers even give a special 'Best A7 in Show' award which this year was won by Mark Nutbeen with his very smart Ruby. Another great day out and for once it remained dry for most of the day. Every year Jan and I say that we will stay locally so that we can enjoy the evening entertainment but once again this year, we failed!!! – maybe it is time to get some decent headlights on our A7s so that we can drive home? – I was very impressed with the lights on Philip Snell's Ruby – this is him setting out at 6am to drive to Widecombe.



On the 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, we set out in Mabel to start a trip that I have been thinking about for a couple of years. Over a 6 month period in 2021 I walked the S.W. Coast Path starting from Minehead and finishing at Sandbanks in Dorset. During the walk, I found myself on many picturesque coastal lanes, and it occurred to me that linked together, they would make for an interesting drive in an A7. After spending quite a few evenings with my O.S. maps, I sketched out a route in the reverse direction to my walk and we set aside 5 or 6 days to complete it.

I will do a more detailed write up in future newsletters but suffice it to say that I totally underestimated the time it would take to navigate the very challenging lanes along the coast, and in particular in the S. Hams area. We only managed 3 days driving and reached Modbury before being beaten by weather and time but have plans to set off again (weather permitting) in October to complete the trip.

*Happy Austineering*

*David*

# Woolbridge Motor Club Car Trials Taster Event



Sunday 1st October  
2023  
**LIMITED PLACES**

- WMC will host a taster event to allow anybody interested in trying the slow speed, technical motorsport discipline.
- Adjacent to A37 Yeovil – Dorchester road
- Coaching from experienced competitors
- Bring your own car or use one of our shared loan cars available FOC
- £20 per person for 10.30am – 3.30pm (approx.)
- No club membership required
- Motorsport UK licence *is* required – apply online – Free of charge (RS Clubman)
- Drive from age 14



- WMC host an 8 round championship starting in October.
- Low-cost motorsport
- Learn car control techniques
- Friendly competition
- Various classes of car
- No specialist equipment needed
- Visit our Facebook group [Car Trials - Woolbridge Motor Club | Facebook](#)

For more info E mail : [trials@woolbridge.co.uk](mailto:trials@woolbridge.co.uk)



## Devon Vintage Car Club Autojumble on Sunday October 8th

See details on page 4

## Autojumble at Refuel Sunday October 15th, 9am - 5pm

We don't have full details of this event at the present time, but will email them to members a.s.a.p.



## Zoom Club Night

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

**Monday 16th October at 7pm**

**The Zoom link will be sent out by e-mail during the week preceding the meeting.**



Thank you to everyone who has sent in copy for the newsletter this month. It's great to be able to share with other club members what you have all been up to with your 7s. Who knows, you might even have inspired some owners who are nervous about taking their cars out, to 'give it a go'! I was particularly pleased to hear from Sam Barker, our honorary member, and to see him still looking so handsome - see page 8.

*Janet - Editor*



**Devon A7 Club Stand**  
at the  
**Devon Vintage Car Club Autojumble**  
**on Sunday October 8th**  
**South Devon Railway, Buckfastleigh, TQ1 0DZ**



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.





With the automotive industry constantly changing it's more important than ever to get the younger generations involved with vintage cars.

On Sunday the 29th of October we are proud to be hosting the first ever Re:Fuel event of its kind... Vintage Cars for Young Drivers in partnership with the Devon Austin 7 Club!

The day itself will be full of a variety of fun activities both indoors and outdoors. Such activities have been created to provide young people with the hands on experience with vintage cars that they won't find anywhere else!

Activities include getting hands on with a real Austin engine with the help and guidance from experienced enthusiasts, as well as the opportunity to drive an Austin 7 around a closed circuit, even if you are below the legal driving age.

Whether you're a young adult looking to grow your own interest in vintage cars or even a mature adult looking to teach your children or grandchildren about the good ol' days of motoring make sure to come along.

The event will take place on **Sunday the 29th of October from 09:00 - 15:00** at Re:Fuel, Five Bridges, Willand Road, Cullompton, EX15 1QP.



Had my son George to visit today and he took this photo of Max and me with Annie, when we went out for a pub lunch.

I have put him and my younger son John on the insurance with RH as they so kindly allow one to add up to five named drivers at no further expense. I am trying to get him interested in Annie, hoping that he may take her over when I am gone, and Max as well come to that, expecting that both car and dog will last longer than me...

George is not such a spring chicken as some of our younger members, being already 56. Still, George did enjoy having a couple of goes at driving Annie, and very quickly improved after watching me behind the wheel.

