



Devon Sevens

April 2025

Issue 181

Newsletter for

The Devon A7 Club



A good turn out of cars and members for the recent Devon Austin 7 Club A.G.M. followed by lunch at The Tom Copley



Secretary's Notes

A very important request to start this month - Please read the article on page 13 to see if you can support the club in the future.



A big "thank you" to everyone who made their way to Spreyton for our AGM on Sunday 16th. The best turnout ever, with about 35 people at the meeting and 32 enjoying a super lunch at the Tom Cobley Tavern. There were at least 12 A7's in the car park and Philip Snell was this year's very worthy winner of the Murray Park Trophy. The weather was a bonus and all in all it was a very good day out.

Our next event will be the Young Drivers day at Re-Fuel on the 12th April. Full details are on page 3 . Please come along and support us if you can. There is no need to stay all day but it would be great to have a good display of A7s in the car park so that visitors can have a chat and look around.

We will have our Rolling Chassis Project on display at the event, but we need to obtain some Public Liability insurance for it if we are to use it in the way we plan to. This is proving to be a bit of a problem at the moment, and we would like to get some advice from an insurance broker. Do you know of anyone who could help? – Ideally, they would have an interest in vintage cars, but anyone in the insurance business would be a good starting point.

Later in April is Drive-it-Day and full details are on page 4. However I would just like to emphasise that this is a charity day as well as commemorating the first reliability trial in 1900. Even if you are not attending an event on that day, why not order a Rally Plaque and proudly display it on your 7 to show your support for the Childline/NSPCC charity?

Still thinking of Drive-it-Day, in 2024 we set a target of having 20 A7s from the Club out and about on that day and we reached that with ease, so lets up the stakes for 2025. The aim this year is to have pictures of 25 A7's out on the 27th April in next month's newsletter – Just send the pictures to Janet with a note of where you went – even if it was only to the end of your drive, just so long as you are flying the flag for Drive it Day and the Club.

Entries for the Powderham Show are coming in and the stand is almost 50% booked already, so if you want to reserve your place, don't delay. Full details are on page 5 and an entry form has been sent with this newsletter.

David (DA7C Secretary)



Wanted – A7CA Treasurer

This Officer position will become vacant from April 2025 and is offered with a handover period to share the ropes and ensure transition is smooth.

Officers are elected annually at the A7CA AGM with a term limit of 3 years, this can be extended by a further 3 years but not further. We hope this information encourages people to apply.

The role includes:

Paying invoices for Magazine print, layout and postage, quarterly. Raising invoices to member Clubs annually, reporting to Member Clubs at their Quarterly Committee meetings and paying insurance, IT and mailing expenses as and when required.

Some experience of finance, book keeping and online banking would be useful but not essential.

All interested parties should contact the Secretary on: secretary@a7ca.org

Ruairidh Dunford A7CA Secretary

Young Drivers Day at Re-Fuel - Saturday 12th April 9am until 4pm



We had a great response to our request for support at the last 'Vintage Cars for Young Drivers' event, and hope that you will be equally willing to bring your cars along this time.

There will be 3 sections for A7's:-

1. Display only.
2. To take passengers on a 4 – 5 mile ride into Collumpton and back to let them experience how it feels to ride in a Vintage Car and also to see the reaction of the public that we all enjoy so much.
3. To sit alongside someone who would like to drive a Vintage Car around a closed off circuit on the Re-Fuel grounds.

We will also need some marshals and helpers around the site and it would be great if you could give some assistance even if it was for just an hour or two.

If you would be willing to help in any capacity, please contact Nick Borst-Smith. Details on the back page.



Zoom Club Night

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

**Monday 21st April 2025
7pm**

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



DRIVE IT DAY - Sunday April 27th

Yesterday's Vehicles Supporting Today's Children. 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 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, while fund-raising for charity. Please see the website for how to support the event and buy a fundraising rally plaque.



All profits from the sale of The Drive it Day 'Rally Plaque' are donated to Childline. Visit www.driveitday.co.uk to order your plaque.

Drive it Day in the north of the county

This year Drive-It Day in the North of the County has a nautical theme. We shall meet at 9.30 in Sainsbury's Car Park Barnstaple EX31 3NH, stop for coffee at The Glorious Oyster beneath the dunes in Instow where we will meet those members coming from the West. Then on to Appledore to tour the narrow streets and visit the Maritime Museum with its nautical history of the North Coast.

Bring a picnic to eat on the sea front, buy fish n chips or eat in one of the historic Inns.

Please phone Nick Hawkins on 01271 375730 or email valhawkins3@aol.com to confirm attendance.

Members will also be welcome to join the Crash Box Club on The Den at Teignmouth - details on page 18.

Fox & Grapes - Lifton PL16 0AJ

VE Day Weekend - 80th Anniversary 1945 - 2025 Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th of May



- **Military & Classic Vehicle Displays**
- **'Living History' Displays**
- **Reenactment (with weapons & fireworks)**
- **Remembrance Ceremony**
- **Static & Live Fire Weapons Displays**
- **Military Charity Stands**
- **Saturday Evening Party with Live Music**
- **Helicopter Fly in from Historic Helicopters**



For more information, to book tickets for the evening, camping or a stand, please contact us on 07909 102167 or foxandgrapespub@gmail.com

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER
MOTORSPORT VENUE
**Wiscombe
Park**
SPEED HILLCLIMB



Wiscombe Hillclimb, Club Day – Sunday 11th May

Wiscombe Park is considered to be one of the most challenging courses in the UK, and a driver's favourite. Wherever you spectate on the hill, you will have an excellent view of the action.

