



# Devon Sevens

May 2025

Issue 182

Newsletter for

## The Devon A7 Club



*Out and about enjoying our beautiful countryside. More photos on pages 10 and 11.*



## Secretary's Notes

Last weekend saw the latest 'Vintage Cars for Young Drivers' day held with support from our friends at Re-Fuel S.W. It was another great success with even more youngsters enjoying a drive or ride in an A7 and others taking the opportunity to get hands-on with an engine.



Any event relies on help and support from many people and I would like to record my thanks to all those involved. There are however three people who need special mention.

Nick Borst-Smith put together the days program and sent out publicity and press releases to numerous news outlets and on the day took overall control. Richard Bishop together with Philip Burrow supervised all those youngsters who 'played' with the engine. I counted at least 4 completed top end strip down, valve removal & re-build before that exciting re-start – The smile on the youngsters faces said it all – well done to everyone.



I feel sure that the seed of interest in vintage cars that we are sowing by holding these events will come to fruition in future years so let's continue our efforts to spread the word. – The next event is already in the diary – October 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 – make a note on your calendar now.

Our 'Rolling Chassis Project' is another way of getting youngsters involved and we had the chassis displayed at the Young Drivers event. It promoted a good deal of interest, and we will now consider the best way forward. To fund the chassis and its restoration we made an application to the A7 Clubs Association of which the Devon A7 Club is a member. We heard this week that our application was successful and they will provide 50% of the initial purchase and £250 towards spares for the restoration. With other donations already received, we are now confident that we have sufficient money to make a start.

Whilst this idea is aimed at the younger generation, anyone can get involved, so if you like the idea of trying your hand at a spot of restoration of the engine and/or chassis, just get in touch.

Derek Nuttall has kindly donated a couple of 'C' spanners to the Club stock of tools for loan (see page 20 for the complete list) The larger one fits the Torque Tube bearing retainer and the smaller one is for the steering column/box. Please remember this Club resource. Speaking from personal experience, it is amazing how much time can be saved on many jobs if the right tool is used.



*David (DA7C Secretary)*

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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**



THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



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



### Wiscombe Hillclimb, Club Day – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:anne@vintageandsportscarservices.co.uk)

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

The code for discounted tickets is **austin7** (lower case, no spaces), available on [www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events).

Please contact Nick Borst-Smith for more details, or to let him know that you plan to attend the event.- 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 May 2025**  
**7pm**

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

## The Vintage Nostalgia Festival

*Stockton Park, Stockton, Wiltshire. 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025*

We have been invited to The Vintage Nostalgia Festival in the heart of the Wylve 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.



# The 62nd National *Austin Seven* Rally

**Beaulieu - Sunday 29th June 2025**

The largest annual gathering of  
Austin Seven enthusiasts, vehicles  
and trade suppliers.

Special Displays:  
**Sports & Racing A7s**  
**Boat-Tail Tourers**

Entry forms will be on  
website in mid-March 2025  
[www.pwa7c.co.uk](http://www.pwa7c.co.uk)



Rally Organiser - Ian Nelson. [ian.s.nelson@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.s.nelson@btinternet.com)  
07803 888585



# 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](http://www.historic-vehicle-gathering.info), it really is a great day out.

July may seem a long way in the future, but with the amount of planning necessary for an event of this size, entries need to be in early and the latest date for reserving a space on our stand is -

**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](mailto: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](http://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.**

## New Members

*Welcome to the Devon Austin 7 Club*

This month we welcome 2 new members to the DA7C:

**Ed Wilkins** lives in Newton Abbot. He doesn't own an A7 at the present time, but is looking for a VSCC eligible Trials car.

**Andy Brierley** lives in Torquay and owns a blue 1930 Chummy ready for restoration.



*We look forward to meeting Ed and Andy out and about in the coming months.*

## David's Diary

Oh dear!! – I've fallen into bad habits again and haven't had either car out this month. In my defence, things have been rather busy with family commitments and the Young Drivers Day, but even so I always feel guilty when I have to admit this lack of attention.

There has been more progress with the RP restoration and the bonnet panels are now finished in Westminster Green and the body has doors which, I am very pleased to say, fit very well.



