



Devon Sevens

June 2026

Issue 194

Newsletter for

The Devon A7 Club



See page 9 for details of
the Drive it Day
'Bumble Around'.

Chairman's Chat June 2026

Cars don't seem to break down much these days. It's rare to see someone poring over their opened bonnet at the side of the road and in the main that also applies to Austin Sevens. They wear out but rarely break down. So I was surprised when, after doing some shopping in Hartland, that nothing happened when I pulled the starter. Not a click, not a groan, nothing. I would like to say that I solved the problem with the starting handle, but since fitting Accuspark electronic ignition that doesn't work any more.



Luckily here in North Devon you are never far away from a hill so a quick push and steer manoeuvre saw me speeding downhill. Third gear was engaged and the engine started. I drove back straight into my garage and began the investigation.

The voltmeter showed 6.4 across the battery terminals but only 5.8 going to the starter. Something was causing a power drop. Only thing between the battery and the starter was the battery cut out attached to the positive terminal. I removed it and connected starter cable straight to the battery. Problem solved. If Mr Austin didn't design it to be on the car perhaps best left off.

Though with an SU carb fitted and Accuspark perhaps I'm being a bit of a hypocrite!



I've only broken down once before and that was when the Accuspark module in the distributor failed. No hill of any kind could sort that out and I was towed home. I now carry a spare module.

Quite a few events coming along for the summer months, Powderham being the main stage for the club.

I see that the Chagford Show organisers now want car passengers to pay £12 for entry. Considering the value of the cars that enter, the expense of getting the car ready and driving to Chagford plus the added value to their Show. I think that's less than generous. Remember also that drivers and passengers don't just sit in their cars, they spend money.



I had occasion to use my circlip pliers recently. I've not used them in a while and it took some getting used to the jaws opening when you gripped the handles, so counter intuitive! I don't remember why I bought them. Are there many circlips on an Austin Seven?

No adventures in the Austin Seven, but last night the man next door called to say that there was a strange beeping in the corner of my garage. Nothing in the garage or adjacent shed but after a long search we discovered a smoke alarm which had been thrown from the road onto the bank between the shed and the fence and was still calling the alarm!

I hope no alarms sound for anyone and that you have an enjoyable summer in your Seven.

Viv Gale



Zoom Club Night

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

Monday 15th June at 7pm

Spend an hour chatting to like minded A7 enthusiasts over a cuppa.



HISTORIC VEHICLE GATHERING POWDERHAM Castle, Nr Exeter. 11th & 12th JULY 2026

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 but unfortunately by the time you read this the final date for entries (Friday May 29th) will most probably have passed.

However, you will still be very welcome to visit our stand, have a chat and cup of tea or coffee, there is usually some home-made cake on offer as well.

The show is organised by the Crash Box & Classic Car Club of Devon Ltd and is widely recognised as one of the very best in the country. It offers a huge range of attractions and displays for all members of the family. Have a look at their website www.historic-vehicle-gathering.info, it really is a great day out.

If you would like any more information, just drop David an e-mail devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk or telephone on 01626 852259



Vintage and Classic Weekend at RHS Garden Rosemoor, July 25th & 26th 2026

**Please Note -
unfortunately, this event has been cancelled.**

John Haynes Classic Motor Show 2026 – Austin 7 Specials display September 6th

The theme for the above event at the Haynes Motor Museum is **Austin 7 Specials**. They are looking to bring together the following categories:

1. Period home built specials
2. Racing specials
3. Special specials
4. Newly built specials
5. Touring specials
6. Trials specials
7. Low volume production specials.

Please register your interest to Keith Selley by email: keithselley@hotmail.co.uk to receive further details as available.

Run to Woody Bay

Once again we were not only blessed with good weather but an amazing 13 cars gathering at Quince Honey Farm for the run to Woody Bay. The first important item on the agenda was to make sure we were fuelled ready for the 26.6 mile route, and the breakfasts certainly took care of that.

On leaving Quince Honey farm we travelled a short distance on the B3226 before turning off into the lanes, then crossing over the A361 enjoying the countryside before arriving in Bratton Flemming. We continued on, taking a left turn at an old Lynton & Barnstaple railway bridge where the route took us on the old railway track bed to Exmoor Zoo. Taking the A39 towards Lynton we turned off towards Parracombe. Our route instruction warned us of the steep decent here and they were not exaggerating. After passing Parracombe Halt we shortly arrived at Woody Bay Station.

On arrival we were met by another two cars which boosted our numbers to 15. The staff were very accommodating giving us prime parking by the ticket office and cafe. Here we enjoyed a pleasant afternoon, taking a ride on the train, supporting the cafe and chatting amongst ourselves and to the many members of the public showing an interest in our fantastic display of cars. All in all a very good day out with the club.

Thanks to Nick Hawkins & Anthony Flewellin for organising.



Keith Selley

Save the Date

Full details of these two popular events will appear in next month's 'Devon Sevens', but put the dates in your diaries now.

