



# Devon Sevens

February 2024

Issue 168

Newsletter for

## The Devon A7 Club



Some of our members have been 'Out and About' in their Sevens during the winter months. We would love to see photos of your winter trips in a Seven.



## Chairman's Chat

Happy New Year!

I had hoped to take out the Ruby complete with flashing coloured lights around the parish before Christmas but the continual rainy days put paid to the plan. I did however manage to find one fine day before Christmas when I could go into Bideford and buy my Christmas tree. This year I had some proper straps to hold it on the roof, so no hand through the window to steady it.



*Tree and me with a festive hat!*

It was another reasonable day so I jumped in the car to go for a run. Pulled the starter but nothing happened. Flat battery. I realised that on my Xmas tree trip I had had the lights on and although those were switched off on my return I had left on the bulbs which 'illuminate' the dials. They're so dim that they're easily forgotten. The expression 'Dim as a Tolex lamp' came to mind. My spare battery was also flat but a burst of 12volts from my caravan leisure battery via some jump leads soon turned the engine over - at great speed! and once started all was well. I must change the bulbs for LEDs which give some brightness.

My Ruby has a Klaxon type horn. It mostly works except when it's cold or the points need adjusting. If you live in a house where you have neighbours close by then adjusting the points on a Klaxon horn is not that welcome! Which is how after a long warm up run I came to find myself in a deserted lay by on the A39 with the bonnet up and me trying to adjust the horn. With only sheep to annoy I got the job done, though it was very cold on the fingers.



I rarely, if ever see an Austin Seven on the road apart from the North Devon group's monthly run. As regular readers will know it is one of my aims during my chairmanship of the club to get our cars out and about. There has been limited success with some pictures of trips to shops etc being published in the newsletter. We discussed the problem at the last committee meeting and we are going to ask members to complete a questionnaire which should give us some indication of the reasons why you own an Austin Seven and why we don't see many on the road.



*Continued from page 2*

Today I received my invitation to enter the Vintage Weekend held at Rosemoor RHS Gardens. Its a splendid event with lots of interesting cars to inspect. Well worth attending and the club hopes, as usual, to have a stand at the event. Do try to come, its fun, free and there's entry into the Rosemoor garden thrown in. July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for your diary.



Sixteen members, partners and friends turned up at the Pelican Fish and Chip Restaurant in Barnstaple this January for their post Christmas dinner. Once again it was a jolly affair at a great venue. Many things were discussed including joining with other pre-war car clubs for monthly runs and Drive It Day. It was also suggested that we could organise some daytime runs during the winter.

Any other suggestions for destinations welcome!

*Viv Gale*



## **Dashboard Bulbs**

After my flat battery experience (see above) I managed to source some LED bulbs to replace the standard 6v 4w ones.

I could replace one bulb by reaching under the dash with not a little contortion but for the others I had to remove the panel.

The difference in illumination is not that great, in fact I am a little disappointed. This may be because I chose 'warm white' bulbs rather than bright white. But at least they wont run down the battery if I forget to switch them off.



The photographs rather distort the actual bulbs but they do fit the holders. They have a 15mm base diameter.

*Viv Gale*

## Secretary's Notes

Just before Christmas, I heard the sad news that our friend and committee member Steve Herwin had passed away. Steve had only been on the Committee for a couple of years but was always enthusiastic, generous and ever cheerful. He and his bright yellow Chummy will be sorely missed at our events this year and I am sure all members will join me in sending our very best wishes to Kate and all his family.



Christmas is a distant memory, New Year has come and gone and I know that Spring must be just around the corner as my 'in-box' is piled high with details of events for the coming year. On page 16 you will see a provisional calendar which includes events which we are organising, those to which we have been invited and also, ones which are in our area and have been highlighted by Club Members.

We would really like to see some more events which include getting our cars out on the roads and if you know of an interesting venue which could be the focus for a day out, or even a weekend away, then please do get in touch.

On page 7 there are details of the 'Sunday Saunter' on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. If you are quick, there is still time to book. Just give Nick a call to reserve your place.

If you can't make it on the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, then why not book in for the 'Saturday Trundle' on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be another social lunch gathering but has the added attraction of an optional drive around the Culm Valley lanes to work up an appetite. Details on Page 7.

Our AGM this year will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will be returning to Spreyton Village Hall for the meeting and the Tom Cobley Tavern for lunch. Full details are on page 8.

Looking further forward, we will be repeating the event aimed at raising the level of interest in Vintage Cars amongst the young (& not so young) members of the public. This is on April 7<sup>th</sup> and will again be hosted by our friends at Re-Fuel S.W. Final plans are still being discussed but we will be looking for help with some exhibits. We will need some members to bring their A7's along and make them available for one of 3 activities:-

1. Display and allow people to look & sit in.
2. Take passengers for a drive on a short public road circuit through Cullompton.
3. Sit alongside someone who would like to drive a Vintage Car around a closed off circuit on the Re-Fuel grounds.

We would also like to hear from you if you have a complete A7 engine that you would be willing to have displayed, taken apart & re-built and hopefully started up by the end of the day.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact Nick Borst-Smith (details on back page)

On page 5 there are details of the Murray Park Award and I would ask you to give some thought to who, in your opinion, made a significant contribution to the activities of the Club in 2023.

