



Devon Sevens

April 2024

Newsletter for

Issue 170

The Devon A7 Club



Above - DA7C members out and about with the Somerset Sevensers - Michael and Max out in Annie met them for lunch, and Philip Snell joined two other Sevens and a Riley for an evening get together.

Below - a good turnout of eight Austins at the recent AGM at Spreyton.



Chairman's Chat April 2024

I travelled the 56 miles to the club AGM at Spreyton without event, though the state of our roads, especially the B roads, gave cause for concern. I tried to avoid the large puddles fearing that they could be deep enough to swallow the Ruby. In fact, if Southwest Water ran a pipe from some of them it would save building new reservoirs.



On my return I found that water had found its way inside the car and the carpets were very soggy. Some I removed, but I had previously glued some to the bulkhead on the passenger side. I lifted them where I could and placed a small wardrobe heater underneath in an attempt to dry them out. It took a couple of days but all is now back to what passes as normal.



The last two Devon Sevens club badges both lost the green infill parts of the badge and so has the third one! They don't appear to be enamelled in the old sense of the word and the green bits are some sort of plastic infill. I have now sent for some Humbrol green enamel paint to remedy the problem.



Nice and shiny and ready to fit

Not much else to report on the home front. I have bought some new indicators for the Ruby. The present ones get showered with water and mud and have become cloudy and in one case broken. The trouble is that unlike modern cars which let you know if an indicator is not working my system just carries on bleeping as normal even if one bulb is blown or an earth has broken down.

The club questionnaires have begun to arrive back in my email box. Thank you to those who have replied. If you haven't sent yours yet please try and find a moment to complete it and either email it or post it back to me.

Viv Gale



Secretary's Notes

A big thank you to all the members who turned up for the AGM on 3rd March. I hope everyone found it an interesting meeting and that those who stayed on for lunch at the Tom Cobley enjoyed their meal. Eight members arrived at the AGM in their A7s and one more arrived a little later, in fact he only just made it in time for lunch.



When you next see Philip Snell ask him how he managed to clock up over 100 miles travelling in his Ruby from Axminster to Spreyton. The village of "Sprytown" near Lifton may have something to do with it!!!

In any event, it was great to catch up with so many members and once again, Roger and Lucy, the owners of the Tom Cobley, looked after us very well.

Bob Downey was the recipient of the Murray Park Trophy this year, and it was very well deserved, not only for the help he gave to at least 2 members last year, when he carried out extensive work on the brakes, back axles and springs on their A7s, but also for being a loyal and active supporter of the Club over many years. Thank you Bob, and of course Ann, who has always been there to support.



Sadly, our only life member and club mascot Sam Barker, felt that the time had come for him to step down from his duties. At the AGM, his long-time carer and scribe, Mike Moore spoke on his behalf and nominated the lively young Cockapoo Max Tabear as his successor. The proposal received unanimous support and the official tabard was duly handed over. Sam being a few sizes larger than Max meant that some adjustments were necessary, but he was soon seen to be out and about representing the Club.



In an effort to widen the range of events on offer to members, we have accepted an invitation from the Wiscombe Hillclimb venue to have a Club Day on Sunday 12th May, the day of the VSCC Hillclimb when there will be many A7s competing. Full details can be found on page 8.

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Continued from page 3

At the last A7CA committee meeting, Howard Wright, the Editor of the Grey Mag asked for volunteers with experience in Scanning, Archiving and Indexing to join a working party for the purpose of creating a searchable electronic version of the Association Magazine back issues. This will be a fantastic resource which will be made available to everyone, and is without doubt one of the most important projects the Association is currently undertaking. Club representation is a vital ingredient to the success and ownership of this initiative so if you would like to get involved with this exciting and valuable initiative contact Howard Wright by email at: editor@a7ca.org or telephone on 01597 829456

Much has been written over the last few years about the imminent demise of the Internal Combustion Engine, but in fact, there is nothing basically wrong with the I.C.E, it is the fuel, both petrol and diesel, that causes all the problems. There is a Devon based business which is addressing this issue and has produced an Ammonia based substitute fuel. Apparently, in initial trials, this has proved to be a viable alternative with no negative emissions, and it is hoped that production can be scaled up to a commercial level over the next 5 years. I'm not sure if it is this Ammonia based Fuel that will be used, but it has recently been announced that the 2024 Goodwood Revival will require all vehicles to be powered by sustainable fuel, so watch this space. There might just be an alternative to EV's on the horizon.

Happy Austineering

David

Sump Reinforcing strips.



Following the publication of the photos of my sump reinforcing strips in last month's David's Diary, I was contacted by Eddie Loader, the Technical Advisor for the Hereford A7 Club. He told me that he designed and manufactured these items and sold them at his stall at the Beaulieu A7 autojumble some 10 years ago. He apparently made just 5 sets and sold them for £15. each, all 5 sets selling very quickly. Was I one of his 5 customers or did I acquire them from someone else later? I really can't remember!!

Eddie added that he designed this reinforcing medium to obviously help in obtaining a sump joint free from leakage, but also had a theory that the design would make the whole lower Crankcase stronger, this being particularly beneficial to 3 bearing crankcases.