On 11th May, the VSCC are holding their annual Speed Hillclimb and there will be many A7s competing. As an additional attraction, our members Tim and Anne Whellock are in charge of the Autojumble at the event. If you would like to book a stall, please contact Anne direct on anne@vintageandsportscarservices.co.uk

We will have a dedicated, reserved area in the public car park, for up to 30 cars.

If you are interested in having more details or would like to register for discounted tickets, please contact Nick Borst-Smith - details on back page.

The Vintage Nostalgia Festival

Stockton Park, Stockton, Wiltshire.

30th, 31st May, 1st June 2025

We have been invited to The Vintage Nostalgia Festival in the heart of the Wylde valley. The event focuses on the past and celebrates all that was great from before the turn of the century up to the 1980's. There will be something for everyone, whether you are 8, 80 or anywhere in between!

Please see the Events section on the Devon Austin 7 Club website for full details, or contact Nick Borst-Smith - details on back page.



HISTORIC VEHICLE GATHERING

POWDERHAM Castle, Nr Exeter.

12th & 13th JULY 2024

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 pay entry fees for DA7C members who display their cars on our Stand.

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 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 -

Friday 30th May, so please don't delay.



An entry form has been sent with the newsletter and should be filled in and sent to Richard Bishop, 40 Feltrim Avenue, Exeter, EX2 4RP e-mail rchrdbshp7@gmail.com as soon as possible.

If you would like any more information, just drop Richard an e-mail or telephone David on

01626 852259



The Midlands Austin 7 Club has registered for this event, with an open invitation for members of other A7 Clubs to use their discounted entry code.

Discounted tickets can be purchased using this link <http://www.silverstone.co.uk/classic-car-clubs> and the code 25CCD090.

This gives entrants two tickets and a pass to take your Austin 7 into the circuit for the weekend for all 3 days, and is a saving of around half price. This huge event features top line racing, free access to the pits, entertainment on the evenings and much more.

See www.silverstone.co.uk for more detail.

Vintage and Classic Weekend at RHS Garden Rosemoor, July 26th & 27th 2025

This is an Annual Event for Devon Sevens. We will have a Club Stand so if you intend to come please mark your entry form "Devon Austin Seven Club" to ensure we reserve sufficient place. Then please contact Nick Borst-Smith (contact details on back page)



Now in its 15th year the weekend has proved to be one of their most popular events with Vintage Vehicles, Motorcycles, Tractors, Caravans and Steam Engines, and

in 2024, the event attracted over 2900 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. Following feedback from exhibitors and visitors there will also be a food and beverages area closer to the vehicle displays.

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.

Rosemoor can no longer offer overnight stays for exhibitors, but have arranged reduced camping rates at Smythen Manor, located 2 miles from Rosemoor.

Full details and a booking form are available on the Devon Austin 7 Club website.

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

Musings of a Mascot

It seems to me that the weather is getting slightly warmer, and so more people may get out in their old cars.

My human's son came down to see us on 4th March and we went out in Annie for a pub lunch which was very pleasant for them, though not very exciting for me. A couple of days later we went out in Annie again for another pub lunch with our Morris chums.

Then we had the AGM of our splendid club on 16th March. We went down in Annie and I seemed to be very popular with several members, being given treats at the meeting and quite a bit of meat when we adjourned to the Tom Cobley pub for lunch. I heard my human saying how pleased he was with the time it took us to travel the 42 miles or so. I'm not at all surprised that we made good time when I noticed the speedometer registering over 45 mph and sometimes nearer 50 mph.

Once again a month punctuated by several Pub Lunches which seem to please my human as he always says they save him time spent shopping cooking and clearing up. I can't honestly say that he only goes for the beer as he has given up beer and wine for Lent. I did however hear him saying that he was more than a bit brassed off with the price he was having to pay for a glass of orange juice and tonic water. Hey ho the cost of being abstemious.

Happy Austineering everyone - Max the Mascot

PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

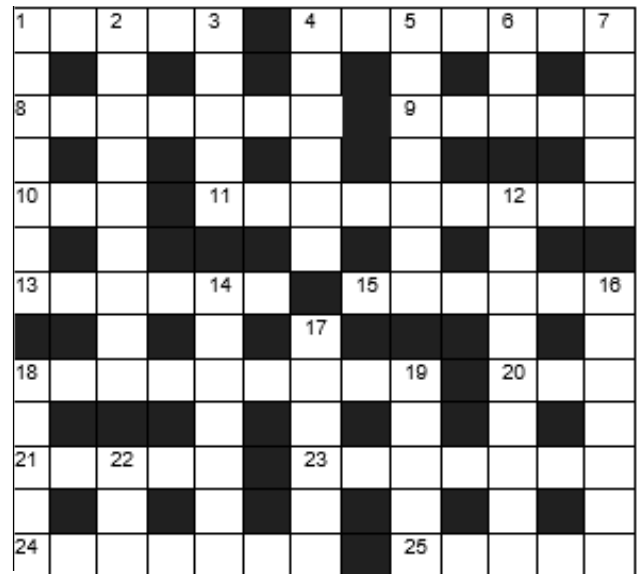
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Owned possibly, and able to give (5)
4. Crib, too, became mechanical (7)
8. Pursuit with hook line and sinker? (7)
9. Note big jug is less old (5)
10. Cat, dog or canary (3)
11. It fizzles out (4,5)
13. Listen out and enroll (6)
15. Set cap about to see the view (5)
18. Gloats in a mix-up of sentimentality (9)
20. Still, it's in any ethnic group (3)
21. Val sees it as essential (5)
23. i.e., talon in another form (7)
24. A target, maybe, is a boating event (7)
25. Very small golfing aid from New York (5)

DOWN

1. Previously plenty as a specimen (7)
2. Sal and I dig it out of the garden (9)
3. Dam'd uncanny (5)
4. Émigré worried government (6)
5. On buses abroad there's extra payments (7)
6. Drag from ready-to-wear section (3)
7. Chocolate substitute run over in taxi (5)
12. Deadline for eating food could perhaps be Tuesday (3,2,4)
14. Most ayatollahs brought up a vegetable (7)



17. Flag at Harlem veils writer (6)
18. Not once was nerve lost (5)
19. Later it might be an emergency (5)
22. Item's label at a garage sale (3)

FAMOUS COUPLES

The vowels have been removed from these groups of words, the spaces closed up, and the consonants grouped into fours, so that ROMEO AND JULIET would become RMND JLT. Can you work out the names of these famous couples?