Every month I receive a copy of FBHVC News. The Federation of British Historical Vehicle Clubs is an organisation that covers all historical vehicles, and their magazine always makes an interesting read. The Devon A7 Club is a member of the Federation and you as members now have access to the magazine on-line.

The magazine is in the 'Members Area', so you will be asked for your email address and password. To create your account and view the Magazine, please go to <https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/register> and complete the details (you choose your own password).

*Happy Austineering*

*David*

## Membership Renewals for 2024

Renewals were due on the 1st January and I would like to thank all the members who have already renewed their membership for 2024.

If there is a renewal form included with this newsletter, it is because our records show that you have not yet sent in your renewal form and payment. However, I know that mistakes can happen, so if you think that you have already sent your payment, please get in touch and I will be happy to investigate.

The annual membership fee has been held at the present level of £10 for another year and the charge for the A7Clubs Association Quarterly Grey Magazine will also remain the same for 2024 at £12pa.

Unfortunately, with the increased cost of printing and postage, it is necessary to increase the charge for sending a printed newsletter to those members without an internet connection to £18pa. This is the first increase in over 3 years and I can assure everyone that we are still only just covering our costs.

Full details of how to pay and where to send the paperwork are on the renewal form but if you have any questions, please contact me. (details on back page). You will recall that for the last few years, in an effort to reduce unnecessary costs and materials, we introduced a new permanent membership card so the one you have will last for as long as you remain a member.

To enable us to check that our records are up to date, please complete the renewal form in full and notify us of any changes in your contact details and/or car ownership. If over the last year, you have bought or sold any A7's, there is a space on the renewal form to note any changes, or you can contact Nick Borst-Smith direct. His contact details are also on the back page of the newsletter.

And finally, whilst I sincerely hope that you will decide to renew your membership for 2024, I do realise that circumstances change over time and for various reasons, you may not wish to remain a member. If that is the case, please just drop me an e-mail so that I can amend our records and save you being bothered with renewal reminders.

Many thanks

*David Aylmore. Membership Secretary*

**Just a friendly reminder if you haven't renewed your membership for 2024.**



## Murray Park Award

Murray Park was a founder member of the Club and our first, and in fact only, Honorary President. During his time as President, he gave the Club a cup which he wanted to be awarded annually to a member who was chosen, by the membership, for their support to the Club - someone, who in Murray's words:

***"Made a significant contribution to the Club and its activities during the preceding year."***

Your vote can be for any reason and is certainly not only for competition achievements. Assistance with work on A7's, special efforts with restorations, contributions to the Newsletter or indeed anything else that has come to your notice during 2023.

One final note – Committee members cannot be nominated.

To make it easier to send in your nominations, all you need to do is 'reply' to the e-mail accompanying the newsletter and give the members name and your reason for nominating them.

For those who have the newsletter sent by post, a nomination form has been enclosed. And should be posted back to me once completed.

Many thanks.

*David (Secretary)*



*Richard Bishop receiving the Murray Park Cup in 2023.*



## Steve Herwin 24th December 1949 - 8th December 2003

Steve joined the Devon A7 Club in September 2019 soon after he purchased his 1927 Yellow Chummy. From the start, he, along with his partner Kate, were often to be seen at club events. Even before Steve had enough confidence in "OPi" to drive to meetings, the car was brought along on a trailer to enable him to gain experience and knowledge. As Steve's confidence grew, OPi was often seen out and about in the Plymouth area and was used for all sorts of jobs from routine shopping to collecting seaweed for the garden.



Steve joined our committee in March 2022 and later that year he and Kate took their Chummy to the Centenary celebrations at Moreton-in-Marsh. Here they invited Philip Burrow, who was on his own at the event, to join them on runs out and at the evening entertainment.

Steve always displayed a great generosity of spirit, not only when out with his Chummy, when he would be the first to invite anyone to sit in and have their picture taken but also with his Canal Narrow Boat, Iris. She was named after Steve's Mum and friends and club members were invited to use the boat without a fixed charge. Steve just asked for a donation to MacMillan Cancer and didn't even want to know the amount.

I only knew Steve for a relatively short time, but I know that he will be sadly missed by all who were lucky enough to have met him and our thoughts go out to Kate and Steve's family.

David.



Steve's Chummy caused great excitement at the coffee bar Steve ran for folk that needed somewhere to chat and relax



OPi at an Open Gardens in the South Hams, where everyone was invited to sit in the car for a photo. A pleasing amount was raised for St Luke's Hospice.



Dear David and Janet

I am writing you this email to say a massive big thank you for allowing Steve and I to become members of this great club, and in Steve's case a member of the committee.

You all made us so welcome when we joined the club. What fun times we had at all the shows and other events we went to with the Austin 7s, especially the lovely video of the year of Austin 7. I will treasure that.

You are both good friends to have especially to Steve and I, and that goes to all the Devon 7s people that Steve and I got to know in the last couple of years

With kind regards Kate and of course, OPi on behalf of Steve

**Sunday Saunter**  
**Sunday January 28th**  
**12 noon**

**Agricultural Inn, Brampford Speke, EX5 5DP**

For our new members who may be confused, a "Sunday Saunter" is a run out in an A7 or modern car to meet up with other members for Sunday lunch - always an enjoyable social event.



There might still be time to book a place - contact Nick Borst-Smith a.s.a.p. if you would like to come along. Nick's contact details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

**Saturday Trundle**

**Saturday February 17th meet at 11 for trundle,  
lunch at 12**

**The Culm Valley Inn, Culmstock EX15 3JJ**

Another social lunchtime gathering, with an optional drive around the Culm Valley lanes before lunch.

