



March 2026



Sleeping Beauty awaiting refurbishment. See pages 9-16

The magazine of the Cornwall Austin Seven Club

Seven Focus

This month's Front Seat comes from neighbouring Devon, as I'm away (yes again). I've not seen a single Seven, but then I am in Exeter City centre.

I wonder how many of you have got your Sevens out on the road yet this year (virtually impossible to get out without the rain). Wednesday Wanders have been up and running, mainly through muddy lanes and swollen fords. Sadly the weather seems quite set, so if you are waiting for the sun to come out, you may be in for a long wait. Just take it out and either give it a wash afterwards or just do what I normally do and leave the dry mud on. It helps cover up the rust spots!

Like many I've been watching the price of Sevens tumble over recent years with a mix of surprise and alarm. I've seen some really decent examples of Box Saloons (including locally) advertised for under £5000 and have no interest and a Chummy or two under £10000. Whilst that is on one hand depressing, the prices may just encourage a few new people to Seven ownership. We can all do our bit by talking up the joys of owning a Seven. What better way to start by coming on the Drive it Day run, where this year we will be driving through some town centres as well as some smaller lanes to show off our cars. Do join us! Full details in next month's magazine.

Diary Dates

Events Secretary

ca7cevents@yahoo.com

Instagram: [cornwallaustin7_club](#)



For stop press information, check out the “Friends of the Cornwall Austin Seven Club”. Please check your monthly Focus, social media and our website to confirm the latest details nearer the date of the event, in case of any unforeseen changes.

2026

March

Sunday 22nd

Dean Waller

Meet at 10.30 at Waitrose in Truro for a run finishing at the car park overlooking Crantock beach. You will need to bring a flask and lunch although I will be arranging to pick up Gear farm pasties for those who want one.

Email me (Dean) at

CA7Csecretary@outlook.com

for further details and to book a pasty.

April

Sunday 26th

Dean Waller

‘Drive it day’ showing people our lovely Sevens driving through the towns and larger villages in central Cornwall finishing at a beauty spot for a picnic. More details will be in the March edition of Focus.

See poster later in magazine.

Wednesday Wanders Please check Facebook or contact Chris Gill

(01209 820825

chriswhealbusy@tiscali.co.uk)

on the Tuesday. Each Wednesday we meet up

for a shortish run to a café in winter or picnic in summer. Everyone welcome! No need to book but be ready to leave promptly at the start time of 10.30 a.m..

Invitation Events

Black and White

Coffee morning on 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at The Inn for All Seasons, Treleigh

Rosudgeon Meet

A similar coffee morning on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at the Coach and Horses, Rosudgeon.

Rotary Club of Chippenham & Calne Classic Car sRun

Sunday 17th May

Entry details available from Editor.

Scottish Rally

3rd-6th July. See February magazine.

Fowey Classic Car Show and Car Parade

Thursday August 20th: See February magazine.

The last few weeks have been interesting! In the wider Austin Seven world, judging by the number of cars for sale and the lower prices needed to effect a sale, interest in our little cars is on the wain. Sadly old age is affecting us all.

However all is not doom and gloom, on the membership front there has been a mini revival in interest. Two cars have found new owners, I am expecting the return of two membership application in the next few days and I am currently dealing with two more enquiries both of which will be looking for cars!

Many of you will have cars that have been resting during the winter, now is the time to wake them. Charge the battery and add fresh petrol and a short trip round the block to blow away the cobwebs.

If you have any problems there is plenty of help and advice within the Club.

Details on the back page of FOCUS or give me a call.

The Editor is struggling to get articles for the Magazine, she needs input from you, the members.

What has kept me busy since Christmas

Bob Kneale

“It” occurred when I went to start my Box in the garage, the day after I’d taken her on a run to ensure the battery was topped up, ready to decorate with fairy lights for her annual outing, supporting carol singing round St. Tudy village. The starter motor spun the engine over as usual, but nothing else. Usual checks indicated no spark was present, so further investigation was necessary.