1. RCHR DBRT NNDL ZBTH TYLR
2. JHNL NNNN DYKN
3. MRKN TNYN DCLP TR
4. PRNC DWRD NDWL LSSM PSON
5. TRLS NDCR SSD

ANAGRAMS

Each of the following is an anagram of a make of car i.e. A RUNLET is an anagram of RENAULT.

1. SCARLET HEN
2. PRIM HUT
3. ADA LONG
4. A FOOL MARE
5. SEE LOWLY

Answers on page 19

The Re-build of YSK327 Austin Ten 2 seat tourer.

In 1978 we were living in South Africa and were residing in Beacon Bay adjacent to the Eastern Cape city of East London. I was using my Austin Ten Lichfield saloon to get to work, and a colleague commented that his brother had one as well, a 1933 two seat tourer. I arranged to have a look at the car, but it was not my intention to buy it as I already had a Ten, a 1934 Railton-Terraplane and a 1937 Hudson 6 "touring sedan". However, the owner had started work on the chassis, but had decided not to carry on with the project. It was too good a chance to miss and for the equivalent of £60, it was all mine.

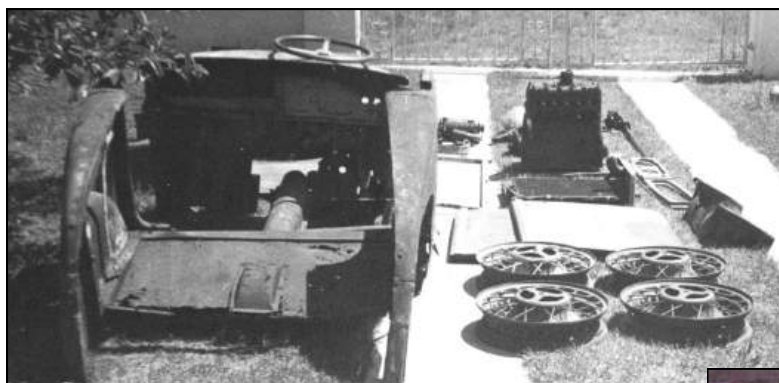
You can see in the photo that the main damage to the bodywork was that all the centre rear section was missing. The windscreen frame was incomplete and there was no folding roof frame or running gear. Fortunately, I had a spare engine, gearbox and rear axle available as spares for the Lichfield. Ten export 16" spoked wheels came with the car which was appropriate as the greased spring shackles indicated that it was an export model, so it was probably imported to South Africa new.

The first job was to strip the bodywork right down and have it all shot blasted before I etch primed it. I was able to purchase a sheet of soft mild steel to replace the missing/damaged metalwork. I also purchased a hobby oxy/acetylene kit as a lot of welding would be necessary. I am not going to detail all the repairs, but I will mention the first panel that I made up. This was the panel at the top of the dickey seat opening which has a raised section running across it. I created this by replacing the jaws of my large vice with a crude 'press tool' made of Tufnol and then running the pre-cut panel through it. The soft mild steel was very easy to shape.

Whilst on a UK holiday in 1980 I was able to get hold of a dickey seat lid, a complete windscreen frame and the 'drum' that holds the spare wheel onto the rear of the car. We returned to the UK in 1984 and it took ten years to complete the car, here is a photo taken partly through the re-build. It was quite a challenge to find all the missing small parts and modify other parts to fit. The roof frame came from a four seat tourer with one section removed, and the fuel tank came from a larger Austin, again shortened to fit giving a capacity of eight gallons.

The car goes very well, and with the 5.25X16 tyres gives a good ride. I have fitted a FM car radio to the car, it is a prototype that I did the design work on when employed by South African Philips Electrical in the early 70's.

As a footnote, we still have the Lichfield and the Railton-Terraplane. The Hudson was sold when we left South Africa and it has now found its way to the UK. The Lichfield has now travelled over a quarter of a million miles and has a heater so it tends to be the winter use car.



Anthony Flewelen

Fun in the mud on the Exmoor Fringe Trial

First appeared in the Windwhistle Motor Club newsletter - reproduced with permission of the author.

Back in the early days of motoring, everything was a trial. Getting to the top of the hill itself was an achievement. And so, the sport of trialling was born – several years before the first speed events took place in mainland Britain.

I was reminded of those pioneering days driving back in the dark from the VSCC's Exmoor Fringe Trial recently in the 92-year old Austin Seven special that Tim Whellock had kindly loaned us for the event.

Cars had become a common and relatively dependable sight on our roads by the time the little Austin left the factory in Longbridge, admittedly. But today, classic and vintage cars are often viewed as fragile items to be wrapped in cotton wool and only brought out for short runs on balmy summer evenings. To many, the thought of getting up before dawn, driving a car that's nearly a century old through the fog, competing in a particularly brutal form of motorsport all day, and then driving back in the dark must seem unthinkable.