There seems little point in hoping that John will take either Annie or Max over as he lives in the USA!

*Michael Tabcart*



## Update from Jude and Gladys

I thought you might like to know what Gladys and I have been up to over the past couple of months. She is now a familiar sight on the roads around the Blackdown Hills. We enjoy a regular trip to Tesco's, although a few minutes after the attached photo was taken, disaster occurred when an elderly lady reversed straight into her! Thankfully, despite a heart-wrenching crunch, she appeared to sustain no visible damage. The lady got out of her car to explain that she had been using her reversing camera, and then proceeded to tell me how lovely the car was! "She used to be until you hit her!" I replied. After making a strong suggestion that she use her eyes instead of her camera I drove off in a bit of a huff. To my shame, I didn't even think to check whether her car had sustained any damage.

A more successful outing took place on Sunday 3rd September when we attended the Uffculme Show. There was a huge variety of cars there and we parked up next to a pair of Austin Healeys owned by a husband and wife team. When politely enquiring about their value I was shocked to find that you would have to add a zero to Gladys' price to purchase either car!! I met so many interesting people at the show and finally met someone who knew Terry Sanger, the racing driver who once owned Gladys. Mike Weight was an apprentice with him at BAE engineering in Bristol back in the 1950s and remembers him racing his Sanger Austin 7 Specials. Mike lives in Bampton and at 89 years old still enjoys driving his RP Box Saloon.

Finally, the trip I think I have enjoyed most so far, even though it was only a couple of miles in duration. Yesterday I took my friend Kit out for a spin in the sunshine. At the grand old age of 97, she is the only person I know who is older than the car!! She leapt in and out like a woman half her age and told me that a ride in a vintage car had long been on her bucket list. It just goes to show that you are never too old for new experiences!

Tomorrow I shall be heading to the Goodwood Revival - a date which marks the first anniversary of the moment I decided I needed an A7 in my life. I won't be taking Gladys as, having missed the centenary, she would just have to sit in a field all weekend while I would be confined to my 2-man tent, so I shall be taking my campervan instead. Maybe one day I shall invest in a trailer!

I am hoping to get a late entry to the Sidmouth Car Show (forward planning has never been my forte!) and will get myself along to Re-Fuel for the upcoming events.

In the meantime I wish you all "Happy Motoring" and hope to see you on the road very soon. If any of you are ever in the vicinity of the Culm Valley, give me a call (07944 602211 or 01884 841677) and I'll come and join you for a trundle and maybe even a cheeky pint at the Culm Valley Inn.

*Kind Regards,  
Jude Zebedee*



## West Somerset Railway 1940's Weekend

Last minute plans often lead to the best days out, and it was the Friday morning when our diary reminded us of the West Somerset Steam Railway 1940's event that weekend, which Andrew Grabham had mentioned to us at the WSSR rally some weeks before.

Most stations on the impressive heritage line were going to be offering various forms of 40's themed entertainment with steam locomotives operating throughout the day, but it was Stogumber Station where Andrew's Austin Sevens were to be displayed.

Doug and I set off in Tuppence our RN saloon at 8am on a stunning morning during the mini heatwave we were currently being treated to. What a beautiful time of day that is on a September Saturday morning on Exmoor. The scenery was magnificent all the way, the highlight being the sight of low mist in the valley as we descended the hill towards Stogumber, which lies nestled in the valley between Exmoor and the Quantocks.

Arriving at the station, we were ushered to our parking position in front of the station adjacent to the Naafi by a team of enthusiastic, welcoming staff and volunteers and of course Andrew Grabham himself, with Sheila arriving shortly after. We were also joined a little later by club member Adam Mason.

The whole station was cleverly set out and adorned and it was clearly evident the amount of effort that everyone involved had put in the previous day putting it all together. Many people wore vintage costume and there were various war time displays all carefully presented. To top it all off Andrew's Austin 7 Opal, and his 1928 Fabric saloon were positioned in the garden and adjacent to the track with the addition of our RN nearby. He had also managed to bring along his 1936 AJS model 22 motorcycle, all helping to set the scene.

The day got off to a great start, with visitors arriving by car and by train. The whole day was busy with wonderful music, dancing and singing accompanying it all. The Naafi served spam sandwiches, bread pudding, cream teas and cake, with the staff and volunteers working flat out all day in the heat. The station also had a special visit from King George V1 and Queen Elizabeth and their entourage. In all a highly enjoyable and convivial day. Well done to everyone involved with the WSSR and thank you for making us so welcome.



