



Devon Sevens

December 2025 & January 2026

Newsletter for

Issue 189

The Devon A7 Club

*A taste of the recent
Young Drivers' Day ...*



*... before the rain
arrived!*



Message from the Secretary

Date for your **Diaries 2026**

The Devon Austin 7 Club AGM

To be held on **Sunday 8th March 2026**

As usual this will be held at Spreyton Village Hall - EX17 5DP

Followed by lunch (if you so wish) at The Tom Cobley Tavern.

Full details will follow in the New Year.

Members will be asked if there is anything they wish to raise for the AGM -
further details also in the New Year



David's Diary

I regret to say that I have only been out once in our '7' this month, and that was to a lunch with other committee members in Exeter. I am always looking for different 'A7' roads around busy traffic areas and have recently been using the back lanes over the Haldon hills to get into or around Exeter. This time out I had a lovely clear run even if it was a bit damp and dreary weather, which meant the hood stayed up. All was well until I dropped into the Alphington area, when the traffic was just solid and it took me as long to reach the Mill on the Exe pub for lunch as it had taken to get to Alphington from home. The return trip was much clearer, and we had no mechanical problems.

I have been involved with a few A7 mechanical repairs this month. Mabel, our 1934 AH tourer had a small water leak from the top manifold on the last Club outing and on removing the casting I found the expected very rusty stud fixing. Luckily the thread in the web of the cylinder head was still good and although I didn't have a replacement stud, I was lucky to find a bolt of the right size. So with a new cork gasket, the mounting is now watertight.

I really must get round to making progress with 'Reggie' our '34 RP restoration project. I haven't done anything to it at all this summer. I keep looking at it under the covers in the garage, but there always seems to be something else on the 'To Do' list that is more urgent.

Philip Snell and I have been helping to sort out the engine in Michael Tabear's A7 Box saloon. As Max, his constant companion, has noted in his newsletter articles, the engine did not sound too healthy at the Widecombe Fair in September and the car had to be taken home by a recovery truck. Over three separate days work, Philip and I removed the engine and identified the problem which was a loose flywheel. This together with a few other issues were sorted and earlier this month, the car was back on the road and sounding much happier. It really does give me a great feeling of satisfaction (and not a little surprise!!) when a major job is completed and it all goes back together successfully.

I only hope that I haven't tempted fate by saying that, but am feeling quite positive as Michael has sent me a couple of photos of himself driving out to his favourite local pubs with Max for lunch.

So far so good – fingers crossed that all continues to be well.

Happy Austineering

David



Zoom Club Nights



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



Monday 15th December at 7pm

Join other DA7C members for a festive natter.
Christmas hats not obligatory.

Monday 19th January 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.

Sunday Saunter 25th January 2026



Just what is required for post-festive-season-Doldrums.

We have been welcomed by the Agricultural Inn for a few years now and have enjoyed excellent food and drink and company.

Weather permitting it is always good to see some Sevens but if yours is still tucked up no worries, all vehicles are welcome. Those who have been before will remember that the Agricultural Inn is very popular, especially on a Sunday, and that the car-park is not the largest. We should meet at 12.15 for a 12.30 start, just a little later this year.

As we are a large party meals will need to be ordered in advance as previously .
Full details will be sent later, as will the menus .

The Agricultural Inn, Brampford Speke, Exeter EX5 5DP

Contact Nick Borst-Smith 07809 568120 registrar.devona7@gmail.com

Caught in the Headlights

This month's catch for selecting a candidate by the time proven system of stabbing a pin into the membership location map comes up trumps again! Possibly even caught in the gas lights?

Laura Hay from Broadhempston, near Totnes comes into focus, bringing a wealth of surprises. Although her day car is not a vintage Austin, her 1932 RN Box Saloon comes a close second. Together with husband David, they have an interesting stable of traditional cars to include:

1955 Riley RME (Eagore)

1978 Corvette (Charles)

1991 Mini Cooper (Last of the Single Carb- Proper Minis!)

1960's Regency Balmoral Caravan still with original gas lighting

More modern vehicles include:

1990's Toyota Celica (Ellie)

2012 Mercedes SLK (Tilly Anne)

Range Rover Sport (Jessica)

As the picture shows, Albert lives a charmed, pampered life – no draughty shed for him, even appears to have his own wine store!