His original idea for developing the strips was to improve on Austin's design which, when the sump was new, worked reasonably well at keeping the engine oil captive. However, the problem is the very thin gauge of steel used in the sump

pressing, resulted after a short period of time, in a distorted mating face, which of course made it difficult to keep the joint oil tight

Eddie said that he often wondered why Austin used such light gauge steel in their sump pressing, and came to the conclusion that it was to reduce production costs and also to reduce the overall engine weight. Of course, there was a hidden benefit from the constant sump leaks, which was when the vehicle was in motion the leaked oil sprayed the car chassis and floor pan, resulting in an efficient underseal medium.

Eddie does not lay claim to the originality of this modification. He told me that he first observed that Vauxhall used a reinforcing medium on the sumps of their front wheel drive engine units.

For interest, he did look into the possibility of having the strips cut in one piece by the Laser process, but the cost was horrendous due to material wastage.

Thank you Eddie for the additional information.

David.



Young Drivers Day at Re-Fuel- Sunday 14th April

The plans for this event are progressing well and please do come along if you can. Apart from the various displays and activities, the Steamer Café on site serves excellent food and coffee and there is often a roaring log fire to sit by.

If you arrive in your A7, you will have a choice of being involved in one of three ways;-

1. Display only, just park as directed and have your car available for the visitors to admire.
2. To take passengers on a 4 – 5 mile ride into Cullompton and back to let them experience how it feels to ride in a Vintage Car and also to see the reaction of the public that we all enjoy so much.
3. To sit alongside someone who would like to drive a Vintage Car around a closed off circuit on the Re-Fuel grounds.

We will also need some marshals and helpers around the site and it would be great if you could give some assistance even if it was for just an hour or two.

There is no need to book, you can just turn up at anytime during the day, but if you would be willing to help in any capacity, please contact Nick Borst-Smith. Details on the back page.



Zoom Club Night

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

Monday 15th April 2024
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 the meeting.



Drive-It-Day

Sunday April 21st 2024

We use yesterday's vehicles to support today's children.



National Drive It Day was created by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs in 2005. It is the occasion when historic vehicle enthusiasts and the public at large have the opportunity to celebrate the One Thousand Mile Trial, from London to Edinburgh and back, organised in 1900 to prove the viability of the new invention, the motor vehicle.

It's also a chance to raise awareness and support amongst the public for the historic vehicle movement and keeping transport heritage on UK roads.

It sees clubs schedule regional and local events throughout the country on Sunday 21 April 2024. Importantly, it also raises funds for the NSPCC's Childline. Fundraising is an integrated part of 'Drive it Day', in which the historic vehicle movement comes together to contribute to a section of society that needs huge help and support – vulnerable children.

This money is raised by the purchase by drivers and riders of a fundraising 'Drive it Day' rally plaque. It's an easy way for drivers and riders to show their support, and donate vital funds.

Last year, a record £51,000 was raised and hopefully that can be beaten in 2024!

A variety of rally plaques, for bikes and cars, (or you can just make a donation) are available now at www.driveitday.co.uk See full details on page 7.

Below are details of just some of the events taking place in Devon this year:

North Devon Run.

Nick Hawkins is organising a run starting from Whiddon Down Services EX20 2QT, which is just off the A30 and easily accessible from all parts of Devon. You can arrive as early as you like and there is a Café on site for coffee/breakfast.

The plan is to leave the Service area at 11 am passing through South Zeal and stopping at Finch Foundry in Sticklepath. The route will continue to Belstone for a lunch stop. Either bring a picnic or eat at The Belstone Inn's outdoor grill over looking the open moorland. A drive on to the old A30 and through Okehampton will complete the day.

Members from the North of the County can meet at Bishops Tawton lay-by to leave at 8.30 with a stop at Dolton Beacon Garage at 9.15 to meet anyone else who would like to travel in company.

Members who are coming from other areas and who may wish to travel in groups rather than individually can contact Nick and he will put you in touch with other members who are attending.

In any event, please phone Nick on 01271 375730 to confirm if you are attending.

Morris Register East Devon Run.

Some East Devon and Somerset A7 Club members have been enjoying the company of the local Morris Register owners on their runs over the past year, and we have been invited to join them on their Drive-it-Day outing.

The arrangements are being organised by Philip Armour (Telephone number 01297 625723) and the plan is to meet at Amy's Cafe at EX24 6QQ in Colyford at 11 am followed by a short drive to the Honey Farm at EX24 6JF. There will be a short stop here for a drink or snack and in case anyone wishes to join the run from further afield.

The route then continues to Sidmouth, driving along the sea front to have the cars on show in the public car park. Everyone will then be free to find somewhere for lunch and disperse at their leisure.

It will be helpful if anyone planning to go can let Philip know on his phone number above or by emailing David Palmer at dcjp@hotmail.com so that numbers for the car park can be arranged.

Drive It Day events cont.

Crash Box & Classic Car Club Drive-it-Day Show, The Lawns, Dawlish. EX7 9PT

There is no need to book, just turn up between the hours of 10.00 and 16.00 but cars will need to be escorted on and off by marshals. The Mayor of Dawlish will be choosing the car she would like to take home. More details will appear on the Crash Box Club website or via this link:

<https://crashboxclub.co.uk/events/drive-it-day-sun-21st-april-2024/>

Local shops around the Lawns will be open.

