



Devon Sevens

February 2026

Newsletter for

Issue 190

The Devon A7 Club



Howard Palmer, one of the founding members of Devon Austin 7 Club, and the club's first chairman who sadly passed away on December 26th.

A note from our Treasurer and Membership Secretary



Subscription Renewals

I sent a renewals email to all members on 5th January. The response has been great with just over 50% renewing in the first week. A few people told me on WhatsApp that my email had gone into their Junk folder. I therefore asked David to resend as presumably the monthly newsletter gets through. I am reissuing the email here in case other methods are not getting through.....

The chairman wrote to all members before Christmas to explain that the renewal date had been moved from December to January, and the subscription had gone up to £15.

He also mentioned that the national club had asked us to promote the quarterly grey magazines as they are their only source of income. The grey magazines are £12 for the year and remain optional.

There are three ways to pay your £15 or £27: The easiest way is through the website at Membership Renewals - Devon Sevens - Devon Austin 7 Club. I can usually identify you from the payment, but your surname and post code helps. You can put in your membership number if it is to hand, but the surname and postcode is sufficient.

The club pays a small fee for payment through the website. The most cost-effective way of payment is by bank transfer. The club's bank details are:

Sort Code: 20-60-88

Account Number: 83505030

Account Name: Devon Austin Seven Club

Please use your surname and postcode as the payment reference.

We understand that some members do not like making automated payments so you can still make payment by cheque. The club banks with Barclays, as do I. Strangely, they offer cheque pay-in via their app for personal accounts but not for business accounts. To save me queuing at the Post Office, it would be helpful if you make any cheques payable to me, S.R.Wise and post them to my home address: 3 Westcliffe Terrace, Brixham TQ5 8HU. I'll pay them into my personal account and then transfer it to the club.

I'll be presenting the 2025 Accounts at the AGM on 8th March. Hope to see you then. If not, I'll publish them in the March newsletter.

Best wishes

Steve Wise

David's Diary

A sad note to start this month, as over Christmas we heard that Howard Palmer had passed away. It was thanks to Howard, along with the late Murray Park that the Devon Austin 7 Club was formed back in 2009. He remained an active member until a few years ago when his deteriorating health forced him to move to a nursing home in Plymouth. During his time on the committee, he served as our first chairman and later as secretary. He also helped many A7 owners to successfully register their cars with the DVLA.

Stuart, his son, continues to campaign the A7 special, which Howard built, in classic trials and he also hopes to complete the various A7 projects that Howard was working on when he fell ill.

Along with other members who knew Howard, we plan to take our A7 along to his funeral and our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

We took Mabel, our 1934 AH Tourer out a couple of times over the Christmas period. I took our daughter, Nicola, to our traditional family Christmas Eve breakfast in Bovey Tracey and was very pleased when our two grandsons asked to have a ride on the way home. Not sure they were that interested in the car, but with the hood down, they loved waving and wishing everyone a 'Merry Christmas' as we drove through Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh.

Then on an extremely cold New Years Day morning, I set off, with the hood down to go to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, for their 'Steam-Up day'. Even getting as close as I could to the boilers, I didn't really thaw out all day. However, Mabel went well, and it was a very interesting day out.



I was unable to work in our garage over the Christmas period as it was loaded up with festive bits and we were due to have building work done so I had to re-organise the electrics and shelving. All done now and in the last week I have managed a few days in the garage. I'll put more details and some pictures in next month.

I spent an interesting afternoon at the Devon Archive Office in Exeter researching history on a member's car in the hope that it would help me with their DVLA registration application. The detail I needed was not there, but I thought it was worth bringing this facility to members attention. If you have an A7 with Devon registration number, then chances are you can find out the name of the first owner and the town where they lived. If you would like more information on the process, give me a call (contact info. on the back page) and I'll be happy to help.

As an example of where this might lead, a few years ago we did the same research on our own A7 which was registered in Buckinghamshire and the information we found enabled us to trace the house where the first owner lived. We contacted the present house owner and with their agreement took Mabel along to have a photo taken on the drive.



David



Zoom Club Night



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

Monday 16th February at 7pm

What better way to spend a dreary winter's evening than to close the curtains,
pour a warming drink and spend an hour chatting to fellow DA7C members.

