



Devon Sevens

August 2025

Newsletter for

Issue 185

The Devon A7 Club



The Devon Austin 7 Club's trip to the Scottish Austin 7 Club National Rally - see pages 15 - 18 for full reports.

Chairman's Chat

There are times in life when you can boast 'I was there!' One of those times for me was the day in 2005 when, at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, I watched Gavin Henson of Wales kick a monster penalty, which resulted in Wales beating England 11-9 and winning the Grand Slam. 'I was there!' Unfortunately I wasn't there when, at Powderham this year, the Devon Austin Seven Club won the cup for being the best club stand at the show. It was a wonderful achievement and I was delighted to see Jude Zebedee drive David in Gladys to receive the cup. Those of you who took part on that day will be able to boast that you were there. A lot of hard work went into organising our stand, but of course members turning up with their cars made the day. Thank you to all who made it possible.

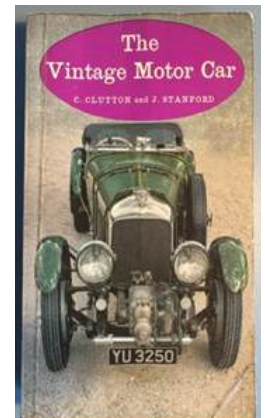
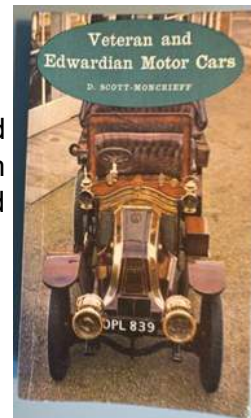


I have long been fascinated by things mechanical - clocks, cars, bicycles, motor bikes etc. From an early age I remember finding my fathers pocket watch and opening the back to see how it worked. Unfortunately I wasn't just satisfied with looking, I had a go at taking it apart. This was easily achieved but for the life of me I couldn't put it back together again. Surrounded by lots of little gear wheels and a long chain I felt that fear of trying to work out how I was going to get away with providing an explanation. The same thing applied to when I tried to improve my grandmother's old valve radio, and then there was that old 1940's moped of a neighbour, which I 'tuned' only for it never to start again when I'd finished, and have you ever taken the Sturmer -Archer hub gear wheel of a bike apart? My advice is - don't, unless you are aiming for two gears instead of four. And so it continued when in 1959 I owned my first Austin Seven. Fiddling with the timing until it rattled with too much advance or filing with a rat tail file a newly white metalled big end in the vain hope that it would be round and fit the crank when I'd finished.

The fascination with mechanical things hasn't left me, but now surrounded by Club people who know what they're talking about, and a plethora of instruction manuals, I don't visit such abominations onto my Austin Seven.

However I like to think that those development stages in my early life have held me in good stead for life with an old car and I can still do a botched up repair with the best of them!

When I haven't been in the garage 'fiddling', two books have added to my enjoyment and knowledge of old cars and I recommend them to you. They are now both out of print but may be found on the used book sites, such as Alibris or Abe Books.



Lots of information and kind words about the Austin Seven, as well as insights into that generation of early engineers who somehow thought that they would get up one day and stop making bicycles or sewing machines but would build a car. Many failed in the long term but luckily for us Herbert Austin didn't.



Baron Austin of Longbridge KBE

Continued on page 3

My own adventures, as I must describe every outing in my Seven, are limited to local runs such as going to Hartland Quay to see the sea or to Woolsey Garden Centre to see the gnomes. I have decided that it is best to proceed with speeds relating to the slower pace of life in the 1930s rather than try to get from A to B in a time expected in 2025. Even then the mysterious rattles which defy an identifiable source continue to perplex me but the journey is much more pleasant and relaxing.

In a few years time I will be leaving the Austin Seven world due to old age and infirmity and I often think of what to do with my car. I don't want it to go to probate and I'm not particularly bothered about recouping its value. Heaven forbids that it goes to a car dealer!

So I have been thinking about legacy.

We talk a lot in the Club about engendering an enthusiasm for Austin Sevens among the younger generation, and here I'm thinking of anyone under say 45, so why don't we when the time comes just give our cars to a member of that generation or just leave it to one of them in our will?

You will of course have to find a suitable victim for this act of generosity but that shouldn't be too difficult, there's always plenty of enthusiasm from spectators at our events.

Something to consider?

Viv Gal

Secretary's Notes

A big 'Thank You' this month for the support for our stand at the Crash Box Club's Historic Vehicle Gathering at Powderham Castle. The weather couldn't have been better, there were more cars on the stand than ever before and to cap it all, we won the award for the 'Best Club Stand'. Bearing in mind that there were over 60 clubs exhibiting, I think everyone involved should feel very proud. Only problem now is how can we do even better for 2026?



Our recent 'Vintage Cars for Young Drivers' days at Re-Fuel S.W. and our plans for the 'Rolling Chassis Project' have highlighted the need for us to look more closely at our Club constitution and rules. This is especially important when considering the laws protecting the young and vulnerable adults. We have now formally adopted a Safeguarding Code of Conduct, a copy of which has been sent with this newsletter. I would urge you to read this and ask that you comply when attending any club event in the future. A copy will be available in the Members Section of the website, should you need to refer to it in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Adele Selley for her assistance in drawing up this document for us.

We already have a busy events calendar, but in the last few days, three new events have come to my attention. Nick Hawkins is organising a weekday run in both August and September. Full details are on page 5. I am sure that anyone who has attended Nick's runs before will agree that an interesting day is guaranteed.