Widcombe Fair
Tuesday September 8th



Sidmouth Classic Car Show
Saturday September 12th



Musings of a Mascot

It's been a bit of a strange time this month it seems to me. Nothing much was going on for a week or so after our successful day at Cullompton, when my human was in charge of dishing out certificates to young people who had driven an Austin Seven around the field. Then on 21st April my human had to go to RD&E Hospital for his eyes to be checked. I was taken to my chums David and Sharon for the day. My human's elder son took him to Exeter and ordered a new bed for him. This seems to be quite a success as it can be raised up to a more comfortable sleeping position which my human seems to enjoy.



That weekend was Drive it Day, when several Austin Sevens met up to have a trundle round the country lanes with the intention of having a pub lunch at the Greyhound. We were going fairly slowly through the narrow lanes when the Austin Seven in front of us suddenly stopped after giving a hand signal to that effect. My human interpreted the signal as a slow down signal and so did that, only to realise that what was meant was it was stopping. OOPS. Only a split second to decide, my human elected to drive round the leading Austin Seven and try to get past before the vehicle coming the other way hove into sight. Oh dear me no, we collided and did considerable damage to the front of our dear wee Annie. Very fortunately one of our convoy, Peter and Viv Bailey, lived close to where we had our accident and offered to go home and get their Land Rover and trailer to take Annie to their home while Max and I joined them to go to the Greyhound where we enjoyed a splendid roast dinner. We then went back to where Annie was patiently waiting on the trailer, hitched up again and Peter very kindly brought us back to Seaton. Peter and Viv certainly went 'above and beyond' on their first outing with the Devon A7 Club!

My human's elder son came to see us on 30th April and was sad to see the damage to Annie, but as he said at least no one was hurt, neither my human nor me. David Aylmore very kindly brought his trailer down on 1st May when we loaded Annie aboard and my human and I followed in the Micra behind the trailer as we went to Isle Brewers and left Annie with Tim Whellock who has agreed to fix Annie. It was quite alarming on our bumpy roads seeing Annie swaying from side to side on her road springs. My human heard the other day that Tim Whellock has now got authority from the insurance company to work on Annie. So it seems things are on the move and we will get our dear wee car back once she is fixed. So for us perhaps this year Drive it Day ought to be rechristened Damage it Day. There it is then folks a rather strange month.

Happy Austineering .

Every best wish from Max the Mascot

David's Diary

You may have noticed that there was no "David's Diary" last month. Truth is, time got the better of me and there was not a lot to report anyway, as I had been away on a trip to Ireland and Wales in our campervan for a couple of weeks.

This month we have also been away, but this time, there was an element of A7 involved. Earlier in the year I started to make tentative enquiries about having the seats from our RP restoration project re-upholstered. After talking to a couple of local firms, I realised that it was not going to be cheap. The upholstery was actually not that bad, but we just didn't think we could live with the colour. To add to the problem, the door cards and other panels were a completely different shade of green.

More by way of getting a price comparison than anything else, I contacted Simon Laxton (A7 Trimming) who is based in Northumberland. From several FB posts and other information, I knew that he had a good reputation and specialised in A7s. From my first contact, he could not have been more helpful and when he confirmed his price, there was no question that he was the man for the job. The only problem was getting the parts to Northumberland. Packing everything up and sending it by carrier was a possibility but as we had already booked a trip to the Yorkshire Dales in May, an alternative plan was hatched.



With a great deal of cooperation from Simon, we dropped all the seats off, spent a few days in Northumberland and after a lovely stay in the Yorkshire Dales, returned 9 days later. What a transformation –



Simon's A7 knowledge is extensive and he included several items that I would not have thought of until it came to final fitting out. The covers for the chain door pulls, the door straps and window surrounds, even the padding for the rear wheel arch covers was included.

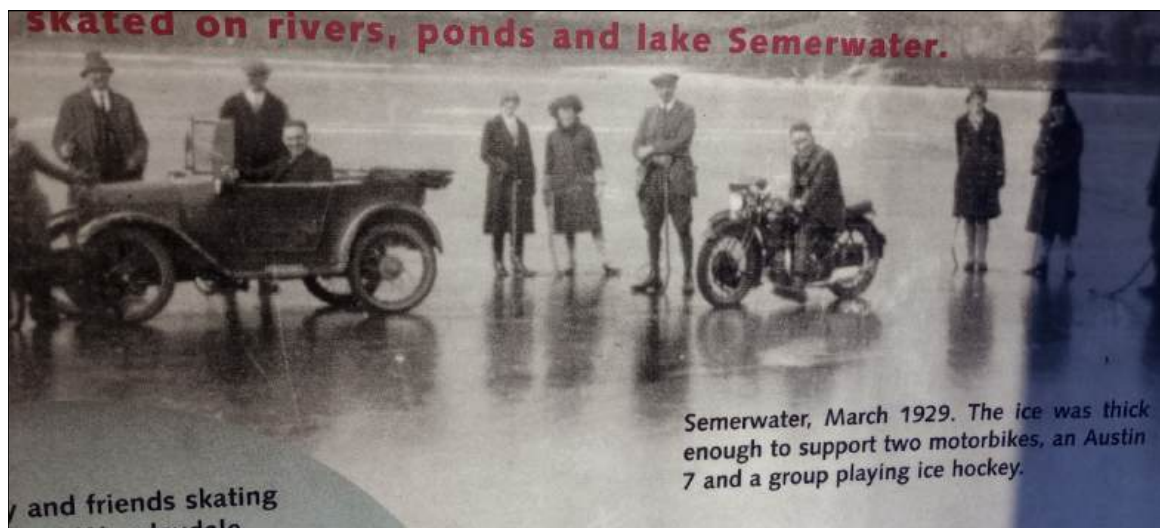
One interesting snippet that I will include, Simon and I were chatting about which of the parts were original and which had been re-made. Apparently, many original timber parts have a pink mark on them. Not identifiable as a letter or number but Simon has found it on many original timber panels over the years. This was found on one of our seat bases – Woodworm holes also noted!!!