For a while, it looked like they might have a point. A fractured oil pipe dumped much of its contents into the engine bay (and ultimately into the footwell) on the way to the event. Fortunately, bouncer Ross Mangles and brother Rory in the support car were on hand to assist, and with the help of the workshop at Exmoor Welding and the friendly staff of the Co Op in Wheddon Cross we arrived at scrutineering just before it closed.

Our first port of call was Broford Farm, where the Windwhistle Motor Club traditionally runs a group of sections. This support is essential to the running of the trial, and once again it was led by David and Anna Robinson.



Ross and I bounced furiously, but as with everyone else we struggled a little to get traction in the muddy conditions. It had been a relatively gentle start to our first trial – we'd ground to a halt before the halfway point on the first three hills.

The next hill was Long Broford. So named, because it's by far the longest hill on the event, and one with a reputation for hold ups when cars need to be recovered. It seems that the first cars that morning had mostly made it up with little issue, but the conditions had worsened. We waited for nearly two hours, during which time, not a single car had successfully made it up the hill. On the upside, this break had given us plenty of time to work out our strategy. The section starts by crossing a ditch with a small stream, which is shortly followed by a steep climb and a tight left-hand bend. There seemed to be more grip than on the previous hills, and it was power that people were struggling with as much as traction, so we made the decision to dump the clutch and plant the throttle right from the start.

It paid off. The Seven scabbled up the initial climb like a terrier after a rat. The first hairpin was negotiated with ease. A quick nip of the handbrake to help us around the second.



Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

What follows is a long climb that gets progressively steeper and muddier. Momentum has to come from speed in a featherweight Seven, so we snatched second and buried the throttle, tearing off sideways towards the final climb. As we passed the '25' marker, with mud flying in all directions, it felt like a switch had been flicked and our luck on the trial had suddenly improved.

A road section followed to the next hill, Mighty Milton, run by the irrepressible Mark Walker of Goodwood fame. Again, the Seven cleared it with ease and there wasn't a great deal for Ross and I to do except point it in the right direction and hang on.

The next hill had an ominous-looking 90-degree bend at the start followed by a very rutted track, but this too proved to be a relatively easy climb for the Seven. We didn't manage to clear the next one (Redcleeve Straight The Second) but neither did anyone else, and we came closer than most at marker 19 out of a possible 25. Likewise, our charge to the top of Hollam came to an end several markers before the finish, but at least it was an easy reverse out, with a junction just a few feet behind.

We then had the longest road section of the trial to the final group of hills at Ringcombe on the southern tip of the Moor. Queues for the hills and a somewhat delayed start meant we were running behind and we made genteel progress to stay in convoy with some friends in a Singer 9 who were having engine trouble. After 20 minutes, we passed the clerk of the course who waved us down and explained that they were in the process of closing the section.

At that moment, discretion went out the window and by common consensus we left the stricken Singer behind and dashed as fast as we could to the next group of sections.



We needn't have worried. The amazing marshals at Ringcombe, including another familiar face, Peter Loxton, had kept things open. Two more clears followed on Ringcombe Shorty and Ringcome Heights – the most nerve-wracking part of the whole trial being a three-point turn on a steep, exposed hillside at the top of the latter.

I knew I'd make one stupid mistake on the trial, and it came on the final section, Ringcombe Sting. The 'Sting' is a tight bend around a tree stump at the top, where the course had previously curved to the right for the final marker. Having diligently studied YouTube videos of last year's route before setting off I completed a textbook copy of that ascent ... only to realise that the course

now went to the left! It only cost us one point, but it was annoying as we would easily have cleared a sixth hill otherwise.

The mist was beginning to swirl and the Moor took on a rather rugged air as we drove back towards Exford, past Tarr Steps and Withypool. By this point, the rain had finally cleared. Instead, sunset was fast approaching and the sky was awash with oranges and pinks. The only other car we saw for miles was the Singer following in our mirror as we crossed the wildest and most beautiful part of the Moor.

By the time we arrived back at the Crown Hotel in Exford, the prize giving was already in full swing, and the village green was littered with vintage cars. Fortunately, we were still able to hand in our scorecard, which was added retrospectively to the results, where we picked up a Second Class award, finishing eighth in our class of 50 cars.

This result, which owes much to the car (and the bouncer), far surpassed our expectations. But I came away with a feeling that the competitive sections were only part of the challenge.

Aside from the easily-remedied oil pipe issue, the Seven hadn't missed a beat all day. It had never spluttered, stumbled or overheated; never once showed any reservations about the merciless treatment it had received in well over a hundred miles of hard driving while most classics were tucked up warm in their garages. It was truly a trial of the car's abilities in the old fashioned sense of the word. And the Seven had passed with flying colours.

Chris Pickering

With thanks to Steve Cockram and Glyn Evans for the photos.

David's Diary

For the first time in many months, I am happy to say that both our cars have been out and about. Ernie, the Milk Delivery Car was my transport to the Kennerleigh Post Office to meet up with Nick and Lizzie for a 'Coffee and Cake' morning.



Very good run with the hood down although the steering does need some attention. I have been saying this to myself for a while, but as the car is more often than not trailered to shows, the repair is constantly being pushed further down the 'To Do' list.

Late in February, Mabel, our AH Tourer was out for a shopping trip to Dawlish and also for a meeting at Re-Fuel to plan the next Young Drivers Day. After the meeting, I went on to meet Jude to look at her Chummy, Gladys, in Culmstock, to try to sort the starting problems out. We identified a fuel problem, but it was only after another visit that the extent of the problem was identified, and as I write this, the fuel tank is out and ready for a good clean up.

Mabel also took Jan and I to the AGM but with freezing temperatures at home, the hood and side screens stayed up for the drive to Spreyton. The car went very well though and the hood was down for a sunny return journey.