Richard and Nicci hosted one of our best attended events last year when they opened their house and gardens near Chudleigh for a Cream Tea. Richard has offered to repeat the event on Sept 7th and full details are on page 6. Another one not to be missed.

David (DA7C Secretary)

David's Diary

My July diary can really be summed up in one word – SCOTLAND.

I am very pleased to report that the engine work mentioned in the last issue appears to have held up as Mabel took me to the Guildtown Rally and back with no major mechanical issues at all. She does leave a few more drips of oil in any parking bay now than before we set out, but considering we covered 1265 miles on the round trip, I will forgive her. Overall consumption was about 3 pints of oil and 47mpg. A really memorable trip which I know will be well documented in other parts of the newsletter.

Happy Austineering - David



Zoom Club Night

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

Monday 18th August 2025
7pm

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



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



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)

In 2024 this popular event attracted over 2900 visitors to see the vintage vehicles, motorcycles, tractors, caravans and steam engines.

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. Once again, the vehicles will be displayed at the Arboretum on Lady Anne's side of the garden - providing a beautiful backdrop.

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. Rosemoor will also be providing a food and beverages area closer to the vehicle displays following on from feedback received from exhibitors and visitors in previous years. Rosemoor will also 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.



Wednesday 13th August War Horse Valley & Museum

Starting from The Tallet Cafe
at Sam's Cider, Winkleigh at 10a.m.



The run will take us through Mid Devon villages and countryside ending at The War Horse Country Farm Park near Iddesleigh, with its 400 year old barn containing local World War 1 Museum and War Horse exhibition, also animals, farm trail, vintage machinery, cream teas and home made cakes.

Phone Nick Hawkins 01271 375730
or e-mail valhawkins3@aol.com to confirm



Throwleigh Village Fete Saturday August 16th 2pm - 4pm

If you want to become part of our classic car display and enjoy a traditional village fete with one of the best views in Devon, then Throwleigh is the place to be on Saturday August 16th.

Cars to be on site by 1.30pm, finishing at approx. 4.00pm.

The Hall is at EX20 2JA or you can park your car and trailer at EX20 2QF and drive a short distance to the fete.

I would appreciate you letting me know if you are coming.

Please contact Pete Gilbert on 07879483529 or email pete.gilbert@btinternet.com.

Friday 5th September

Shebbear via Torrington Common and Dartington Glass

Dennis Nicholas, a long-standing A7 owner with a Nippy and a Scimitar has invited us to his house and garage for afternoon coffee on his birthday.

Meet at The Tallett Cafe, Sam's Cider, Winkleigh to leave at 10.30a.m.

We will then meet with members from the West
at Torrington Common
before a visit to Dartington Glass.

Food options available or bring a picnic

We will then head off to visit Dennis

Phone Nick Hawkins 01271 375730 or
e-mail valhawkins3@aol.com to confirm



Cream Tea – Sunday 7th September




Richard & Nicci Soffe warmly invite club members to join them for a Cream Tea at Kerswell.

It's the perfect chance to enjoy a relaxed afternoon of tea, scones and good conversation, ideally arriving in your Austin 7 (but a modern will do nicely too).

 Date: Sunday 7th September

 Time: From 2.30pm

 Place: Kerswell Cross, Kerswell, Nr Chudleigh, TQ13 0DN

 RSVP: 07768 055430
e-mail: Richard.Soffe@outlook.com

P.S. The only tricky decision of the day... cream first or jam first?



Widecombe Fair Tuesday September 9th 9am 'til late

This is always a great day out and you can expect all the old favourite events like the family dog show, local handicraft and produce tent, bale tossing, tug o' war, sheep, cattle and horses, classic cars, vintage machinery, music and food and drink etc.

see www.widecombefair.com for more information.

The Devon Austin 7Club will be at the fair, and if you would like to join us, you can book on line at <https://www.widecombefair.com/vintage> or you will find an entry form on the DA7C website.

You need to send your application directly to the fair organisers.

Please book directly with the fair organisers, but do let David Aylmore know that you are attending, so that he can arrange for the 7s to be parked together.

David's contact details are on the back page.



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.

Please Note: This event is now fully booked. However, you can still go along as a visitor. It will be a great day out in a beautiful setting, with plenty of interesting vehicles on show.

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

Musings of a Mascot

Well first of all I must apologise for not sending any musings last month. The fact is, both me and my human were very concerned about our dear wee car, Annie. It seemed that there were some very serious problems, and we feared that her crankshaft might be damaged. Much to our relief, our esteemed secretary David came to see us. His opinion was that our problems were not as serious as we had feared. He removed the starter motor from the flywheel whereupon he soon discovered that that was our problem. Much relief and thanks to him and once we had turned the engine a bit by hand so that the starter motor would engage in a different spot on the flywheel all was well. My human was so occupied with putting things back together having feared and begun to prepare for an engine out job, that the time for writing to you all was past.

Since then quite a bit has been going on. I got left behind in Seaton with my friends David and Sharon while my human swanned off to Beaulieu to admire all the old cars in the museum there, where dogs are not allowed. We have had our usual pub lunch with our Morris chums at the Cat and Fiddle on 3rd July.

But the most exciting weekend was of course at Powderham. The weather was very hot and my human decided that he wouldn't use my tabard as it would probably make me too hot. My white coat reflects the sunshine quite well and keeps me relatively cool, which wouldn't be the case under my tabard.