Steph Whittlestone



## Hon. Sam Barker writes



Well, that's a strange kettle of fish or as my Grandad George Barker used to say 'a funny old job'. I read that our most industrious, capable and efficient Editor lady, is evidently not being provided with enough copy for this highly esteemed, valued and most worthy Newsletter!

I'm supposed to be retired, enjoying short walks, comfortable snoozes, an endless supply of biscuits and not being bumped around the country side in a vintage Seven. As I haven't contributed anything for a while, in my exalted position as both an Honorary Member and Club Mascot, I will have to put together some of my usual nonsense.

First up, I suppose is pride in the Club. What a turnout for Powderham Show and what a spectacle with, I'm told was 23 Sevens on parade, taking a hooge bow in the exhibition ring.

After the euphoria of the Centenary event at Morton-in-Marsh, up there in the Cotswolds last year, there's bound to be a bit of a lull this year, but no, there's still a lot of people doing loads of good stuff each month which seemingly goes unreported? *(Thinking of the Cotswolds gig, which I wasn't allowed to attend, I still can't believe that himself actually got there and back on his own, without breakdown, with not having a navigator or outside assistance!)*

Yes, the weather this year has been a bit dodgy at times. Yes, some of us are getting a bit older (and here's where the **but** comes in' - if every DA7C Member wrote 2 sentences and half of you sent in just 1 photo, the Newsletter would be a hooge, bumper edition?

I learn that Inspector Tabcart is on the case and is very active these days with his perpetual canine companion Max, who is shaping-up nicely, with Club Mascot potential for any future vacancy - but we won't go there just yet!

Himself here, on the eastern fringe of Devon, continues to stumble from one mechanical 'situation' to another, but also the inevitable deterioration of some rather vital component, which Rowland deftly 'gets around' with mutterings, but always rises to the challenge of each occasion, which I think/hope he secretly enjoys?

She who must be obeyed, is trying to cut down my rations 'for my own good' I'm told! How does that work?

There're some really good events still to come this season, with Sidmouth Classic being one of my favourites. I may even see you there (please bring biscuits) and look forward to reading of your further adventures both great and small.

*Hon Sam Barker Esq  
Mascot by Appointment & Bon Oeuf*

*PS There, I have just written 450 words, despite not having gone anywhere this year!*



## Out and About



*Judith Dale's well known Ruby is pictured alongside her husband Martin's Austin A55 Pickup at the Honiton Lions Classic Car Day in July.*



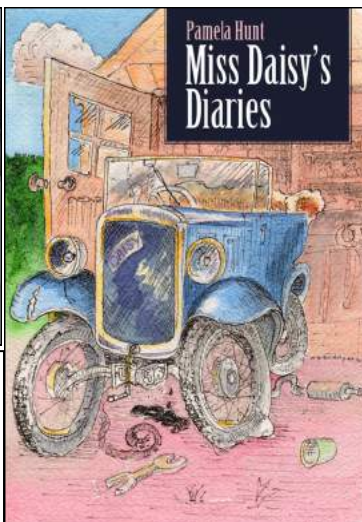
*Annie waiting patiently for Michael Tabcart while he was in church and enjoying tea and cake in the parish room after the service.*



*Weycroft Hall in Axminster where Michael Tabcart was enjoying supper. Michael says "I took my friend David to Weycroft and his wife Sharon joined us on the return trip as her lift had already gone when we were all ready to leave. With my tools, supplies and folding seat for using at events I imagine it was pretty cosy in the back, but Sharon was content with the space left for her."*



*Keith Selley returning home from Haverfordwest with the Austin 7 purchased from Pamela Hunt (of Miss Daisy's Diaries fame)*



*Attracting attention at Witheridge*



*Several A7s at Woody Bay Station Gala*



## A Taste of Widecombe Fair 2023



Mike Moore ably demonstrating his ineptitude for driving someone else's or even his own vehicle. The lead car stalls the procession into the main ring, with only several hundred people looking, on while commentator David looks skywards!



## Why I own and Austin 7 - Adam Mason

Walter Carr was an 'Austin Man', and he was my Grandpa. He worked at the Austin Plant in Longbridge most of his life. He was the son of John Carr, a somewhat entrepreneurial general store owner in the tiny village of Kingsley in Staffordshire. John was the illegitimate son of a seamstress who worked at the manor, 'Alton Towers'. His Fatherhood was questionable, but judging by his attitude to life, his father was not the gardener!!

Walter shadowed his Father John in his early life, doing delivery work in the first steam lorry in Staffordshire, serving ice creams on Johns stall at the stepping stones over the river Dove in Dovedale, and working the Cinematograph machine in the village hall showing early movies.