Albert was acquired during the first Covid from an advert appearing in a classic car journal, as a diversion and I suspect a maturing owner reluctantly needing to find his pride and joy with a secure new home. So, Albert's fallen on his feet and came with immaculate Burgundy and Black classic paintwork. Admitting that 'he' didn't always start, some renegotiation followed, and transport to Devon by way of a borrowed car trailer followed. Initial 'teething problems' which ensued were swiftly overcome by identifying a fuel leak, easily resolved and essential for starting.



Laura has spent many days in the summer being schooled an introduction to vehicle mechanics (something that the writer may conceivably benefit from?).

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Journeys include regular use locally or further afield when confidence on larger roads has been built up. Having an Austin always requires a thought for what might happen! Upon Laura's first outing in Albert, he sustained a puncture near to a local pub! Certainly, a near perfect location if you are going to have a puncture. Not sure whether there was an available jack, Laura was relieved to discover the bottle jack stowed appropriately under the driver's seat where it should be. Some wonderful local beer drinkers helped change over the spare with a nut being dropped in a pint - the pint obviously needed to be fully consumed before the change of wheel could be completed!

On the way back to Albert's cosy garage the 'Hays' caught glimpse of a sign for a Motorcycle specialist, an inner tube was purchased for a couple of pounds, a day to recoup and refit a tube, and Laura, David and Albert were back out on the road again enjoying the magnificent scenery that the Southwest has to offer.



Mike Moore

Caught in the Headlights 2

Austin Seven stories are like buses – 'there's always a long wait, then two come along at once'!

This month's troll of the unsuspected, throws up the magnificent 1926 Chummy owned by Andrew and Vicki Scott over at Woodbury Salterton, known affectionally as 'The Austin'. Alas 'magnificent' is fast becoming another hackneyed word and sadly sometimes meaningfully superfluous. This beautiful little car is deservedly caught in the Headlights and clearly merits 'Noble' status – perhaps with a hint of cheeky? Acquired some 15 years ago from an owner in North Devon, she came complete with a demountable rack for carrying camping gear, tent etc. Curiously she has yet to be granted a name!

Housed in a former Pig Shed cum workshop complete with inspection pit, the Austin has fine pedigree stablemates, alongside a Jaguar C type Replica, an MG and a Bullnose Morris, presently awaiting surgery for clutch springs replacement. Andrew is modest about his mechanical abilities, but I suspect, as a retired GP, he is readily able to diagnose maladies that occur, enabling appropriate treatment to be applied to include adjustment of tappets 'hearing aids', a new radiator transplant, blocked gastric jets and more.

Andrew came to Devon in 1942 as a tiny infant, in fact a neonatal arrival, during a 'bleak mid-winter' in an Austin 7 in the snow, with no heater. He was a 2-week-old premature baby, when his Dental Practitioner father was posted, from London to Kingsbridge, to assist the preparations of the troops massing for the D-Day invasion force. Andrew attributes this primal subconscious memory, as the irrational attachment to Austin 7s.

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Continued from page 5

The Chummy is a regular choice for local outings and gatherings. Attendance at Powderham, Clyst St Mary and other events in earlier years was part of the Austin's life. During the summer months, a runout to meet with friends for a matinee performance at 'The Globe' in Woodbury, is regularly enjoyed.



Their car choice for his 'everyday' vehicle comes as a surprise – a BMW i3 which is totally electric, clocking some 120,000 miles, but comes as standard with a motor bike engine installed in the boot, as a standby contingency, which is very practical and charges during the night on a 3pin plug!

Andrew says that 'The Chummy' never fails to bring a smile wherever it goes. I think we can all subscribe to that.



Andrew and Vicki with enthusiastic grandchildren.

Mike Moore

Out and About

Michael Tabeart has been out and about and says, "My dear son George with Max when we went to the Ship in Axmouth".