Our secretary David and his wife Janet as usual did our members proud with cups of tea or coffee, and I am told very tasty cakes too. I must say the small piece that my human allowed me to have was delicious. There were lots of club members who were happy to give me treats so I didn't go short. Listening to the conversations of the humans on Sunday afternoon I was very pleased to hear that our club had again won the prize for the best club stand. I feel sure that the splendid flowers that Bob and Ann supply and regularly water are a major contributory factor.

There are still several events to come for us to enjoy this summer.

Happy Austineering to you all,

Max



PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

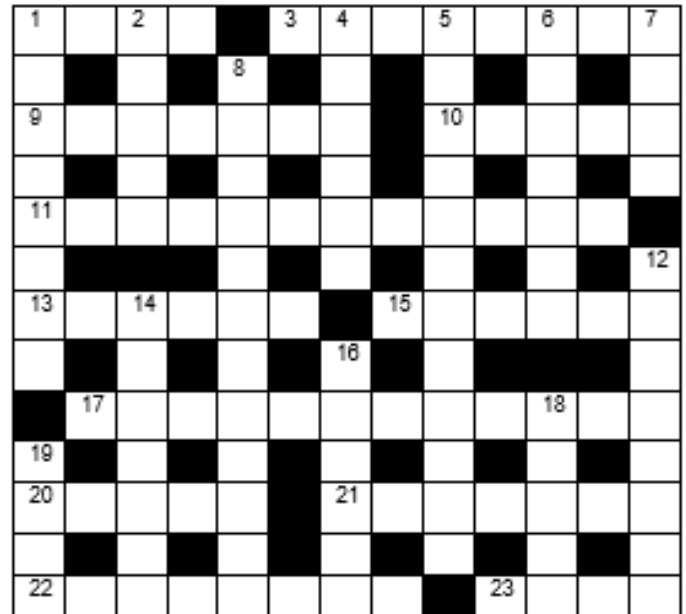
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Reserve an item in the library (4)
3. A young plant in Glenside (8)
9. Being victorious is pleasing (7)
10. Flower part pales unexpectedly (5)
11. His clients want their heads examined (12)
13. Possibly nicest creature? (6)
15. It takes lesser energy to be calm (6)
17. Accused ran up, smashed the china (3,3,6)
20. Investigate European broadcast (5)
21. Bound to be grateful (7)
22. Think deeply about team diet (8)
23. Changed gear partly to get advantage (4)

DOWN

1. Rows bits to boat's front spar (8)
2. The proprietor is new, or might be (5)
4. Overwhelm elf carrying gun around (6)
5. Unpleasant bird, sea eagle flying about (12)
6. Deadlock that is about politician on ass (7)
7. Good beer gives you wind (4)
8. Something you might bring for an al fresco lunch (6,6)
12. Give unwillingly, sort of, begrudged (8)
14. Teas duel! Brewed? No, fried (7)
16. Is it wise to raid wrongly? (6)
18. Penned and confined (5)
19. There's a fraud in Don's campsite (4)



QUADRUPICS

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

- | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. ABROGATE | (a) Agree | (b) Collect | (c) Revoke | (d) Cut small |
| 2. PEJORATIVE | (a) Derogatory | (b) Exclusive | (c) Tenet | (d) Restriction |
| 3. SONOROUS | (a) Mournful | (b) Resonant | (c) Slow | (d) Sly |
| 4. SAGACIOUS | (a) Clever | (b) Winding | (c) Long | (d) Unhurried |
| 5. CONURBATION | (a) Disquiet | (b) Collection | (c) Disturbance | (d) Town |
| 6. SEQUESTER | (a) Request | (b) Set aside | (c) Cover | (d) Decorate |
| 7. LIMPID | (a) Clear | (b) Misty | (c) Droopy | (d) Clinging |
| 8. PARADIGM | (a) Enigma | (b) Ruler | (c) Prototype | (d) Alternative |

ANAGRAMS

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

1. RARE FIR
.....
2. TUG A BIT
.....
3. A SMARTIE
.....
4. HOT CLEVER
.....
5. ENTRAIL
.....

Answers on page 21

Out and About

Following their weekend at Beaulieu, Keith and Adele stayed for the rest of the week on a nearby campsite so were out and about in 'Miss Daisy' each day. The photo was taken on route to Milford on Sea on the final evening of their stay.



Mike Moore has been out and about in Membury.

Michael and Max out to the shops for essential food supplies, on their first outing after repairs.



Anne Whellock says, "Four Austin 7's - two Rubys, one Nippy and one Chummy, plus an MGB, an MGA, a Riley, an Austin Healey 3000 and a Morris Minor van enjoyed an evening at the Lamb and Lion Hambridge. The rain held off until it was time to leave, we relented and put the hood up on the Chummy".



Jolyon enjoyed the Bristol A7 Club annual event and says, "Despite the heatwave there was a good turnout for the Bristol A7 Club annual gathering at Newark Park along with some interesting exhibits. It wasn't just Rubys but a full range of all models on show along with some interesting classics and other vintage models".



More 'Out and About'



Andy Grabham used his car for friends proms. Apparently all the youngsters are looking forward to the next Young Drivers' Day.



Several DA7C members attended the recent 'All Things Morris' event in Ilfracombe.

Award at Beaulieu

John Turley, Andy Grabham and his 'pit crew' - Paul Sleeman and Peter Palmer attended this year's Beaulieu Rally, where Andy's lovely 1935 Arrow was awarded the Ashwell Rose Bowl for being the best Coachbuilt A7.