We thought that all the rust had been found and sorted, but then while stripping the last of the original paint, the underside of the spare wheel carrier was found to resemble a colander.



A section was cut out, the rusty interior treated and painted, then a new section was fabricated with a drain hole to hopefully prevent any further deterioration.

My efforts to re-build the rear axle continue. Woodrow and other guides mention replacing the original felt seal at the inner end of the half shaft with a modern lip seal. Sounded like a straightforward job but I should have known better. It transpires that there are several different sizes of lip seal and depending on which you have, more or less of the original fittings need to be retained. After a lot of research and posting questions on A7 forums, I realised that the seals I have need modifying to fit into the original cup that held the felt seal. The exterior diameter needed reducing by a smidge (technical term!!). Not having a lathe, I used the pillar drill but it took about 6 attempts to find a way of securing the seal. I then gently applied a file to achieve the required reduction. The seals and retaining clips then all went back without problem, but all very time consuming.

The hubs were next for attention. You might remember that this axle had spent several years buried under a pile of garden waste so they were externally in a poor state however, the bearings, threads and half shaft tapers are in very good order. An hour degreasing and wire brushing and one is finished – quite satisfying.

*Happy Austineering*

*David*



## Vintage Cars for Young Drivers Day

What a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying day we all had at Refuel, Cullumpton in April. The chance to drive an Austin 7 was very well attended with quite a remarkable age range of people taking part. The youngest member of one of the families who have all supported us every year was at last tall enough to reach the pedals helped with a number of cushions! There were also a number of trips into Cullumpton made by our members with passengers wanting to experience a ride in an Austin 7, well done everyone who made their car available one way or another.

Phillip Burrow once again brought his long suffering engine well mounted on a mobile stand and we had a number of youngster ready to get their hands dirty and remove the cylinder head, manifold and grind in a valve, rebuild and finally start up the engine, much to everyone's delight. This year we were kept busy most of the day as we had a total of four groups wanting to strip and rebuild the engine. There were four youngsters in one group and also one young lady on her own with wonderfully long stick on nails but they did not stop her doing a really good job in the least! I always find it so rewarding to watch and help people to do the jobs that we have all done and take for granted, the learning process has to start somewhere. Well done everyone in the club who was there.



Richard Bishop

## PUZZLE PAGE PART 1

by Julie Eddles

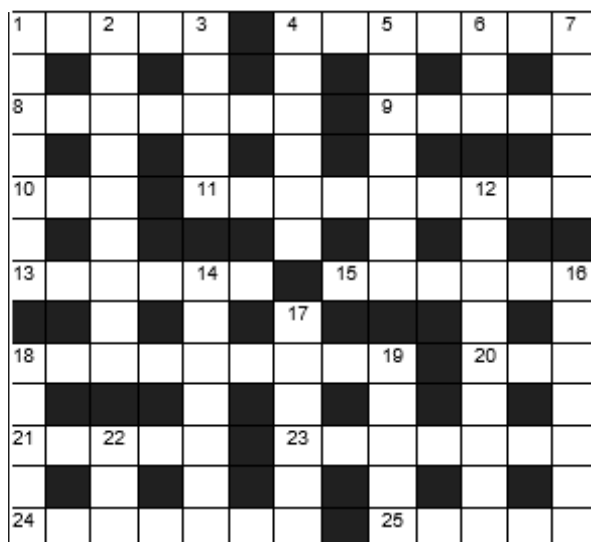
### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

1. Rope fibre (5)
2. Untie moorings (4,3)
8. Dismay, anxiety (13)
9. Flightless bird (3)
10. In figures (9)
12. Car part (6)
14. Uncoil (6)
17. Superfluous (9)
19. Unwell (3)
20. Overcooked (5,8)
22. Weirdo, fruitcake (7)
23. River or cloth (7)

#### DOWN

1. Accomplish (7)
2. Tanned (9)
3. Vatican language (5)
4. Shiny plating (6)
5. Girl's name (7)
6. French yes (3)
7. Last (5)
11. Find fault with (9)
13. Small precise detail (7)
15. Inundated (7)
16. Confound (6)
17. Bird (5)
18. Larceny (5)
21. Decay (3)



## Musings of a mascot

I don't seem to have been very busy in the last month. On Thursday 3rd April my human and I went to take lunch with our Morris chums at the Cat and Fiddle. They provided the usual carvery and pudding deal which my human enjoyed. He actually spared me a little taste which was very pleasant. We took his friend Phil who is suffering from quite bad cataracts which have affected his sight rather badly so that he is not able to drive until he gets them done.