All the seats and other parts are now safely stored away, and whilst I know that there is still lots to do before I can finally fit them, I now have even more reasons to get on with the project?



Continued on page 7

Whilst in Yorkshire, we came across this display about life in Wensleydale in 1929.



We did take Mabel, our AH Tourer out on Drive-it-Day and joined other members for a drive out from Axminster around the E. Devon lanes. It turned out to be an eventful day as recorded elsewhere in the newsletter, but it was very good to be out and about in our car in the usual good company.

David

Jude has been 'Out and About' with Gladys



Gladys has been misbehaving recently! She keeps dragging me into pubs and plant nurseries!!

She's at it again!!



New Members

Welcome to the Devon Austin 7 Club

We welcome four new members to the Devon Austin 7 Club this month, and look forward to seeing them out and about at events during the year.

Jeremy Searle lives in Chard in Somerset.

Nick Cunningham lives in Axminster in Devon, and owns a 1928 red Chummy.

Peter Bailey from Bridport in Dorset owns a 1936 Ruby in red.

Steve Hunt is from Totnes in Devon and owns a 1933 green Chummy.

PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

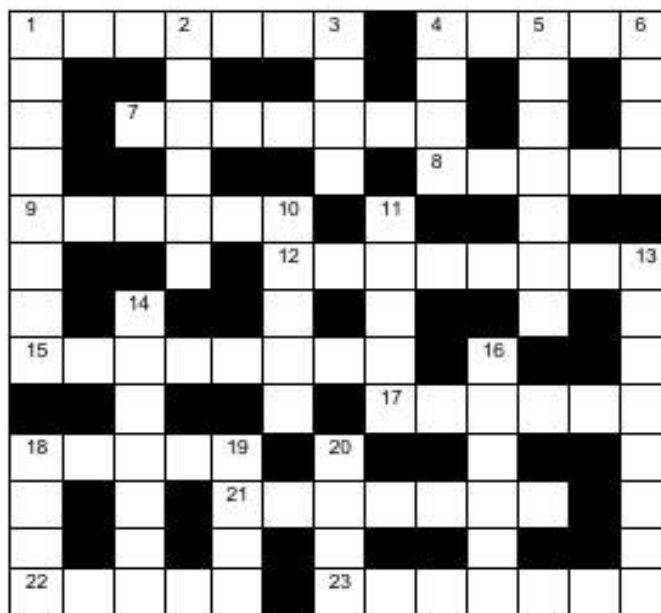
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Colourful bureaucracy (3,4)
4. Firm support for a snake (5)
7. Hard rock playing in Tangier (7)
8. Heal rifts before anything else (5)
9. Male bird wrecking garden (6)
12. Pet alone evolves larger animal (8)
15. Former rental negotiated outside (8)
17. Words of songs Cyril's playing (6)
18. More than enough for me and a pal (5)
21. Gladly accept a greeting (7)
22. Is it an older tree? (5)
23. Port, etc, used to shield one from attack (7)

DOWN

1. Rebel may need gear change (8)
2. One in selling gives abuse (6)
3. Prepare to print part of censored item (4)
4. Lure out cheerful cook (4)
5. Where to retire out of boredom (7)
6. Assist in a wager (4)
10. Not fair, weather-wise (5)
11. Nevertheless, good man gets sick (5)
13. Yes, eight managed to get vision (8)
14. Prevented crazy despot going round park (7)



16. Cue on time (6)
18. It cut the commercials, they say (4)
19. We're coming round for a jug (4)
20. Fighter given cut is a failure (4)

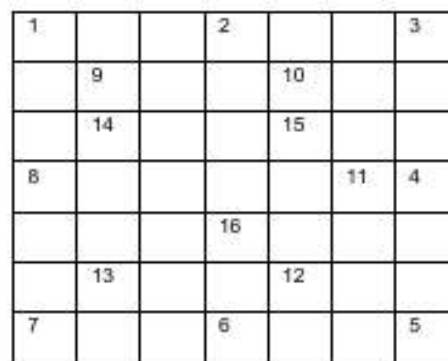
QUADRUPLES

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

- | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. INTRACTABLE | (a) Compliant | (b) Touchable | c) Stubborn | (d) Interchangeable |
| 2. COGNATE | (a) Allied | (b) Herded | c) Split | (d) Outgoing |
| 3. TINE | (a) Tax | (b) String | c) Akin | (d) Prong |
| 4. MARCHPANE | (a) Coverlet | (b) Needlework | (c) Tyrant | (d) Marzipan |
| 5. NUNCIO | (a) Uncle | (b) Papal envoy | (c) Clown | (d) Idiot |
| 6. ANOMALOUS | (a) Eccentric | (b) Similar | (c) Incognito | (d) Animated |