The RP restoration is progressing and this month I tackled some of the paintwork. After a struggle, I managed to withdraw the hinge rods from the bonnet and started to strip the old paint. Not the easiest job with about 5 layers of paint in and around the louvres and hinges, some of which has been there for 90+ years. One of those jobs that is very time consuming but oddly satisfying.



The repaired and painted wings are now back from the spray shop and safely stored away ready to be fitted. Slowly getting there!!

Happy Austineering.

David

Caught In the Headlights

This month we have caught in the Headlights, Philip Hockin. I am constantly amazed and surprised on hearing the back stories behind the experiences of the diverse DA7C members that are 'picked upon' at random. This month is no exception.

Hailing from St Giles on the Heath, just north of Launceston, somewhere near Cross Green, Lifton. Philip describes himself as a Landlord and Farmer, so plenty of time there for tinkering with old cars? His pride and joy is a 1936 Special which he has had for some 5 years which he acquired having returned to the UK from working in America. The car has had a varied life and was acquired with a vague history when it reappeared having been advertised by a dealer in SE England. Much work was needed to get it running properly and registered and Philip expressed his thanks to David Aylmore for all his help.

Other cars in Philip's stable include a 1946 MG TC and a 1958 Peerless GT Phase 1, describing his classic vehicle ownership more as 'his privilege as a custodian'.

The Peerless is a very rare car being one of only 14 in the UK of the 325 built between 1958 and 1962 and as a 1958 is a Le Mans Qualifying car. Not content with this acquisition, Philip also has a 1960 BSA Rocket Gold Star Replica and he runs the local Tamar Valley Group of the BSA Owners' Club.

If this collection is not enough, an **Allis Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier** completes the line-up! Coming back to earth, where mere mortals live, Philip recalls attending a DA7C event at Eggesford, near Winkleigh. Also, once attending Powderham, only having to disappear to open the pub.

It sounds very much like the case of wanting something done – ask a busy person!

Unbelievably, or perhaps just to be expected, Philip has acquired yet another string to his bow and is learning to play the bagpipes – a lone Piper!



Photos of the Austin 7 at Eggesford, Philip and his wife, Linda with the Peerless in the pub car park and the Alvis Saracen.

Mike Moore

New Members

This month we welcome 4 new members and their cars to the Devon Austin 7 Club:

Jay Williams lives in St. Austell and owns 2 Austins - a 1938 green Ruby ARR, and a 1934 RP Box Saloon in maroon.

John Batey lives in Launceston and owns 1926 beige/black Austin 7 Chummy. There is currently a problem with the Chummy's camshaft, but John hopes to have it fixed soon.



Richard Barlow lives in Kettering, Northamptonshire and owns 1934 Austin Seven RP in pueblo brown over black. The car has been in the same family for three generations, covering 59,000 miles from new.

Lucy Vaughan lives in Somerset and owns 7 Austins - 1932 RN in brown and black, 1933 Type 65 in red, 1935 yellow Special, currently living in Lucy's dining room, 1932 RN in red/black plus the following three cars-



1934 white Tourer



1934 Red Special



1929 black Type B Coupe

We look forward to meeting our new members and their cars out and about this summer.

Your Club needs You

At the AGM, Viv Gale, Chairman, David Aylmore, Secretary and Janet Aylmore, Newsletter Editor all gave notice that this would be their last year in their jobs.

We have a full year to plan and as a first step, I am asking who is interested in taking on one or other of these roles? It will obviously be much easier for someone to work alongside the existing committee member for a few months rather than just being dropped in at the deep end next March. So please get in touch and we can discuss what is involved and the best way forward.

With particular reference to my role as Secretary, there is plenty of opportunity to break down the job into several smaller areas of responsibility, so it could easily be shared between 2 or 3 people.

It would be fair to say that there is an increasing need for committee members to have a working knowledge of computer based/on-line communication, other than that, enthusiasm and support for the Club are the main requirements.

The turnout on Sunday and the support we have seen at events through 2024 shows that the club is thriving and despite these changes, I am confident that it will continue to grow in future years.

Please, please, please, don't just sit back in the hope that someone else will step up – We need YOU NOW !!!

Many thanks.

David, Secretary. (contact details on the back page)

A Tale of Woe, Part 2

Secretary's notes -Following Dick Bessant's article last month, I was intrigued at the 'Non A7's' in the background of his photos and asked Dick whether they were also his. This is his reply along with an update on work on the PD Tourer:-

The other cars are mine as I can never seem to actually sell one before getting another to play with, this new one proving to be more than I was expecting but still satisfying to do. All of them do get used to a certain extent each year. Whilst the 7 seems to fit my advancing years and my style of driving now, the Devil does take hold of me when a Cooper S comes out play.

As the engine in the PD had a Phoenix crank and re-metalled rods a few miles ago there seemed little point in doing anything to it whilst it was out. However, as it was out and the gearbox separated from it, the opportunity to just check the state of the valves and their seats seemed too good to pass, so the head was removed, valves reground all ready for the road again...except for the vast amount of solid debris bunging up the waterways.



Clearly not a good sign. I washed it out with brick cleaner, scraped and picked, hacksaw the gaps and have now left it overnight to let electrolysis work its magic. Plus drilling out the partially blocked waterways where I could. Hopefully that lot should keep it cool when it eventually takes to the road again.

The state of the waterways together with the obvious deliberate error of painting it Hammerite blue in a past life, all ganged up on me to remove the block to clean it internally, inspect the internals of the rest of the engine and repaint it a more respectable black. Luckily my RP will satisfy my addictive need to actually to drive a 7 for the foreseeable future and I can pass away the odd hour or two to play with the PD.