My main activity was at the Young Drivers' Day when I wore my tabard for the day ( see piccy below). My human was volunteering to take members of the public for a ride into Cullompton and back so they could feel , and smell, what it's like to have a ride in an Austin Seven. I have to say they were all tasked by my human that they would have to have me coming with them. That presented no difficulties with me being so friendly I had to be careful not to lick the passengers too much...Everyone that we took expressed their thanks for a memorable ride.

I do so love that little car, Annie, as I think I have told you all before, so it was bliss for me to ride into Collumpton and back whenever we had any interested parties. I think we must have done the trip seven or eight times and the traffic was pretty busy each time. I think the day was a great success with loads of youngsters wanting to have a drive round part of the grounds set aside for that, and others being interested to work on the engine and examine the rolling chassis.

Happy Austineering everyone.

Affectionally yours, Max the Mascot



## Out and About

Now that the clocks have changed, bringing lighter evenings, and the temperatures are a bit kinder, Somerset Sevens' monthly outings have livened up. At a recent event, Anne Whellock and Philip Snell joined four other Austin 7's plus 4 other classics/vintage for food and drink at the busy Lamb and Lion.



Keith Selley's Miss Daisy has been out and about . Keith says, "We took 'Miss Daisy' out for drive to Lopwell Dam on her 91st birthday 14/03/2024, and I took 'Miss Daisy' to show a friend's grandfather, who was in fact two years older than the car. He was delighted to see it and enjoyed the run around. He was born in a small village in Wales and his first ride in a car was when he was 13 some 80 years ago, an Austin 7 saloon belonging to his headmaster".



## Out and About with Steph and Doug

Steph and Doug have been making the most of the weather and the beautiful countryside surrounding them:-

Making the most of the sunny March weather and the first signs of Spring, Doug and I enjoyed a lovely drive across the quiet Exmoor roads. Following one of our favourite roads which winds its way high above the Barle valley, we drove across to Simonsbath. Continuing on through Exford and Wheddon Cross we headed towards the Quantock Hills arriving an hour or so later at Stogumber Station on the West Somerset Railway. How lovely it was to pass an hour or so relaxing in the sunshine in the station garden, enjoying delicious refreshments and good company, before taking an equally scenic drive home across the moors.



The weather couldn't have been better on 'AGM Sunday'! Doug and I enjoyed a lovely sunny and scenic drive through Witheridge, the country lanes around Morchard Bishop and Down St Mary and on to Bow and Spreyton. It always amazes us how far you can travel off the main roads in so much of Devon, hardly passing another vehicle! We arrived at Spreyton to find an array of 7's parked up in the sunshine. After the meeting and following a lovely Sunday lunch, we headed home again delighted to arrive home after a very successful maiden voyage for us out in 'Meg'.



It's not often you get the opportunity to mark a 100th birthday milestone, so after a very murky start on Exmoor, the sun came out, the RP came out of the garage and we decided to make a bit of a day of it. We chose a particularly scenic and meandering route along river valley roads and narrow country lanes full of primroses and daffodils heading towards RHS Rosemoor for a welcome pot of tea.

After brief look round and fully refreshed, we set off again in the sunshine en route to Blights Garage at Bideford to celebrate the 100 birthday of Jeff Blight's Austin 7 Chummy. We arrived to find several other 7's parked around the birthday car, and a lovely welcome from Jeff and Theresa. A real surprise was the delightful cake made by their daughter which we all got to enjoy a little later. A huge thank to Jeff and Theresa for inviting us and for their hospitality. As the sun began to set we headed for home arriving back just before nightfall after a thoroughly enjoyable day.