WORD SPIRAL

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Leave out | 9. Boring |
| 2. Story | 10. Girl |
| 3. Work for | 11. Finish |
| 4. Not any | 12. Piece |
| 5. Way out | 13. Steal |
| 6. Dig | 14. Every |
| 7. Arm or leg | 15. Tor |
| 8. Tie | 16. Bound |



Answers on page 12

Drive it Day - The Journey or just a 'Bumble around'

What could go wrong? The route checked out, the cohort mustering on time in Axminster Square- albeit that it is triangular, machines primed-up and raring to go, if that's a suitable adjective for a cluster of pre-war Austin Sevens. The sun shone, the weather near perfect and quiet lanes for a gentle meander around the Marshwood Vale, and adequate timing for the 'what is life if full of care, there be no time for the standing or staring' bit.

On leaving Morcombelake – which is on top of a girt big hill remote from any water, heading east on the A35 close by the infamous Golden Cap headland, we entered the quiet, small village of Whitchurch Canonicorum. Straight away, we were transported back to the world of Mr Hardy himself, lost in time if it had even been discovered, far from the Madding Crowd, into the tranquil world of the Vale. What is the difference between a 'Trundle' and a 'Bumble' is a question often asked. The formula is much the same, I can't remember which is the greater or for that matter which is to be preferred, conceivably the Bumble is notionally shorter. No matter, the day was fine, lunch booked at The Greyhound in Beaminster, pronounced 'Bemminster', which is in the Square, and we're on time.

Gentle trolling in convoy mode, through quiet countryside, narrow lanes and peaceful farmlands with sun shining, all was well with the world, but alas spoken all too soon. Tranquillity shattered, on rounding a particularly tight bend, the lead Seven fleetingly glimpsed an approaching vehicle and dodged to the left. Number 2 Seven faced the dilemma of where to go? Milliseconds to decide between shunting No 1 or risking taking on, what turned out to be an enormous 4x4 driven by one of those legendary 'Good O'le Dorset Farmer Boys' of matching proportions. Inevitable result was an emergency stop with lots of steam and a mangled chrome radiator surround, with conceivably more to be revealed? The Ute had the biggest lump of plastic ever seen in The Vale masquerading as a bumper, doubtless requiring remedial attention! Documents and details were exchanged, photos taken and with no injuries sustained, with both the Seven driver and Club Mascot safe.

Now here's what is possibly the explanation of the difference between Trundle and Bumble. Undoubtedly the prime consideration is for the Bumbler, is to get to the Hostelry in time for Roast Beef with full trimmings. I don't really subscribe to the 'Fairy Godmother' scenario but on this occasion, two new members were being inducted into the merits of Bumbling and announced that their home was close at hand and amazingly, they possessed both a Series 1 Land Rover and would you believe a car trailer!

In the shortest of time, the Land Rover appeared complete with Michael's rather sad looking 'Annie' on board. Roast Beef anticipations were restored and it was agreed that it was an excellent lunch.

The return route, circled around northern side of the Vale, passing through Broadwindsor, taking in the views back across the Vale from Pilsdon Penn and stopping briefly for 'tea' at the recently reopened pub 'The Bottle', near the ancient hillfort of Lamberts Castle and famed for hosting the 'World Stinging Nettle Eating Championships'.

The same evening 'Annie' was very kindly delivered home to Seaton by Peter Bailey complete with Michael T and Mascot Max. To prove that clouds really do have silver linings it is, understood, that with the assistance of Howdens Classic Cars insurance, Annie is already on the way to being restored to good running order by Tim Whellock up in Somerset. Michael will be out and about shortly for more Roast Beef.

We welcome Peter & Viv Bailey as new members and applaud their willing and invaluable assistance, on their first outing with the Club.

Also, making their maiden outing with the Club and their sporty, special was Simon Heighway, first seen at Culmstock, and now with Nick the navigator on board.

The DA7C Far East cohort were very pleased to be joined by Club legends, David & Jan Aylmore, travelling up from near Torquay.

Mike Moore



Drive it Day

North Devon Run

7 Austin Sevens and 1 Austin Ten assembled at a lay-by at Instow before leaving for Torrington and eventually East Yarde café on the Tarka trail. Due to limited parking at the start, a group photo was not possible so we assembled next to Dartington Glass for the photo. We briefly stopped at Torrington Common where there were public toilets and a car boot sale. Not much of motoring interest, but there was a trailer full of spanners to sift through.

A short further run via lanes took us to East Yarde, where again, parking was limited, in fact, it was just about full. Fortunately, a large motor home was about to leave, and some enterprising owners spent some time playing Tetris with their sevens to fill the vacated space. Time was spent at the café socialising before we all left for home. In total, there were 9 Austins present, thank you Nick Hawkins for an interesting but sometimes bumpy route. The total route distance was 17 miles.



Anthony Flewellen



Chris Hartnoll took this photo "down the deep lanes", and says, "..... perfect weather and pleasant company on our run to East Yarde Cafe. Thanks to Nick Hawkins and Anthony Flewellen for organising it."

