



# Devon Sevens

June 2025

Issue 183

Newsletter for

## The Devon A7 Club



A taste of the Guernsey trip for the 80th Anniversary of their Liberation  
Reports and more photos on pages 14,15 and 16.



## Secretary's Notes

Our Club weekend trip to Guernsey was a huge success thanks to Jude's organisation and I know that everyone who went thoroughly enjoyed their time on the Island.

Drive-it-Day saw a great many members out and about with their cars and across Facebook, the Club Website and WhatsApp, we recorded well over 25 pictures of Austin 7s on the road with their drivers.

Our Club WhatsApp page now has more than 50 members signed up and is proving to be a very popular site for communication between members. If you haven't yet joined, all you have to do is scan the QR code on page 20 with your mobile phone. If you want any help or more details about WhatsApp, then give Steve Wise a call. His details are on the back page.

We have received a record number of entries for the Club stand at the Historic Vehicle Gathering in July and by the time you read this, the closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> May will be almost upon us. Full details of those who have entered are on page 4 Please have a look and let me know of any errors.

*David (DA7C Secretary)*



## New Members

*Welcome to the Devon Austin 7 Club*

This month we welcome 6 new members to the Devon Austin 7 Club, and look forward to meeting them all in the coming months.

Ashley Gold lives in Topsham and owns a blue 1930 RL.

Clive Norton lives in Stoke Flemming and owns a blue 1928 Tourer.

Michael Thomas owns a 1932 RN Saloon in black/green and lives near Totnes.

Paul Williams lives in Tiverton, and his 1934, black Austin 10 Clifton was found in a barn in County Tipperary.

Steven Gray lives over the border in Marshwood, Dorset and doesn't have an A7 at the present time.

Tim Bucknall from Colyton owns a maroon/black Chummy.



## Austin Seven Clubs' Association



Recent communication between the A7CA and RH Insurance has confirmed that the RH telephone team are aware of the names of the clubs that belong to the A7CA. So if you call RH for a quotation for insurance of an Austin Seven and you are asked for the name of your Austin Seven club, the advisors will know whether the preferential terms accorded to those in A7CA member clubs are applicable.

Also, you may already be aware that A7s insured with RH are normally covered when carrying out non-competitive parade laps at shows and events etc. RH will also consider obtaining cover for those who want to take part in competitive events or track days.

RH have told the A7CA that: "Due to the wide range of acceptability parameters (ie age of driver, type and location of event, value of vehicle, insurer appetite etc), we are unable to provide definitive guidelines. Applicable charges will also vary depending on the event and insurance company we place the cover with. The preferred approach is therefore for members to call us so that we can assess each case and refer to the insurers."

*Ruairidh Dunford*  
*A7CA Secretary*



## Zoom Club Night



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

**Monday 16th June 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 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.



# 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 2025

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 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.

**Bookings for the club stand will close in a few days time on Friday 30th May**

but why not come along as a spectator.

You will be very welcome at our stand for a chat and refreshments.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please Note:** Below is the list of entries for our stand this year. It is important that we know how many cars to expect on each day, so please check the list and contact me if your name is on the list, but you no longer plan to attend, or if you think you have booked a place but your name isn't on the list.

My contact details are on the back page.

*Many thanks. David Aylmore. Secretary.*

#### Saturday and Sunday

Michael Tabcart	Philip Snell
Nick Brooks	Jeff Blight
Doug Whittlestone	Roger Burge
Nick Borst-Smith	Steve Wise
Andrew Grabham (2 cars)	Rob Brown
Paul Sleeman	Nick Hawkins
Andrew Tittley	Peter Palmer
Keith Selley	Bob Downey
Ray Eagling	Ed Bird

#### Saturday Only

Philip Burrow  
Dick Bessant  
Mike Moore  
Viv Gale  
John Turley  
Richard Soffe

#### Sunday Only

Andrew Scott  
Barry Sangster  
Jude Zebedee

## Celebrating 60 years of the Bristol Austin Seven Club - Sunday July 13th

We are invited to join the Bristol A7 Club at the BA7C Newark Park Austin 7 & Classic Car Rally to celebrate their 60th Anniversary. The event is set in the grounds of Newark Park, a Tudor hunting lodge set in parkland above Wotton under Edge in the south of Gloucestershire. The postcode (only to be used from the North) is GL12 7PZ. There is a small tea pavilion which serves takeaway hot and cold drinks and light snacks.