Michael and Max were out again, and Michael says, "Max enjoyed some treats while I ate my Sunday lunch. It gave me a chance to have a drop of Proper Job - one of my favourite beers.

Insurance Update

Nick Salmon - A7CA Vice Chairman, and Insurance Liaison Officer - writes:

You may be aware that RH Specialist Insurance became part of Howden (a trading name of A-Plan Holdings) a couple of years ago.

The RH name has now been absorbed and from now on will be known as Howden. So you will see the branding changing in the coming weeks but it is still the same RH team that handles Austin Seven business.



LEARNER DRIVER AND YOUNG PERSONS' INSURANCE

One immediate benefit of the change is that Howden is now willing to consider insurance cover for learner drivers using Austin Sevens.

They can already offer cover for young drivers aged 17+ who have passed their test and will drive accompanied, and cover for solo driving for those age 18+ who have passed their test.

N.B. In all these instances applications for cover are subject to underwriting criteria and will be considered by insurers on a case by case basis.

Membership of an Austin Seven Clubs' Association member club is a requirement.

With so many young people interested in getting behind the wheel of an Austin Seven it is very welcome news and we thank Howden for their forward-thinking approach to young driver insurance.

PUZZLE PAGE

by Julie Eddles

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Some scoff alarmingly at the food (5)
4. Confuses and scatters sled with mud (7)
8. Gradually developed – went round topless (7)
9. Change later (5)
10. Cod for the medic (3)
11. Oddly dangly for an insect (9)
13. Canine protector? (6)
15. Unusually green youth leader's vigor (6)
18. A rude song at sea – dicey! (9)
20. It may be split in soup (3)
21. VAT is dodgy, that's one view. (5)
23. Good deal to benefit pub (7)
24. Rate the bespoke playhouse (7)
25. Doctor dared to show fear (5)

DOWN

1. Too much is owed, and still delayed (7)
2. Supply info ad hoc for biological structure (4,5)
3. Six in cover, very angry (5)
4. Daft hat for reckless person (6)
5. Fiery monster devouring old soldier (7)
6. It's on fire in politics (3)
7. Street light without a home (5)
12. Hearth – replace if broken (9)
14. Smart force ten gale (7)



16. Longed for new deanery (7)
17. Room for two. (6)
18. Cover song by two, about victory (5)
19. Quiet communist has a scrap (5)
22. Prosecute for wrongful use (3)

QUADRUPLES

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

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. LUGUBRIOUS | (a) Mournful | (b) Plentiful | (c) Happy | (d) Oily |
| 2. SAPID | (a) Tasteless | (b) Sad | (c) Tasty | (d) Listless |
| 3. SERRIED | (a) Fluted | (b) Compact | (c) Hurried | (d) Combed |
| 4. COTERIE | (a) Group | (b) Jacket | (c) Cupboard | (d) Dove Hut |
| 5. DIMITY | (a) Twilight | (b) Small | (c) Shy | (d) Cotton |

ANAGRAMS

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. SLY COLOURER | |
| 2. RED MAIL | |
| 3. INSTANT RAM | |
| 4. UNITAS | |
| 5. DAD RANTS | |

Answers on page 10.

Musings of a Mascot

Well it seems that much has been happening this month one way and another. First of all our dear wee car Annie was out of action after Widecombe Fair. I was a bit disappointed as I do so enjoy a ride in Annie. We were very lucky however to have my human's friends David and Philip to help us with the car. Once the engine was out and the sump taken off it transpired that the engine was not damaged as was originally feared, and the unusual noise was caused by a loose flywheel. David and Philip soon sorted that out.



My next date was a trip with my human in Philip's car to Young Drivers' day at Refuel. Next it was now a case of putting the clutch and gearbox back on the engine and putting the engine back in the car. After that my human was glad of a bit of assistance from Philip to put the radiator back. Somehow or another the differential has now got locked. My human and his friends David and Philip were hoping that a gentle drive round would free up the differential so that the rear axle doesn't have to come off the car. So far that hasn't worked. My human has now decided that he is wanting to drive the car and hope that the differential will eventually free itself. Now it is just a case of recharging the battery so that the car will start on the starter button.