More Drive it Day photos



Anne and Tim Whellock on Drive it Day. Returning down Section 5 on the VSCC Wessex Diffey Trial, around Wells on the Mendips.

Thanks to Ross Mangles, another competitor, for this photo.



Dick Bessant enjoyed a Drive it Day trip on Dartmoor. He assures us that he was only visiting this well known landmark!

**Don't let anyone
talk you out of that
quick 8 week car
project, because
those 9 months
will be the best 2
years of your life!**

Only 2 years? That's not our experience ! 😂 - Ed.



Austin Seven Clubs' Association

Following the recent AGM, I am writing to thank the member clubs for electing me as chairman of the Association.

David Cochrane has carried out this role with great skill and competence over the past three years and I am sure you join me in thanking him for the considerable amount of time and effort that he has invested in ensuring the smooth-running of the organisation. I shall greatly value his ongoing wisdom and guidance as I settle into the position.

It is very fortunate to have such a talented and willing team of people working together to maintain the success of the A7CA. We all serve you, the member clubs and registers - and in turn, your own members - to the best of our abilities. As chairman I am one small cog in a much bigger wheel and others have much heavier loads to carry when it comes to A7CA work. You might be quite amazed to learn just how much effort goes in to maintaining the work of the Association. I am very conscious that the existence of the Association is dependent on a number of factors.

Primarily we require the support and engagement of the member clubs, each one having equal value in the running of the Association and in the voting processes. You, the member clubs, are the ultimate decision-makers and it is only by your leave that the Association functions.

We must then maintain transparency, accountability, relevance and value - and communicate to the members what we are doing.

And then we have to find ways to fund our activities - particularly the 'big ticket' items of the Association Archive and the Association Magazine. That funding is primarily derived from the sale of the magazines which, I submit, for their quality and informative content at just over £2 a copy represent the most extraordinary value for money.

I therefore urge all clubs and registers, whenever possible, to include the Association Magazine in their subscriptions. This is not about making profit for profit's sake. It is about securely funding the Association to carry out and improve upon the functions and activities that benefit all member clubs and the wider Austin Seven community. We'll be making more of those benefits in the future.

I am delighted and honoured to have been given this opportunity to lead the brilliant team of the A7CA and I will endeavour to live up to the challenge. I am always open to conversations about the Association so please make contact if there's anything you want to discuss.

With kind regards,

Nick Salmon

Very new chairman of the Austin Seven Clubs' Association.

Answers to puzzles on page 8

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1.Red tape 4.Cobra 7.Granite 8.First 9.Gander 12.Antelope 15.External
17.Lyrics 18.Ample 21.Welcome 22.Elder 23.Protect
DOWN 1.Renegade 2.Tirade 3.Edit 4.Chef 5.Bedroom 6.Abet 10.Rainy 11.Still
13.Eyesight 16.Stopped 18.Adze 19.Ewer 20.Flop

QUADRUPICS 1.(c)Stubborn 2.(a)Allied 3.(d)Prong 4.(d)Marzipan 5.(b)Papal Envoy 6.(a)Eccentric

WORD SPIRAL 1.OMIT 2.TALE 3.EARN 4.NONE 5.EXIT 6.TILL 7.LIMB 8.BIND 9.DULL 10.LASS
11.STOP 12.PART 13.TAKE 14.EACH 15.HILL 16.LEAP



A7CA - A new look for an old friend!

After huge amounts of work behind the scenes by our IT wizard and webmaster, Chris Charles, the **Austin Seven Clubs' Association website** has been refreshed and greatly improved.

It is now clean and uncluttered, with links to all of the great things that the A7CA provides for its member clubs and the wider Austin Seven community. Come and explore this new fully responsive experience on mobile or desktop - the site works on both.

Drop in regularly to stay up to date with Association news and to use the really useful and interesting features, including of course, the Chassis Register and the online marvels of the Association Archive.

We hope you like it. It's another brilliant A7CA benefit!

<https://a7ca.org>

Nick Salmon, A7CA Chairman



Insurance matters - administration fees

A note from Nick Salmon, A7CA Insurance Liaison Officer (and chairman)

A member making a mid-term change to their car insurance policy through Howden (formerly RH Insurance) was surprised to be told that an administration charge would be applicable. RH did not charge administration fees.

On my checking with Howden they confirmed that administration charges were introduced in March 2025. Details are contained in the Howden Terms of Business document (<https://library.howdeninsurance.co.uk/docs/group/terms-of-business.pdf>) and accompanies policy renewal invitations.

Among the charges are:

Arrangement of new policies and renewals: £55

Policy alterations: £35

Policy cancellation: £50

We are told that in respect of A7CA insurance scheme policies, 'A sensible approach applies when these are charged depending on the amount of work we need to do. For example, adding a private car to a policy would incur up to a £35 fee, whilst changing a registration would normally be no charge if the documents are emailed.'

Such administration charges are common in the insurance market, but I felt that the members of our Member Clubs and Registers should be made aware of their existence and their impact on the overall cost of an insurance policy.

I would be very interested to hear of companies that do not charge such fees. If you are insuring your vehicles with such a company, please email me details. chairman@a7ca.org

Nick Salmon, A7CA Insurance Liaison Officer (and chairman)

Rolling Chassis Update

We now have the domed suspension link bolt requested for the club's rolling chassis, and our thanks go to member Peter Tooth for sending it to us.