Entry fee to the Rally will be £5.00 per vehicle. Entry fee to the rally includes entry to the house. Entrants are kindly asked to arrive by 11.00am and to stay until 4.00pm.

For entry form contact Ben Amor, December House, 12 Linfoot Road, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8BX (07734 227553 / [bamor61@yahoo.com](mailto:bamor61@yahoo.com))

## 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)



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 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.**



## SIDMOUTH CLASSIC CAR SHOW 2025

**Saturday 20th September**

The Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce with the help of the Crash Box & Classic Car Club of Devon will once again hold this popular event on the picturesque Sidmouth Cricket Ground overlooking the sea and close to the Regency town centre. As usual, there will be music and refreshments.

**A great day out for all the family not just the car enthusiast.**

**Don't miss out. Put this date in your diary. Tell your friends.**

**This year, for the first time, you will be able to enter the show online which will save you the trouble of finding your cheque book and sending us a SAE.**

However, if you do not wish to book on line, do not panic, you can still enter in the old way, using paper, pen and the Royal Mail!

The entry forms will be available in early July.

If you have attended our show in recent years and the organisers have your email, you should automatically receive an email with an entry form in early July.

From early July you will also be able to download it from: [www.sidmouthclassiccarshow.co.uk](http://www.sidmouthclassiccarshow.co.uk), or the DA7C website or you can send an email to [mike@mikelavers.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikelavers.co.uk) to request one.

Last year, the show was, as usual, oversubscribed within a month of the entry forms being available. So when you receive it, please do not delay getting your entry in..

If you have any queries please contact Mike Lavers. (Show coordinator) on 07970 715438 (after 7.00pm)

# PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

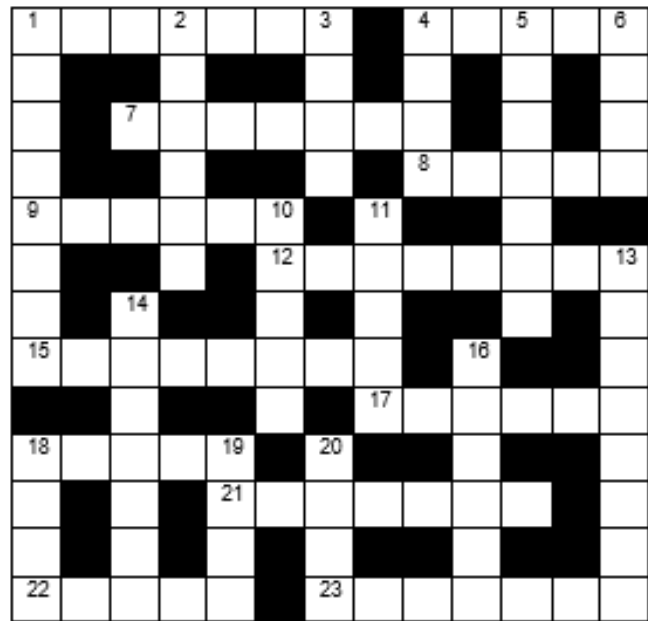
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1. Power source for an artillery unit (7)
- 4. Rest of the night (5)
- 7. Gemstone for mere lad (7)
- 8. Expel some taking part in Clyde victory (5)
- 9. Fan set out for tie (6)
- 12. Be on a diet fixed and disciplined (8)
- 15. Animal pale, then treated (8)
- 17. In truth ones totally frank (6)
- 18. Tapas, cooked, an Italian food (5)
- 21. Car demolished arid elm (7)
- 22. Tests out badgers' homes (5)
- 23. Tutors chaps on hills (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. & 18D. Prancing fab ponies' fees for afters (8,4)
- 2. A motto about salad ingredient (6)
- 3. It begins on January the first (4)
- 4. Editor is backing tem (4)
- 5. Car parts that roar and purr (7)
- 6. Scheme of a garden bed (4)
- 10. Wanderer moaned about English leaving (5)
- 11. It may be in number three cabin (5)
- 13. Some guys become attached to them (4,4)
- 14. Under pressure to turn up for final courses (7)