Beamish Reliability Trial

Having thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Beamish Reliability Trial in 2024, we decided to enter the challenge again this year. Making the event part of a holiday in the North we set off to County Durham in the motorhome, with Meg the RP saloon on the trailer behind.

We were blessed with good weather on the 15th and along with two other Devon 7 cars, Andrew Grabham and his nephew Blake in the Opal and Debbie and Mark Drake in the AL tourer, we headed for the start. The navigating proved far more relaxing this year having done it once before, and Doug and I both managed to enjoy the breathtaking views and challenging roads for more than 140 miles of the most exhilarating scenery North Yorkshire and County Durham can offer. If the achievement of that alone is not enough to make you smile from ear to ear, the groups of onlookers cheering you on your way throughout the route is the icing on the cake!

All three cars successfully completed the route, despite Debbie and Mark being seriously delayed due to stopping and helping an injured motorcyclist at the scene of an RTA for several hours until emergency services arrived. Despite this they decided to complete the course. Hats off to them!

Beamish completed we enjoyed some time in the Yorkshire Dales covering many more trouble free miles before heading South to the New Forest, our holiday finally culminating at the National Rally at Beaulieu.



Steph Whittlestone

Caught in the Headlights

Selecting a member to be 'Headlighted' adopts the scientific principle of 'sticking a pin in the membership map' and see who comes-up! True to form, this method has come up trumps again with Blake Lowman from Wellington, Somerset. In the initial chat, it was evident that I had stumbled upon a younger member with conceivably a massive 40-50 year age gap below the average Austin Seven enthusiast.

Blake owns and drives a 1931 RN, which he inherited some 4 years ago. After a mandatory period of refurbishment, general maintenance and fettling, she emerged resplendent in her fine Brown and Black livery and original internal trim.

The car came to Blake as an inheritance and it was explained the Bristol Club member, Steve Barker, nurtured his interest in car mechanics from when he was just 12 years old and was frequently out and about on Bristol Club events.

It also transpires that Andrew Grabham, who is almost A7 Royalty, is Blake's Gt Uncle, so comes with a fine pedigree.

Sadly, Blake's former mentor and previous owner of the RN, Steve Barker, passed away. Steve and his wife Sally had already determined that there could be no better future custodian for their cherished car other than Blake.

Blake is now in the 4th year of a comprehensive Trainee Engineer Apprenticeship, presently working and studying away at Hartlepool following an initial 2 years at EDF Hinkley, potentially leading to Professional Engineer status, specialising in Mechanical Engineering Maintenance.

Blake has exhibited at Powderham and is regularly out on the Bristol Club runs, as commitments permit, and has undertaken the trip the National Motor Museum – Beaulieu Festival, as one of his longer runs,

Last year, Blake's car attended the Norton Fitzwarren Steam Fayre & Vintage Vehicle Rally and this year, in company with Gt Uncle Andrew, completed the Beamish Reliability Run requiring the challenging 150mile Yorkshire Dales circuit.

Blake's Ambition: to keep his 'Pride & Joy' forever



Blake at the wheel at the Beamish Reliability Run.



Getting down to it!



Blake with Sally Barker

Mike Moore

Powderham 2025

What a lovely weekend we had this year at the Powderham car show! Beautiful weather with a nice cooling breeze, chatting with old friends and winning the trophy for best club stand in the show.

Praise must go to Janet for her seemingly never ending supply of home made cakes and biscuits, and tea and coffee, delicious! David, as usual, had the stand immaculately arranged with a wonderful display of Austin 7s, also a motor bike with an A7 engine and a Messerschmitt bubble car??

Thank you so much to David and Keith Selley for unloading the flowers from the trailer, and also thanks to all the guys who re loaded the plants at the end of the show.

A good weekend all round, with something for everyone.

Thanks, Ann & Bob Downey.



Receiving the 'Best Club Stand' award



A huge thank you to Ann & Bob for the flower displays which were a big factor in us winning the trophy for best club stand.

A letter to the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity in saying well done to every member who was at Powderham exhibiting their cars. The stand on both days looked superb and the Sunday parade around the ring really was eye catching, coupled with David's commentary made it all very impressive. As most of you know I wear two hats at Powderham and the Crashbox one seems to take over a bit. But the times I was on our stand catching up with everyone was very enjoyable and it was great to see the Austin engined motorbike being started up. So once again well done everyone and here's to next year.

Richard Bishop

HERITAGE SKILLS ACADEMY CARE FOR YOUR CLASSICS COURSE

I purchased Gladys, my 1929 Chummy, two years ago and we have already had many adventures together. But, not knowing my carburettor from my cam shaft and being incapable of wielding a spanner, I found I had been relying far too much on my lovely, mechanically-minded friends. It was time to learn to do at least the basics for myself.

A quick internet search led me to the Heritage Skills Academy, based at Bicester Motion in Oxfordshire. Their raison d'être is to train apprentices in the skills of building, refurbishing and maintaining vintage vehicles, but as a side-line they offer weekend courses teaching enthusiasts to care for their classics. It seemed the perfect course for me.

I was initially booked on the course in May, but due to a family funeral I had to reschedule for the June one. This turned out to be fortuitous as, sadly, on Thursday 15th May, the day before the course was due to start, there was a large fire at the adjacent warehouse with the tragic loss of three lives, together with a number of vintage vehicles.

So, en route to Scotland in June, I found myself in Bicester, one exceedingly hot and sticky Saturday morning together with four other vintage car enthusiasts. The course tutor was the fabulous Richard Lefevre. What he doesn't know about cars isn't worth knowing! We started in the classroom learning about lubrication and cooling systems (note to self – change your oil regularly!), but were soon in the workshop taking apart engines, learning how to measure valve clearances and battling with those pesky springs in the brake drum.