After many hours of recommissioning a more recent addition to our collection, 'PJ' the 1932 RN, after several years of being laid up, was ready to test drive. Work has included new rear springs, new rear dampers, new kingpins and sorting tracking issues in order to address a very interesting ride! Dynamo repairs, repairs to torque tube, new brakes, repairs to front hubs and numerous other jobs have also been attended to.

So making the most of the extraordinary weather that we've become rather accustomed to, off we went, emergency repair bag on board, for our first real voyage in the car.

Staying local, we toured Exmoor, enjoying exploring some of our favourite lanes and vantage points. Our route took us to Malmsmead and Lorna Doone country, a lovely cafe for a light lunch, and on to Cloutsham and Dunkery in the glorious sunshine.

We covered over 70 trouble free miles, so a truly excellent day all round!



*Doug and Steph Whittlestone*

## Caught In the Headlights - Peter Gregson's Chummy

Yet again, the recipient of a purely random illumination of a members' experiences has elicited, possibly one of the longest, most authentic and comprehensive record of an Austin 7, her owners' tenacity over many years and provides a delightful read, all kindly written by Peter Gregson, the owner.

*Mike Moore*

When I bought my 1929 Chummy over 60 years ago it was not much older than my current Volvo. How technology has progressed!

My first meeting with a 7 was when my maths master - he could have passed for Einstein's double - visited my house master for supper. The prefects lifted and carried his Chummy across the lawn to dump her in the house mistress's rose bed. After supper to her dismay, he calmly drove out without a backward glance while a group of small boys watched in fear and admiration.

A few years later and still at school I bought my first Seven, a 1931 Top Hat when the ownership of a car, had my house master known, would have brought dire consequences. Jezebel as she was known for no good reason was the start of a long association with these wonderful little cars. I cut off the roof, ruined a fine grass tennis court racing around on a bare chassis before eventually discarding the body completely to build an alarmingly dangerous open 2-seater in which I drove many miles. Oh, the ignorance of youth and no regulations.



*1931 Jezebel. How illegal can you get? She had lights but no brakes that worked.*

The Chummy followed a few years later, a smart little car and real comfort with a hood and side screens. Again, I drove her for many miles including a run from Scotland to Berkshire - without a second thought - and a run up the west coast of Scotland around 1965, ostensibly looking for more 7s.



*8 and 12 years old learning to drive a Chummy.*



*1963 and ready for the road.*

One fine afternoon I came close to losing her. Following rumours about a RR Silver Ghost from several meetings on the way up the Scottish west coast I eventually found the car. At the end of a long drive through the woods I could make out inside a half open garage door the unmistakable wing and spoked wheel of a Ghost tourer. I was invited to join the family for tea on the terrace before being taken to inspect the car. "Just an ordinary car doing what cars were designed to do" said the owner who had bought her new about 1925. Some years previously when at the RR dealer for a service he asked them to fit brakes to the front wheels, a suggestion curtly refused. "That's the way Mr Royce designed her and that's the way she must stay" was the response.

"You would think it was their car not mine" says the owner.

Seeing my little Chummy parked outside the lady declared the Ghost was much too big for her husband now and he really should have a little car like mine. "Well," says I, "I could be persuaded to swop", an offer sadly declined.

Some years later I could not resist the chance to buy a 2-seater 7, a 1933 chassis with an ash and aluminium body, Brooklands aero screens, no hood and a throaty exhaust. It must have been a special but a really professional job. It was not properly road legal so a long-suffering Dad agreed to tow it home, a journey of some 150 miles. Alarmingly, Dad could not see me out of the back window of his big Bentley, appeared to have forgotten I was bouncing around on the end of a string astern and unaware of his speed nearly lost his furiously waving beloved offspring. I swear that little car never travelled so fast again.



*A young would-be Stirling Moss with a 2 seater.  
Where is she now?*

The car had the habit of boiling on a long uphill run which of course I now know is usually the result of sludge in the cylinder block and head waterways and probably the bottom of the radiator as well. One day I roared up a hill to stop at a garage at the top for petrol. As I pulled up at the pumps with a cloud of steam hissing out of the rad cap the garage owner sprinted across shouting "get that thing away from my pumps".