When you see the above it is very much a shorter story that doesn't do anything like justice to all the work undertaken for us by David and Philip. I overheard my human thanking David and Philip for all their hard work, without which we would not be able to use Annie. We will certainly be forever in their debt.

Happy Austineering,

Every best wish to you all,

Max the Mascot

A Cautionary Tale

Having spent far too many enjoyable hours over the last year or so changing the chassis on my PD, together with sorting out all sorts of other minor problems on the way, the time has come to take it out for a test drive. With no interior in it, one seat fitted, and everything checked and ready I had a few "frilly" bits to reinstall. The bits of tin around the flywheel and gearbox, number plate, bonnet and other such minor details.

In the course of my labours, I had given the floor pan a coat of paint, top and bottom with the interior now the same shade of blue as the outside in the hope it may reduce any corrosion and help preserve the car for the future. No one could call me stingy in my application technique and it didn't move, it was painted. Refitting the tin cover that hides the engine from the interior, just two screws. Simple. That's all. Just not today. It appeared I may have allowed some nice hard 2 pack paint to enter the threads in the floor pan that the 2 screws fit into. Nil desperandum. 1/4 BSF tap found, small holder and the N/S now cleaned out and the thread squeaky clean. As there is no seat currently in the N/S I was leaning in over the sill to accomplish this task, it was just a case of leaning slightly further in to clean out the O/S thread. As I reached across to commence this, there was a familiar tinkle of metal striking metal as the tap came out of the holder and fell. A quick glance told me it wasn't on the floor inside the car and a nasty feeling in my tummy began to make itself known.

Remembering Private Jones's sage advice oft delivered to his senior officer about panicking, I exited the car and checked on the floor under the car. No tap. It must have got caught on the chassis or something as it fell. I reassured myself, as I jacked it up and reinstated the stands once more prior to my grovelling underneath with a torch. No trace after extensive fingertip search. That feeling in my tummy was now more pronounced as I realised that the only other place it could have fallen into was the clutch release bearing oiler hole on the top of the gearbox casing.

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Further panicking examination of the hole with a torch and mirror revealed nothing. The realisation that the only sure way to find out would be to remove the engine and gearbox to enable them to be separated filled me with horror at my own stupidity in removing the tape that had covered the hole for the last few months to avoid this very occurrence. The only consolation was I am now on very intimate terms with near as damn it every nut and bolt on the car. One last vain attempt to locate the tap was to loosen the gearbox drain plug and rotate the brass plate around it which also covers the drain hole in the bell housing, providing another opportunity for strange physical contortions whilst laying under the car, using a torch and peering hopefully into the dark chasm of the bell housing once more. No trace.

Recalling that amongst my various tools and “stuff” I had an inspection camera, something I had used previously to try to trace a leak under some floor boards with little success and writing it off as “may come in handyone day”, as a last ditch attempt to stave off the inevitability of having to extract the engine again, I found it, dusted it off, evicted the spiders and familiarised myself with it once more. I pressed every button to no avail, finally reading the instructions which explained how to charge the battery which was after a period of some years, inexplicably flat. Whilst allowing it some time to charge up, I optimistically removed the plugs which in my mind, would allow me to turn the engine backwards on the fan belt and allow the tap to fall gently to the bottom of the bell housing with a gentle tinkle once more and allow me to extract it some how through the lower bell housing hole. Nope. Foiled again. No tinkle this time.