Fearing the worst, I removed the flywheel cover, and rotated the flywheel. It rotated so I transferred my attention to the front end, and wound the handle. It seemed difficult, so I checked the rotor arm, and found that it wasn’t rotating. At that point it became evident that the engine and gearbox would have to come out for more detailed investigation.

Disconnecting the various bits took a day in the cramped confines of a garage full of cars not helped by the inevitable filth inside the engine bay, and the freezing conditions outside, which contributed to the general inside atmosphere. Eventually with the engine separated from the gearbox, I was able to find that the crankshaft timing gear and the starting dog had unscrewed themselves from the end of the crank disconnecting the bottom end from the camshaft. The cause was that the tang had sheared, leaving the lock-washer to float freely (eventually) on the shaft and the gear to propel itself forward, which would explain the backfire as I shut down the engine. The woodruff key which had held everything in correct alignment had vanished into the depths of the crankcase. The crankshaft was INTACT however to my immense relief. I checked that by putting screwdrivers down each borehole and watching them go up and down correctly. The rogue gear had suffered a broken tooth, but fortunately I had a spare.....my last one.

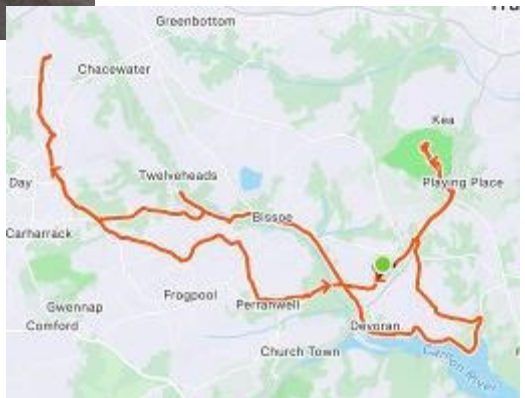
At this point in time with the copy deadline imminent, I have held the next stage over until the weather gets more favourable to get the car out into the open and thoroughly degrease everything before opening the crankcase to check the big end fore and aft movement, and rebuild the gear train.

(Bob did submit this in time for the February issue but I had just completed it so held it over until now... Not that the weather has improved by the time of writing! Editor)



Wednesday Wander 28th January: Pics L. Adams

A short jaunt around the creekside to Killiow.



New Member Profile: James & Avril Youlden

1. How long have you been involved with Austin 7's

In October 2025, we started to take a proper look at getting the van back on the road.

2. What Austin 7 do you currently own?

1935 - AVJ Van – registration - AFJ481

3. What was your first A7?

As above

4. Is there a story or two attached to your Austin 7?

Avril's dad, Peter Moyle, restored the van during the late 1960s, in the 1970s it sat in a garage in Roche and then moved to Trethurgy in 1980 where it remained unused and unloved as work, using the Rolls for a wedding car, renovating a cottage and restoring other vintage vehicles took priority! Sadly, he passed away during 2024, over the years he went on to restore a 1934 Rolls Royce Tourer, two Austin Heavy 12's and an Austin 7 Arrow. It would have been lovely to keep all of his cars within the family, however, Jamie and Avril have become the proud new custodians of the Rolls and the A7 van and we are looking forward to enjoying and maintaining them.

5. What is the best most enjoyable A7 experience?

In summer 2025, we drove the Arrow to Truro Classic Car show, the second time it had been on display and the first and only driven outing (apart from test drives around the village) before dad's collection was broken up. It was an emotional day, but such an honour and pleasure to take the car on his behalf and it received a lot of positive attention throughout the day.

6. What is the worst most traumatic A7 experience?

No, it's all fun!

7. Do you have an A7 claim to fame?

No!

8. Do you have any particular A7 skills?

Work in progress.

9. Do you need assistance with your A7?

Andrew Jarmin has been helpful already and we look forward to meeting other members.