- 16. In the red bin Ted rearranged (2,4)
- 18. See 1D (4)
- 19. Sums up mixed-up dads (4)
- 20. Picture thin coat (4)

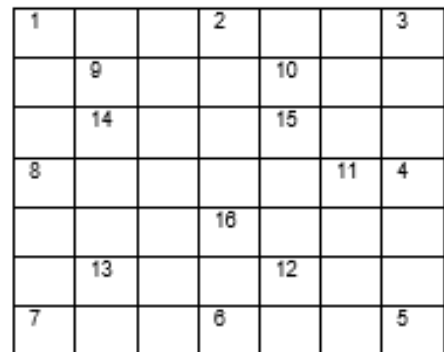
### WEST COUNTRY ATTRACTIONS

The vowels have been removed from these groups of words, the spaces closed up, and the consonants grouped into fours, so that BUCKFAST ABBEY would become BCKF STBB Y. Can you work out the titles of these attractions?

- 1. HSFM RBLS .....  
.....
- 2. THMN TRPN YCNT R .....  
.....
- 3. MRTN HMPS TDMT RSM .....  
.....
- 4. TTNS RRBR DSFR M .....  
.....
- 5. BCTN PRKB TNCL GRDN S .....  
.....
- 6. PNNY WLLF RM .....  
.....
- 7. CLDH RBRM LL .....  
.....

### WORD SPIRAL

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Daybreak     | 9. Resound        |
| 2. Pleasant     | 10. Sign, portent |
| 3. Way out      | 11. Fix, secure   |
| 4. Examine      | 12. Impend        |
| 5. Basket       | 13. Young lady    |
| 6. Seize        | 14. Jump          |
| 7. Male rabbit  | 15. Entreaty      |
| 8. Bird of prey | 16. Skilled       |



Answers to puzzles can be found on page 18

## David's Diary

Well, that was an interesting month. Our first time 'abroad' with our A7 Tourer Mabel and the repaired and re-sprayed body of our RP restoration project 'Reggie' has been re-united with the chassis and is now back in our own garage



Before the chassis was ready, I had to finish assembling the Differential – and with guidance from Richard Bishop, set up the crown wheel and pinion – only time will tell if we got that right!!! The Diff, half shafts and hubs were put back together with the axle casing and then the chassis was complete. I lined the top of the rails with some felt and soaked that in Waxoyl before finally lowering the body in place.



Still a lot to do before he is back on the road, but this feels like a big step forward.

Our trip to Guernsey was a really memorable weekend and I know there are full reports elsewhere in the newsletter so I won't repeat the details here. Jan and I would however like to record our thanks to Jude for organising our time on the Island. It was our first visit to the charming Island and we would very much like to return at some time in the future. The only problem we had was that an internal wire broke on the Dynamo stopping it charging the battery. I was able to borrow a mains charger on both Friday and Saturday night from Adam Mason and Philip Burrow so started back home with a fully charged battery. Interestingly after over 100miles, the battery still read 6.2Volts when checked on arrival home.

The next workshop job for me will be to sort this problem before we set out for Scotland at the end of the June.

*Happy Austineering*

*David*

## Trialling on 3 wheels

In mid-April I posted this picture on our Club Facebook page and asked if anyone recognised which club member was looking so determined to get up 'Bluehills' on a 1980's Lands' End Trial. A few people did correctly identify our very own Group. Capt. Wingspan and this is his story of the Trike he is riding:



My trike, named Hemyock, was made up of a 1000cc Morris Minor engine with a shortened gearbox mated to an Austin A30 axle (narrower than the minor) using a Hillman Imp rubber UJ, the front forks were from a 1950s AJS.