Over the two days we covered lubrication, coolants, suspension and steering, brakes, ignition, carburettors, valve clearances and so much more. By the Sunday afternoon my head was spinning with all the information that had been stuffed into it, but I finally understood the difference between a carburettor and a cam shaft, knew my Whitworth spanners from my AF/UNFs and even had grease under my fingernails!

If you are a complete beginner with car mechanics, a little rusty with your hands on skills or lack the confidence to wield those spanners, I can't recommend this course highly enough. Richard is the font of all knowledge. He tailors the course to the specific interests of the small group of course participants and there is no such thing as a stupid question.

The main learning points I took from the weekend were:

Change your oil regularly!!

You can never have too many tools or spare parts.

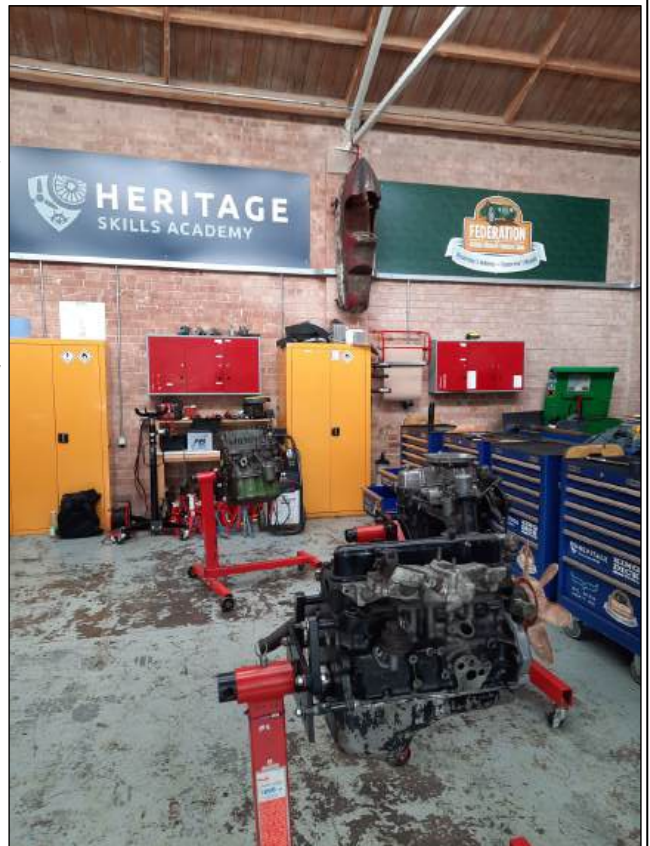
Keep a record of jobs you have done to your car.

Don't get your finger stuck in the gearbox filler plug!!

Don't be afraid to get those tools out and have a go.

So, if you fancy a weekend of hands-on learning tailored specifically to vintage cars, then this is the course for you. After sending positive post-course feedback, we have even been offered a discount on the £350 fee....so don't forget to mention that you are a Devon 7 member!

Spanners at the ready.....!



Jude Zebedee



The Devon Austin 7 Club's Scottish Adventure



Six cars from the Devon Austin 7 Club attended the recent Scottish Austin 7 Club National Rally in Guildtown near Perth. Four cars were driven to the rally, avoiding motorways where possible. One was trailed to Guildtown and one transported in a van to Perth. All followed different routes, avoiding motorways whenever possible, with some visiting friends /relatives on the way up or on the return journey. Others decided to extend their trip by spending a few days site seeing on their way home.

Philip Burrow's Story

I decided to transport the Austin in the back of my van as far as Perth - therefore my journey to the rally was less eventful than some of my fellow Devonians. I did start my journey with a diversion to Shrewsbury to deliver a spare radiator to Philip. (See Philip's Story). I had booked in to the Sky Lodge, Perth for the weekend and had arranged to leave my van there while I used the Seven at the rally, and also for a few further days while I explored the Isle of Mull.

The rally was enjoyed by all, the BBQs, the scenic drive on Saturday, the Ceilidh and particularly the hospitality and friendship.

After leaving the Scottish rally at Guildtown Perth, a three hour drive across to the west coast to Oban, a stunning drive with lochs and mountains all the way. From Oban a ferry trip to the Isle of Mull. A few days of spectacular scenery, good weather, and perfect roads for Austin Sevens, Then a boat trip to the Isle of Staffa to see Fingles cave. Then a great drive back to Perth and home.



Nick's Story - Two Rubies

I met Philip Snell at Bridgewater at 9.45. We set off for Shrewsbury, and at the campsite replaced Philip's radiator, a spare radiator supplied by Philip B and delivered to us on site. We got as far as Lancaster the next day, but my clutch was slipping, so spent a day taking the gear box out, and sorting the clutch.

On the Saturday morning we set off for Scotland. A long hard drive! Too many roundabouts and traffic lights in the cities/towns. (we also briefly used the motorway).

The highlight of the journey - a pint of beer from Ruairidh when Philip and I arrived at Guildtown. I also received the long haul award at the ceremony on Sunday. The journey home saw another radiator problem with Philip's A7, but it did not stop us.

I enjoyed the trip and will be there next year to return my award.



Jude's Story - It's a long way to bonny Scotland

I have no idea what possessed me to agree to drive to Scotland. I had owned Gladys, my 1929 Chummy for two years and never driven more than the 100 miles to Beaulieu, but somehow the lure of a weekend of partying near Perth seemed too good to resist.