As a young man, as many did, he moved down to Birmingham for work. He found an engineering job in Handsworth in the north of the city. Here he met the beautiful Ethel Bird, later to be my Nanna. Walter was way out of his depth pursuing her, but continued tirelessly, until she finally gave in and agreed to become Ethel Carr. Ethel must have had one moment of weakness in her married life, because in flaming June 1930 my Mother was born. Walter was despatched in to town to register the birth, and was told by Ethel that the baby was to be called Ruth Jane. Much out of character, whilst on the bus to the register office, Walter decided that she was going to be named Cynthia. So that's what she became. I wish I had been around to witness his return home.

Ethel had aspirations, so at some point in the 1920's Walter had a go at bettering himself and at this point I think, started work at Austin. He travelled from Handsworth each day in the back of an open truck with a bunch of mates. I assume it would have been a very uncomfortable ride, probably on solid tyres. On these travels he saw being built some new houses, high on a hill overlooking the Longbridge plant, on the outskirts of Northfield village. He bought one off plan, and this is where my Mother grew up. She recalls summer evenings trying to sleep, listening and feeling the thumping of the stamp shop, probably stamping out the crankshafts of the Austins we still drive today.



The new house, 26 Park View

26 Park View road was a sanctuary for me as a boy and young man. I spent a lot of my holidays there whilst my parents were working. On these days Walter taught me a whole host of useful skills, spending many hours in his garage. During my time at Austin, on the days I was working at the factory and not MIRA (Motor Industry Research Association) in Nuneaton, or at college, there was always a hot dinner waiting at Nanna's, always with pudding and custard. Nanna considered that my Mother didn't feed me properly, and I was happy to go along with this! To be fair, she was probably right.

We are not sure exactly what Walter got up to at Longbridge, but he did consider himself in the acquaintance of Herbert Austin, who I believe did spend time on the shop floor getting to know his workforce. Walter was born prematurely, and was very lucky to survive being born in the late 1800's, but it did leave him with some health issues, and he was also quite

short. Consequently, during World War 2, as he was also in a reserved occupation, he worked supervising ladies operating capstan lathes. Before he died, he gave me an interesting micrometer which has a tumbler readout much like the milometer in pre digital cars. It was commissioned by the Austin for the ladies on the lathes as it was considered that they would not be able to read the vernier scale on a standard micrometer. How times have changed!!





*Continued from page 11*

Austin pioneered the machining transfer line to produce the many repetitive mechanical parts they needed. The raw component, casting, forging or metal billet was loaded on to a platon, which then moved left and right along the production line conveyor having all its drilling, tapping, milling operations carried out along the way, popping out the end complete. I am fairly sure Walter was involved in the development of this which helped to speed up the production process enormously. I remember when I was a boy, when he was in later life he worked in the demonstration department, teaching the new operatives how to run the component production lines.



Now here is where I come in! Much to my parent's disappointment, I managed to leave King Edwards Grammar school with one GCE O-Level in Metalwork, and one in English Language. My mother wanted me to join JCB or Rolls Royce as a consultant engineer but this ambition was cruelly dashed!! Walter came to the rescue, grabbed me by the proverbial ear and dragged me off to the North Works Training Centre at Longbridge to be assessed for an apprenticeship. "I know people there" he said. I was given tasks involving gears, cogs and levers and they must have seen something in this long haired 15-year-old oik, as they offered me a technical apprenticeship at the factory. I started in September 1976 and served 5 years including studying at North Worcestershire College. Here my tutors and mentors succeeded where my school teachers had failed. I flew through academically, and gained distinctions in every subject! In 1981 I received my indenture certificate qualifying as a full-blown Vehicle Research and Development Engineer.

Sadly, I didn't get to keep my green apprentice overalls, but still use many of the tools I made during my time at Longbridge, including my small travelling toolbox.



*Continued on page 13*



It was an unfortunate time to be released in to the workforce, the company was suffering terribly with union damage, and some not very well selling cars. Margaret Thatcher was on the rampage, and instructed Sir Michael Edwards to quash the unions and rationalise the business. Basically, no jobs. I decided to leave and spend a year at Lanchester Poly enhancing my engineering knowledge. During the summer following, I was working as a sailing instructor in Salcombe, and a certain Sarah Pollard was working there too, in the office. I think you know where this is leading!

In 1983 I responded to an advert in the Helston job centre requiring a draughtsman for a local marine engineering company. I was lucky enough to be offered the job, and Sarah P and I eventually moved to Falmouth in the September of that year. We got married the following year, and went on to have our family, and live a happy life in Cornwall.