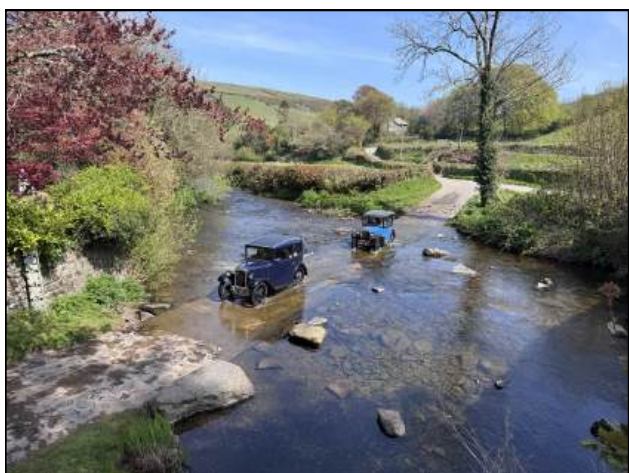
Exmoor in the Spring

The end of April brought the first of the milder sunny weather on Exmoor, perfect timing for a welcome visit from two motor homing friends from the Cornwall contingent of the Devon 7's club.

Touring Exmoor in Austin 7's with friends and picnicking on Exmoor felt more like being on holiday than at home! We enjoyed two days of sunshine, pottering along quiet, narrow lanes offering spectacular albeit hazy views across the moor and to the Exmoor coast.

Day one was spent exploring the lanes around Moles Chamber, Withypool and Winsford, enjoying delicious cake at the Withypool tearooms before heading on to Dunkery and Cloutsham, then returning home via Exford and Simonsbath. The route sought out the usual rugged views, steep valleys and a ford or two for good measure, just as would be expected on a tour of Exmoor!

Day two saw us meandering through Challacombe and on to Exford, heading towards the coast above Porlock, before descending steeply into the Lorna Doone valley for a picnic alongside the river. After lunch we drove on to Lynmouth before climbing Lynton Hill up to Lynton itself, continuing along the road through the Valley of the Rocks and then taking the toll road to Woody Bay and Hunters Inn, before heading home. Two very enjoyable days!



Steph & Doug Whittlestone



Austin Seven Clubs' Association

Notes from the 2026 A7CA AGM

Chairman David Cochrane opened proceedings and confirmed the minutes of the previous AGM, which were proposed by Hugh Barnes and seconded by Howard Annett.

In his final report as Chairman, David thanked outgoing officers, including Advertising Manager Sarah Mason and Webmaster Ahmed Abdel, and welcomed their successors. He highlighted the Association's continued strength, its support for events, insurance schemes, and resources such as the Archive and Register. He also encouraged members to actively use their vehicles and praised progress on the Centenary project.

Secretary Ruairidh Dunford reported on maintaining effective communication between clubs, managing correspondence, and ensuring timely distribution of agendas and minutes. He emphasised ongoing collaboration between clubs and introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to create an "Associate Member (Advertiser)" category. This motion was passed with 16 votes in favour, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

Sarah Mason noted challenges following the previous AGM's ban on trade adverts, which reduced advertising revenue. A motion to reverse this decision was approved unanimously, allowing trade adverts to return. Additionally, a 3% increase in advertising fees was also approved unanimously.

Archivist Gordon England reviewed progress on cataloguing, preserving, and expanding the Archive, supported by a dedicated team. Improved insurance arrangements and outreach initiatives, such as taking the Archive to events, were highlighted. Work will continue on creating a searchable online catalogue. Editor Stuart Ulph reported that two magazine editions had been produced successfully, despite initial challenges with new software. He encouraged earlier submission of content to improve production efficiency. Distribution updates from Howard Annett confirmed magazines had been dispatched, he asked Clubs to confirm receipt.

Registrar Peter Hales reported the addition of 67 new vehicles and 84 updates to the Register, alongside ongoing data quality improvements. He also noted the importance of club support in reconnecting owners with historic vehicles. It was highlighted that he is approaching his final year in the role, and a successor will be sought.

Webmaster Ahmed Abdel summarised a year focused on website maintenance and handling enquiries, with plans for a new website transition under incoming Webmaster Chris Charles.

Insurance Liaison Officer Nick Salmon reported positive developments with the Association's insurer, including improved clarity on policies and new provisions for younger drivers. He also noted the importance of exploring alternative insurers for future resilience.

Publicity Officer Steve Earl highlighted growth in online engagement, with increased followers and views across social media platforms, supporting the goal of attracting new enthusiasts.

Treasurer Hugh Barnes presented the financial report, explaining changes in accounting practices for improved transparency. Despite a reported deficit, largely due to grants and rising costs, the Association remains financially stable with sufficient reserves. Key income continues to come from magazine sales, though these are declining. A proposed budget for 2026 was approved (17 for, 1 against). A motion to increase the magazine price to £2.25 from 2027 was also passed (17 for, 1 against), aimed at maintaining financial sustainability.

Awards were presented, with the Ken Warren Award going to Richard Bishop for a magazine article, while no nominations were received for the Ray Morley Trophy.