The original trike was built by some friends of mine in Devon and I modified it for use on trials. The picture shows my passenger Snuzzle and me on Blue Hills mine section at the end of the 1982 Lands' End Trial and you can see me desperately trying to hold it in gear because we had a broken gearbox and only had 1st and top gear left, we still came home with a 3rd in class award.

I think I have the dates correct but as we prepared for the next event, we were suddenly faced with a change of the rules which outlawed the trike. It appears that somebody had entered a Honda Trike that was not strictly legal for road use. The organisers promptly put a stop to this by changing the rules for 3 wheelers, so that the driver and passenger had to sit side by side as in Reliant/ Morgan etc.

If we were going to do that year's trial, I had to cobble something together quickly. I had a wrecked Suzuki 400cc single m/c (cost £15) and found an old sidecar chassis in someone's garden (£3) and used this for the next few years, winning the sidecar class on the Exmoor Trial and bringing home 2nd and 3rd awards on Exeter and Lands' End Trials. This m/c combination was nicknamed 'The Thug', because "it beats us up".



The one thing about these events is that money does not buy you results and if you ever get the chance to have a go, do not miss it.

The trike went on to be modified as I made up a new front end with disc brakes and fitted a 1275 midget engine and stronger gearbox. It was my main transport up to 2011 and took us (Jan and dogs) on holidays, including a trip up to the west coast of Scotland and was used for towing trailers. It was very well known to our local plod because I rarely wore a helmet because it's registered as a car.



It's still in the family and now lives in Scotland.

*Group Captain Wingspan, out.*

## Musings of a mascot

Once again despite the lovely weather I haven't had lots of official duties. I went with my human on Drive it Day with his Morris chums. There was no need for me to wear my tabard as all our Morris chums know I am the mascot. We had a nice run starting from the Dower House Hotel in Rousden, where my human had a nice cup of tea and some biscuits. We then went on a mystery tour looking for our lunch venue, which we eventually found and my human was able to enjoy a splendid roast lunch

Last Saturday we went to Axminster Minster Green to join in the VE celebrations( see piccy). We were parked up next to the beer tent, which rather pleased my human, though he wasn't very pleased to hear that their Proper Job was only 0.5 percent abv which caused him to say to the beer sellers that it wasn't really Proper Job at all. and he had to content himself with a drop or two of Tribute instead. I wore my tabard to advertise our splendid club.

When we came to leave Mike Moore's Jane Austin wouldn't start. Luckily Philip Snell was there and he eventually traced the problem to the starter button which was malfunctioning. I had to sit in Annie and be good while my human and his chums helped Mike to get Jane Austin going.

All that made us rather late leaving and I didn't get home much before 7pm, from an event which was due to end at 5pm. That is what makes our dear wee cars so exciting and rewarding to work on I guess.

I think that's all for now folks.

*Happy Austineering*

*Max the Mascot*



## Amazing!

Philip Snell's car recently passed the MOT test at the Castle Garage, Axminster. Advisories included , a smeary windscreen wiper blade, 2 oil leaks (slight) and a worn door hinge pin !!



VT.20	Serial No. B 315923
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT	
TEST CERTIFICATE	
The motor vehicle, of which the Registration Mark is <u>EUO 79</u> , having been examined under section 65 of the Road Traffic Act, 1960, it is hereby certified that at the date of the examination thereof the statutory requirements prescribed by Regulations made under the said section 65 were complied with in relation to the vehicle.	
Vehicle Testing Station Number <u>78261</u>	Signature <u>J H Rowe</u>
Date of issue <u>20th Feb 1965</u>	For and on behalf of <u>Castle Garage</u>
Date of expiry <u>19th Feb 1966</u>	<u>Axminster</u> Authorized Examiner
Serial Number of immediately preceding Test Certificate <small>(To be entered when the above date of expiry is more than 12 months after the above date of issue)</small>	
The following further particulars of the vehicle should be entered:	
Make <u>Austin</u>	If a goods vehicle, unladen weight.....cwt.
Approximate year of manufacture <u>1938</u>	If not a goods vehicle, horse power or cylinder capacity of engine in cubic centimetres <u>7HP</u>
KEEP THIS CERTIFICATE SAFELY SEE NOTES OVERLEAF	

60 years ago at the same Garage the same car was tested by Mr John Rowe , Grandfather of the current Proprietor and Examiner, Jan Rowe.