In the late 1990's I had moved company, and worked with an old guy called Eddie Angel (sorry Ed), some of you may know him!! He came in to work one day with his newly acquired Austin Seven RP saloon. He took me for a ride around the block and told me about all the adventures he was planning with the Cornwall Austin Seven Club. I was quite taken with this as an idea, something Sarah and I could enjoy together. I parked this idea away in my brain for a few years, until one evening I put in an eBay bid for a very scruffy, very cheap Ruby Mk1. I won the bid, and arranged for the car to be delivered to Cornwall. It was rough, but mechanically not too bad. There were some initial engine and half shaft issues, but having rectified these it became a very useable car, and confirmed that we wanted to continue being Austin Seven owners. A couple of years later we were told about a really nice RP saloon for sale in Bideford. We went to see it, and couldn't resist. This is the car we have now, usually known as BEV. She has taken us everywhere in the last 11 years, and covered at least 30,000 miles, probably more as the speedo was broken for a year or two. This meant selling the Ruby. It went to a second-hand car salesman in Bude. When he handed over the cash, he gave me a sad look, and explained to me that it was the only car he had ever paid full price for!!

Here I am now in my first year of retirement, 46 years of constant work after walking in to the training centre at Longbridge. I often wonder where I might have ended up without my Grandpa's influence growing up, and his intervention when I was 15. I don't think I would have lived my life in Cornwall, and probably wouldn't be driving an Austin Seven.

Incidentally, you now know why my newly restored RK saloon is called 'Wal'.

Which is what this little tale has really been about, why I have an Austin Seven. I hope you enjoyed reading it, it was also fun for me to recall my memories and get them written down in words.

*Adam Mason*

*(This article first appeared in the Cornwall A7 Club magazine in May 2023)*

## What was that noise?



Pete Gilbert tells me that he heard a funny noise while driving his Moggie Traveler and on investigation, this is what he found. He wishes everything was as reliable as his 7!!

## PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

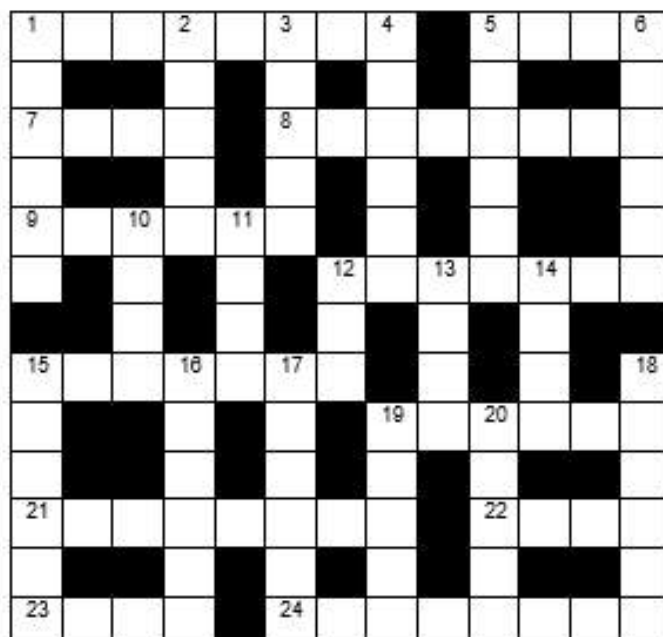
### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

1. Rebuke (8)
5. Settled (4)
7. Hard word (4)
8. Extension (8)
9. Cheat (8)
12. Nimbleness (7)
15. Rust (7)
19. Roofing material (6)
21. Sled (8)
22. Fortified wine (4)
23. Mid-day (4)
24. Orator (4)

#### DOWN

1. Trim (3,3)
2. Leafy meal (5)
3. Illustration (5)
4. Finishing (8)
5. Fuel (6)
6. Ass (8)
10. Way in (4)
11. Swimming pool (4)
13. Measurement (4)
14. Really? (2,2)
15. Material (8)
16. Fame (6)
17. Mythical beast (6)
18. Paler (8)
19. Male voice (5)
20. Greek letter (5)



### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

The vowels have been removed from these groups of words, the spaces closed up, and the consonants grouped into fours, so that PRIDE AND PREJUDICE JANE AUSTIN would become PRDN DPRJ DCJN STN. Can you work out the titles of these books and their authors?

1. WMNN LVDH LWRN C .....
2. THRM NNBT JRMK JRM .....
3. THLD CRST YSHP CHRL SDCK NS .....
4. MRDR NTHR NTXP RSSG THCH RS .....
5. PRDN DPRJ DCJN STN .....
7. WTHR NGHG HTSM LYBR NT .....
8. THCC KSCL LNGR BRTG LBRT H .....