My impatience was hard to curb. Either I found it with the camera or I might just as well get on with draining the rad removing it and start on all the other ancillaries to engine removal. 40 minutes was more than enough to put some charge into I reasoned with myself and tried once more to get it functioning. With great trepidation as to my ability to be able to wander around inside the bell housing with the probe and my lack of faith in its effectiveness, I began the laborious task. Much to my surprise, within less than a minute I located the tap and the clarity of the picture even allowed me to read the size on the side. All I had to do now was to retrieve it. The first attempt would be made with a magnet on a rod sort of thing, followed by maybe welding rod, maybe a grab next. Whilst peering at a screen about 3” square I began the daunting task of feeding the magnet in which much to my surprise went straight on to the tap. The tap now horizontal but attached to the magnet. Nearing the top, the inevitable, it slipped and ended up vertical which allowed me to gently, oh so very, very gently, raise it up and out of the hole. Mission accomplished. My relief was indescribable. Further assembly of the car and the road test has been suspended until I can wipe the silly grin off my face at how a victory was snatched from the jaws of defeat. Plus I need to find a piece of wood to turn down to plug the damned hole to stop it happening again. In hindsight, I wish I had the presence of mind to take some pictures of the operation but as I have trouble using my smart phone at the best of times that may have been a step too far.

On a separate note, my newfound skill at operating tools through a small hole, whilst viewing it on a screen has prompted me to offer my services to the NHS as a keyhole surgeon of some successful experience to assist them in reducing the backlog they currently have.

Dick Bessant

Answers to puzzles on page 8

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across

1. Offal 4. Muddles 8. Evolved 9. Alter 10. Doc 11. Dragonfly 13. Enamel 15. Energy
18. Dangerous 20. Pea 21. Vista 23. Bargain 24. Theatre 25. Dread

Down

1. Overdue 2. Food chain 3. Livid 4. Madcap 5. Dragoon 6. Lit 7. Stray 12. Fireplace
14. Elegant 16. Yearned 17. Double 18. Duvet 19. Shred 22. Sue

QUADRUPICS

1 (a) Mournful 2. (c) Tasty 3. (b) Compact 4. (a) Group 5. (d) Cotton

ANAGRAMS

1. Rolls Royce 2. Daimler 3. Aston Martin 4. Austin 5. Standard

Money Saving Tip

I thought this may be of interest to members who don't want to spend hundreds having their bumpers chromed.

The rear bumper of my Ruby had lost most of its chrome, so I rubbed it down, sprayed it silver then with a clear lacquer. It didn't look too bad but soon went dull. I have now found this sticky back chrome tape which looks a lot better. There are various sites on eBay selling it, it comes in various widths and lengths, I bought enough for two bumpers and that came to eight pounds including the postage from China! It will of course take a couple of weeks to come! There is a clear protection strip on the front that you need to peel off when you are finished.

Alan Smith



Not all DA7C members live in Devon



Peter Howard has seen this car twice in the Co Op carpark in Bridport and the owner has told him that he is a DA7C member. He said that he recently acquired the car from a friend in Bodmin but only uses it round and about in Bridport where he lives.

It's good to see that the car is being regularly used - perhaps it will venture over the border to meet up with other Devon Sevens sometime in the future.

Reaction to article in November's Devon Sevens

Roly Alcock from the Hereford Austin 7 Club was interested to read Eddie Eddles' article in last month's newsletter regarding a problem with the fabric coupling of the propshaft.

Roly says, "I had a fail and the replacement provided by David Cochrane shows the difference in the number of plies in his offering compared to the failed one". See photo below.



A new feature has been suggested to me - where members write a short piece about non-car things that are important to them. It could be an event, a place or an item that has sentimental value etc. etc. If you like the idea and would like to send me something for future issues of Devon Sevens, please do, my contact details are on page 16. Steve Wise is starting us off....

“Balls of Steel”



The plaque reads:

*The Honourable Order
Of The
Balls of Steel
PRESENTED TO
Steve Wise
BY THE*

*Management of Grindlays Bank Zimbabwe
WITH OUR BEST WISHES AND APPRECIATION*

I started work for Grindlays Bank in 1971 with my one O-level in Maths. My mother had made some curtains for one of the managers and she attended the only work interview I have ever had.

Grindlays Bank was founded in 1828 as bankers to the British Army overseas. Branches therefore tended to be in old colonial countries. I am not sure years of history were going to be majorly affected by a long-haired 16-year-old with plum-coloured flared trouser suit turning up. My first job was to convert the £sd ledgers into decimals. This was seen as a skill by the older staff. Over the next few years, I managed to work my way through the organisation and by 1980 had been trained as a COBOL/Assembler programmer.