The journey began with a weekend course on vintage car maintenance at the Heritage Skills Academy in Bicester. Armed with newfound knowledge and blind optimism, I headed north through the Cotswolds and Welsh borders, and found a lovely campsite in Whitchurch for £10.

Navigating the traffic-heavy towns of Warrington and Preston proved challenging, especially since Wednesdays seemed to be Gladys' non-starting days. Leaving a trail of oil, exhaust fumes and kindly pushers behind us we bombed up over Shap and onwards towards "The North". At Gretna we stopped for the obligatory photo beside the "Welcome to Scotland" sign, hardly able to believe that we had actually made it over the border. By this time the brake back plates had started grating, but I did the analogue version of turning up the radio, and sang a bit louder to drown out the noise!



Moffat offered respite in the form of an exceptional hostel, and Stirling brought a reunion with David, Janet and Philip B. Rain greeted us in Guildtown, but the SA7 Club provided a warm Scottish welcome, sunshine, BBQs, driving and dancing worthy of the long haul.

The southbound return was less kind. Stops at the Kelpies and Falkirk Wheel were lovely, but overheating issues near Ledbury signalled trouble. A garage with an adjacent fabulous café appeared, where I refuelled while Gladys cooled down, and with the fan belt attended to, we soldiered on - until

Cheltenham proved to be our nemesis. Roadworks, traffic queues and steaming radiators led eventually to a campsite with a freight wagon with ensuite. Upon opening Gladys' bonnet, I discovered the source of the problem - the fan belt was lying on the side of the engine casing. Larry, a fellow camper, valiantly searched for a replacement, but it was the campsite owner who produced a fan belt. Fan belt fitted and we were off, but 2 miles down the road we were again in heavy traffic and overheating. Sadly, our adventure ended roadside beside a decomposing seagull, rescued at last by the AA. So after 1200 miles of glorious motoring, Gladys got to experience the thrill of going 56mph on the M5. It might have been a slightly ignominious end to our travels, but I was immensely proud of us both.

Bob and Ann's Story

On 24th June we loaded our 1933 A7Tourer on to its trailer and set off on the long journey to Guildtown, nr Perth. Being rather elderly we planned in several hotel stops, also incorporating visits to family en route. All went well and we enjoyed lovely weather, good company and a fine run out into the lovely Scottish countryside in the Austin. On Saturday evening the ceilidh was held along with a very friendly raffle! The dancing was slightly chaotic and Bob managed to fall and hurt his ribs. The raffle was hilarious, after giving out about half of the

donated prizes to "proper" winners, Ruairidh went round saying, what's your number? - you've won, etc. The Devon contingent very kindly loaded our car back onto the trailer for Bob, and we had a good run home, again, with several stops arriving home on Sunday 6th July.



Philip Snell's Adventure

Following a boiling episode near Princetown when returning home from Morwellham Quay and noting some evidence of a failing head gasket I changed the gasket just 3 days before "lift off " leaving no time for a real road test. It was therefore with some trepidation that we set off fully laden on Wed 25th June. We met Nick Brooks near Bridgwater and after a lunch stop at Thornbury carried on in convoy to the planned overnight stop at Shrewsbury



When topping up my radiator I feared MY adventure was over on the first day. A significant leak somewhere in the core , more than an egg white or Radweld would cure. Our wonderful Club came to my rescue, a phone call to Philip Burrow who had a replacement rad. delivered to our campsite by 9am on Thursday!! The radiator came out after struggling with bolts untouched for 55 years, and we were on the road by 1pm. After negotiating heavy stop, start traffic through Warrington and Wigan, Nick's clutch was slipping, progress was slow but with fading light we made it to Lancaster 80 miles short of planned Penrith.

Friday, and it was pouring with rain, but a 'Pop up' workshop was offered by the campsite Proprietor so we "bit the bullet " and stripped clutch in search of a fault. All seemed in order except for one mispositioned mousetrap spring. All reassembled, road test, pizza and prepare for an early start on Saturday.



Straight onto the nearby M6 for 65miles between Leyland and Shap, we made good progress, and received a warm welcome when we arrived at the Rally.



At the Award Ceremony on Sunday afternoon, we won 2nd prize in the Ruby Class.

Heading south on Monday, and at the Travelodge Penrith - Oh ,No ! Not Again - another radiator leak, but fixed with Radweld this time (good old Screwfix !!!).

All going well until Wigan, and a massive radiator leak. Was this to be the End of the Road? Radiator removed in 15 mins this time! One of the studs was secured with silicone (not by me!!) which had finally failed. A helpful local pointed us in the direction of a nearby welding firm who kindly and promptly and quickly made an excellent Tig repair with Silicone Bronze. Back on the road again after an hour or so. Soon after negotiating Warrington Nick and I went our separate ways .

On Tuesday evening I was welcomed when I turned up at the monthly gathering of the Cheshire 7s (group of the PWA7C) at Morley Green .



Wednesday was spent with long lost cousins whom I hadn't seen since we were in our 20s. On Friday 4th, I was homeward bound with 1st stop at the Shrewsbury Men's Shed. The Men's Shed is on the same site as our 1st camp and I had left my original radiator with them to save carting the extra weight to Scotland and back ! Duly collected, I hit Bristol at a busy time and arrived home having covered 258 miles in the day.

1365 miles Round Trip
31 gallons of petrol
44 mpg
2 pints engine oil
Gallons and Gallons of water !!