Finally, officer elections were held, new appointments confirmed Nick Salmon as Chairman, John Davies as Advertisement Manager, Chris Charles as Webmaster and all other officers re-elected unanimously. The meeting closed with thanks to all officers and remarks from the incoming Chairman Nick, who expressed his commitment to building on the Association's collaborative ethos.

The next AGM is scheduled for 20th April 2027.

Link to full (unconfirmed) minute: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fnTvy4UuTebj_UhloUYsVW10fjD_rcpp2YwYqPQ7mq4/edit?usp=sharing

Ruairidh Dunford A7CA Secretary

Chris Blakey's A7 'Babushka'

In 2019, Chris set off in his 1937 A7 Special, 'Babushka', on an 8,000 mile unsupported adventure from Twickenham, the home of Rugby Union, to Tokyo, Japan, the venue for the Rugby World Cup. Most of the route involved crossing Russia along the infamous Trans-Siberian Highway. A passage by ship from Vladivostok to Japan enabled him to arrive in Tokyo in time for the matches.

Unfortunately, Chris is no longer able to drive, so Bristol A7 Club and Devon A7 Club made a significant number of enquires to motor museums to secure a spot where 'Babushka' could be displayed and her fascinating story told. Finally, the right museum was found by Sally Barker and Jude Zebedee, and Liz and I took 'Babushka' over to the County Classics Motor Museum in Taunton. They are all so very enthusiastic and are delighted to have a car donated that has such an interesting history.



John Turley

Follow up to the 'Any Ideas?' request last month ...

Referring to the query last month regarding my nosepiece with the end of the camshaft blanked off, David Aylmore suggested that it may have been used as a marine engine. This was confirmed by Andy Grabham, who used to own one. Mystery solved!



John Turley

2026 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

- Thurs. June 11th** Dartmoor Tour - details to follow. **Event cancelled.**
- Sat./Sun.
July 11th/12th** Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering run by The Crash Box and Classic Car Club. Details on page 3.
- Sat/Sun
July 25th/26th** RHS Garden Rosemoor Vintage Weekend. Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PH
Event cancelled
- Tues. Sept. 8th** Widecombe Fair - details to follow but put the date in your diary
- Sat. Sept. 12th** Sidmouth Classic Car Show - details to follow, but put the date in your diary.

Other Events

- Sun. June 21st** 'Blast from the Past', Clinton Hall, Merton.
- Sun. June 21st** Beamish Reliability Run. Beamish, County Durham, DH9 0RG
- Sat/Sun
June 27th/28th** National Austin Seven Rally, Beaulieu Motor Museum, New Forest.
- Sat. June 27th** Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally. More details at www.middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge. For entry forms email: coldridgevintage26@aol.com
- Sat/Sun
June 27th/28th** Holsworthy Vintage & Classic Rally. 'Search Holsworthy Vintage & Classic Rally' for details.
- Sun. July 5th** All things Morris, Ilfracombe . More details on their website - www.allthingsmorris.co.uk
- Fri/Sun
July 31st/Aug 2nd** Torbay Steam Fair. The Kennels Showfields, Dartmouth Road, Churston Ferrers, Brixham. Approx. postcode - TQ5 0JT. See website: torbaysteamfair.co.uk
- Sun. Aug. 30th** Seaton Carnival Committee Classic Vehicle Show on Seaton Esplanade, 10am - 5pm. Details form June Millman on 01297 599625, e-mail: june.m@talktalk.net
- Sun. Sept. 6th** John Haynes Classic Motor Show - Austin 7 Specials display. See page 4.

Regular Monthly Meetings

- 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** **Note the change of venue**
Somerset Sevens meet at the Rose and Crown, East Lambrook, TA13 5HF. Evening meeting for the summer, 7pm or thereabouts. Contact Anne Whellock on 01460 66434 for more details.

For Sale and Wanted

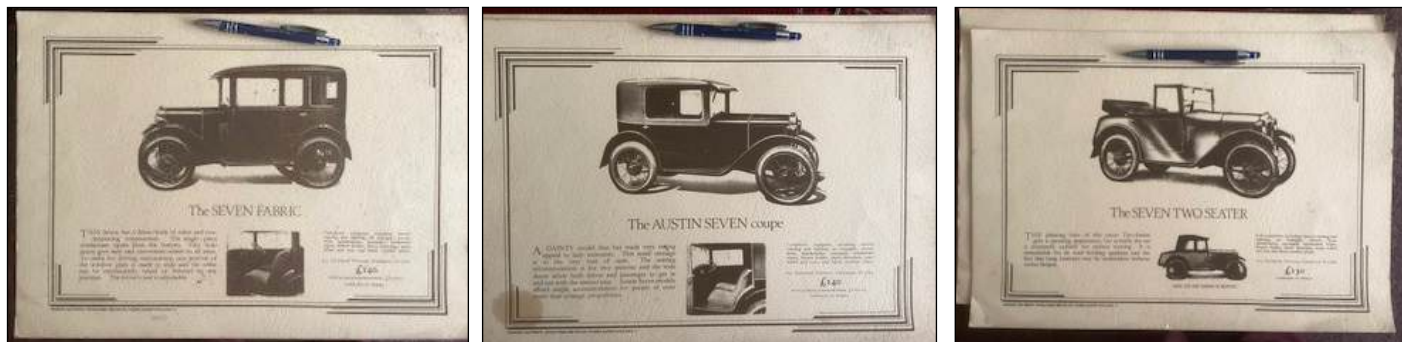
For Sale

Peter Gregson has found these rather interesting prints. They are printed on an attractive thin textured card. In the bottom corner is printed Kenning Car Prints, 26 Dale Road, Walton on Thames.