### QUADRUPLES

Select the word with the correct definition from the four choices.

- |               |                   |                 |                 |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. OMBRE      | (a) a game        | (b) a hat       | (c) a friend    | (d) dark          |
| 2. CONTUSE    | (a) perplex       | (b) soak in     | (c) bruise      | (d) upset         |
| 3. ASSIMILATE | (a) gather        | (b) help        | (c) share out   | (d) make the same |
| 4. INIMICAL   | (a) unfriendly    | (b) a one off   | (c) unfair      | (d) unstoppable   |
| 5. HIERETIC   | (a) confused      | (b) secretive   | (c) backward    | (d) priestly      |
| 6. LIMN       | (a) arm or leg    | (b) draw, paint | (c) droopy      | (d) stick to      |
| 7. MIMSY      | (a) demure        | (b) a folly     | (c) a whim      | (d) fancy card    |
| 8. MINATORY   | (a) insignificant | (b) depository  | (c) threatening | (d) inactive      |

Answers on page 19



## A7 Memories

One of the many people to visit the A7 stand at Widecombe Fair for a chat and to reminisce, was Jim Portus MBE. Jim has since sent us this photo, and says:

*"Here is a photo of my father at right and my grandfather at left. My father, William Hodder Oliver Portus, went to Hele School, Exeter. He served an engineering apprenticeship locally before the war. The photo is likely pre-war, but I'm unsure. The location is 54, Okehampton Street, Exeter. Grandfather also had a garage in Victoria Street, Exmouth at some time before his death in 1953. My grandmother lived in Clyst Road, Topsham. Grandfather served as Captain in REME through the war. My father served in the RAF on barrage balloons in Falmouth. I'd be fascinated if any of these 3 Austin vehicles has survived."*



David's research indicates that all 3 cars were registered in the 1930s, but there is no evidence to show that any of them are still on the road. If you know anything about any of these cars please get in touch with David Aylmore, contact details on the back page.

## Your Club Needs You

With the ever-increasing number of Club members and the associated growth in Club activities and events, it is obvious to me that the work involved in running our Club needs to be shared more widely.

At the present time, along with my secretarial duties, I act as the contact point for many of our Club events and also research details of the many local shows which we promote each month in the newsletter. This is just one role that I feel, could readily be taken on by someone else under the title of 'Events Secretary'. Just to be clear, I am not suggesting that this person will have to personally organise anything, apart perhaps from contacting Janet each month to ensure that the Events page of the Newsletter is accurate and up to date. My thoughts are that the Events Secretary would be the point of contact for all event information. They may also like to look around for Events & Shows which could be included in our Club Calendar or check out suitable venues for Club runs or visits.

So I suppose the 'Qualifications Required' section of the Job Description would include:-

- Interest in Austin 7s and associated events.
- Ability to use the internet.
- Able to communicate by telephone & e-mail
- Ability to accurately record information.
- To attend a monthly Zoom meeting of the Club Committee.

Sounds interesting? If so, please contact me to find out more information.

Final note. If you are a new, or relatively new member, please do not be put off from stepping forward. If you are interested & willing to help that is all that is needed.

Many thanks.

*David. (Secretary)*

## A New Zealand A7 Adventure

Some years ago, through the wonders of the internet, I was in contact with an ex Torquayinian, Michael Loosemore who emigrated in 1995 to Australia and later moved to New Zealand. About 15 years ago he satisfied a long-standing desire and bought a 1932 A7 Special. Since then, his garage has expanded to include 5 other Austins, 2 more specials and 3 12/4's. Earlier this year, he took one of the specials on a 2 day rally and he has kindly sent me a link to the YouTube record of the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsvfeqZ3lyU&t=373s>

The Highland Fling Rally is restricted to pre 1932 cars and is a real back roads touring rally covering two days of hinterland roads around the rural town of Taihape, in the Rangitikei District of New Zealand. This is described by the organisers as "Vintage Car motoring as it used to be back in the golden years of the Vintage Car Club of NZ."

There were 4 A7s on the Rally, and the video does make very interesting viewing, not only for the great variety of cars, but the stunning NZ scenery.



These are a few stills from the video showing Michael on the Rally. His headlights look as if they have suffered a bit from the unsurfaced roads, but it is good to see that there is the same enthusiasm in NZ for encouraging the next generation to love our cars. Thank you Michael for the video.