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

February Trundle

Saturday Sat 28th February 2026

Please note the change of date.

Start from The Culm Valley Inn, Culmstock, EX15 3JJ

Meeting at 10.30am for 11.00am Start

A short run around the area and back for lunch.

Menu can be viewed at <https://www.theculmvalley.co.uk/menu/>

***Choice of meals can be ordered on the day
BUT we do need numbers attending -***

Numbers needed by Friday 13th February at the latest - see details below

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE to :

Jude Zebedee e-mail: judezebedee@gmail.com tel: 07944 602211



A.G.M 2026

Sunday March 8th .

Spreyton Village Hall - EX17 5DP

10.30am - Coffee & Biscuits

11.am - Start of Meeting.

*Please e-mail Adele Selley (Club Secretary)
at: secdevona7@gmail.com to confirm your
attendance / apologies (for non-attendance) - this is
to keep our Club records in order - Thank you.*



**For those who would like to stay, the meeting will be followed by lunch at
The Tom Cobley Tavern, Spreyton, Crediton EX17 5AL .**

Traditional home cooked roast with the choice of roast beef, pork or turkey served with a selection of
seasonal vegetables, crispy roast potatoes and homemade gravy - **£ 17.50**

Vegetarian option mushroom, brie, cranberry and hazelnut wellington or a chickpea and spinach pie **£17.50**

Main course and pudding - **£24.75**

Bookings for lunch MUST be made through Adele Selley only (details as above)

**Meat choices can be made on the day, but please let Adele know, when booking, if you would like one
of the vegetarian options and if you have any special dietary requirements.**

If possible, Adele would like lunch bookings by Sunday February 8th please.

Please contact Adele for more information.

The 6th Vintage Cars for Young Drivers' Day Saturday April 11th

Re:Fuel, Five Bridges, Cullompton, EX15 1QP.

What3Words: pancake.allows.panicking

Full details to follow or see the Club Website, but put the date in your diary now.

East Devon Amble Event + National Drive-it-Day Sunday 26 April 2026

It is proposed to revive both the Amble Event and the Drive-it-Day celebrations, to take the form of a modified Treasure Hunt, mustering in Honiton at 10.00.

Entrants are to plan their own routes to designated check points/ places of interest, which are unmanned and attracting a varying scale of points within a prescribed radius of Honiton.

Maps will be provided prior to the event for pre-planning.

The course concludes with regrouping at Otter Garden Centre (between Honiton & Ottery St Mary) by 13.30, where all levels of catering are available all day.

Participants are encouraged to display Rally Plates, as this is also a Fundraiser event for NSPCC Childline. Plates are available online from <http://www.driveitday.co.uk/>

Note: sometimes plates sell out quickly – so early ordering is recommended.

Expressions of interest/further details contact Mike Moore on: 07718 385700, e-mail: mike@mgmoore.co.uk



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.



FBHVC Matters



Drive-it Day History

Held each year on a Sunday in April, it is the day when historic vehicle enthusiasts and the public at large have the opportunity to celebrate the 'One Thousand Mile Trial'. This was an 11-day round-Britain public test, that started on 23 April 1900 to "prove the viability" of the new-fangled invention - the motor car. At the time, few believed that the invention would be suitable for use and most people had never even seen a car. The 'trial' started on 23 April 1900 and cars were limited to the then legal maximum of 14mph. Organised by the Automobile Club, there were 83 entries of which 65 made it to the starting point at Grosvenor Place, London. Six days in, by the time Edinburgh was reached, 51 cars were still running and 35 vehicles made it back to London, having covered 1,000 miles in the 11 days.

Drive It Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and support amongst the public for the historic vehicle movement, as part of our ongoing campaign to keep transport heritage on UK roads, without restriction.

In recent years we have entered a partnership with NSPCC to raise funds for its Childline service, focussed on Drive It Day. We do this by selling rally plates that people can buy to put on their vehicle (or Ride It Day plates for motorcycles), to show their support.

Childline and the Federation are proud to announce the continuation of this impactful partnership around Drive It Day, having just signed another 5-year contract to work together on this national celebration of historic vehicles, that has become a powerful force for good.

Over the past five years, this collaboration has raised over £250,000 through the sale of Drive It Day rally plates. This is a remarkable achievement made possible by the generosity of the historic vehicle community and the unwavering support of FBHVC members and enthusiasts across the UK.