The Crash Box Club are looking for volunteers for marshalling duties between 09.30 and 16.30 please contact organiser Mike Fenner on mykalfenner@yahoo.co.uk or 07890 833851 if you would like to help.

Drive it Day 2024 – Challenge for Devon A7 Club Members.

You will be aware of the efforts we, as a Club, are making to encourage members to get out and about with their cars, so I would like to set you all a challenge:-

How many A7s owned by Devon A7 Club members can we get out on the road on Sunday 21st April for Drive-it-Day?

Drive-it-Day is an annual event so how about setting a baseline this year and then we can try to improve on that number each successive year?

I suggest that we set a target of 20 cars for this year.

There are some organised events (see above and page 6), but you don't have to go that far if you don't want to. Just to the end of your drive if you like, just so long as your A7 is visible to the public and hopefully displaying a 'Drive it Day' Plaque – (See below for details.).

For your car to be counted, e-mail the editor (devon.sevens@hotmail.co.uk) with a picture and details of when and where you went, and we will publish the results in the June Newsletter.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUBS
DRIVE & RIDE IT DAY
SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024

ORDER YOURS NOW
All profits donated to Childline®

Available in standard size and now a smaller size suitable for motorcycles.
Display straight away to show your support, no need to wait until April 21st!

in support of
childline
NSPCC
A life-changing service

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

Scan Me

FEDERATION
British Historic Vehicle Clubs
Yesterday's Vehicles on Tomorrow's Roads

The advertisement features a large green and white 'DRIVE IT DAY' plaque with 'RIDE IT DAY' written below it. The plaque includes the year '2024' and the Childline NSPCC logo. A smaller version of the plaque is shown below it. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. The text 'ORDER YOURS NOW' is written in large, bold, red letters. The background is a light blue and green gradient.

Run to Cornwall - Friday May 3rd



This is a 'get together' with the Black & Whites Club (anyone with a black and white number plate) and the Cornwall A7C at The Inn for All Seasons, Treleigh, Redruth TR16 4AP.

For those who would like to travel down together we can meet at 8.30am on Friday 3rd May at Sourton Services (Okehampton). There is a car park next to the petrol station. We aim to set off by 0900am. If some members find it too far to travel there and back in one day, they could always arrange an overnight stay.

DA7C contact for more details or to arrange to meet at Sourton Services : Derek Vertenten, 07553 034013
e-mail: derevertenten123@btinternet.com

Wiscombe Hillclimb, Club Day – Sunday 12th May

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE
Wiscombe Park
SPEED HILLCLIMB

Welcomes
Devon Austin 7 Club

Vintage Sports-Car Club
Sunday 12th May 2024

Wiscombe Park
SPEED HILLCLIMB
www.wiscombepark.co.uk

Club Motorsport Since
1958

Wiscombe Park is considered to be one of the most challenging courses in the UK, and a driver's favourite. Wherever you spectate on the hill, you will have an excellent view of the action.

On 12th May, the VSCC are holding their annual Speed Hillclimb and there will be many A7s competing. As an additional attraction, our new members Tim and Anne Whellock are in charge of the Autojumble at the event. If you would like to book a stall, please contact Anne direct on anne@vintageandsportscarservices.co.uk

We will have a dedicated, reserved area in the public car park, for up to 30 cars.

Our Club discounted entry fee price is £10 per person, which also includes a programme per car, valued at £2. A discount code will be available from 12th April onwards and tickets can be booked directly through the Wiscombe Park website after that date.

The days timetable will be:-

8.30am Gates open

9.00am Timed practice runs commence – 2 runs per driver.

12/12.30pm Lunch break

1.30/2.00pm Timed competition runs commence – 2 runs per driver.

5pm End of the meeting

If you are interested in having more details or would like to register for the discount code to be sent to you, please contact Steve Wise on s.r.wise@outlook.com

ALLONS EN FRANCE??

You might think I'm crazy (most people do!), but as a new vintage car owner with a still lamentable knowledge of mechanics, I am planning to take Gladys, my 1929 A7 Chummy, on a little jaunt over to Brittany in late May or June 2024.

I know some might consider this late notice, but does anyone fancy joining me? I'm not a great one for forward planning, but will probably head either to Roscoff or to St Malo via Guernsey and spend a few days taking a tour of the Departement. I usually travel with a 2-man tent, but will be easily persuaded to find a nice little hotel or two.

I can provide the French language (and wine drinking) skills. Any mechanical knowledge you can provide would be a definite bonus! If you have even a passing interest in the idea, then please contact me as soon as possible and we can start making plans.

Vive Le Austin Sept!!

Jude Zebedee 01884 841677 or 07944 602211
or judezebedee@gmail.com



National *Austin Seven* Rally Beaulieu - Sunday 30th June 2024

The largest annual gathering of
Austin Seven enthusiasts, vehicles and trade suppliers.

Special Displays:

**Opals & Pearls, Swallows,
and Long-Distance A7s**



Entry forms available on the PWA7C website

www.pwa7c.co.uk

Rally Organiser - Ian Nelson
ian.s.nelson@btinternet.com
07803 888585





HISTORIC VEHICLE GATHERING POWDERHAM Castle, Nr Exeter.