## Out and About



Left: Michael Tabearth was joined by his elder son George and Max in Annie, to go out for a pub lunch.

Right: Michael met up with some of his Morris chums at their East Devon Drive it Day.



Dick Bessant says this photo was taken after a wander over Exmoor and then ascending Porlock Hill. Luckily the AA were not required. Dick asks, "Who remembers the Patrols having to salute cars with a members badge on the front? No salute was apparently a sign of a speed trap in front."



Tim and Anne Whellock on the VSCC Wessex Diffey Trial on the Mendips, near Wells. Fog early in the day followed by hot sunshine. Not really trialling weather, a lovely day out



Dick continues, "Alternatively, while carrying out further exploration of lanes. Austins don't require a warning sign it seems, only imported American cars."



Spotted on Wells Cathedral Green after completing the Mendip tour, Mark Nutbeam's lovely Ruby.

## Enjoying Drive it Day

Whilst away on holiday in our motorhome we decided to join the Bristol Austin 7 club for their Drive it Day in our RN saloon. However the day before whilst driving through Cheddar Gorge the car developed a disconcerting noise. Back at base camp the dynamo was found to be red hot, very much indicating it was the cause of the problem.



*Steph Whittlestone*

Having thought we may have to do an overnight dash home and swap over cars, instead, thanks to a telephone call made by Sarah Mason, we were in the motorhome heading cross country to collect a dynamo generously loaned by Bob Randall. Once back at the campsite and at the hands of the very capable Adam Mason, the dynamo was exchanged by torch light ready for the next day!

Drive it day dawned and we set off for the run. It was organised in three sections, covering over 60 miles on small country lanes. A fantastic run reflecting the true spirit of Drive it Day. Thank you to all the organisers and of course to Adam and Bob.



## Out and About with Eddie and Julie

Eddie and Julie have been out and about enjoying the lovely weather, but Julie says some of the road surfaces leave much to be desired!!



On Teignmouth sea front on Drive it Day



At the Wobbly Wheel for a DVCC car run



At Delamore Arts



A visit to Berry Pomeroy Castle

A few more 'Out and About' photos from Drive it Day.



## VE DAY 80 CELEBRATION – AXMINSTER RBL

### SPAM, JAM & BREAD IN A CAN

Whilst the Long Range DA7C Battle Group have been 'over there' to foreign parts, the Axminster Platoon have been keeping the home fires burning, despite the glorious weather, maintaining a presence on the Home Front.

Sgt. Tabcart, Cpl. Snell and Sapper Moore successfully made it to Axminster (well mostly) to replicate the valiant Home Guard contribution to seeing off Mr Hitler, albeit with no guns, as was often the practice!

What a Show Axminster put-on for 10 May 2025, held on the Minster Green, lasting 6 hours of non-stop period entertainment, bands, bugles, cadets from all three Services, replica Churchills and memorabilia displays everywhere and so much more. We never did find out why our small allocated display area was conveniently situated between the 'performance stage' area and the licenced bar – a veritable masterpiece detailing of the organisation's 'cunning plan'.

Vera Lynn gets younger; Mr Punch is still giving his Mrs - Judy, a hard time. Young and old dressed to the Nines with over some 35 stands and displays and an estimated attendance of 2,500 people.

Sgt Tabcart delighted in cake from all directions and Cpl Snell engaged his public with his authentic 'peppering of shot' presentation of bodywork, having introduced a rural theme complete with a bale of straw, a cache of probably black-market potatoes and displaying a valid original Ration Book with his name on it! Sapper Moore's beloved Jane Austin successfully made the 12-mile round trip all the way from Chardstock (although not so proficiently on the return part).

Oh and yes, and the sun still shone and continued all day – the Home Front VE Day spirit was alive and well replicated. The RBL had a handsome collection and everyone went home smiling.