10. Do you have a particular A7 interest?

No!

11. Do you wish to add any A7 tales or comments?

We have written the following article about the recommissioning of the van.

AVJ Van AFJ481 James & Avril Youlden



Avril and I purchased the van from her family, feeling really enthusiastic to see it live on, for us to make memories with and to remember her father Peter who restored it in the late 1960s, Not really knowing what sort of condition it was in, and not looking too hard as wouldn't have wanted to put ourselves off!! All we knew was it was restored in the late 1960s and had little or no use since some time in the 1970s. However, we share the same dream, to do it up enough to be have the confidence to be able to use it regularly and (hopefully) reliably!! And

to maintain a link with Peter. Like many things, the journey is what it's all about, and what a fantastic start we've had!! A lovely warm welcome to the club from Andrew and Regi Jarmin, plus all their help.

Firstly, we towed the van home and got it in the garage and began looking and investigating: valves all gummed up in the guides which gave impression of zero compression! Head off, all the manifold studs sheared, freed up the valves and noticed several valve seats in a pretty bad state.



At this point I thought perhaps find a new “donk” that’s a runner, pop it in and then slowly rebuild the engine. I had a chat with Andrew and over the course of the next couple of weekends he helped me strip and rebuild the engine to a running state, with a view to getting it running and see where we were. Lots of float was removed from the camshaft, valve seats cut, new fuel pump, dynamo tested, some studs replaced, clutch checked over and new springs fitted, gearbox checked over.

Fundamentally we had the makings of a runner, the white metal looked pretty decent too.

Once on the test bed, we discovered exactly that... it was a nice little runner!! Thankyou Andrew, I learned so much about the A7 engine!!

On the van, I replaced the rear springs, the exhaust, the battery, the rear lights and front tyres for some we had knocking around. The engine went back in, initially the battery wasn’t being charged, so a bit more elucidation was gained from Andrew: one half of the charging circuit cut out points was missing, so we replaced that and then we had charge.

Next, the carb was overflowing, Andrew again!! The float was not sealed and it was gradually filling up with fuel.

Everything going in the right direction now. I have since spent a fair few evenings trying to get the ignition timing set up sweetly, but chasing my tail a bit, turns out number four plug was fouled, hence the difficulty in setting up and why the power was poor. So unknowingly we took our first official drive down through the Eden Project and a loop back past Henry Orchards about three miles, on the 21st of January, a date we’d been working towards getting the van ready for, as it would have been the birthday of Avril’s late father, Peter. It was lovely to mark the day with a trip in his van and tip our hats to him!! Even if it was only on three cylinders!





On Saturday
Andrew was
and see if he

24th January
due to pop up
could suss out

what I've been going on about and see if I was overthinking things or worrying about nothing! On his advice I checked the plugs and changed number four. A difference of night to day. So in the spirit of using these old cars, I said don't come up, I'll come down in the van.

An hour and ten minutes and thirty miles later I arrived!! Chuffed is an understatement.

We discussed a few bits then headed back. I got to Carnsew quarry and then broke down!! No spark... Andrew the Austin 7 AA came and found me... and got me going. I had a spare distributor so we fitted that, the failed one had lost connection between positive terminal and fixed points post.



Off I went again, it was now dark, so under "candle" light! All the way to Truro where a misfire developed. I got it home and found plug four fouled again, so this maybe something further to address as we go forward, however the feeling of completing the trip was very satisfying and I'm looking forward to using it lots more in the future.



Currently I'm playing with the new distributor which is an auto advance DK4A, the advance springs are slack so it's giving an instant eight degrees!!

So there's a brief-ish background on what we've been up to, once we are up an running reliably we are both looking forward to joining some club events and meeting you all, and keen for a Wednesday Wander when we retire one day.





FEDERATION OF BRITISH HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUBS

DRIVE & IT DAY RIDE IT DAY

SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026



Available in standard size and now
a smaller size suitable for motorcycles.