13th & 14th JULY 2024

Organised by the Crash Box & Classic Car Club.



One of the major events this year will be our Club stand at the Historic Vehicle Gathering at Powderham Castle, Kenton near Exeter. The club will once again pay entry fees for DA7C members who display their cars on our Stand.

You can exhibit on one or both days and cars can be left on the stand overnight on Saturday or driven to and from the venue. Space is also available for trailer parking.

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.

July may seem a long way in the future, but with the amount of planning necessary for an event of this size, entries need to be in early and the latest date for reserving a space on our stand is **Friday 31st May**, so please don't delay.

An entry form has been sent with the newsletter and should be filled in and sent to Richard Bishop, 40 Feltrim Avenue, Exeter, EX2 4RP e-mail rchrdbshp7@gmail.com as soon as possible.

If you would like any more information, just drop Richard an e-mail or telephone David on 01626 852259



Vintage & Classic Weekend

RHS Garden Rosemoor

July 27 & 28 2024



The DA7C will again be at Rosemoor for their Vintage and Classic Weekend. If you are the owner of a Vintage or Classic car, tractor, motorbike, caravan, bicycle, Rosemoor would love to welcome you to this great weekend.

Now in its 14th year the weekend has proved to be one of their most popular events with Vintage Vehicles, Motorcycles, Tractors, Caravans and Steam Engines, and in 2023, the event attracted over 2400 visitors a day. The event will again be at the Arboretum Lawn on Lady Anne's side of the garden, which will give a beautiful backdrop to the amazing vehicles on display. There is a small café and toilets available at this side of the garden, or it is a couple of minutes' walk to the visitors building where the main restaurant is located.

This is a free to enter event for vehicles, which will provide you with entry to all of Rosemoor Garden for you and a guest. Rosemoor will supply an exhibitor's pop up beverages tent, where you will be able to enjoy free teas and coffees and separate portable toilets will be available just for exhibitors. Onsite overnight stays are available for those of you that have caravans or camper vans etc. There will be a professional security person on site over the weekend. If you wish to stay onsite on the Friday, Saturday and (or) Sunday, please remember to state it on the vehicle entry form. There are no shower facilities but there is a toilet block you are welcome to use. You will be issued with an overnight pass and given instructions on where you are able to pitch up your vehicle.

Please contact Nick Borst-Smith or David Aylmore for a vehicle entry form, and be sure to let Nick know if you plan to attend, so that he can ensure there is space for your vehicle. (contact details on back page)

Please note that it is RHS policy of strictly **no dogs** unless they are registered assistance dogs.

New Member

This month we welcome Tim and Anne Whellock to the DA7C. Tim and Anne live in Ilminster, Somerset and own a 1932(ish), blue A7 Sports - a successful, long distance reliability trials car, as well as a blue, 1930 Tourer. We look forward to seeing Tim and Anne out and about in their cars.



More A7 related outings



Peter Gregson had an interesting day out spectating at the recent VSCC Hill Climb Event near Tiverton. Peter says, "With about 40 Sevens it was more of a 7 meet, with examples of almost every model. Amazing how owners throw their little cars up the hill through the mud. A good selection of other vintage cars including the odd Bentley. A few managed to perform as well as the Sevens!"



David Aylmore and Philip Burrow checking over the engine for the Young Drivers Day rebuild demonstration. It was the first time it had been up and running in many years. Many thanks to Rosemary Pratt for the loan and we hope we get it back to you in one piece!

A7 Registration. PG 400

Through negligence, ignorance, forgetfulness and preoccupation with living, I allowed the DVLA registration of my 1929 Chummy to lapse when I laid her up 20 years ago.

After 30 years regular use I put her on blocks in a dry garage, occasionally lifted the cover to make sure the mice had not eaten the seats and forgot about her.

If in any doubt about registration, owners should read the plentiful advice on the DVLA web sites. Essentially, a vehicle first registered prior to 1.1.83 is exempt from paying road tax but, most important, must still register with the DVLA and if not used on the road must still SORN it - Statuary Off Road Notification. For all the reasons above I neglected to do either.

In order to revive a lapsed or lost registration a vehicle must have a V5, the old fold-out buff document we all used to have. Hopefully an unregistered car will have a V5 which identifies the car by it's chassis and engine numbers (although the latter may not be the original engine) and establishes the registration number it has or had and shows ownership, past or present up to date of lapse. With or without the original document registration must still be applied for to make the vehicle road legal and confirm an original number plate if still on the car or otherwise known.

Lapsed, unclaimed or unregistered numbers are frequently sold by the DVLA and old, short number plates like mine are particularly sought after, called by the DVLA Cherished Numbers. The first step therefore is to establish if the known registration number is still available by consulting the DVLA web site.

The process of registration either confirms the original number or if unavailable a new, age related number is issued with a V5 by the DVLA.

The vehicle identification requirements must be confirmed by an authorised person, usually an officer of a recognised club who must inspect the vehicle, view the engine and chassis number and identify the type or model and colours. The club is permitted to make a small charge for this service.

The vehicle must be presented in ostensibly road-ready condition so a half-built project will not qualify but no road trial is required. For the purpose of registration the DVLA is not interested in insurance or MOT.