Mike Moore

## VE Day - 80th Anniversary of Liberation Day on Guernsey

A report with a difference! This was written by AI - Richard Soffe put in all the details, dates etc. and asked it to write in a light-hearted way and this article is the result.

### Austin Seven Invitation to Join the Guernsey 80 Year Liberation Day Celebrations Guernsey trip May 2025

What do you get when you mix eight Austin Sevens, a ferry full of optimism, and a windswept island with no potholes? A legendary club adventure, of course! We all travelled to Poole ferry port to board the three hour ferry trip to St Peter Port.

Participants Included:

- Jude
- Sarah & Adam
- David & Janet
- Phil
- Richard & Alex
- Jolyon
- John & Sue

### Liberation Day – A Celebration Like No Other

Friday 9th May marked Liberation Day, commemorating the Channel Islands' freedom from WWII Occupation - the only part of the UK invaded during the war. Emotions ran high as our cars joined an epic parade of over 150 classics, flanked by enormous military vehicles rumbling ahead of us and a convoy of vintage motorbikes and tractors in hot pursuit. We were cheered on by an astonishing crowd of 10,000+ lining the 4-mile route. It's not every day you feel like motoring royalty... even if you are doing 20mph in our lovely machines from the 1930s. The day ended with drone displays, a moving reenactment of the island's liberation, and a firework show that probably lit up the coast of France.

### Saturday – Touring in True Style (and Just a Tiny Bit of Trouble)

Saturday brought a guided island tour courtesy of the Guernsey Old Car Club (GOCC), who greeted us like long-lost friends and led us on a splendid route past white-sand beaches, quaint villages, and not a single pothole (yes, really!). Guernsey, it seems, might owe its perfect surfaces to the increased price of fuel (but no road tax) and not too many cars. But what's an Austin Seven trip without a little roadside drama? Midway through the tour, a mysterious scraping sound emerged from Richard's car Pearl, expertly captured on video by co-pilot Alex - clearly a man who knows when to film and when to panic. Within moments of pulling over, a crack team of A7 wizards materialised as if summoned, diving underneath the car with the enthusiasm of archaeologists uncovering buried treasure. Diagnosis was swift, technical opinions flowed freely, and as ever, the collective wisdom of the group turned potential disaster into just another fine story for the club archives. (See photo for the magic moment - feet sticking out from beneath Pearl, likely mid-debate over whether it was "just a bit of grit" or "possibly a bearing.") We lunched in style at Puffin & Oyster and learned that Guernsey tomatoes are now a rare treasure, as the island's few commercial glasshouses have nearly all gone. It was breezy enough to turn a flat cap into a frisbee, but our spirits remained sky-high.



### Sunday – Home Again, With Stories to Spare

Sunday came all too soon, and with it, an early ferry back to the mainland. Some cars were trailered, others made the brave drive home under their own steam - including Jude, David & Janet, and Sarah & Adam, who proved that 90+yr old cars can still take a punchy road trip in their stride. All in all, it was a terrific, memorable weekend full of laughter, local history, emotional stories, and newfound friendships. Guernsey welcomed us with open arms (and excellent food).

## TWO YEARS WITH GLADYS

Monday 26th May marks the second anniversary of my becoming a proud A7 owner. Two years with glorious Gladys, and what fun we have had! She has caused me a few headaches, but with the patient persistence of many club members (most notably the ever-generous Philip Snell) we are still on the road and having adventures together.

We have been from Beaulieu to the Blood Bank, from Teignmouth to Tescos, from Powderham to Proms and many (too many?) pubs. But probably the highlight of our time together has been the recent trip to Guernsey.

As a Guernsey girl born and bred, it was an absolute pleasure to take her over to "The Rock" to show her off to my parents. And what a week we picked! Guernsey was looking her glorious best with the sun shining, the bunting out and the hedgerows in full flower. On Liberation Day the cavalcade route was lined with thousands of people still enthusiastically waving and cheering, even though it had been well over an hour since the first vehicles had passed.

On the Saturday we enjoyed an island tour in the company of Paul and Denise Billington, who had so kindly hosted us and arranged our involvement in the cavalcade. We enjoyed a lunch with members of the Guernsey Old Car Club overlooking the clear waters and white sands of Grand Havre Bay.