### **FREE!**

Michael Tabcart has the springs that were on 'Annie', before he had new ones fitted. Not in new condition, but not at all broken. Might be useful to someone setting up a slightly lighter bodied car than Michael's 1931 box saloon. If anyone would like them, and can collect from Seaton, please call Michael on 01297 624208 or 07523055291.

### **For Sale**

**1928 Chummy.** In same ownership since 1960's. Body, Chassis and Engine all restored to a high standard. Interior, Seats, Hood & Sides Screens still to do.

**Offers in the region of £10,000.**



**1934 Opal** – In same ownership since 1960's and in regular use. New hood in 1970's and some additional lights and fittings have been added but the car is largely original. Full recorded history.

**Offers in the region of £10,000**



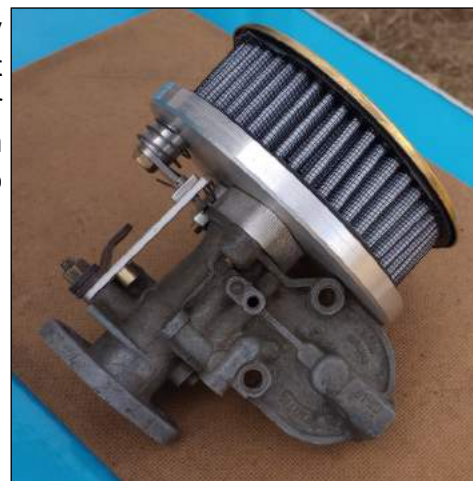
More information on both cars from David Aylmore  
(contact details on back page)

### **For Sale**

New A7 Export Air Filter Assembly. This Air Filter Assembly is loosely based on the design of the filters fitted to Export A7s back in the day. It is suited to Zenith 26VA Carburettors and incorporates the Choke lever operation. I am considering making a batch in the winter 2023/4 and am gauging the level of interest before going ahead. I would need them to sell at around **£150 each**.

If you might be interested, please contact me on 07814 898183.

Thank you - Adam Mason.



### **For Sale**

A7 RP Box Saloon -1934,

Dark Blue/Black Wings. Good condition throughout, Bodywork, Interior and Sound Underneath, Good Tyres, Electronic Ignition. Re-built 4 speed 3 Syncro gearbox. Buff Log Book. A7Handbook for the Year. Pitman's A7 Book. Large A7 Workshop Manual.

**£8,250. ono.** Contact Ken Hickman for more details on 01726 882530 or 07857 195826

### Interesting A7 "Ulster" Project.

**For sale** by a long-standing Devon A7 Club member whose wish is for the re-build to be completed by a local A7 enthusiast.

Brief details are:-

Chassis – Shortened long wheelbase circa 1933.

Engine – Dismantled. M159291 early solid mounting crankcase, Original Austin Works Sports pressure fed 2 bearing crank & con rods, 10 stud works block, works modified nose cone with take-off for rev counter. Speedex Alloy Head.

Gearbox – Professionally rebuilt 3 speed. Marked 'Close Ratio'

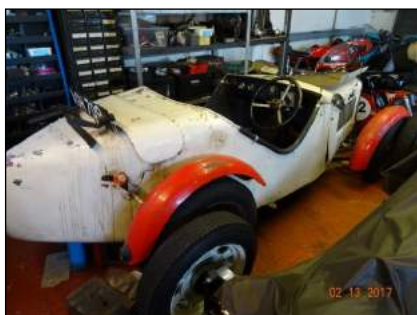
Body – Very 'well used' aluminium body on steel floor pan stamped '34'. *Note – the style of the marking matches ones on known genuine Ulster cars.*

Axles - Banjo rear axle, bowed front axle.

Registration – No current valid V5. Not on SORN. Buff Log Book is present with Reg AJH 709 but there are discrepancies with the chassis number.

History – Loads of information indicating anecdotal evidence of 'Ulster' heritage of some parts and 750MC racing history. Undated pictures of the car on the road in Chris Harvey's Austin 7 Book and on the internet.

The car is in the Totnes area and can be viewed by appointment. More details & photos available from either Nick Borst-Smith or David Aylmore (details on back page). Or the owner Colin can be contacted in the evening on 01626 336516 or by e-mail at - [crc245@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:crc245@yahoo.co.uk)



**Offers in the region of £10,000**



## **2023 Events**

- Sunday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** Woolbridge Motor Club Car Trials Taster Event - details on page 3
- Sunday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>** Devon Vintage Car Club Autojumble, Buckfastleigh - see page 4 for details
- Sunday Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>** Autojumble at Refuel, 9am - 5pm, more details to follow.
- Monday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>** DA7C Zoom Club Night - see page 3
- Sunday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>** Vintage Cars for Young Drivers. – Re-Fuel S.W, Cullompton. See page 5 for more details.