I will certainly keep you up to date with the progress...or lack of!! Having spent most of yesterday purchasing an inordinate amount of nuts, bolts and washers to fit the ones past their sell-by date on the car, compiling a parts list and trying to sort out the sand blasting of the various components now taking up floor space, researching which evil potion to pickle the head and block with.

I did surprise myself yesterday, after taking out the oil filler tube, with the amount of debris a torch revealed on the filter mesh etc. Now where is that inspection camera I bought all those years ago.....

Dick Bessant.

This poem first appeared in the Dorset A7 Club March 2025 Newsletter.

AUSTIN SEVEN POEM BY A.I.

This poem was automatically written by Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) technology. Chris Herring's daughter, Rosa, asked an A.I. application for a poem on Austin Sevens and this is what it produced.

The Austin Seven

In the heart of the road, where the engines hum,
An Austin Seven rolls, a timeless thrum.
With a purr so sweet, and a spirit so bold,
It whispers of tales from years of old.

A classic design, with curves that delight,
Shining in sunlight, or under the moonlight.
It carries a charm from a simpler time,
In every turn, a melody, a rhyme.

Small in stature, yet grand in grace,
It moves with elegance, at its own pace.
Through country lanes or city streets,
It dances along with rhythmic beats.

Oh, Austin Seven, so humble, yet wise,
A vintage jewel beneath the skies.
You are more than just metal and wheel,
You hold the spirit of the road, so real.

Forever etched in history's frame,
You're a symbol of joy, and a lover's claim.
An Austin Seven, a dream on wheels,
A journey of memories, that time reveals.

By Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)

Out and About



Left - Michael Tabcart, his elder son George and Max went to the Ship in Axmouth for lunch in Annie.

Right - Max, our mascot, and his human, Michael, went out for lunch at The Cat and Fiddle near Exeter. with their Morris chums



Left - Dick Bessant and Philip Snell enjoyed a convivial evening with the Somerset Sevensers at the Lamb and Lion, Hambridge

Right - The sun was shining, the birds were singing and John and Liz had the pleasure of following Bob and Anne Downey's AJ Tourer along the lanes to the AGM.



For Sale and Wanted

For Sale due to illness

1934 A7 RP Saloon. Now in good running order after a mechanical overhaul. Body good, sunroof, modern indicators.

Must go, so priced at £4,500o.n.o

Telephone Pete on 01803 552507 after 7pm.



For Sale.

1937 A7 Van. Very much a 'One Off' but with an interesting history. Professionally built on a 1937 chassis by a coachbuilding company – S.H Wyatt of Stoke-on-Trent probably in the 1990's. The body is Aluminium over a timber frame. In 2001 it was checked over & re-sprayed for the present owner by Ray Hood, a well-respected A7 restoration business. It was then used to deliver cut flowers around Devon until about 5 years ago when it was laid up. The van appears to have been well maintained whilst in use, and the engine starts & runs. It will need new tyres, battery and a light re-commissioning. Currently on SORN with DVLA.

Note the 'red' pictures are from 2001. 'yellow' are 2025!!

More information from David or Nick – Contact details on the back page.

Price - £6,000 o.n.o.



For Sale

1929 Austin Seven Chummy

After many pleasurable years, Diana Mackarel is sadly having to sell Amy, her much loved and well maintained Chummy. The car has side screen windows and also comes with a carcoon for the winter months, Coil Ignition, 750cc, 4 cylinder side valve, 6'3" wheel base, rear brakes on pedal with handbrake on front, 3 speed gear box with gate change, electric starter (nickname bacon slicer), brass headlights on front wings. Engine oil pressure is by button on dashboard. The car is in good running order and can be seen in Hartland, North Devon.

For more information contact Diana on 01237 441379.

Price: £11,500

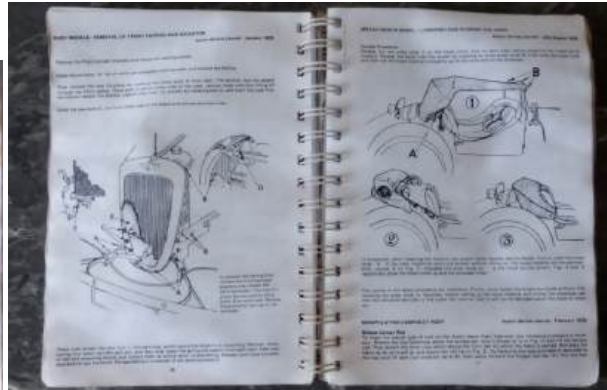


Austin 7 related items Wanted' or 'For Sale' can be advertised in Devon Sevens free of charge. Items will be removed from the listings after 3 months unless you have notified me that you would like the advert to continue.

Sales in support of the Rolling Chassis Project.

Please contact David Aylmore if you are interested in any of the following items.
Contact details on back page.

A7 Companion



Published by the 750MC, this is considered to be the book for technical information on the restoration and maintenance of the Austin Seven comprising articles based on many peoples personal experiences; covering all models from Chummy to the Ruby. This copy has been well used, and the pages have suffered from damp at some time. However, all pages are in place and it is still very useable.

Price £8 inc. P&P.

(Note, on E-Bay these are selling for between £15 & £35 +P&P)

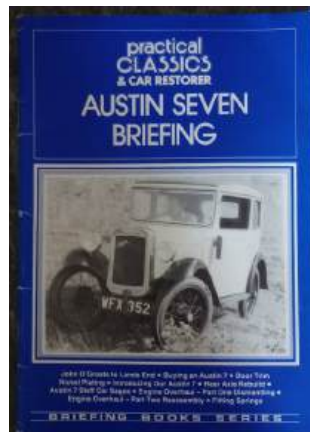
Austin 7 Specials



The 'must have' guide for anyone planning the building, maintenance or tuning of an A7 Special. In good used condition.