Then comes the trickiest part. There is a form to be filled in, much of which does not apply to an old vehicle but the answers must be carefully chosen. In my case, our secretary, David was of the most necessary help in completing this form. Without his help I doubt I would have succeeded.

My number, PG400 being a 2-letter, 3 digit number is apparently particularly desirable so to my great relief we were surprised to find it had not been sold off by the DVLA and of course I still had my original buff, fold-out registration document - even a few tax discs.

I then submitted this form to the DVLA with all its correct answers, a declaration by David as authorised officer of the club, photos of the registration document, chassis and engine numbers and photos of the car and stood by in eager anticipation. The answer came from the DVLA in only a couple of weeks with the much valued V5.

I must stress that this is only my personal experience and anyone wishing to reinstate or reclaim registration should not rely on my experience and would be well advised to study the DVLA web site advice. Good luck.

Peter Gregson

Events

With spring and hopefully some warm, dry days ahead, many of you will be dusting off the A7 and planning some trips out. Please take a look at the list of events on pages 16 and 17 (several new ones have been added this month), there may well be something that appeals to you. If you know of any events that you think might interest fellow DA7C members but aren't on the list, please let us know.

Finally, don't forget to send a photo of your trip for our 'Out and About' page.

Many thanks - editor

Mysteries of the Seven

I bought my 1929 Chummy 52 years ago and drove several thousand miles before life got in the way, I put her on blocks, covered with a sheet and ignored her for 20 years.

6 months ago with time and funds available it seemed to be the right time to give the old thing a well-deserved refit before recommissioning. So carb and distributor off, stripped and cleaned, new battery, fresh petrol and I drove her out of the garage, 1/4 mile down the drive and back and she ran as smoothly as ever, even the brakes worked. Would a modern car do the same?

She has the usual electrolytic deterioration of the aluminium/steel floor pan lip but not significant enough to warrant immediate attention so body-off work can wait for another time. This time work has been limited to dismantling the brakes, new lever pivots, new backing plates (which always rust), new shoes, springs and cables, shock absorbers front and rear refitted, (front only requiring new rubber bushes which make a big difference), new interior door and back seat panels and linings, shot blasting wheels and epoxy spraying thanks to the eccentric Steve Rocket near Avonwick and new tyres fitted.

If it ain't broke don't touch it - a good motto but, perhaps stupidly, one I ignored, so the scary rats' nest of wiring lurking behind the dashboard all came out and the fortunately simple wiring circuits replaced.

Like so many Sevens she had a slow drip from somewhere under the engine. When close examination showed the source to be the clutch bell-housing the reason was obvious - main crank oil seal worn. As many will know, lifting the engine out of a Chummy is a fairly simple job, mainly requiring a wriggle underneath and a pair of strong arms - stand by the son! Removing the gearbox confirmed the suspect oil seal located on the back of the crankcase and behind the flywheel.

A7 flywheels are notoriously difficult to remove, often never been touched for a life-time. Our chairman David kindly lent me the recommended tool, a simple 3" bit of flat bar, drilled and threaded for a bolt in the middle with holes either end for loose bolts. A threaded hole in the flywheel either side of the tapered crankshaft stub allows the loose bolts to be screwed into the flywheel. Now just wind up the middle bolt into the crankshaft stub, give the thing a smart whack and the theory is that it jumps off. David's advice was to heat the flywheel with a hot air gun to assist release. The problem was that the 2 bolts could not be made to engage in the holes. I was about to drive over to the marvelous Tracy Tools in Torquay to find a suitable tap but could not resist one more go. This time I gave the flywheel around the crankshaft stub good few minutes roasting with my mini blow lamp and to my amazement the thing did indeed succumb to the first strike - with a copper mallet of course. Thanks David for your help and advice.

The original oil seal is the usual Austin felt ring seal which has 2 issues. Firstly it becomes sodden with oil which after extended layup hardens and loses its sealing qualities. Secondly, the flywheel boss on which the seal runs is inevitably worn effectively preventing a seal.

The answer is a modern neoprene seal obtainable from any reputable supplier. However if not running on a perfectly smooth surface it will have a short life.

The solution for a worn boss is to fit an SKF Speedi Seal - other makes available - but having measured the wear to be minimal I decided to turn the boss smooth. Phil at Riverside Engineering, Dartmouth machined a couple of thou off in minutes. That man can do anything with steel.

It is worth noting that the early cars had a smaller diameter boss than the post 1932 (I think right date) so be sure to order the right seal.

Also, the replacement aluminium plate carrying the seal is made for the later cars so requires the inner flanges turning down a fraction to fit into the crankcase.

The next issue is worn pivot pins in the clutch disengage fingers. I found excessive wear on the pins with negligible wear on the fingers and pillars but surprisingly the pins are unavailable - more of this anon. Making a simple tool to rivet on the new linings is better than whacking them at an angle. Refitting the gearbox and dropping the engine back in is simple enough but will require that pair of strong arms again and another wiggle underneath. Easily said but, of course, it does take longer than ever anticipated but with a Seven the rewards are worth the effort.