## **Regular Monthly Meetings**

- 1st Thursday monthly, 8pm** Combined BSAOC Tamar Valley Group/DA7C/CA7C meet at the Fox and Grapes, Lifton (landlord is DA7C member Philip Hockin) Contact Philip for details: [philip.hockin@gmail.com](mailto:philip.hockin@gmail.com)
- 2nd Wednesday monthly** The North Devon A7 Group have an evening run out or visit in the North Devon area. If you would like to join them please contact Chris Hartnoll on [chartnoll@icloud.com](mailto:chartnoll@icloud.com) for details.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday monthly, 7pm.** Members Zoom meetings with a Guest speaker every 3 months if possible.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly,** DA7C Members are invited to join the Somerset Seveners who meet at the Lamb & Lion, Hambridge, TA10 0AT at around 7.00 p.m. (Note some winter meetings are changed to lunchtime.) Contact Anne Whellock on 01460 66434 for more details
- Every Sunday morning,** DA7C Members are invited to join the Somerset Seveners who meet at Upton Bridge Farm, Long Sutton, TA10 9NQ, from 9am - 12noon for a Cars and Coffee gathering.

## **Answers to puzzles on page 14**

### **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

#### **ACROSS**

1. Chastise 5. Paid 7. Toil 8. Addition 9. Fiddle 12. Agility 15. Corrode 19. Thatch 21. Toboggan 22. Port  
23. Noon 24. Narrator

#### **DOWN**

1. Cut off 2. Salad 3. Image 4. Ending 5. Petrol 6. Donkey 11. Lido 12. Ale 13. Inch 14. Is it 15. Cotton  
16. Renown 17. Dragon 18. Whiter 19. Tenor 20. Alpha

### **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Women in Love – D.H. Lawrence                   | 2. Three Men in a Boat - Jerome K. Jerome         |
| 3. The Old Curiosity Shop - Charles Dickens        | 4. Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie |
| 5. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo – Stieg Larsson | 6. Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austin              |
| 7. Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte                | 8. The Cuckoo's Calling - Robert Galbraith        |

### **QUADRUPICKS**

1. (a) a game 2. (c) bruise 3. (d) make the same 4. (a) unfriendly 5. (d) priestly 6. (b) draw, paint 7. (a) demure  
8. (c) threatening

## Keeping in touch with the Devon Austin 7 Club

Remember that as well as the Monthly Newsletters you can keep in touch and up to date daily with both our Facebook Page: Devon Austin Seven Club and the Website: [www.devonsevens.co.uk](http://www.devonsevens.co.uk)



### Also of interest:

[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



## DA7C badges for sale

### 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.

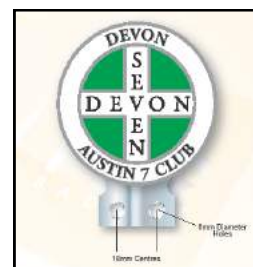
Cost is £3.50 (plus 50p postage)

### 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 Joe Rowing by phone or e-mail or can be collected from any club event.*

*Contact details are on the back page.*



## November 2023 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 November 2023 issue should be with me by **Wednesday October 18th 2023** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday October 25th**.

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 2023/24

### Chairman:

Viv Gale - North Devon

Tel: 01237 441272

E-mail: [vivgeogale@gmail.com](mailto:vivgeogale@gmail.com)



### Secretary & DVLA Rep:

David Aylmore - South Devon

Tel: 01626 852259

E-Mail: [devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk)



### Treasurer:

Michael Tabeart - East Devon

Tel: 01297 624208 or 07523 055291

E-mail: [mttabeart@gmail.com](mailto:mttabeart@gmail.com)



### Car Identification Number Registrar:

Nick Borst-Smith - Mid Devon

Tel: 01363 866819

E-mail: [nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@outlook.com)



### Membership Secretary:

Joe Rowing - Exeter

Tel: 07508154102

E-mail: [austin7@jrowing.com](mailto:austin7@jrowing.com)



### Committee Member:

Steve Herwin - West Devon

Tel: 01752 491076

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### Committee Member:

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Tel: 07833 124484

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### Committee Member:

John Turley - Mendip Hills

Tel: 01749 675475

E-mail: [john@priddyfolk.co.uk](mailto:john@priddyfolk.co.uk)



*If you need to know a Committee Member's postal address, please feel free to give them a call.*

### Newsletter Editor:

Janet Aylmore

South Devon

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