This year we have a different colour palette, which will now change every year. Despite the two rises in postage, we have decided to hold prices at 2024 levels. These are £12.50 for Regular plates, and £30 for Platinum plates.

Visit the 2026 Drive It Day website <https://www.driveitday.co.uk/shop> to purchase your fundraising rally plate.

John Turley FBHVC Rep

Ethanol-Free Petrol.

Following a discussion on the Club ZOOM chat earlier this month, I found an advert by the Anglo American Oil Company in the magazine from the FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs).

I have been aware for some time that Ethanol-Free fuel has been available but it has been very expensive and difficult to get hold of. It would now appear that these problems are being addressed.



'R Storage Plus ' fuel is now available in 10 Ltr drums on-line and the price is £38.50 +VAT. Whilst still much more expensive than regular E5 petrol, this fuel is said to remain stable for up to 3 years. Because there is no Ethanol, there is no problem with corrosion so would be ideal if your car is in storage.

The UK arm of Anglo American Oil is based in Dorset and they list several distributors of their products in Devon.

Have a look at [CFS Storage Plus – 99 RON | Anglo American Oil Company](#) if you would like more information.

By way of a personal comment, I have never used any fuel additive in my A7s and have found no problem with using either E5 or E10 fuel but I realise that other members have experienced issues. I would stress that this article is for information only and not a recommendation.

David.

PUZZLE PAGE

By Julie Eddles

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Torment poor Fergie endlessly (5)
4. Shortfall if edict put out (7)
8. Clear cut – like a zebra (5,3,5)
9. Some of Tokio bigwig's sash (3).
10. The pirate needs a bib for this country fare (9)
12. Broken spears are hard to find (6)
14. Appalled at gash that's changing (6)
17. One having a sea view, perhaps? (3,6)
19. A duo also they say (3)
20. Spaceflight management centre - to Major Tom? (6,7)
22. Spicy seeds you need to grate in Meg's nut pie (7)
23. The bird that catches the worm (5)

DOWN

1. Apes sobbing, maltreated (7)
2. Unreal, aiming review on a railway (9)
3. Sounds like one who pretends to be a holy man (5)
4. Ban due affected river (6)
5. Crawling following the blind (7)
6. Greek letter in Chinese (3)
7. He met strange subject (5)
11. He works facing the wall (9)
13. Scenic design to a point shows physics, say (7)
15. It may carry food or telly that's broken (7)
16. Orders CID set out (6)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8												
9				10						11		
12				13			14					15
						16						
17								18		19		
20		21										
22								23				

17. Start a wild binge (5)
18. Flinch at victory by church (5)
21. Youth without boundaries unacceptable (3)

MUSICALS

The vowels have been removed from these groups of words, the spaces closed up, and the consonants grouped into fours, so that SOME LIKE IT HOT would become SMLK THT. Can you work out the titles of these musicals?

1. THPH NTM FTHP RA
2. SVN B RDSF RSVN BRTH RS
3. GNTL MNPR FRBL NDS
4. THRC KYHR RRPC TRSH W
5. THRG HLYM DRNM LL
6. NNGT YRGN
7. THPR TSFP NZNC

QUADRUPICS

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

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. PIKELET | (a) Small fish | (b) Crumpet | (c) Lance | (d) Lever |
| 2. RIVEN | (a) Split | (b) Herded | (c) Drove | (d) Bird |
| 3. AXIOM | (a) Payment | (b) Dictator | (c) Tablet | (d) True statement |
| 4. DUBBIN | (a) Washing | (b) Wax | (c) Horse | (d) Beating |
| 5. EMINENT | (a) Expected | (b) Shadow | (c) Respected | (d) Foretold |

Answers on page 16

Austin 7s getting Festive



Name that Car



Seen in the Bourton on the Water Motor Museum, and as a hint, it was designed by Stanley Edge.

Answers to: devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk – no prizes but if you are right, you will get a mention along with the answer in the next newsletter.

David Aylmore

Christmas Caper

On what appeared to be the coldest day on Exmoor during the Christmas period so far, we decided on the 27th December to make the most of the sunshine and reasonably dry roads to take out a Seven!