Please meet at the Inn at 11am if you wish to join the drive around the lanes, or 12 noon for lunch.

Please contact Jude Zebedee for more details, and to let her know if you plan to attend.  
(contact details on back page)



**Zoom Club Night**

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

**Monday 19th February 2024**  
**7pm**

What better way to spend a dreary winter's evening than to close the curtains, pour a warming drink and spend an hour chatting to fellow DA7C members.

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



As well as his 1931 AG Tourer, new member Robert Lowe is the proud owner of a Francis Barnett and a Velosolex, seen here.





## 2024 A.G.M - Sunday March 3rd.

Once again we will be returning to Spreyton for our 2024 A.G.M.

The AGM will be held in Spreyton Village Hall

(Postcode EX17 5DP)

**10.30am**      **Coffee & Biscuits**

**11.00am**      **Start of Meeting**

**12 for 12.30pm**      **Lunch at the nearby 'The Tom Cobley Inn'**



*The Tom Cobley serve a superb Sunday Roast (served to table),*

*Roast Beef and/or Turkey (Veg option available see below)*

*Main course only - £14.95*

*Main course & dessert - £18.95*

*Vegetarian option: Mushroom, Brie, Cranberry & Hazelnut wellington or Chick Pea & Spinach Pie.*

We will be sitting at tables of 4 or 6

**Bookings for lunch MUST be made through David Aylmore only (details on back page)**

**When booking, please let David know if you would like one of the vegetarian options, or if you have any special dietary requirements.**

Please contact David Aylmore for more information. Obviously there is no need to book for the meeting but it would be helpful to know if you plan to attend.

**Please note that we need final numbers for lunch by Sunday February 25th**

## ALLONS EN FRANCE??

You might think I'm crazy (most people do!), but as a new vintage car owner with a still lamentable knowledge of mechanics, I am planning to take Gladys, my 1929 A7 Chummy, on a little jaunt over to Brittany in May or June 2024.

I know some might consider this late notice, but does anyone fancy joining me? I'm not a great one for forward planning, but will probably head either to Roscoff or to St Malo via Guernsey and spend a few days taking a tour of the Departement. I usually travel with a 2-man tent, but will be easily persuaded to find a nice little hotel or two.

I can provide the French language (and wine drinking) skills. Any mechanical knowledge you can provide would be a definite bonus! If you have even a passing interest in the idea, then please contact me as soon as possible and we can start making plans.

Vive Le Austin Sept!!

Jude Zebedee 01884 841677 or 07944 602211 or [judezebedee@gmail.com](mailto:judezebedee@gmail.com)





# Silverstone FeSTiVaL

23-25 AUG 2024

FORMERLY THE CLASSIC AT SILVERSTONE

JOIN THOUSANDS OF CLASSICS AND  
TAKE CENTRE STAGE WITH YOUR CAR IN  
OUR DEDICATED DISPLAY AREA

THE BEST HISTORIC MOTORSPORT • UNRIVALLED Paddock ACCESS  
A PACKED TRACK SCHEDULE • LIVE MUSIC • OFF-TRACK FUN FOR ALL

MAKE IT YOUR WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN



[WWW.SILVERSTONE.CO.UK/CLASSIC-CAR-CLUBS](http://www.silverstone.co.uk/classic-car-clubs)

OUR CLUB'S EXCLUSIVE DISPLAY PACKAGE CODE IS: **151CCDP24**

ADRIAN FLUX

Insurance for the Individual

The Austin Seven Clubs' Association has again arranged a Car Club Display Package for the Silverstone Festival over the bank holiday weekend of Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th August 2024.

The Car Club Display Package represents excellent value and includes heavily discounted tickets for two people, a dedicated Austin 7 display area inside the circuit and a fantastic weekend of classic motor racing. There are many other attractions for the whole family to enjoy including a fun fair, stalls, celebrity chef demonstrations and a concert every night. This year's acts including Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Busted and Olly Murs!

More details can be found on the Silverstone Festival Website.

<https://www.silverstone.co.uk/news/2024-silverstone-festival-tickets-going-sale>

The code for the Austin Seven Clubs' Association Car Club Display Package is **151CCDP24** and should be entered when booking your tickets.

## Vintage & Classic Weekend

### RHS Garden Rosemoor

July 27 & 28 2024



The DA7C will again be at Rosemoor for their Vintage and Classic Weekend. If you are the owner of a Vintage or Classic car, tractor, motorbike, caravan, bicycle, Rosemoor would love to welcome you to this great weekend.

Now in its 14th year the weekend has proved to be one of their most popular events with Vintage Vehicles, Motorcycles, Tractors, Caravans and Steam Engines, and in 2023, the event attracted over 2400 visitors a day. The event will again be at the Arboretum Lawn on Lady Anne's side of the garden, which will give a beautiful backdrop to the amazing vehicles on display. There is a small café and toilets available at this side of the garden, or it is a couple of minutes' walk to the visitors building where the main restaurant is located.

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. Rosemoor will supply 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. Onsite overnight stays are available for those of you that have caravans or camper vans etc. There will be a professional security person on site over the weekend. If you wish to stay onsite on the Friday, Saturday and (or) Sunday, please remember to state it on the vehicle entry form. There are no shower facilities but there is a toilet block you are welcome to use. You will be issued with an overnight pass and given instructions on where you are able to pitch up your vehicle.