Peter Gregson

PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

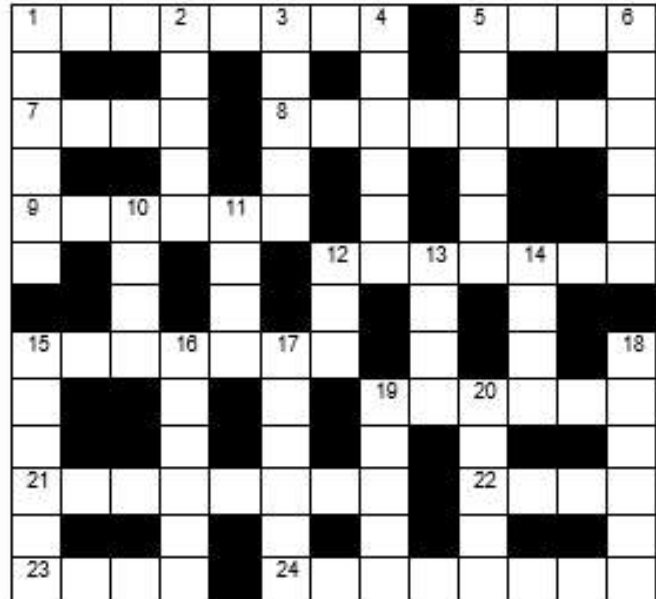
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Talking indistinctly (8)
5. Trees (4)
7. Sheep (4)
8. Sword sheath (8)
9. Hate (6)
12. Allows (7)
15. Can be heard (7)
19. Untwist (6)
21. Largest (8)
22. Grass variety (4)
23. Hurried (4)
24. Stabilised (8)

DOWN

1. Timidly (6)
2. Surrounded by (5)
3. Edition, publication (5)
4. Brief, hurried look (6)
5. Symbol, logo (6)
6. Moves sneakily (6)
10. Copied (4)
11. Sage or thyme (4)
12. Pastry product (3)
13. Destroy (4)
14. To the inside (4)
15. Allocates a task (6)
16. e.g. Guernsey (6)
17. Beams of light (6)
18. Flew without power (6)
19. Undo (5)
20. Minded (5)



TV SITCOM

The vowels have been removed from these groups of words, the spaces closed up, and the consonants grouped into fours, so that PRIDE AND PREJUDICE JANE AUSTIN would become PRDN DPRJ DCJN STN. Can you work out these sitcoms and one of their main characters?

1. NLYF LSND HRSS DLBY
2. RSNQ DMPR GSBY
3. THVC RFDB LYGR LDNG RNQR
4. PRRD GNRM NSTN LYFL TCHR
5. KPNG PPPR NCSH YCNT HBCK T
6. STPT NDSN HRLD STPT
7. LSTF THSM MRWN CMP
8. HLLH LLRN

ODD ONE OUT

Which is the odd one out?

1. ILLUSION COMPUTER EQUATION COMPLETE MYSTERY DANGEROUS
2. A RIVER A MOUNTAIN A NOSE AN ENGINE A CLOCK
3. BUY CATCH SEEK TEACH DRIVE FIGHT THINK
4. 30TH SEPTEMBER 30TH JULY 31ST JANUARY 30TH APRIL 31ST OCTOBER
5. JEWEL INBOARD CAMEL SPIGOT ACACIA POSTAGE SCOWL
6. SEISMOLOGIST UNDECEIVABLE SIMULTANEOUS CAUTIOUSNESS ALIMENTATION
7. APPLE CARROT BOOK ENEMY DEEDS BLOOD
8. PER BUS DIM NEAT NITRE STOP DRAW