With the Chummy laid up I used the 2-seater while at St Andrews university. In the winter I earned some much welcome cash teaching skiing 2 hours chilly drive up in the hills at Glen Shee with my grandfather's chains loosely strapped round the back wheels. Designed for much bigger wheels they rattled alarmingly even with the leather straps pulled tight but the car never stopped no matter how deep the snow.

One dark night in a regular blizzard with driving snow limiting the already limited headlights - and of course no hood - I missed the road in deep snow, ran up the bank taking out a row of fence posts before diving nose first down onto the road below. Still pointing in the right direction and the engine till running I continued on my way. However, the steering did not feel right and on examination I found the front wheels pointing in different directions. I slithered on down the road like a snow plough until a light appeared which proved to be a farm with the old man still milking his cows at midnight by the light of a Tilley lamp. Repairing an Austin 7 was not problem to this generation - this would have been around 1965. Off came the axle which was alarmingly bent. Laid across an enormous oak chopping block, the application of a huge sledge hammer and it was straight enough to go back on. A twist of the track rod over his knee and I was soon back on the road.

After university the 2-seater went to a very enthusiastic young man who I hope has had as much pleasure as I had. I wonder what happened to that car? Life moved on and I laid the Chummy up on blocks for over 20 years, greased up with a dust sheet over her. Some 10 years ago with time and inclination available, I decided to recommission her. I stripped and cleaned the carb and distributor, a new 6v battery and fresh petrol and I drove her out of the garage. Even the brakes worked or at least slowed her down. Would a modern car do that?

What I optimistically thought would be a quick 6-month job has now run into 2 years, admittedly with a vintage boat and old house refits in between. With no reason to open the engine the axles, brakes and electrics have all been stripped and rebuilt, new rear wings and the wiring replaced. The real issue is the body, as many owners will know to their cost, electrolysis between the aluminium body panels and the steel body tray has resulted in corrosion around the lower edges. In addition, the road is clearly visible at the driver's feet and the steel member below the door linking the hinge post and the latch post is significantly rusted - a common problem exposed by aluminium corrosion bubbling the paint under the door sill.

Another frequent weakness is deterioration of the wooden frame round the top edge of the back linking each latch post usually caused by repeated replacement of the screws securing the hood and in this case a bad attack on woodworm resulting in a rather flexible body. Be careful closing the doors and don't lean too hard in the back seats! Having steam bent and laminated many wooden boat frames fabricating a new member for a Chummy did not prove to be a difficult job. The result in body stiffness is quite remarkable. Interestingly, the original ash member was in one piece and must have been steamed round a former. Just imagine a production line requiring this sort of work. I laminated it in 3 thicknesses, also in ash.



*Chummy ready for new laminated wheels arches*



*Laminating wheel arches.*

The truth is a full restoration will require a body-off job but not for this year. The current work in progress is the addition of indicator lights. Yamaha motorbike indicator lights proved to look right. After modification and mounted on fabricated brackets under the headlamps they do not impinge on the look of the car. I have resisted conversion to 12 volt but LED bulbs should improve night driving. Time will tell and members might have some useful input.

Next week should see the engine running so watch this space. With the imminent prospect of being back on the road, I found that 20 years ago I had totally forgotten about SORN. With the invaluable help of our Club Secretary, David, a certificate of authenticity backed up by old photos, an original V5 and a very understanding young man in Cardiff, my PG 400 registration was soon reinstated. I have since learnt that I am very fortunate that such an apparently valuable plate was still available.

She will not be the smartest Chummy on the road but in all the miles I have done she has never let me down and I am now looking forward to the pleasures of the wind in my thinning hair and the tinkling of the starting handle.