We chose to take out the old faithful Tuppence our RN saloon. He was very much due a little adventure having recently received new rear springs as well as new rear wheels, restored (excellently) by Nick Mouat of Specialist Wheel Builders. Doug was also keen to test out the newly promised comfort of a fully repaired drivers seat, which had broken in half, in a rather untimely fashion, during the Beamish Trial in 2024, whilst climbing the absurdly steep hairpin known as The Stang! Doug's temporary repair had stood us in good stead for the rest of that expedition and few further small ambles, but finally, after some head scratching, he addressed the job properly this Autumn!

Wrapped up in warm coats, hats and gloves, with a blanket and warm drinks on the back seat, we headed out from our unseasonably dry lane and climbed steeply onto the high ground, meandering rather indirectly towards Simonsbath and then on to Dulverton, where we parked up in the busy festive high street. After a little browse around, a warming drink in a local cafe was much appreciated before we returned to the car. As is so often the case, Tuppence had attracted a few admirers, but it wasn't until a couple of days later that we spotted Tuppence on the Dulverton community Facebook page! It's always lovely to find the cars so admired and revered.

We then navigated a scenic route back across Exmoor towards Lynmouth enjoying the beautiful views bathed in the wintery sunshine. It really is a joy to drive an Austin 7 on such quiet and unspoilt roads with such spectacular scenery. Arriving in the late afternoon Lynmouth was quiet, so we managed a photo in front of the lobster pot and buoy Christmas tree! We then embarked on our own little 'trailing' event, climbing Lynton Hill up to Lynton itself. Fortunately we had a clear run, the road was empty and Tuppence climbed up without an issue. By now the sun was low in the sky, but we managed a quick look round the Lyn Valley Art and Craft Centre and took another festive photo with in front of the Town Hall Christmas tree.

Choosing to return home via the high ground rather than the main road, we now had to descend Lynton Hill. A sure test for the brakes if ever there was one! Having successfully reaching the bottom without any drama, we turned up towards Watersmeet and towards home across the moor watching the sun setting over the Bristol Channel. We arrived home in the dusk having enjoyed a thoroughly refreshing and more comfortable jaunt and now very definitely looking forward to the welcome sight of the roaring wood burner waiting for us inside!



Steph and Doug Whittlestone

Musings of a Mascot

It seems that I have had quite a busy time recently with various meet ups with my human's friends. Firstly he has been very delighted with all the assistance he has had with Annie since that strange noise was being emitted when we were at Widecombe Fair. David and Philip worked quite hard to get the engine out of Annie thinking that it may have been damaged. It turned out that it was just a case of a loose flywheel that was causing the noise and not any greater damage, which was quite a relief. Once we had the necessary washer to prevent the flywheel getting loose again, and having fitted that, it was a case of putting the engine and gearbox back in the car. Sounds simple but my human would never be able to manage that job, so was very pleased with David and Philip's help again.



I had to go to the vet and get my annual booster jab on 2nd December. I was fairly successful in charming the receptionist and the vet and getting a couple of treats from them both. My next outing was to the Sidmouth Arms in Uppottery, where we enjoyed our Christmas lunch with my human's Morris chums. Philip Snell again kindly visited us on 13th December and did some fettling under Annie tightening up some essential bit underneath the car.

My human's son, his wife and younger daughter came to see us on 28th December, when we went to the Wheelwright for a pub lunch, where my human was pleased to get a drop of Proper Job, one of his favourite beers.

Just the usual visits for drinks and snacks over the Christmas period kept me busy.

That's about it for now folks.

Happy Austineering with best wishes for 2026 from Max the mascot

Austin Seven Club's Association



The Editors and Advertising Manager have asked me to publicise the fact that an unapproved version of the 2026A Magazine was published in error by the printers. This resulted in several errors appearing in the publication. Perhaps most importantly was the incorrect advert for the Scottish A7 Club's Guildtown Rally where last year's advert appeared instead of the 2026 one.

This is particularly unfortunate because the Scottish Club had changed the date of the rally specifically so as not to clash with the Pre War event at Beaulieu.

The correct version of the advert will appear in the 2026B Magazine and in attempt to mitigate any issues it is included here with the correct date, Friday 3rd July - Monday 6th July.