Please contact Nick Borst-Smith or David Aylmore for a vehicle entry form, and be sure to let Nick know if you plan to attend, so that he can ensure there is space for your vehicle. (contact details on back page)

Please note that it is RHS policy of strictly no dogs unless they are registered assistance dogs.

### A selection of 1930's Motoring books need a new home.

These 4 books were loaned to me by an elderly friend and who was amenable to my suggestion that if he did not want them back, I would endeavour to find them a new home. I contacted the Brooklands Museum, as they sounded like an appropriate beneficiary, but they didn't want to know.

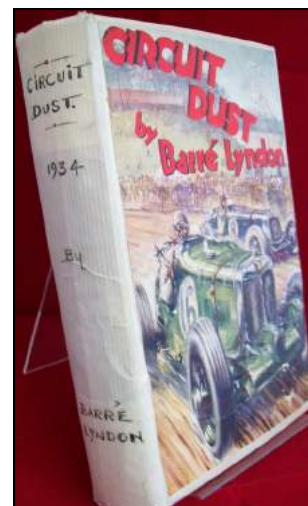
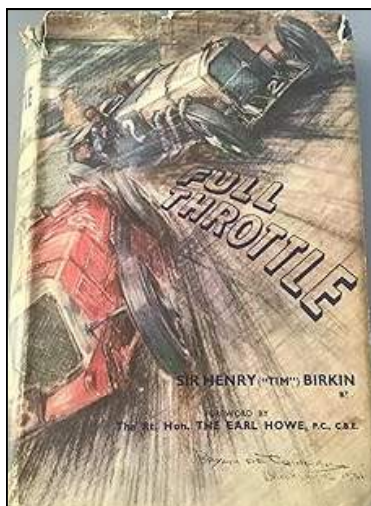
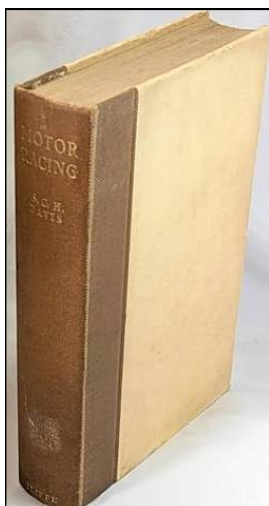
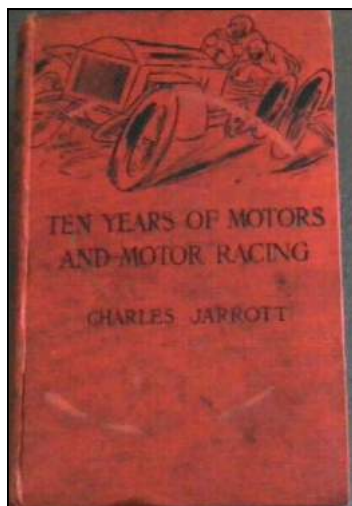
If these titles would be of interest to any Club member, I have his agreement to pass the books on for a suitable donation:

*Ten Years of Motors and Motor Racing – Charles Jarrot 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed 1928*

*Motor Racing – S C H Davies 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed c1930*

*Full Throttle - Henry R S (Tim) Birkin 3<sup>rd</sup> Reprint 1933*

*Circuit Dust – Barre Lyndon c 1933*



The pictures are library ones and not of the actual books, however all four volumes are in very good condition. Please e-mail Mike Moore if you would like more information [mike@mgmoore.co.uk](mailto:mike@mgmoore.co.uk)

## PUZZLE PAGE

Answers on page 15

by Julie Eddles

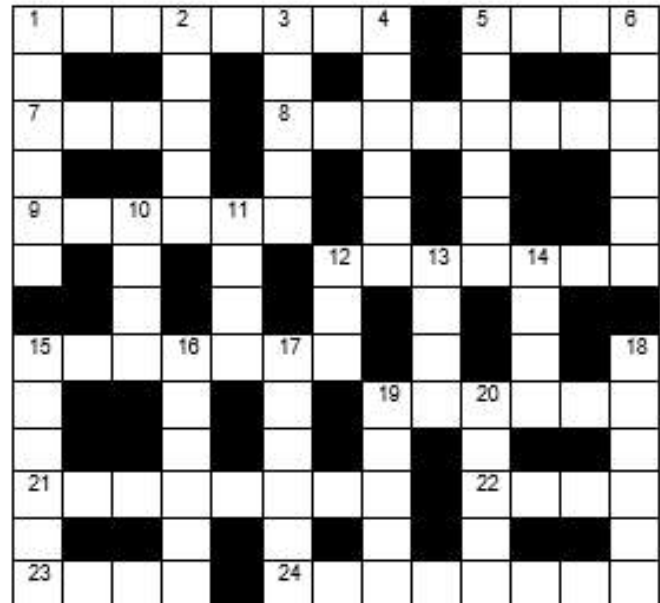
### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

1. Burdened (8)
5. Extended (4)
7. Aristocrat (4)
8. Seepages (8)
9. Very happy ((6)
12. Trawls (7)
15. Make paler (7)
19. Great regard ((6)
21. Was enough ((8)
22. Trudge (4)
23. Back (4)
24. Drainage system (8)

#### DOWN

1. Mail item (6)
2. Suit nicely (5)
3. Angered (5)
4. Part of a desk (6)
5. Provoked (6)
6. Hopes (6)
10. Awestruck (4)
11. Discharge (4)
12. Noise (3)
13. Newts (4)
14. Stormy wind (4)
15. Renter (6)
16. A young cow (6)
17. Votes (6)
18. Blur, smear ((6)
19. Bestow (5)
20. Drunkard (5)



### ARTISTS

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 artists and their paintings?