Answers on page 18

2024 Events

- Sun. April 14th** Young drivers day at Re-Fuel S.W. Five Bridges, Willand Road, Cullompton, EX15 1QP. Full details on page 5.
- Mon. April 15th** Zoom Club Night - see page 5
- Sun. April 21st** Drive it Day. See pages 6 and 7 for details of some of the local events.
- Fri. May 3rd** Get together at 'The Inn for all Seasons', Redruth with the Black and Whites Club and Cornwall A7C. Details on page 8.
- Sun. May 5th** Merton Vintage and Classic Rally. 11am - 5pm. More details on 'Merton Vintage And Classic Vehicle Rally Around' Facebook page. Entry forms (available from David Aylmore) need to be returned by April 13th. Rally site is a no dog area with exception of guide/assistance dogs.
- Sun. May 12th** Wiscombe Hillclimb, Club Day - see page 8 for details
- Sun. May 19th** Devon Vintage CC Autojumble, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DZ Contact David Aylmore
- Sat/Sun June 8th & 9th** D. Day Commemoration, Fox & Grapes, Lifton – PL16 0AJ Camping available and a full weekend of entertainment & activities. Contact Philip Hockin on 01566 784217 or e-mail philip.hockin@gmail.com for more details.
- Sun. June 16th** Fathers' Day Classic Car Show, Morwellham Quay, PL19 8JL. For details see - www.morwellham-quay.co.uk or email: admin@morwellhamquay.org, Tel: 01822 832766
- Sat. June 29th** Haynes Motor Museum. Yeovil BA22 7LH. More details to come but provisional timing is to meet at 10am for a tour of the museum and a pub lunch to follow. – Contact Derek Vertenten. 07553034013 for more information.
- Sat. June 29th** Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally, Flower Festival & Dog Show, EX17 6AX, 12noon until 5pm - a fun day out for all the family. If you wish to take your A7, vintage motorbike or tractor, please contact Wendy Harmsworth on 01363 83302 or 07802 223589 or e-mail: vintagecfete2024@gmail.com
- Sun. June 30th** National A7 Rally at Beaulieu organised by the Pre War A7 Club, details on page 9.
- Sun. June 30th** Axminster Carnival Vehicle Extravaganza - contact Bryan Ball, e-mail axminster-cve@hotmail.com Entry form also available from David Aylmore.
- Sun July 7th** 'All Things Morris' (And Friends) Classic & Vintage Car Show on Ilfracombe Seafront, 11am – 4pm. More details at www.allthingsmorris.co.uk. Entry form from 'Marnie' on 07970258149 or email events4ilfracombe@gmail.com
- Sat/Sun July 13th & 14th** Historic Vehicle Gathering, Powderham. Full information on page 10.
- Sat. July 20th** Honiton & District Lions Club Classic Car Show. More details and an entry form from www.honitonlions.org.uk/classiccarday.html, or contact Michael Tabcart.
- Sat/Sun July 27th & 28th** Rosemoor Vintage Weekend, Great Torrington EX38 8PH, see page 11. Contact - Nick Borst-Smith
- Fri/Sun Aug. 2nd - 4th** Torbay Steam Fair. Dartmouth Road, Churston Ferrers, Brixham, TQ5 0JT Entry form available on the Club Website or at [Exhibitors – Torbay Steam Fair](#) More information to come but we hope to link up with the Devon Vintage CC as we did in 2023.
- Sat. Aug. 10th** Ideford Vintage Fayre. Entry forms available from David Aylmore.
- Sun. Aug. 11th** North Devon Festival of Transport. – Contact Don Adams. 07525 000866
- Thurs. Aug. 15th** Chagford Show. Full details and entry form from www.chagfordshow.co.uk
- Sun. Aug. 25th** Seaton Carnival Classic Car Show – Contact Michael Tabcart.
- Sun. Aug. 25th** Chanters Carnival Classics. Chanters House Ottery St. Mary. More information and entry form – email chanterscarnivalclassics@gmail.com or Tel. 07791 686546

Events cont.

- Fri/Sun Aug.23rd-25th** Silverstone Festival, full details of the event at:
<https://www.silverstone.co.uk/news/2024-silverstone-festival-tickets-going-sale>
Details of the Car Club Display Package at: www.silverstone.co.uk/classic-car-clubs,
The code for Austin 7 Clubs' Association Car Club Display Package is **151CCDP24**
- Sun. Sept. 1st** Barnfield Crescent Vintage Car Show - Revival 2024. More details to follow, but put the date in your diary now.
- Tues. Sept.10th** Widcombe Fair. Contact David Aylmore.
- Sat. Sept. 21st** Sidmouth Classic Car Show.
- Fri/Sat/Sun Oct. 4th/5th/6th** Riverside's Beer, Cider & Music Festival. Vintage Tractor & Classic Vehicle Display. Camping, Caravan and B&B accommodation available.
South Molton, EX36 3HQ. To display your A7 call 01769 579269. More information at exmoorriverside.co.uk

Regular Monthly Meetings

- 1st Thursday monthly, 8pm** Combined BSAOC Tamar Valley Group/DA7C/CA7C meet at the Fox and Grapes, Lifton (landlord is DA7C member Philip Hockin) Contact Philip for details: philip.hockin@gmail.com
- 2nd Wednesday monthly** 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 for details.
- 3rd Monday monthly, 7pm.** Members Zoom meetings with a Guest speaker every 3 months if possible.
- DA7C members are invited to join the Somerset Sevens at their regular gatherings for all types of cars. Contact Anne Whellock on 01460 66434 for more details:**
- 3rd Wednesday monthly,** Meet at the Lamb & Lion, Hambridge, TA10 0AT at lunchtime and in the evening around 7.00 p.m.
- 1st Wednesday monthly,** Lunchtime meet at Dinnington Docks, TA17 8SX.
- 1st Sunday monthly,** North Down Orchard, TA18 7PL, 2pm - 5pm. Off the A30, east of Crewkerne.
- 3rd Tuesday monthly,** Lunchtime (12noon - 2.00pm) gathering at Eli's Rose and Crown, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QT.
- Every Sunday morning,** Morning coffee gathering at Upton Bridge Farm, Long Sutton, TA10 9NQ, from 9am - 12noon for a Cars and Coffee gathering.

For Sale

Seat for sale, possibly from an A7 'Special' . No known history but the base appears to have been modified. Can be viewed in Dawlish Warren, S. Devon. Open to offers.

Please contact David Aylmore in the first instance. (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.