Ruairidh Dunford
A7CA Secretary

Caught in the Headlights - Nigel Skudder, Exminster

As is often the case when caught in the full glare of Headlights, the culprit invariably says 'I don't know too much about the car's history!' Modesty prevails, but with a little nudging, an amazing story unfolds, truly something for fireside reading

My Aunt and Uncle, Dick and Margaret Gadsdon, had an A7 from around 1955-1956, as listed on the original log book that we still have, as a utility body? Reg No AYU 560 that my older sister nee Suzzane Skudder, now Soo LaRoche living in Sleaford Lincs remembered straight away when I was trying to find it.

The car was used in and around Eltham in SE London and the Kent borders mainly as a family car for the Gadsdons, but had been known to take part in various outings and treasure hunts / rallies around Erith in Kent and surrounding Kent villages, Bluebell Hill, Eynsford, Brands Hatch, Maidstone at a push and many other Parishes besides, with the Scudders of varying ages, as eager passengers.

I was too young to remember any of this but I do recall many hilarious renditions at later family get togethers about the numerous breakdown stories resulting in many joyous happy moments. Of all the cars I think the A7 was responsible for many fun days out and excitement for new ventures through the Kent countryside for my family. My elder brothers and my sister, all had a joyous upbringing in the 1950's being dragged around in the A7 to the next event or three.

I will tell you about this car in a bit more detail because some of the parts have made their way onto my 'George' when it was refurbished in the early 2000's. Chassis No 195791. Engine no M197656, date of original registration 30 May 1934.

The car was later donated by my aunt and uncle to my parents, Jeff J Skudder and Ellen Skudder, nee Ellen Lanaway who's family originated from the Essex area and was first registered to John Jeffery Skudder on the 26/2/1958 when I was less than a year old. My Aunt, the previous owner, recalls the bodywork being converted into something like a shooting brake or Minor 1000 lookalike with timber upper bodywork in the late 1950's because of the need to accommodate the growing Skudder family that comprised Michael, Christopher, Suzzane, Stephen and myself in 1957!

As a bit of an aside, my Uncle Dick was in the RAF and my Dad was a pilot during the latter stages of the war flying 'Republic Thunderbolts - P47D' for those interested in a bit of history, they were both a bit adventurous and dabbled in electronics, homemade fireworks and of course tinkering with anything mechanical including motorbikes and rebuilding cars!!

The log book for AYU 560 shows road tax as being paid until the 31 May 1961 when it died or the MOT tests came out that it was never going to pass?!! I remember the car being broken up into parts in the early 1960's, when I was a slip of a lad, on the front garden of 121 Maylands Drive in Sidcup, our parent's family home till 2023.

All the bodywork was scrapped but pretty much all of the moving parts including the engine, gear box, chassis parts, prop shaft, wheels, brakes etc were wrapped in oil, grease and polythene sheeting and stored at No 121 in a large wooden crate, a bit like the Indiana Jones movie 'Raiders of the lost Arc', until it was time for a rebuild sometime later?

After waiting patiently preserved for 32 years and a good rest! my father commenced a rebuild project and bought a rolling chassis from Holmsdale Sevens in Hailsham, East Sussex on the 22nd September 1993, many other parts were sourced from The Seven Workshop in Corsham, Wilts earlier in the 1990's for engine parts, so I suspect he rebuilt the power unit with new piston rings, big ends etc that had suffered a bit in the crate!! He worked on this rebuild steadily for many years converting it into a station wagon type with a cab for two and a flatbed at the rear, quite stylish I thought and maybe good for hill climbing, but the story ends there a bit for the baby Austin, due to an 'interruption in service' that I will continue later.

Along comes George, Austin 7 1934 Box saloon Reg AYR 859, a stranger to the camp!! Whilst my father was tinkering with the original 7 my mum's interest in rekindling some old A7 memories was stirring somewhat and rather fancied a more original 7 and so began a bit of competition in the garage shall we say!

Cont. from page 11

My mum bought George, as a part renovation project or sort of *animal rescue* if you prefer, in May of 1995, which started a tricky period of rivalry and competition for salvaged parts from our original Austin 7 AYU 560 and numerous A7 Boot Sales, to complete both cars at some future point in time.



AYR 859 as a barn find in 1995

Nine years later, after languishing alongside each other at 121 Maylands Drive my mum was getting a bit impatient with the slow progress, even though my dad was doing a sterling job, George was sent to Julian Austin Smith in Blackfen, an accomplished restorer and lover of anything greasy, to chase things along a bit faster.