David's Story

It all started with a casual conversation with Philip Snell at the 2024 Beaulieu National Rally and here we are in 2025 having completed a memorable adventure driving from Devon to the Scottish National A7 Guildtown Rally and back.

After much thought about what spares and tools to take, followed by packing and re-packing the '7', I finally set off at 8.30am on Tuesday 24th June and headed North. Jan had 'volunteered' to drive our Campervan to Scotland to provide both comfortable overnight accommodation and a back-up vehicle in case of need. Our first O/N stop was on a campsite near Church Stretton, and I clocked up about 200 miles. Wednesday 25th was a shorter drive – around 150miles to Kendal. However, it proved to be the most difficult. My plan, for ease of navigation, was to just follow the A49 all the way through Warrington and Wigan before picking up the A6 just South of Preston. However, that route included mile after mile of built up area, traffic lights, roundabouts and numerous road works. I was very relieved to finally meet up with Jan again on the campsite just outside Kendal. Another check over of Mabel revealed that the Acorn HT lead connectors on the distributor cap had shaken loose. I had renewed the HT leads in preparation for the trip so maybe hadn't done them up as tight as I should. Thursday dawned wet and windy, so we sat tight until the rain cleared enough to make a start. The hood was up and side screens in, but it was still an uncomfortable start. The A6 to Shap was closed and the backroads diversion was 'interesting' especially in such wet and windy conditions. However the weather did clear and I made good progress through Penrith and Carlisle where I picked up the minor road 'B' which tracks the Motorways all the way to Glasgow. However another road closed diversion took me through Moffat and from there I tracked my way across country to Stirling, where I arrived to find Jude camped just a few yards away from Jan in our Campervan. We met up with Philip Burrow that evening for a very enjoyable meal which felt like a bit of a celebration as we knew we only had about 35 miles to go to Guildtown.



The Scottish Club members could not have been more friendly and welcoming and we enjoyed a lovely run around the local lanes on Saturday followed by a lively Ceilidh in the evening. Sunday was the Rally Show day and around 65 A7s were parked up. Judging was very relaxed with everyone who had entered voting for their favourite car. After the afternoon prizegiving the event wound down and we decided to get a few miles under our belt before the Monday morning rush so left at around 5pm and camped just South of Glasgow for the night.

Monday saw us motor to Hawes in the Yorkshire Dales where we spent a very pleasant 4 nights before continuing home with one overnight stop near Worcester. It was a happy coincidence for me that Saturday 5th July was the 60th anniversary of my purchase of Mabel. At that time, I was living with my parents in Bristol so as I passed through the City, I re-visited our old home address and also went to Ashton Court. I have an old cine film from 1965 of me driving Mabel through the entrance to Ashton Court and with the help of a friendly passer-by, I was able to re-create the same photo 60 years later. – quite an emotional visit.

Overall, we covered 1265 miles, averaged 47mpg and used about 3 pints of oil. A few bits shook loose and I had to mend the linkage to the brake light switch twice.

Very pleased and proud of our achievement but also very tired!!!



Wanted - A7CA Magazine Editor



This highly rewarding role will become vacant in December 2025. Working alongside the current Editor prior to this will be a huge benefit to a smooth handover.

The role is a 3 year term limit, with an option to renew for a maximum of a further 3 years after that.

Job Specification for the editor of the A7CA magazine.

The Association magazine is a quarterly publication of 48 pages A5 format.

It is the editors job to:-

Receive articles, letters, photographs etc. (copy) from authors.

Cajole potential authors to submit copy.

Edit submissions for length, grammar and spelling.

Chose running order and appearance, write contents list and editorial.

Transfer completed copy to the page artist (The editor will need a reimbursable Dropbox account).

Liaise with the page artist regarding final appearance and content.

Read and correct page artist's proof and printer's run copy.

Attend and report to the A7CA quarterly committee.

The editor should be:-

Relatively computer literate.

Have reasonable spelling, grammar and word smithing ability.

Able to communicate well with people.

The editor need NOT have:-

A special computer (current editor uses an iPad).

Have a special email account (editor@a7ca.org is provided by the Association)

Does not need to travel (all communication is on line).

To page edit or organise the layout of the magazine. (The A7CA employs a page artist).

Is not directly involved with advertising (The A7CA has an advertising officer)

Please direct all interested parties to the A7CA Secretary on: secretary@a7ca.org

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale

Complete 'D' type rear axle, Torque Tube & Prop shaft.

Stripped and cleaned. All parts showing wear but useable.

£50.00



For Sale

Pair of new running boards for RN/RP box saloon.

£45.00 the pair



Contact David Aylmore about either of these items - details on back page.

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.

2025 Events

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

Club Events

- Sat/Sun
July 26th & 27th** Rosemoor Vintage Weekend, Great Torrington EX38 8PH, Entry form on the DA7C website. Details on page 4.
- Weds. Aug. 13th** War Horse Valley and Museum mid week run. See details on page 5
- Fri. Sept. 5th** Weekday run - Shebbear via Torrington Common and Dartington Glass, see page 5
- Sun. Sept. 7th** Cream Tea - full details on page 6
- Tues. Sept. 9th** Widecombe Fair, details on page 6. Contact David Aylmore.
- Sat. Sept. 20th** Sidmouth Classic Car Show, see page 7.
- Sun. Oct. 12th** DVCC Autojumble, South Devon Railway Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ, just off the A38.
- Sat. Oct. 25th** Young Drivers' Day at Re:Fuel. Details to follow.

Other Events.