1. LNRD DVNC MNLS .....
2. JHNN SVRM RGRL WTHP RLRR NG .....
3. JHNC NSTB LTHH YWN .....
4. VNCN TVNG GHSN FLWR S .....
5. JSPH TRNR THFG HTNG TMRR .....
6. CLDM NTWT RLLS .....
7. DVRD MNCH THSC RM .....
8. PBLP CSSG RNC .....

### ODD ONE OUT

Which is the odd one out?

- |           |           |          |         |          |         |
|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. SHEET  | FRAME     | POST     | COVER   | BOOK     | CHAMBER |
| 2. FIRST  | SECOND    | THIRD    | FORTH   | FIFTH    | SIXTH   |
| 3. GRAVEL | DRAWL     | SPINE    | PRIME   | CARROT   | SHANDY  |
| 4. TAMER  | TAY       | TAVY     | TEIGN   | TORRIDGE | TAW     |
| 5. OAK    | YEW       | SYCAMORE | BEECH   | BIRCH    | ASH     |
| 6. ROBIN  | BLACKBIRD | WREN     | MAGPIE  | SWALLOW  | BLUETIT |
| 7. BLUE   | ORANGE    | VIOLET   | PINK    | BROWN    | PURPLE  |
| 8. DORY   | BROUGHAM  | CORACLE  | GONDOLA | PUNT     | WHERRY  |

### New Member

This month we welcome Andrew Titley from Kingsteignton to the Devon Austin 7 Club. Andrew owns a 1934 A7 Box Saloon in black and red. We look forward to seeing Andrew out and about at events this year.



*Thanks to Mike Moore's friend, Robin, for this recollection.*

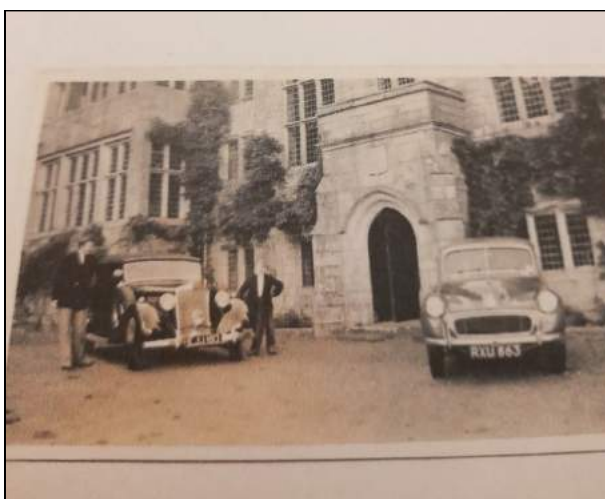
## **ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD - 1954**

There was a loud bang followed by lots of smoke pouring from the bonnet of Dad's lovely 1938 Mercedes Benz Cabriolet, which brought our mission to the Chemist in Wadebridge to an abrupt halt. We pushed the car back up the long drive and had a cuppa, whilst Dad poked around under the bonnet. Our home was halfway between Wadebridge and Bodmin, Wadebridge was lovely but Bodmin appeared to be shrouded in a mantle of gloom, having once had a Gaol and a Mental Hospital; there was an old Cornish saying that 'yer was either sent to Bodmin or took to Bodmin'.

Dad declared that the Merc needed intensive care and therefore we would take Mum's Austin 7 Convertible instead. At that moment there was the sound of a throaty exhaust, followed by a shiny, gold coloured Aston Martin, which slid to a halt beside us. It was Dad's old RAF mate, 'Step-on-It' (the sobriquet was based on his driving style), who was a very Gung-Ho, ex Fighter Pilot, from 'The Quick and The Dead' school of driving. It was agreed that I would go on the mission to Wadebridge with Step-On-It and so Dad gave him directions and said that I knew where the Chemist was. Step-on-It donned his Checked Cap, pulled on his String-backed gloves and, with a quick twirl of his moustache and a nasty glint in his eye, we were off, and when I say off, I mean OFF ! We covered the long drive in the blink of an eye and by the time we got to the main road, I was a terrified ten-year-old, and where Dad would pause to look left, right and then left again before turning LEFT to Wadebridge, 'Step-on-It's' approach was entirely different.

We arrived at the Lodge Gates in a 'four-wheel drift' and then he executed a handbrake turn to the RIGHT, in the direction of Bodmin. Well, if the old Cornish saying was correct, 'Step-on-It' was a prime candidate for both the Gaol and Mental Hospital. I was recovering from the immense 'G forces' when I realised that we were heading towards the wrong town. We were back up to about 80mph and reached Bodmin in the blink of another eye, at which point I prayed that either 'Men in White Coats' or a Gaoler with Handcuffs would come to my rescue. No such luck, we slid to a halt and 'Step-on-It' said 'right, where's the Chemist'. I falteringly advised him that we were in the wrong town, at which point he transmogrified from friendly, feisty 'Uncle' into a fearsome monster and berated me for letting him turn right instead of left at the Lodge. I suppose I could have tapped him politely on the shoulder, during his 'lock to lock' maneuvers, to suggest 'left hand down a bit' but that would have been suicidal rather than helpful.