Julian, as if by magic, spent 2 years or so, on and off, getting George roadworthy and MOT'd ready for its first public run to a 7 Rally at Bewl Valley reservoir in East Sussex in June 2006'. what a day! For me, a first time run in an old motor, much stress with the clutch and gear changing and my dad saying, "*never mind we'll collect the missing cogs on the way back*" However it made it back up Westerham Hill somehow without too much steam and water loss! Two Sevens in transit often turns heads of passers-by we noticed but a good day was had by all concerned and George was now road ready for action!

He was however garaged for a few years at my Sister Sally's house in Blackfen, of course the other 7 AYU 560 needed some work doing as well.

My father, Jeff Skudder converted AYU 560 into a station wagon but sadly it was never finished before nature took its wicked way, however it now sits in a somewhat unfinished but salvageable condition, with all new engine parts and running gear in my Brother Steve's garage in Wilmington, Kent awaiting some enthusiasm restoration, to complete the vision my dad had for a lovely car that's been in our possession since the late 1950's. It'll happen one day I hope because it needs a run and is currently surrounded by all the bits and spares from the original greasy garden trunk and the visits to many car jumbles and shopping excursions to Holmsdale Sevens, the Seven Workshop and Malcolm Bonar plus others. Jeff joined the Kent Austin 7 Owners Club in July of 1994 but I'm not sure they were kept up to speed with the progress' back then.

Back then to George, after family changes and the pressure of modern living for some reason I guess, I somehow took ownership of AYR 859 in March 2013 and he was brought to Exeter on the back of my Subaru Impreza WRX , the fastest he's ever likely to have travelled, with my thanks going to Howard Palmer for the loan of his *Seven* trailer for the trip from London to bring George to his new home in Devon.

As a bit of an aside, it's become a family tradition that whenever we pass Salisbury plain or Stonehenge in a car of any sort, we always phone a family member to announce the success of this part of the journey because in times past, in a *Seven* of course, on a holiday trip to Torquay or somewhere, reaching Stonehenge with or without a breakdown on the way was a major milestone or achievement, somehow this sticks as a requirement to be maintained!

I still maintain George in fine fettle and try to run out locally 5 or 6 times a year around nice weather, he rattles a bit and Julian often told me that the gearbox, rear axle and maybe the engine timing cogs need a bit of attention so I'm a bit reluctant to travel too far, but he manages a trip or two to Double Locks, the Golf and Country club and Starcross Yacht Club where I sail, for a quick beer and a little check up on running order. I regularly maintain all the usual bits and pieces but one day I'll get round to all the grease nipples that still extrude grease lovingly forced in by my dad and possibly Julian back in the 90's, its lasting pretty well as it goes! For some reason the top of the steering column exudes a rather gungy bit of runny black grease that designed to mess up your trousers or jacket if you don't keep a soft rag around to mop up now and again, is this a cunning security device to leave a mark on the unaware'

He has to earn his keep in my garage and sports an EXETER SOLAR sticker on the doors, mainly to cover some dodgy paintwork, but turns the heads of the local residents when I toot-toot, whilst driving through the village in Exminster, children love the hooter as often noticed.

Cont. from page 12

Long may the little bit of gear crunching, that I still do from time to time, be a reminder of my first trip to Bewl back in 2006 when George was reborn. It's a delight to think that *Sevens* have been in our family in one way or another since the 1950's and long may it continue. Who's going to take George for spins when I no longer can, remains to be seen and if AYU 560, the original 7 for the Scudders', sees the light of day again. Who only knows!

My thanks to my aunt Margaret Gadsdon who is now 92 for her memories and input being the original A7 owner in our family. My sisters Sue and Sally for the odd memory or two and looking after George for a few years in Blackfen. Also, my brothers Chris and Steve for some dodgy memories, not much to be fair. Julian for the repair work done in the early 2000's to and of course my late Mum & Dad for the dedication shown to *Austin Sevens* from the late 1950's to 2023, a good shout indeed!



George being delivered back to Jeff and Ellen Skudder in Sidcup after an upgrade in 2006.