Price: £25 inc. P&P.

Practical Classics



CONTENTS	
1962 John O'Groats to Lands End Run	6
Austin Seven Buying Feature	11
Door Trim (On 'Top-Hat' Austin Seven)	16
Nickel Plating	19
Introducing the 'Practical Classics' Austin Seven	22
Rear Axle Rebuild	25
Staff Car Sagas	30
Engine Overhaul - Part 1, Dismantling	32
Engine Overhaul - Part 2, Reassembly	37
Fitting New Rear Springs	43

A varied collection of interesting articles published by 'Practical Classics'. Paperback A4 size in very good condition.

Price: £10 inc. P&P.

Bandsaw



Bandsaw in good working order, comes with a spare blade.

Dimensions: 1,140mm high, 1,110mm long and 350mm wide.

Collection from Braunton.

It is quite heavy and would need to be collected in a small van, estate car or SUV etc.

Price: a donation to the Rolling Chassis Project

2025 Events

The following list of events is for information only and implies no recommendation from the Devon Austin Seven Club. Before entering any event, members should ensure that they have read the terms and conditions on the entry form and are willing to comply with them.

Club Events

- Sat. April 12th** Young drivers day at Re-Fuel S.W. Five Bridges, Willand Road, Cullompton, EX15 1QP
See page 3 for details.
- Sun. April 27th** Drive it Day. Run to the Maritime Museum, Appledore. See page 4 for details
- Thurs - Sun.
May 8th/11th** Guernsey weekend. WW 2, Liberation Celebrations.
Contact Jude Zebedee for more information.
- Sun. May 11th** Wiscombe Hill Climb, contact Nick Borst-Smith (contact details on back page) for information.
- Fri-Sun.
May 29th/1st June** The Vintage Nostalgia Festival - DA7C website for full details.
Contact Nick Borst-Smith
- Fri - Mon.
June 27th - 30th** Scottish A7 Club Rally - Guildtown, Perthshire. Contact David Aylmore.
- Sat/Sun
July 12th & 13th** Historic Vehicle Gathering, Powderham. More information on page 5.
- Sat/Sun
July 26th & 27th** Rosemoor Vintage Weekend, Great Torrington EX38 8PH, Entry form on the DA7C website.
Contact Nick Borst-Smith. Details on page 6.
- Tues. Sept. 9th** Widecombe Fair. Contact David Aylmore.
- Sat. Sept. 20th** Sidmouth Classic Car Show.
- Sun. Oct. 12th** DVCC Autojumble, South Devon Railway Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ, just off the A38.

Other Events.

- Sun. April 6th** Hammerwich Pre-War gathering. WS7 0LJ E-mail. klaxonhoard@gmail.com
- Sun. April 27th** Drive it Day. Crash Box Club, the Den at Teignmouth. 10am - 4pm, come and go as you please.
Organiser - Geoff Hulley, phone 07801 859531, e-mail: geoff@crashboxclub.co.uk
- Sat./Sun. May 10th/11th** VE Day Weekend - see page 4 for details.
- Sun. May 11th** DVCC Autojumble, South Devon Railway Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ, just off the A38.
- Sun May 18th** Rotary Classic Car Run. 70 miles starting in Calne, Wiltshire. Details and entry form from David Aylmore, or E-mail. calnerotaryclassicrun@gmail.com
- Sun. June 15th** Morwellham Quay, www.morwellham.org Contact Nick Hawkins, 01271 375730,
e-mail: valhawkins3@aol.com
- Sun. June 29th** National A7 Rally - Beaulieu Hampshire. Entry forms available from The Pre-War A7 Club website: www.pwa7c.co.uk
- Sun. July 6th** All Things Morris - Morris dancing, classic & vintage vehicles. www.allthingsmorris.co.uk
- Fri - Sun, Aug. 1st - 3rd** Torbay Steam Fair - Churston, Brixham. Website - www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk
- Sun. Aug. 3rd** Munchkins Miniature Shetland Rescue summer Fayre & Classic Car Show, Colyton, EX24 6HX
www.mini-munchkins.org or e-mail: jackiegillard8@gmail.com
- Fri - Sun
Aug. 22nd - 24th** Silverstone Festival - see page 6.
- Sun. Aug. 24th** Seaton Carnival Classic Car Show – Contact Michael Tabear.
- Sun. & Mon.
Aug 24th, 25th** Honiton Hill, Smeatharpe Stadium. www.honitonhillrally.co.uk Phone No. 07929 534277

Regular Monthly Meetings

- 1st Thursday 8pm** BSAOC Tamar Valley Group meet at the Fox and Grapes, Lifton. DA7C members most welcome to meet up with like minds. (landlord is DA7C member Philip Hockin)
Contact Philip for details: philip.hockin@gmail.com
- 2nd Wednesday** 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
- 3rd Monday 7pm.** Members Zoom meetings with a Guest speaker every 3 months if possible.
- 3rd Wednesday** Somerset Sevens meet at the Lamb & Lion, Hambridge, TA10 0AT at lunchtime and in the evening around 7.00 p.m. Contact Anne Whellock on 01460 66434 for more details.