I felt hurt at his criticism, however, I just sat there and 'took it' until he had calmed down and asked a passing Policeman if there was a Chemist close by, which there was but it was closed. Step-on-It went into a 'huff', and we cruised back at a mere 60 mph and managed to turn into the drive without demolishing the Lodge. Soon after we arrived home, he declared a pressing engagement and shot off in a spray of gravel, never to be seen again. After lunch we pottered off to Wadebridge in Mum's A7 at a relaxing 30mph. The two drives that day were as 'Chalk and Cheese' and although I still loved exciting cars, I lowered my aspirations to something modest and therefore, when I turned 17, I bought my first car, a lovely Austin 7 Opal Tourer in pillar box red; I wish I had it now !



*Robin T H Rowan*

## Taking Mabel Home

Those of you who have read my ramblings over the past few years will know that we have spent a huge amount of time trying to trace the history of our Milk Delivery Car. It being such an unusual model and having been first registered in the relatively small county of Herefordshire, we were optimistic about the success of our mission. However, some 9 years later and we are no further forward.

Bizarrely, we have made no such effort to look into the early years of our 1934 AH Tourer which we have owned for a considerably longer time than the MDC. However, a chance remark from an interested member of the public whilst we were on our tour around the S.W. Coast has set the ball in motion.

We were parked up for some lunch on the seafront in Sennen Cove when I was asked how old Mabel was. "Built in 1934" I replied, prompting a comment "It will be her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday next year then".

That got me thinking about what we might do to celebrate and so on returning home, I started to do a bit of digging. I do have an early buff logbook which shows the first registration date of 29<sup>th</sup> March 1934. A check on the website - [www.oldclassicar.co.uk/registrations/reg-letters.htm](http://www.oldclassicar.co.uk/registrations/reg-letters.htm) confirmed that the location was Buckinghamshire.

I then e-mailed the Buckinghamshire Archive Records Office to ask if they still had the Vehicle Registration information from 1934 for Mabel's reg. number, APP108. I must admit that having done a similar exercise with the Herefordshire Archive with no success, I was not optimistic.

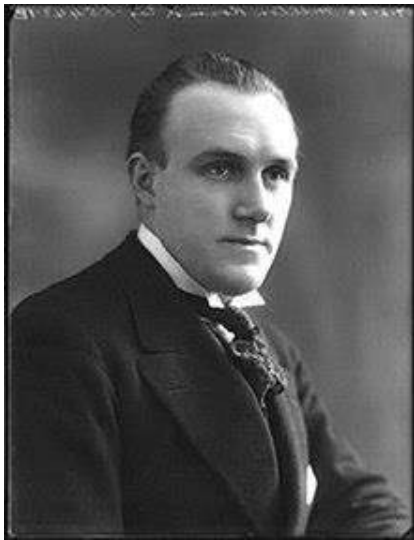
However, within a few days I had a very helpful reply saying that they did hold some records and for a small fee would be happy to supply a PDF. This is what arrived →

28 MAR 1934		A.P.P.						
No.	Division	Sub-Division	Name	Address	Treasury Rating Seating Capacity or Unladen Weight	Make	Annual Tax	
97	HP	Touring	W. S. Flower	Spencers Green	10	Austin	£10	
98	"	Saloon	A. W. Good	Amersham	14	Rover	£14	
99	"	"	S. A. Dagg	St Albans	14	Vauxhall	£14	
100	"	"	B. Galling	Chesham	11.9	Morris Co	£12	
1	Goods	Petrol	G. J. Stacey	High Wycombe	T.C. T.H.	Bedford	£20	
2	HP	Saloon	V. Woodman	Amersham	9.8	Hillman	£10	
3	Goods	Petrol	H. J. Clifton	"	C. 9. 21 19.3.21	Austin	£15	
4	HP	Saloon	"	"	10	"	£10	
5	"	"	J. R. S. Hanson	Beaconsfield	10	"	£10	
6	Goods	Petrol	H. E. Reading	Genesos Cross	C. 9. 14 11.3.14	Ford	£10	
7	HP	Saloon	A. B. Fanstone	Amersham	10	Austin	£10	
8	"	Touring	Miss S. Roemer	Hawridge	7.8	"	£8	
9	"	Saloon	A. V. Chubb	High Wycombe	13.9	Singer	£14	
110	"	"	A. G. Samuels	Aylesbury	8	Ford	£8	
1	Car	By	J. E. Balon	Bletchley	249 cc	B.S.A.	£1/10/-	
2	"	Tricycle	Miss S. Moore	Wyngs	"	"	£1	
3	Goods	Petrol	H. Horley	High Wycombe	T.C. 2 2.2.2	Dodge	£30	
4	Car	By	J. Knight	Potters Bar	249 cc	B.S.A.	£1/10/-	
5	HP	Private	A. N. Mable	Stoke Poges	30	Ford	£30	
6	Car	By	S. Bower	Aylesbury	249 cc	B.S.A.	£1/10/-	
7	Goods	Petrol	J. G. Roberts	Bourneville	T.C. 3 2.2.3	Bedford	£30	
8	Auto Engine	Mowing	Elton College	"	17 cwt	Pattison	5/-	
9	HP	Saloon	J. S. G. Comfort	Chesham Bois	12.08	Vauxhall	£12	
120	"	"	L. H. Stedford	Aylesbury	12.08	"	£12	
1	"	Touring	Bogger & Hawkins	"	10	Austin	£10	
2	"	Saloon	Davenport Vernon Ltd	High Wycombe	10	"	£10	
3	"	"	Mr. A. Buckton	Beaconsfield	15.9	"	£16	
4	"	"	H. Bagent	High Wycombe	7.8	"	£8	
5	Car	By	Bates & Co.	Slough	497 cc 10	Ariel	£3	
6	"	"	"	"	"	"	£1	