George at Bewl Valley in 2006



George and others at Babbacombe in 2006



George at home in 2025

Nigel Skudder

THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Meeting



On behalf of the Club, I attended January's quarterly meeting of the Austin Seven Clubs' Association via Zoom. Items that I considered would be of interest to our members are as follows...

Chairman

David Cochrane is to complete his three-years as A7CA Chairman in April and will be handing over to the current Vice-Chairman Nick Salmon. This means that someone else will be needed as Vice-Chairman. Club members are invited to apply to take on this role. It will involve being Vice-Chairman for three years then Chairman for the following three years. These roles have been found to be enjoyable and not onerous.

Archivist

Activities continue to focus on cataloguing, conserving and storing items safely. A complete collection audit is being undertaken for insurance purposes.

Secretary

Apply to Ruairidh for any of the vacant posts.

Following a unanimous Club decision the Jack French garage, chassis and contents has been donated to the Atwell Wilson Motor Museum in Wiltshire. Should any of the items ever need to be removed from the site they will be offered, free of charge, to the A7CA.

Webmaster

Due to other commitments, Ahmed has asked to step down from the role of Webmaster. So, a new Webmaster is sought.

Treasurer

The A7CA's main source of income is from the sale of the Association magazine. However, Hugh Barnes reported that sales have dropped from 3,500 to 2,800 which is having a detrimental effect on finances. Hugh asks all Clubs to encourage their members to subscribe to the magazine as it provides extremely good value for money.

Editor

The editorial group would welcome more contributions from Club members for the A7CA magazine.

Registrar

In 2025, 66 additional A7s have been added to the register.

Insurance Liaison

At the beginning of November, RH Insurance changed its name to Howdens. In practical terms, the same team is still dealing with our Austin Sevens and other classics, but now the firm can offer a wider range of cover for a variety of insurances.

An immediate and welcome initiative by Howdens has opened up the possibility of cover for learner drivers using an Austin Seven as well as cover for solo driving by those aged 18+ who have passed their test. Membership of an Austin Seven Clubs' Association member club is a requirement. Early reports from people who have enquired about this type of cover indicate that premiums are reasonable.

A7 Centenary Event

The A7CA is proposing to produce a comprehensive record that future owners can access. The proposed approach is to create a web based 'Pop-Up Museum' that brings together all aspects of the event. The A7CA is asking you to consider writing up an overview of what your group did, before, during and after the event. Also, stories around the event that you consider amusing, enlightening and/or of interest. Supply a minimum of three paragraphs and eight photos before the end of March 2026. Further information from Ruairidh.

AOB

It was reported by Andy Lowe that Mike Tebbett had died. Mike was actively involved with Austin Sevens for as long as I can remember and looked after the A7CA's Mulliner Register for many years. Also, he was the editor of the magazine for the Light Car and Edwardian Section of the Vintage Sports Car Club.

Date of Next Meeting

The A7CA's AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 via Zoom.

John Turley

New Members

Welcome to the Devon Austin 7 Club

This month we welcome 4 new members to the Devon Austin 7 Club:

Glyn Jones lives in Wellington, Somerset and is in the process of building a car.

Kevin Tizzard lives in Braunton and doesn't have an Austin at the moment.

Neil Isaac lives in Barnstaple. Neil doesn't own an Austin at the moment, but is hoping to obtain one as soon as he can find premises to store it. Neil is a motor engineer by trade and owns four old motorcycles which he has restored.

Gary White lives in Barnstaple and owns a 1936 Ruby Mk2 in maroon/black.

We look forward to meeting our new members at events in the coming months.



Here is DA7C member Richard Bishop's son, Mike Bishop, on his Honda 90 clearing Simms on the recent Exeter Trial.

It was widely reported that he received the loudest cheer of the day as he reached the top of this notorious test.

What a surprise !

Whilst reading through the November newsletter what leapt off page 11? Why, a picture of **ME**, ALW 633 !

I'm an RP whose home has been Cornwall since at least the 1970's, until last year when I was re-homed to a new owner in Dorset. My new owner tried to lessen my homesickness by enrolling me on the Devon register. He's doing his best to look after me despite his driving auto-estates for the last 40 yrs, and having got rid of his old grease gun decades ago. I had my engine rebuilt, including re-metalled rods and new rings for £45 in 1978 and I was also retrimmed at around about the same time.