If you Google Kenning you will find he was an early car distributor (starting with motor bikes as they all did) going on to own motorway services and much more and become a very wealthy man and philanthropist. He published prints like this of many cars which must have been part of his sales literature.

They are not rare, but would certainly make a nice framed picture.

£10 each - contact Peter Gregson. E-mail: peter@woodenships.co.uk



Wanted

Sam Archer is looking for a 1930 type flywheel (1 & 5/16" crank and rear facing starter). If you can help, please contact Sam at: samscaravan4@hotmail.com

For Sale

Complete 1936 Ruby rolling chassis with a 1935 engine and what appears to be a 3 speed gearbox.

I have only seen photos, but it looks to be in good order and is owned by a long standing A7 enthusiast based in Weston-S-Mare. No V5C but chassis number is clearly visible.

Offers over £1500 invited.

Contact David Aylmore for more information. Details on the back page.



For Sale

Following a bit of a sort out after the Autojumble, I have the following items available:-

1. Sundry metal & timber parts for an A7 sliding roof frame for an RP Box Saloon. All need repairs or could be used as patterns to make new. **Open to offers.**
2. Complete A7 engine. +80 pistons. Turns over by hand. I don't know any detailed history, but it came to me from an experienced garage owner/A7 enthusiast. **£250.**
3. Selection of 17" wheels. **£20 each.**
4. A7 RP running boards – new. **£45**
5. A7 RP front wings. Need some repairs but generally sound. **£50 the pair.**
6. Almost complete set of A7CA 'Grey Mags' in binders dating back to the 1970s. **Free to a good home** or they are heading for the tip!!

Contact David Aylmore (details on the back page) for more information.

For Sale

1929 Austin Seven Mulliner Sports

This rare car left Longbridge as a rolling chassis in 1929 and Mulliners of Birmingham built her fabric covered aluminium sports body in 1930.

She was acquired nine years ago and has attended many rallies, including being a winner at Beaulieu, Newark Park and Bryngarw. Sad to see her go, but I now need space for a new project. All complete with correct hood and running well.

£11,750 Contact John Turley on 01749 675475



Special offer for Devon A7 Club Members only

Brand new - unopened 'Airflow Air-Chamber'

Bought to house a 1938 Morris 8 but never used.

4m long so ideal for an A7 or similar small car.

Currently the RRP is around £500

Offered to **club members only** for a reasonable donation to our 'Rolling Chassis Project'

Available to view near Widcombe-in-the-Moor

Ask for David Aylmore for more information, contact 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.*

Newsletter Editor:

Janet Aylmore - South Devon,

Tel: 01626 852259

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



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

July 2026 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 July 2026 issue should be with me by **Wednesday June 17th 2026** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 24th**.

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.



Devon A7 Club Clothing Range



- Polo Shirt,**
17 Colours available. £20
- Sweat Shirt,**
13 Colours available. £24
- Soft Shell Jacket,**
3 Colours available. £35
- T. Shirt,**
12 colours available. £19
- Baseball Style Cap,**
11 colours available £16

All clothing items are available from our On-Line Shop.
 Ordering is very simple - go to:
<https://theofficeway.com/pages/devon-austin-seven22922/>
 or
 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 David Aylmore, (contact details on back page)

These are the tools that are available:-

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

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

Keeping in touch with the Devon Austin 7 Club



For details of upcoming events, news, club regalia, history of the club, photo gallery and much more visit the website - www.devonsevens.co.uk.

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.



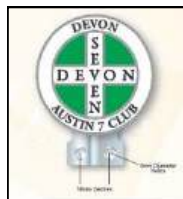
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



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 2026/2027

Chairman:

Viv Gale - North Devon, Tel: 07890 471973

E-mail: vivgale6@gmail.com



Secretary & Safeguarding Officer:

Adele Selley - Plymouth, Tel: 07960 490871

E-mail: secdevona7@gmail.com



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: registrar.devona7@gmail.com



A7 Assoc. Rep:

Michael Tabcart - East Devon, Tel: 01297 624208

or 07523 055291 E-mail: mttabcart@gmail.com



Events Secretary:

Keith Selley - Plymouth, Tel: 07960 490869

E-mail: keithselley@hotmail.co.uk



DVLA Rep:

David Aylmore - South Devon, Tel: 01626 852259

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



Committee Member:

Jude Zebedee - East Devon, Tel: 07944 602211

E-mail: judezebedee@gmail.com



FBHVC Rep:

John Turley - Mendip Hills, Tel: 01749 675475

E-mail: john@priddyfolk.co.uk



Committee Member:

Mike Moore - East Devon, Tel: 01460 220885

E-mail: mike@mgmoore.co.uk



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