Given her ongoing starter problems, Gladys introduced me to plenty of new friends. Her starter button failed as we queued for the ferry, but I was enthusiastically push started by several other passengers, clearly keen to get me out the way and get on board themselves! We also needed a push start to disembark, but I suspect the Brittany Ferry staff aren't used to cars as light as A7s. Gladys and I were almost launched into space as we bump started down the ramp, yelling at the chap with a clipboard and a fluorescent jacket to get out of the way! Thanks to local connections, I found a garage who could fix the starter button for the princely sum of £15!

Having nearly killed my 81-year-old mother when she insisted on helping me to try and push start Gladys, on the day of departure I decided I couldn't ask her to do that again. At 8am on a slightly damp Sunday morning, there weren't many other folk around to help and I'd already bothered Sarah and Adam Mason enough. They deserved a Sunday morning lie-in! Keen not to miss the ferry, I stood in the road outside my parents' house and flagged down the first car that passed. Luckily it was being driven by a strapping young man, who willingly came to my aid. As we pushed Gladys back up my parents' sloping drive for the third time, I apologised for delaying him in wherever he was heading. "Don't worry", he replied. "I'm a policeman on my way to work. Consider it all part of the service!" So, I can now add policeman to the list of people who have given me a push start. To date that includes postman, ferry staff, pub barman, grave diggers, passing cyclists and the Tesco delivery man!

Having decided that I am relying on others too much for mechanical support, I had signed up for a course in vintage car mechanics at the Bicester Heritage Centre on 20th/21st May. Unfortunately, I had to return to Guernsey to attend a family funeral that weekend, so I have rescheduled for June. On Thursday 18th I saw the sad news that Bicester Motion had experienced a large fire, with the tragic deaths of 2 firefighters and a local businessman. The whole site was closed until it could be made safe, so my course would have been cancelled anyway. Hopefully, the June one will go ahead, so by the time I head for Scotland, I should at least be able to carry out a few basic repair jobs unaided.

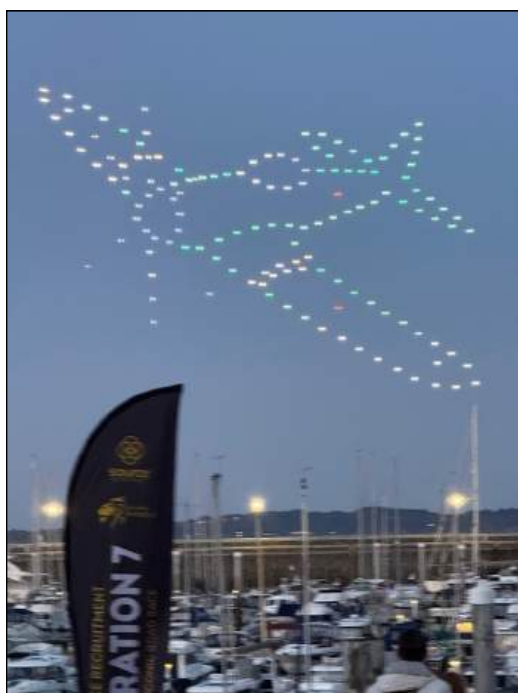
Ah yes...Scotland! Since signing up to attend the Scottish Rally in Guildtown, I have often wondered whether Gladys and I are up to the trip, but I guess "nothing ventured, nothing gained". Ruraidh Dunford has already been in touch to offer route suggestions and help along the way. There will be a number of Devon 7 members travelling up and although we won't be in convoy, I know that there will be help and advice available. My cunning plan is to be the first to leave, so there will be others coming along behind to help if needs be. Wish us luck!!

So, two years of A7 ownership has opened up a whole new world to me. I have met many new friends and discovered a fabulous new hobby. I hope that the coming year will see me become more independent with running repairs and, who knows, one day Gladys may even reliably start in the mornings!!