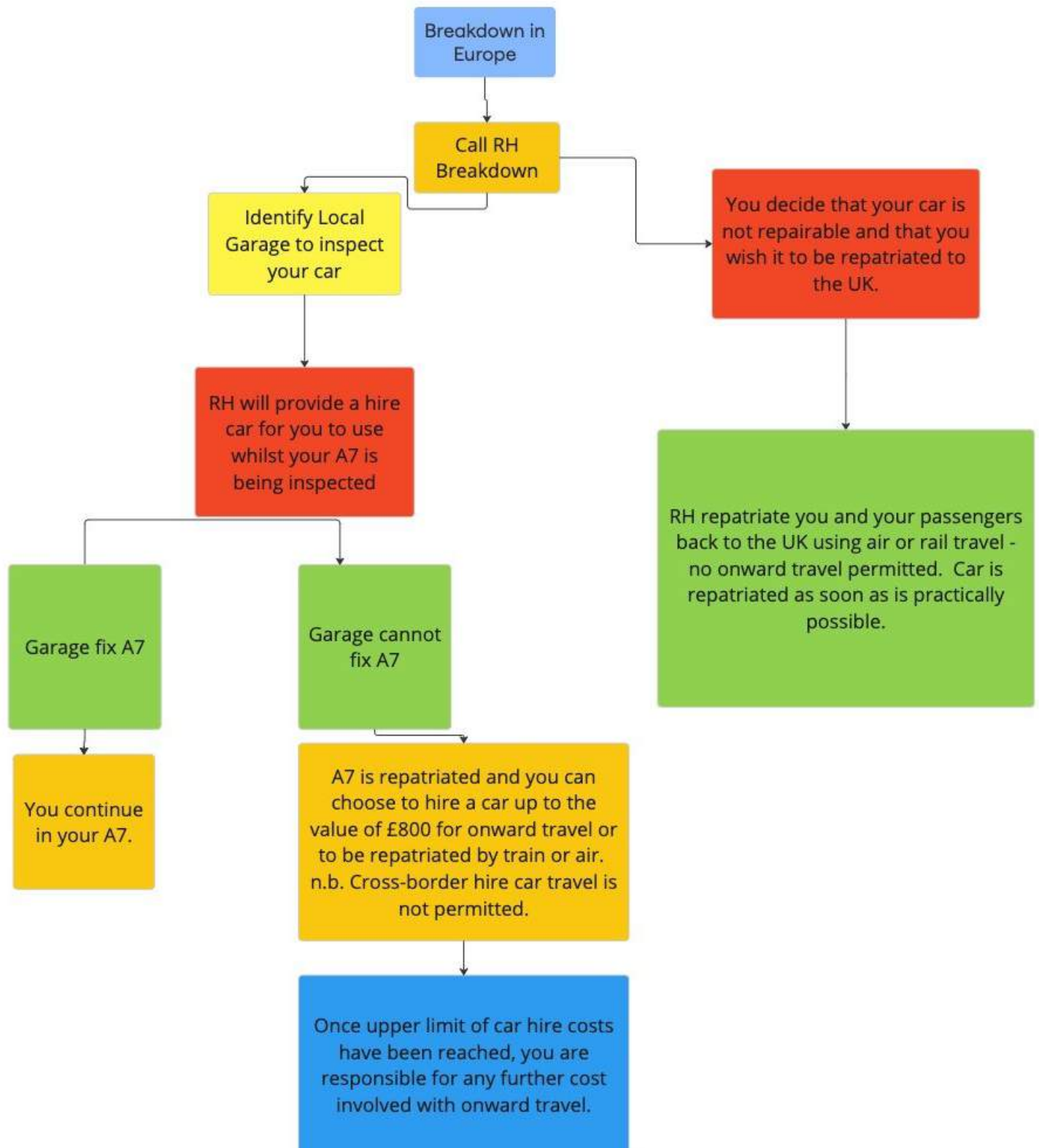
*Peter Gregson*



## Advice about RH European Breakdown Recovery Scheme



A7CA representatives recently met with RH Specialist Insurance to discuss the types of breakdown cover they offer for clients travelling in Europe. RH use DAS and ERS to oversee the recovery service in mainland Europe and you can choose the service you wish to take out, during your renewal conversation with RH. During our meeting with RH it became clear that they consider ERS suits the needs of Austin Seven owners better. If using ERS, there are several procedures and choices to be made which are illustrated in the flow chart below1.