Continued from page 13

8	Joining Miss I Rosmer	Hawridge	7-8	L8
			12-9	4-4



After a quick Google of 'Rosmer' & 'Hawridge' it transpires that a Mr Milton Rosmer who lived in the Village of Hawridge was a famous film actor of the day. His wife was also an actress under the name of Irene Rooke, and as there is no trace of any children, it would appear that the entry in the Register of 'Miss' I Rosmer is probably an error and should have been 'Mrs'.

From a bit more research with the help of the local Historical Society, I found that the Rosmer's home was Box Tree Cottage and it has survived to this day.



Our plan now is to drive up to Buckinghamshire in March and visit the building where Vehicle Registrations were recorded in 1934 and take Mabel back to her first home – Box Tree Cottage. It Should be an interesting trip.

David Aylmore

## Can you help?

I know it's not an A7, but can anyone help Chris Clover with a cycle query. This badge is on a 1955 Norman Pine frame. Chris wonders whether anyone has any information about this Exeter based cycle business. Chris believes the frames were made in Exmouth by Westland Cycles. If you have any information, please contact Chris on 07546 267229

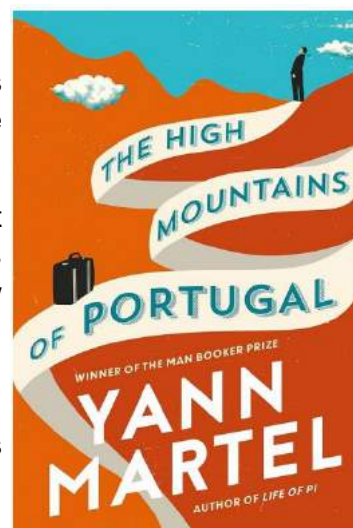




## A RECOMMENDED READ FOR VINTAGE CAR DRIVERS

This book might not appeal to the average A7 enthusiast, but bear with me. As with all of Yann Martel's books, it is somewhat strange, but the first third of the book will surely appeal to all of us.

It is set in Lisbon in 1904 and tells the story of Tomas, a young man, who is lent an automobile by his uncle in order to travel on a mission to the high mountains of Portugal. Tomas has never seen an automobile before and has no idea how the "steerage wheel" works, let alone the confusion of pedals and levers. He is terrified of the idea that the 4 cylinder beast contains fire beneath its metal casing, although the horn makes him laugh and he is impressed by the custom-made elephant hide outer covering! His first ride as a passenger gives him motion sickness and he spends the first three days driving in first gear, before finally braving the use of the "change speed lever". He is much more diligent with his lubricating regime than I am, spending four hours attending to this on his second morning before setting out.



His encounters with country folk, who have never seen a mechanised beast before, are as entertaining as his ongoing battle with the "steerage wheel" and starting handle. The endless search for "moto-naphtha" in chemists and hardware stores reminds me of searching for methylated spirits for my Trangia camping stove in Muslim countries many years ago. As a relatively new vintage car owner, with about as much technical knowledge as Tomas, I could identify with his fears and technical issues, but even I know how to turn a "steerage wheel"! The rest of the book becomes increasingly bizarre, but I firmly believe it is worth a read for the first section alone. I have a copy, if anyone would like to borrow it. Happy reading!

*Jude Zebedee (Contact details on back page)*

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLE PAGE 11

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

1. Lumbered 5. Grew 7. Toff 8. Leakages 9. Elated 12. Dredges 15. Lighten 19. Esteem 21. Sufficed  
22. Plod 23. Rear 24. Sewerage

#### Down

1. Letter 2. Befit 3. Riled 4. Drawer 5. Goaded 6. Wishes 10. Agog 11. Emit 12. Din 13. Efts 14. Gale  
15. Leaser 16. Heifer 17. Elects 18. Smudge 19. Endow 20. Toper

### ARTISTS

1. Leonardo da Vinci Mona Lisa  
2. Johannes Vermeer Girl with a Pearl Earring  
3. John Constable The Hay Wain  
4. Vincent van Gogh Sunflowers  
5. Joseph Turner The Fighting Temeraire  
6. Claude Monet Water lilies  
7. Edvard Munch The Scream  
8. Pablo Picasso Guernica

### ODD ONE OUT

1. BOOK The word BED can be added to the front of all the other words to make another word.  
2. FORTH is not a number.  
3. CARROT A letter can be taken away from the other words leaving a different word.  
4. TAY This river is in Scotland all the others are westcountry.  
5. YEW is evergreen all the others are deciduous.  
6. SWALLOW The swallow migrates for the winter, the others don't.  
7. BLUE is the only primary colour in the list.  
8. BROUGHAM which is a carriage, all others are boats.