*Jude Zebedee*



## A few photos from Guernsey



### **Please help the National Historic Vehicle Survey to keep our classics on our roads!**

*In the March issue of 'Devon Sevens', we printed a request to take part in the five yearly National Historic Vehicle Survey. If you haven't already done so, please read the following and take part if you feel able:*

Please help us keep our classic vehicles on the roads! The five-yearly National Historic Vehicle Survey urgently needs your input. Taking part in the survey is vital as it shows the crucial importance of our hobby and will help stop future legislation from preventing us using our vehicles. The survey only takes around 15 minutes (a little more if you have numerous vehicles) and it is your contribution to safeguarding our freedoms! The survey closes on 31 May, so please don't put it off - 'later' will be too late! The survey is anonymous and your data is kept safe. Follow this link to the survey: [www.fbhvc.co.uk/survey](http://www.fbhvc.co.uk/survey) or scan the QR code.



## 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

- 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 4.
- 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 5.
- Tues. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>** Widecombe Fair. Contact David Aylmore.
- Sat. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** Sidmouth Classic Car Show, see page 5.
- Sun. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>** DVCC Autojumble, South Devon Railway Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ, just off the A38.
- Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>** Young Drivers' Day at Re:Fuel. Details to follow.
- Other Events.**
- 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 15<sup>th</sup>** Father's Day Fair, Auto-Jumble and Car Boot Sale at Hatherleigh Market. 10am until 1pm.  
Contact Debbie Kimber on 07538 547865 or e-mail. [hatherleighcommunitymarket@gmail.com](mailto:hatherleighcommunitymarket@gmail.com)  
for information.
- 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)
- Thurs. Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>** Chagford Show - a great show with something for all the family, see [www.chagfordshow.co.uk](http://www.chagfordshow.co.uk).  
Entry forms available on the DA7C website - [www.devonsevens.co.uk](http://www.devonsevens.co.uk).
- Fri - Sun  
Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>** Silverstone Festival - Discounted tickets can be purchased using this link  
<http://www.silverstone.co.uk/classic-car-clubs> and the code 25CCD090.  
See [www.silverstone.co.uk](http://www.silverstone.co.uk) for more details.
- Sun. Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>** Re:Fuel Revival - details to follow.
- 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 page 6**

#### **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

##### **ACROSS**

1. Battery    4. Sleep    7. Emerald    8. Evict    9. Fasten    12. Obedient    15. Elephant    17. Honest  
18. Pasta    21. Daimler    22. Setts    23. Mentors

##### **DOWN**

1. Banoffee    2. Tomato    3. Year    4. Side    5. Engines    6. Plot    10. Nomad    11. Berth  
13. Tent pegs    16. In debt    18. Pies    19. Adds    20. Film

#### **WESTCOUNTRY ATTRACTIONS**

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. House of Marbles              | 2. The Miniature Pony Centre |
| 3. Moretonhampstead Motor Museum | 4. Totnes Rare Breeds Farm   |
| 5. Bicton Park Botanical Gardens | 6. Pennywell Farm            |
| 7. Coldharbour Mill              |                              |

#### **WORD SPIRAL**

- |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. DAWN | 2. NICE  | 3. EXIT  | 4. TEST  | 5. TRUG  | 6. GRAB  | 7. BUCK  | 8. KITE  |
| 9. ECHO | 10. OMEN | 11. NAIL | 12. LOOM | 13. MISS | 14. SKIP | 15. PLEA | 16. ABLE |

### **July 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 July issue should be with me by **Wednesday June 18th 2025** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 25th**

To avoid any possible problems with copyright, please confirm, when sending in articles, photo's diagrams, maps etc, that they are free from any copyright restrictions. For information, the copyright remains with the originator of any photos etc for 50 years and the originator's permission is required before they can legally be reproduced or distributed. Within the very friendly A7 world, there is generally not a problem, so long as the originators copyright is acknowledge but I need to be made aware of the situation before publishing.

Many thanks. Ed.

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

**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**.

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.

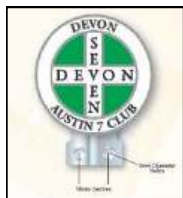
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



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, or email Steve Wise (contact details on back page).

## 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 at £18.50 each inc. postage.*

### 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.*