## FBHVC Matters

Our club pays an annual fee to the FBHVC, so this is a reminder of the work that the FBHVC is carrying out on behalf of historic vehicle owners...

### The Federation exists to maintain the freedom to use all historic vehicles in the UK

In support of that aim, the legislation team, headed by the director, work to monitor both proposed legislation and regulation and the operation of existing legislation and regulation to promote and protect the right of enthusiasts to use and maintain their historic vehicles on the road

- without unreasonable restriction;
- without modification;

without the need to conform to the performance, roadworthiness and environmental standards which are applied to the generality of modern vehicles.

The legislation team consists of over a dozen members, selected for their wide experience of the UK historic vehicle user community covering all the 130 years of powered road vehicles.

The legislation team works with the legislative bodies of the worldwide FIVA and participates in several FIVA commissions. This is especially important having regard to the European dimension of much proposed UK legislation.

The primary tasks of the legislation team are

- monitoring Government websites to identify all policy changes proposed;
- responding to all relevant consultations;
- lobbying civil servants, ministers and other appropriate trade bodies to ensure preservation of a strong and healthy historic vehicle movement in the UK;
- encouraging the widest and most accurate possible Press coverage of legislative matters, both current and proposed, concerning historic vehicles

John Turley FBHVC Rep

### PUZZLE PAGE PART 2

#### QUADRUPICS

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

- |              |                |               |              |                    |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. POLEMIC   | (a) Included   | (b) Huge      | (c) Separate | (d) Controversial  |
| 2. ADIPOSE   | (a) At rest    | (b) Fatty     | (c) Adjust   | (d) Competent      |
| 3. VAPID     | (a) Quick      | (b) Steamy    | (c) Dull     | (d) Dilated        |
| 4. POTENTATE | (a) Thick      | (b) Ruler     | (c) Nearby   | (d) Prostrate      |
| 5. QUIESANCE | (a) Inactivity | (b) Nausea    | (c) Anomaly  | (d) Suspiciousness |
| 6. GINNEL    | (a) Gutter     | (b) Hand tool | (c) Grate    | (d) Alley          |

#### QUOTE BOX

Place the letters in each column into the blank boxes below them to spell a quote from *This Motoring, The story of the AA Association* by Stenson Cooke.

	B	E	A	E	E			A			A	C		A	I	A	H		
B	O	H	L	O	O	K	E	O	T	K	E	A	P	H	A	S	G	I	S
T	W	T	T	T	R	V	T	R	T	T	H	T	H	M	W	S	Y	T	

## 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

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: £8,800**



*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.

### **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** - please contact David Aylmore, details on back page.

## 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

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

### Other Events.

- Sun. April 27<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:geoff@crashboxclub.co.uk)
- Sat. May 10<sup>th</sup>** Royal British Legion VE Day Celebration, including period cars. Axminster, 11am - 4pm on the Minster Green. Contact Philip Snell, [pbsnell@outlook](mailto:pbsnell@outlook) for details.
- Sat./Sun. May 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>** VE Day Weekend at the fox and Grapes, Lifton - see page 3 for details.
- Sun. May 11<sup>th</sup>** DVCC Autojumble, South Devon Railway Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ, just off the A38.
- Sun May 18<sup>th</sup>** Rotary Classic Car Run. 70 miles starting in Calne, Wiltshire. Details and entry form from David Aylmore, or E-mail. [calnerotaryclassicrun@gmail.com](mailto:calnerotaryclassicrun@gmail.com)
- Sun. June 15<sup>th</sup>** Morwellham Quay, [www.morwellham.org](http://www.morwellham.org) Contact Nick Hawkins, 01271 375730, e-mail: [valhawkins3@aol.com](mailto:valhawkins3@aol.com)
- Sun. June 29<sup>th</sup>** National A7 Rally - Beaulieu Hampshire. Entry forms available from The Pre-War A7 Club website: [www.pwa7c.co.uk](http://www.pwa7c.co.uk). Details on page 4.
- Sun. July 6<sup>th</sup>** 11am - 4pm, All Things Morris - Morris dancing, classic & vintage vehicles. More details at: [www.allthingsmorris.co.uk](http://www.allthingsmorris.co.uk)
- Fri - Sun, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>** Torbay Steam Fair - Churston, Brixham. Website - [www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk](http://www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk)
- Sun. Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>** 11am - 4pm, Munchkins Miniature Shetland Rescue summer Fayre & Classic Car Show, Colyton, EX24 6HX [www.mini-munchkins.org](http://www.mini-munchkins.org) or e-mail: [jackiegillard8@gmail.com](mailto:jackiegillard8@gmail.com)
- Fri - Sun  
Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>** Silverstone Festival - see page 6.
- Sun. Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>** Seaton Carnival Classic Car Show – Contact Michael Tabear.
- Sun. & Mon.  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>** Honiton Hill, Smeatharpe Stadium. [www.honitonhillrally.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 pages 8 and 16.