- Fri - Sun, Aug. 1st - 3rd** Torbay Steam Fair - Churston, Brixham. Website - www.torbaysteamfair.co.uk
- Sun. Aug. 3rd** 11am - 4pm, Munchkins Miniature Shetland Rescue summer Fayre & Classic Car Show, Colyton, EX24 6HX . Fun driving challenges with prizes.
www.mini-munchkins.org. Enquiries and registration to: jackiegillard8@gmail.com
- Sat. Aug. 16th** 2pm - 4pm, Throwleigh Village Fete. Details on page 5.
- Thurs. Aug. 21st** Chagford Show - a great show with something for all the family, see www.chagfordshow.co.uk. Entry forms available on the DA7C website - www.devonsevens.co.uk.
- Fri - Sun
Aug. 22nd - 24th** 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 for more details.
- Sun. Aug. 24th** Re:Fuel Revival - details to follow.
- Sun. Aug. 24th** Seaton Carnival Classic Car Show – entry form is on the DA7C website or contact Michael Tabcart.
- Sun. & Mon.
Aug 24th, 25th** Honiton Hill, Smeatharpe Stadium. www.honitonhillrally.co.uk
Phone No. 07929 534277
- Sat. & Sun.
Sept. 27th & 28th** From 10am. Woody Bay Steam Gala. Devon Austin 7 club members with their car would be most welcome to attend, particularly on the Sunday. If you wish to attend, please e-mail Martin Harvey at: harveymg@live.co.uk

Regular Monthly Meetings

- 1st Thursday 8pm** BSAOC Tamar Valley Group meet at the Fox and Grapes, Lifton. DA7C members most welcome to meet up with like minds. (landlord is DA7C member Philip Hockin)
Contact Philip for details: philip.hockin@gmail.com
- 2nd Wednesday** The North Devon A7 Group have an evening run out or visit in the North Devon area. If you would like to join them please contact Chris Hartnoll on chartnoll@icloud.com
- 3rd Monday 7pm.** Members Zoom meetings with a Guest speaker every 3 months if possible.
- 3rd Wednesday** Somerset Sevens meet at the Lamb & Lion, Hambridge, TA10 0AT at lunchtime & in the evening around 7.00 p.m. Contact Anne Whellock on 01460 66434 for more details.

Tell us the story of how you fell in love with your classic car



Car Facts Discs allow you to build and store everything that makes your car valuable to you. From documenting its history or complete restoration story to sharing about some of its racing or touring achievements.

It's set up in a chronological order making it easy to upload and follow your car's story from start to finish - including 'on the go' edits. There's a description field per photo, giving you complete control over how much information you wish to share.

You can also use it to share about hire rates plus availability for film or wedding use. Ultimately, by digging up some of your car's best memories, you are documenting its provenance and by doing so making it more valuable if you decide to sell it one day.

Once you have uploaded information to your Car Facts Disc, simply get it displayed on your vehicle's windscreen in time for your next trip out. Then, any fellow enthusiast, event visitor or

potential buyer, will be able to use their smartphone camera and scan its unique code to view your car's personalised trivia.

Use discount code: **SUMMER2025** to get 20% off your disc today at www.FactsDisc.com. All discs are priced between £17-£20 depending on the format you choose - downloadable PDF or waterproof (it's a one-off purchase with discount valid until 30th of September 2025).

Answers to puzzles on page 8.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1.Book 3.Seedling 9.Winning 10.Sepal 11.Phrenologist 13.Insect 15.Serene 17. Cup and saucer 20.Check 21.Obligated 22.Meditate 23.Edge

DOWN

1. Bowsprit 2.Owner 4.Engulf 5.Disagreeable 6.Impasse 7.Gale 8.Picnic basket 12.Begrudge 14.Sauteed 16.Adroit 18.Caged 19.Scam

QUADRUPICKS

1. (c) Revoke 2. (a) Derogatory 3. (b) Resonant 4. (a) Clever 5. (d) Town 6. (b) Set aside 7. (a) Clear 8. (c) Prototype

ANAGRAMS

1. FERRARI 2. BUGATTI 3. MASERATI 4. CHEVROLET 5. RELIANT

September 2025 Newsletter

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

Copy for inclusion in the September issue should be with me by **Wednesday August 20th 2025** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 27th**.

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.

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



Devon A7 Club Clothing Range



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

All clothing items are available from our On-Line Shop.
 Ordering is very simple -
 go to www.devonaustinseven.company.site/
 or
 Follow the link from the Members' section on the Devon A7 Club Website:-
www.devon.sevens.co.uk
 Choose your garment/size & colour.
 Pay in the same way as with any other on-line purchase.
 Delivery is direct to your home address.

Mechanical help and advice for Devon A7 Club members.

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

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

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

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

Members Tool Loan Scheme.

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

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

These are the tools that are available:-

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



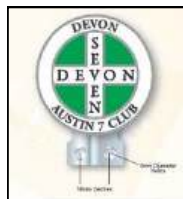
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



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. **£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. postage.**

All badges can be purchased by contacting Steve Wise by phone or e-mail or can be collected from any club event.

Contact details are on the back page.

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

Chairman:



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

Secretary & DVLA Rep:



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

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:



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

Car Identification Number Registrar:



Nick Borst-Smith - Mid Devon, Tel: 07809 568120
E-mail: nickbs@outlook.com

A7 Assoc. Rep:



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

Committee Member:



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

Committee Member:



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

Committee Member:



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

Committee Member:



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

Newsletter Editor:



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

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