Display straight away to show your support,
no need to wait until April 26th!

in support of

childline
NSPCC



Scan Me

Visit www.driveitday.co.uk
to order yours today

Wednesday Wander 18th February

I am promised an article on this and some other recent wanders. Hopefully they will be in next month's edition. These two pictures were taken by Dean Waller down at Cowlands Creek.



This space was saved for your article.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Austin Seven Clubs' Association

Dear Member-Club contact, A7CA Reps and Editors,

We are looking for volunteers to step forward at our upcoming AGM in April to take on 3 exciting roles:

1. **Webmaster** - role outline can be read here: [Webmaster Role](#)
2. **Advertisement Manager** - role outline can be read here: [Advertisement manager Role](#)
3. **Magazine Publisher** - [a new role](#) to help with the production of the magazine, rationale for the role and outline of tasks can be read here: [Magazine Publisher](#)

Action for Clubs: please alert your membership to these roles, through your magazine and social media pages, and encourage suitable applicants to reach out to us.

Many thanks indeed.

Ruairidh Dunford

A7CA Secretary

Intermittent missing - The Distributor perhaps?

A.N. Other

It's likely that many owners of cars with a conventional distributor, like our Sevens, will have experienced 'missing' at some time. As most often assumed to be an electrical problem associated with the Distributor, it's a good idea to check this first. Assuming the gap between the points is correct and the points themselves are in good order, the rotor arm should be checked to ensure the brass contact has not become loose where it is riveted to the body of the rotor, this being not uncommon with rotors made this way. Rotors with the brass contact welded to the rotor body are far less prone to becoming loose over time. The other, less common cause of missing is the 'point' of contact on the contact breaker spring close to the heel. This can also become loose and cause 'missing' but can be less obvious to see unless the points set up is dismantled.

For the benefit of newer members who may not be aware of it the Club does have a very comprehensive website containing a wealth of useful information at <www.austin7.org>



Pic: Regi Jarmin



Caption competition

Captions wanted for this picture! Please send suggestions to the Editor.

You will no doubt have noticed several large gaps in this month's edition of Focus. Even by holding off for a few days beyond the deadline several of the promised articles have not materialised. If the magazine is late to our hard-working printer, it is very difficult to get it out for the start of the month which makes it harder to keep you up-to-date with planned runs and activities. I need your help! The deadline is the 20th of the month but usually I am trying to compile the magazine you see from about the 15th and so the earlier you can get a submission to me the better. Sometimes something urgent coming in on the 19th means that I have to completely reconstruct the layout, which is not quite as swift as copying and pasting... I know I could raid our archives but most articles that you might search for are actually on our website. I could also plunder other club magazines for articles (and I do occasionally include these when I think they are relevant) but ideally this is your club magazine and should reflect your writings. Please don't make me keep begging: my knees are getting sore!

On a happier front, my car has returned with her newly-fettled engine and I was able to get out on the wonderful Wednesday Wander Dean Waller planned around the back of Truro. It was a delight to come to a hill and have no fear about climbing it. So wonderful. There were an awful lot of large puddles, possibly some generous enough to count as flooding, but our trusty little Sevens got through them all. Regi Jarmin's photograph shows me exiting from one puddle en route. It was also lovely to be joined by Tony Stevens during the run and Eddie Angell and Adele Stevens at the coffee finish.

I'm now looking forward to the Club Run at the end of February and all your articles flooding in (pun intended!). After all, with this wet weather it is too cold and miserable to be in the garage so unless you are actually out in the Seven, you might as well put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard!

For Sale 1938 Austin Big 7 Forlite Deluxe.

Blue with blue interior. Sunroof. Starts and runs well, needs using. Ideally needs some paintwork doing but can be used as is.



Comes with original registration and lots of history/books. Recent 6 volt battery. Only two known in the county! Local delivery arranged

£3695 ono.