#### QUICK CROSSWORD

##### ACROSS

1.Sisal 4.Cast off 8.Consternation 9.Emu 10.Numerical 12.Dynamo 14.Unwind 17.Redundant 19.Ill 20.Burnt offering 22.Nutcase 23Tweed

##### DOWN

1.Succeed 2.Sunburned 3. Latin 4.Chrome 5.Sharron 6.Oui 7.Final 11.Criticise 13.Minutea 15.Deluged 16.Baffle 17.Robin 18.Theft 21.Rot

#### QUADRUPICS

1.(d) Controversial 2.(b) Fatty 3.(c) Dull 4.(b) Ruler 5.(a) Inactivity 6.(d) Alley

#### QUOTE BOX

Better to keep away, to look at a chassis – whatever that might be.

### **June 2025 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 June issue should be with me by **Wednesday May 21st 2025** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 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.

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Janet Aylmore  
South Devon  
Tel: 01626 852259



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



## **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/](http://www.devonaustinseven.company.site/)

or

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

[www.devon.sevens.co.uk](http://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](mailto:devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk), 01626 852259

### **These are the tools that are available:-**

Brake shoe adjustment gauge.

Clutch plate riveting anvil.

Flywheel fitting spacer.

Guide for drilling out broken cylinder head stud.

Tool for drifting front main bearing onto crankshaft.

Tool for drifting rear main bearings onto crankshaft.

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

'C' spanner for the Torque Tube & one for the Steering Box.

Clutch alignment tool.

Cylinder Head & Block core plug punches.

Front main bearing removal jig.

Tool for removing rear spring bolt.

Wheel bearing drifts.

King Pin reamer.

**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.

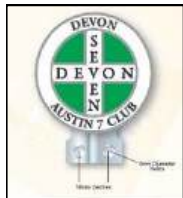
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



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.  
*Currently 'out of stock' - pre-orders are being taken, but the price is not yet known.*

### 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](mailto:vivgale6@gmail.com)

### Secretary & DVLA Rep:



David Aylmore - South Devon, Tel: 01626 852259  
E-Mail: [devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk)

### Treasurer & Membership Secretary:



Steve Wise - South Devon, Tel: 07739 986998  
E-mail: [s.r.wise@outlook.com](mailto:s.r.wise@outlook.com)

### Car Identification Number Registrar:



Nick Borst-Smith - Mid Devon, Tel: 01363 866819  
E-mail: [nickbs@outlook.com](mailto:nickbs@outlook.com)

### A7 Assoc. Rep:



Michael Tabart - East Devon, Tel: 01297 624208  
or 07523 055291 E-mail: [mttabart@gmail.com](mailto:mttabart@gmail.com)

### Committee Member:



Keith Selley - Plymouth, Tel: 07960 490869  
E-mail: [keithselley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keithselley@hotmail.co.uk)

### Committee Member:



Jude Zebedee - East Devon, Tel: 07944 602211  
E-mail: [judezebedee@gmail.com](mailto:judezebedee@gmail.com)

### Committee Member:



John Turley - Mendip Hills, Tel: 01749 675475  
E-mail: [john@priddyfolk.co.uk](mailto:john@priddyfolk.co.uk)

### Committee Member:



Mike Moore - East Devon, Tel: 01460 220885  
E-mail: [mike@mgmoore.co.uk](mailto:mike@mgmoore.co.uk)

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