I take my owner and his wife into Bridport regularly, but I'm not sure that they are yet ready for a longer journey across the border from Dorset. Whenever I do go out though, lots of people smile and wave at me and I was very excited when Peter Howard took my photo in the Co-op car park. My owner had gone inside for some shopping, met Peter, and had a chat about me, but my owner didn't know I'd had my photo taken.

Thank you Peter, and all at Devon 7's for printing my picture and A Happy New Year to you all !

Margaret & Alan Genender



ANSWERS TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 7

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1.Grief 4.Deficit 8.Black and white 9.Obi 10.Rabbit pie 12.Sparse 14.Aghast 17.Bay window 19.Two
20.Ground control 22.Nutmegs 23.early

DOWN

1.Gibbons 2.Imaginary 3.Fakir 4.Danube 5.Fawning 6. Chi 7.Theme 11.Plasterer
13.Science 15. Trolley 16.Edicts 17.begin 18.Wince 21.Out

MUSICALS

1. The Phantom of the Opera 2. Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 3. Gentlemen Prefer Blondes
4. The Rocky Horror Picture Show 5. Thoroughly Modern Millie 6. Annie Get Your Gun
7. The Pirates of Penzance

QUADRUPICS

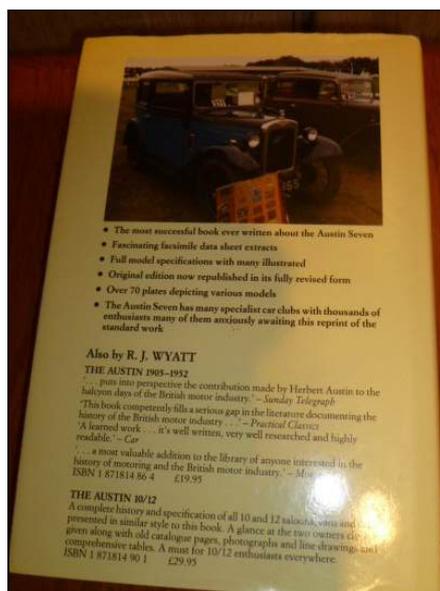
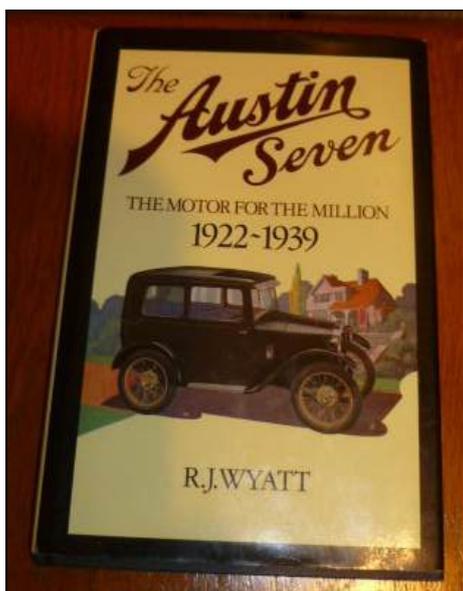
1. (b) Crumpet 2. (a) Split 3. (d) True statement 4. (b) Wax 5. (c) Respected

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale

Photo Wyatt Book - "The Motor for the Million" 1929-1939, reprint 1994.

This very informative and popular book is in excellent condition.



£15 plus P&P.

Contact David Aylmore – contact details on the 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.*

2025/2026 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

- Sat. Feb. 28th** February Trundle (note change of date), around the Culm Valley. Details on page 4.
- Sun. March 8th** A.G.M. and lunch - please see page 4 for details.
- Sat. April 11th** Young Drivers' Day at Re-Fuel. See page 5, more details to follow next month.
- Sun. April 26th** East Devon Amble and National Drive it Day event. Full details on page 5

Other Events

- Sun. Sept. 6th** John Haynes Classic Motor Show - Austin 7 Specials display. See page 5.

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.

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.

March 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 March 2026 issue should be with me by **Wednesday February 18th 2026** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 25th**.

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

Many thanks. Ed.



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.



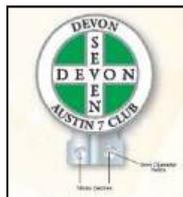
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



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 2025/2026

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.