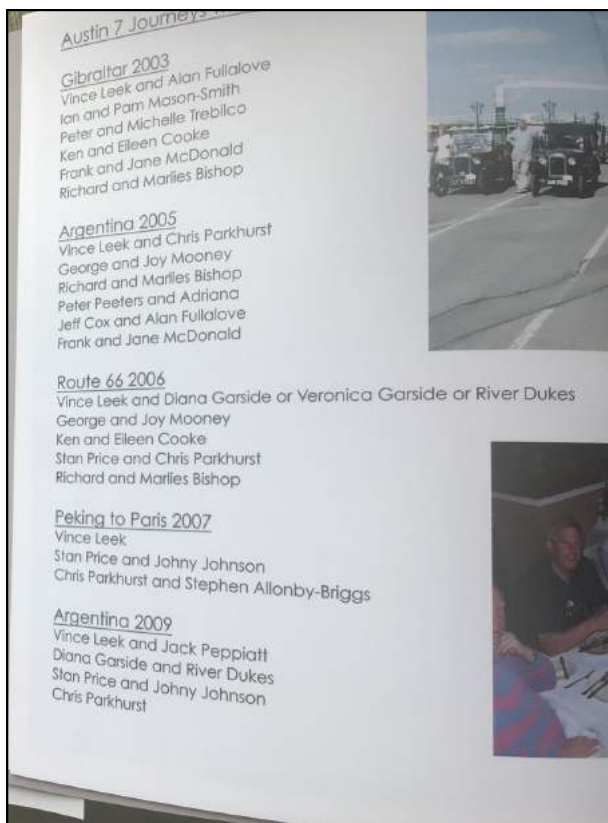
A 'thank you' to Vince Leek

Back last summer Jack Peppiatt came up with the idea to approach the participants of the six long distance trips that Vince Leek had organised. He would ask everyone to write a short piece to encapsulate their feelings and experiences of their journeys together, with as many relevant photos with Vince. Jack was then going to coordinate everything and have a short run of books printed ready for a presentation to Vince at a convenient location.

What a project, but it has all happened and on Thursday 21st March ten of us met at a local pub in Lacock, Wiltshire waiting for Vince and his wife Sue to arrive. Up to this point Vince was under the impression that he was just out for the day so one can imagine his surprise to walk into a pub and be greeted by fellow travellers. Diana Garside chose her moment during our lunch to tell Vince why we had all gathered, and just how his organising skills had touched us all, and finally presented a book of the journeys to him to treasure. Dear Vince was, to say the least, bowled over by it all and rightly so as we have all experienced such incredible happenings with of course the common thread being the dependable Austin 7!!

The photo shows the list of trips organised by Vince. There was six in total, the one not appearing on the list is the one from Buenos Aires up to New York repeating the John Coleman epic journey.

Richard and Marlies Bishop



ANSWERS TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 15

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Mumbling 5. Elms 7. Ewes 8. Scabbard 9. Loathe 12. Permits 15. Audible 19. Uncoil 21. Greatest 22. Reed
23. Sped 24. Steadied

DOWN

1. Meekly 2. Beset 3. Issue 4. Glimpse 5. Emblem 6. 10. Ape 11. Herb 12. Pie 13. Ruin 14. Into 15. Assigns
16. Island 17. Lasers 18. Glided 19. Untie 20. Cared

SITCOMS

1. Only Fools and Horses Del Boy
2. Rising Damp Rigsby
3. The Vicar of Dibley Geraldine Grainger
4. Porridge Norman Stanley Fletcher
5. Keeping up Appearances Hyacinth Bucket
6. Steptoe and Son Harold Steptoe
7. Last of the Summer Wine Compo
8. Hello Hello Rene

ODD ONE OUT

1. COMPLETE – the others all have three syllables.
2. A MOUNTAIN – the others all run
3. DRIVE – the past tenses of the others all rhyme: BOUGHT, CAUGHT, SOUGHT, TAUGHT, FOUGHT, THOUGHT
4. They are all the last days of the month except for 30th JULY
5. ACACIA – all the others have animals hidden in the words.
6. SEISMOLOGIST – all the others have 6 consonants and 6 vowels.
7. ENEMY – all the others have two of the same letter next to each other.
8. DRAW – The others are all anagrams of prefixes: PRE, SUB, MID, ANTE, INTER, POST

Keeping in touch with the Devon Austin 7 Club

Remember that as well as the Monthly Newsletters you can keep in touch and up to date daily with both our Facebook Page: Devon Austin Seven Club and the Website: www.devonsevens.co.uk



Also of interest:

www.austinsevenfriends.com - the one stop web site for Austin 7 enthusiasts across the world. Austin 7 news and events throughout the country and beyond!

Useful Facebook Groups:

Austin Seven
Austin 7 Spares/Cars for sale Group



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.
1 badge £13.50 inc. 2nd class post, 2 badges £25 inc. 2nd Class post.

Embroidered Badge.

We also have a very smart embroidered club badge available. It is 3 1/4" (80mm) in diameter and is, as shown in the picture, very similar in design to the car badge.

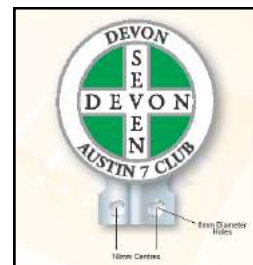
Cost is £3.50 (plus 50p postage)

Lapel Badge.

These metal badges measure 25mm diameter, and the cost is a very reasonable £2.25 inc. p & p.

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

Contact details are on the back page.



May 2024 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 May 2024 issue should be with me by **Wednesday April 17th 2024** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday April 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 Austin 7 Club - Officers & Committee members 2024/2025

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

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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.