## **2024 Events**

- Sun. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>** Sunday Saunter Agricultural Inn, Brampford Speke. Contact Nick Borst-Smith. See page 7 for full details.
- Sat. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** Saturday Trundle – The Culm Valley Inn, Riverside, Culmstock EX15 3JJ. Contact Jude Zebedee. See page 7 for full details.
- Mon. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** DA7C Zoom Club Night - see page 7.
- Sun. March 3<sup>rd</sup>** AGM –10.30 for 11am Spreyton Village Hall followed by Sunday Lunch at Tom Cobley. Contact David Aylmore. See page 8 for full details.
- Sun. April 7<sup>th</sup>** Young drivers day at Re-Fuel S.W. Five Bridges, Willand Road, Cullompton, EX15 1QP
- Sun. April 21<sup>st</sup>** Drive it Day. More details next month but there will hopefully be organised runs in N. Devon, East Devon and the Exeter areas as well as a static display at The Lawns, Dawlish organised by the Crash Box Club.
- Sun. May 19<sup>th</sup>** Devon Vintage CC Autojumble, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ Contact David Aylmore
- Sat. June 29<sup>th</sup>** Haynes Motor Museum. Yeovil BA22 7LH. More details to come but provisional timing is to meet at 10am for a tour of the museum and a pub lunch to follow. – Contact Derek Vertenten. 07553034013 for more information.
- Sun. June 30<sup>th</sup>** Axminster Carnival Vehicle Extravaganza - contact Bryan Ball, [e-mail axminster-cve@hotmail.com](mailto:axminster-cve@hotmail.com) Entry form also available from David Aylmore.
- Sat/Sun July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>** Historic Vehicle Gathering, Powderham. More information in future newsletters, but please make a diary note NOW.
- Sat/Sun July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** Rosemoor Vintage Weekend, Great Torrington EX38 8PH, see page 10. Contact - Nick Borst-Smith
- Fri/Sun Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>** Torbay Steam Fair. Dartmouth Road, Churston Ferrers, Brixham, TQ5 0JT Entry form available on the Club Website or at [Exhibitors – Torbay Steam Fair](#) More information to come but we hope to link up with the Devon Vintage CC as we did in 2023.
- Sat. Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>** Ideford Vintage Fayre. Entry forms available from David Aylmore.
- Sun. Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>** North Devon Festival of Transport. – Contact Don Adams. 07525 000866
- Sun. Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>** Seaton Carnival Classic Car Show – Contact Michael Tabear.
- Tues. Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>** Widecombe Fair. Contact David Aylmore.
- Sat. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>** Sidmouth Classic Car Show.

## **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.

### Regular Events cont.

**DA7C members are invited to join the Somerset Seveners at their regular gatherings for all types of cars. Contact Anne Whellock on 01460 66434 for more details:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly,** Meet at the Lamb & Lion, Hambridge, TA10 0AT at lunchtime and in the evening around 7.00 p.m.
- 1st Wednesday monthly,** Lunchtime meet at Dinnington Docks, TA17 8SX.
- 1st Sunday monthly,** North Down Orchard, TA18 7PL, 2pm - 5pm. Off the A30, east of Crewkerne.
- 3rd Tuesday monthly,** Lunchtime (12noon - 2.00pm) gathering at Eli's Rose and Crown, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QT.
- Every Sunday morning,** Morning coffee gathering at Upton Bridge Farm, Long Sutton, TA10 9NQ, from 9am - 12noon for a Cars and Coffee gathering.

### For Sale

1934 RP Box Saloon, dark blue/black, low mileage.

**£6,500 ovno**

Contact Pete Oakley on 07513 762454



### For Sale

1933 Austin Seven AH Four Seater Tourer

Genuine AH tourer first registered on the last day of 1933.

Purchased by me in 2017, it had previously been owned by Cornwall and Devon Club members for many years. I have regularly used it for club runs.

It has full side screens, tonneau and hood covers. The engine was rebored, fitted with new pistons and a new clutch in 2018 and since then it has run smoothly without a single breakdown. Sadly age is catching up on my 7 days!

**Price: £11,000 or near offer.**

Please phone Malcolm on 07771 544390 for more details and viewing near Bude.



### Be a Blogger

On the back page of the website there is a Blog section. This is simply an interesting article or series of articles about something or anything Austin Seven related. I have thought a series on engine building or car restoration would be ideal or an account of an epic journey or personal achievement would fit the bill.

If you have a suitable article or would like to write one, as a one off or say once a month please let me know or just send it to me.

Nick Borst-Smith [nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@outlook.com)



## 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.

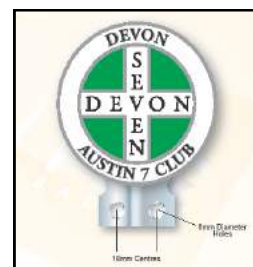
Cost is £3.50 (plus 50p postage)

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

*Contact details are on the back page.*



## March 2024 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 March 2024 issue should be with me by **Wednesday February 21st 2024** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday February 28th**.

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, Membership 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)



### Committee Memb

Andy Grabham - West Somerset

Tel: 07833 124484

E-mail: [nobbygrump@btinternet.com](mailto:nobbygrump@btinternet.com)



### Committee Member:

John Turley - Mendip Hills

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### Committee Member:

Jude Zebedee - East Devon

Tel: 07944 602211

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



*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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