Answers to puzzles on page 7

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1.Endow 4.Robotic 8.Angling 9.Newer 10.Pet 11.Damp squib 13.Enlist 15.Aspect 18.Nostalgia 20.Yet 21.Vital
23.Toenail 24.Regatta 25.Teeny

DOWN

1.Example 2.Digitalis 3.Weird 4.regime 5.Bonuses 6.Tow 7.Carob 12.Use by date 14.Shallot 16.Totally
17.Agatha 18.Never 19.Alert 22.Tag

FAMOUS COUPLES

1. Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor 2. John Lennon and Yoko Ono 3. Mark Antony and Cleopatra 4. Prince Edward and Wallis Simpson 5. Troilus and Cressida

ANAGRAMS

1. LANCHESTER 2. TRIUMPH 3. LAGONDA 4. ALPHA ROMEO 5. WOLSELEY

May 2025 Newsletter

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

Copy for inclusion in the May issue should be with me by **Wednesday April 16th 2025** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 23rd**.

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.

Newsletter Editor:

Janet Aylmore
South Devon
Tel: 01626 852259



E-Mail: devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Devon Austin Seven Club. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the technical advice and information, the Club and its officers accept no liability for loss, damage or injury from persons acting upon the advice or information given in this publication.



Devon A7 Club Clothing Range



Fleece Jacket , 3 Colours available.	£35
Pull-Over Hoodie, 8 colours available.	£28
Polo Shirt, 17 Colours available.	£20
Sweat Shirt, 13 Colours available.	£24
Soft Shell Jacket, 3 Colours available.	£35

All clothing items are available from our new On-Line Shop.

Ordering is very simple -

go to www.devonaustinseven.company.site/

or

Follow the link from the Members' section on the Devon A7 Club Website:-

www.devon.sevens.co.uk

Choose your garment/size & colour.

Pay in the same way as with any other on-line purchase.

Delivery is direct to your home address.

Mechanical help and advice for Devon A7 Club members.

If you need help with your car, whether it's a chat over the phone or someone to come and have a look at the problem, contact one of the knowledgeable members listed below. They will undoubtedly be able to help, but if they can't, they will certainly be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

Whether you are a new member or have owned an A7 for years, we all need help sometimes, so don't struggle with a problem, help is at hand.

Philip Burrow	Copplestone.	07870969620
Richard Bishop	Exeter	01392 439916
Pete Gilbert	Throwleigh	07879 483529
Nick Borst-Smith	Crediton	07809 568120
John Turley	Wells, Somerset	01749 675475
Chris Hartnoll	Brayford.	01598 710295
David Aylmore	Newton Abbot	01626 852259
Philip Snell	Axminster	07833 620763

Please note that any advice given is on a friendly, informal basis only and no liability for loss or damage can be accepted.

Members Tool Loan Scheme.

Any Club Member can ask to borrow one or more tools free of charge. There will be a refundable deposit of £20 to be paid, in cash if the tools are collected, or by BACS to the Club Bank Account if they are to be posted. The cost of postage to be met by the Club Member.

Request for any tool can be sent by e-mail or by telephone to the Club Secretary, David Aylmore, devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk, 01626 852259

These are the tools that are available:-

Brake shoe adjustment gauge.	Clutch alignment tool.
Clutch plate riveting anvil.	Cylinder Head & Block core plug punches.
Flywheel fitting spacer.	Front main bearing removal jig.
Guide for drilling out broken cylinder head stud.	Tool for removing rear spring bolt.
Tool for drifting front main bearing onto crankshaft.	Wheel bearing drifts.
Tool for drifting rear main bearings onto crankshaft.	King Pin reamer.
Stud removal socket set.	
Engine lifting rig using 2 x spark plug threads (14mm & 18mm available)	
Note this tool can also be used to lift a 'stuck' cylinder head from the engine block	
Tool for removing studs from the engine block or crankcase	

If the tool you need is not listed, please just ask, as we can probably find it for you.

Keeping in touch with the Devon Austin 7 Club



For details of upcoming events, news, club regalia, history of the club, photo gallery and much more visit the website - [www. devonsevens.co.uk](http://www.devonsevens.co.uk).

The password you need to access the 'Club Members' section was included in the e-mail accompanying this newsletter. In this section you will find the Members Map, Tool Loan Scheme, On-Line shop for club clothing and the Committee Meeting Minutes.

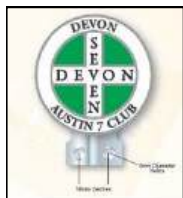
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



Devon A7 Club **WhatsApp** group. If you have not used **WhatsApp** on your mobile phone before, it is a very useful, quick and easy way to pass a message to a group of people. If you were, for instance, thinking of taking your A7 out for a run and fancied some company, a quick message on the group could well attract some local members to join you. There is no sign up, cost or 'spam' involved so if you would like to join, just use this QR code,

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. £13.50 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 Steve Wise by phone or e-mail or can be collected from any club event. Contact details are on the back page.

Devon Austin 7 Club - Officers & Committee members 2025/2026

Chairman:



Viv Gale - North Devon, Tel: 07890 471973
E-mail: vivgale6@gmail.com

Secretary & DVLA Rep:



David Aylmore - South Devon, Tel: 01626 852259
E-Mail: devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:



Steve Wise - South Devon, Tel: 07739 986998
E-mail: s.r.wise@outlook.com

Car Identification Number Registrar:



Nick Borst-Smith - Mid Devon, Tel: 01363 866819
E-mail: nickbs@outlook.com

A7 Assoc. Rep:



Michael Tabcart - East Devon, Tel: 01297 624208
or 07523 055291 E-mail: mttabcart@gmail.com

Committee Member:



Keith Selley - Plymouth, Tel: 07960 490869
E-mail: keithselley@hotmail.co.uk

Committee Member:



Jude Zebedee - East Devon, Tel: 07944 602211
E-mail: judezebedee@gmail.com

Committee Member:



John Turley - Mendip Hills, Tel: 01749 675475
E-mail: john@priddyfolk.co.uk

Committee Member:



Mike Moore - East Devon, Tel: 01460 220885
E-mail: mike@mgmoore.co.uk

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