John Doyle 07989321409

For Sale

New 6 volt battery modern black 421 type 80AH.

Limited stocks available.

Local delivery a pleasure, can dispose of old battery.

£80.00 each.

John Doyle 07989321409

For Sale Austin 7 RP March 1933

Engine M237971 Body 171203

Dark blue, black wings. Good new brakes and tyres but needs a battery as it was not charging.

Stored in warm and dry in Camelford.

£5800 ono

J. W. Middleton 01840 212811



For Sale Austin 7 Opal 1936

Last restored sometime in the 1980s.

Blue with black wings.

In good overall condition and runs well.

The price is £ 6,500 ONO

Contact

Tel 01209 861534,

barnesdai803@gmail.com

Dai Barnes

For Sale 1937 Ruby

Austin Seven Ruby.. Green with Black wings. First registration 19 06 1937.

We have owned the car since May 2013. In recent years the car has been little used, but starts and runs well. Various receipts, almost full history and some spares to be included in sale.

Asking price £6500.

Please call Anne mobile 07779 524375, Andy 07910 581848



Cornwall Austin Seven Club clothing.

We are now using Creative View, a local company near St Agnes to supply members with various items of clothing. Creative View do not carry items in stock, they will supply to order so please give them at least a week's notice when you want an item. They have a variety of colours of clothing available. They will supply items with the Club logo as below.



Polo shirt £14.40 each embroidered, £13.20 printed.

Sweatshirt £22.20 embroidered, £21 printed.

Dover Jacket £43.68 embroidered, £42.48 printed.

Carriage between £5 & £10 depending on the weight and quantity of garments.

Orders taken by phone on 01872 249631 or by email
contact@creativeviewcornwall.co.uk

NOTE TO ADVERTISERS...

PLEASE let me know if you have sold your vehicle or changed your mind! I will keep running an advert until you tell me not to...

TECHNICAL HELP CONTACTS

Don't get stuck, get help!

If you need some help with your Austin, whether it's a chat about a snag over the phone or someone to shove a head under a bonnet, the Club aims to provide a network of assistance throughout the County. We're not offering a restoration service, but advice and aid to help keep you on the road for frustration free motoring!

Andrew Jarmin	Redruth	01209 861212
Malcolm Watts	Falmouth	01326 319485
Mike Davies	Callington	01579 370499
Alastair Wreford	Port Isaac	01208 880002
Bob Kneale	Bodmin	01208 850248

This help is available to everyone whether you have just joined or have been a member since the start! Don't struggle with a problem when help is only a phone call away!

Individually we may not have all the answers but collectively we've probably seen most problems and can point you in the right direction for advice.

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Cornwall 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 given in this publication. Anyone following the advice given by this publication shall be deemed to have accepted this statement.

Published by the

Cornwall Austin Seven Club

www.austin7.org



Publication Information

Publication date is the **last day** of the month
Last date for article submissions and
advertisements is the **20th day** of the month,
subject to space.

Submissions to

Tamsin Coxen

15 Pencantol

Frogpool

TR4 8SQ

austin7focus@gmail.com

01872 864711

**All material submitted must be free from any
copyright claim.**

Committee:-

Dean Waller

Kerstie Foster

Paul Holmes

Paul Stevens

Paul Sleeman

John Doyle

Tamsin Coxen

Ian Deakin

Chairman/Secretary

Treasurer &

Social Media Secretary

Regalia Lead

(details as right)

Events Secretary

01736 740181

CA7Csecretary@outlook.com

kfoz30@yahoo.co.uk

paul@holmesfamily.ws

paulcjs6@hotmail.com

paula-jen@hotmail.com

jedracer7@gmail.com

07989321409

deakinfamily@btinternet.com

07980 905126

Aided by:

Temporary Webmaster

austin7focus@gmail.com

Andrew Jarmin , Membership Secretary

01209861212

jarmins@btopenworld.com

Tamsin Coxen, Editor

Details as above.