I was eventually given the title: 'Manager, Rest of the World'. This looked good on the business card and impressed my mum, but it really meant I was responsible for branches that didn't have a computer. It did mean that I got to regularly travel my own personal empire with trips to India, Sri Lanka, many middle east countries and East Africa.

The non-computerised branches tended to have old NCR ledger card machines and, on a trip to Kenya, the local NCR manager asked how long the bank expected to be able to continue using machines that were over 30 years' old. This was a eureka moment in my career. I thought "you've got a point" and immediately started the design of a very simple banking system to replace these machines. A couple of years later we had a system in place and had arranged for initial installations in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

In August 1982, I turned up in Harare with wife and two young children in tow. The local management didn't want the change and generally made life a bit difficult. As an example, they turned down a house for us to live in because there was no cutlery and we were briefly housed in a down-market hotel. In the end, things had massively improved, we sorted the cutlery, and the system was implemented.

Towards the end of our stay, there were rumours that the bank was going to fly my family to Victoria Falls as a thank you for my work. I couldn't resist telling the kids of this rumour and we all got very excited.

The day of the presentation arrived and after the Harare branch had closed for business, the management and staff gathered in the large banking hall. The regional manager made a speech about the success of the implementation before summoning me to the stage. He shook my hand and gave me a piece of wood with two steel balls on it. I was taken aback a bit and still expected an envelope with flight tickets. I hesitated on my acceptance speech, but it was clear there were no tickets.

I took my "award" back to the family who were less than impressed. Today, the balls of steel stand in what I call an office. It reminds me every day of a happy and important part of my life. I would not give them up for a trip to Victoria Falls today, even from the UK.

Anyway, we paid for our own trip to Victoria Falls. A double whammy.

Steve Wise

Summary of discussions and actions from the October 2025 A7CA meeting



The Austin Seven Clubs' Association (A7CA) convened its quarterly meeting online, attended by representatives from 17 member clubs, officers, and associates.

The meeting was chaired by David Cochrane, who opened with thanks to attendees and a reflection on a successful season of rallies, including the PWA7C event at Stonehurst Farm and the Scottish Guildtown rally. He reported increased regional activity, with new local A7 groups forming in Cumbria, Oxfordshire, the south coast, and near Shrewsbury. He also confirmed that new volunteers had stepped forward to take over the magazine editorial role and that Nick Salmon would become Insurance Liaison Officer permanently.

Secretary Ruairidh Dunford confirmed clubs' approval to raise the price of the quarterly magazine from £2.00 to £2.05 from 2026A. He also presented a proposed constitutional amendment creating a new "Associate Member (Advertising)" category, to be voted on at the 2026 AGM.

The meeting unanimously approved a proposal for Nick Turley and Chris Garner to design and install a Stanley Edge Memorial Plaque, funded by the John Stubbs donation and prior allocations.

Treasurer Hugh Barnes reported a healthy bank balance of £28,965, noting higher printing costs (up 15p per copy) and archive expenses of £1,874. He explained that £18,000 of funds were committed to the archive and discussed the need to maintain a reserve. Members debated how to balance expenditure, magazine cost increases, and potential club contributions.

Archivist Gordon England detailed progress in cataloguing and conservation, including 100 new items added, ongoing work on historic films, and a travelling archive display successfully exhibited at Stonehurst Farm.

Editor Howard Wright confirmed the completion of his final issue (2025D) and thanked contributors before handing over to the new editorial team. Registrar Peter Hales reported steady updates to vehicle records.

Webmaster Ahmed Abdel previewed a redesigned, modern A7CA website featuring new visuals, improved structure, and plans for educational content.

Publicity Officer Steve Earl reported strong growth on Facebook (2,500+ followers) and YouTube (11,500 Centenary video views). Nick Salmon, now confirmed as Insurance Liaison Officer, summarised ongoing collaboration with RH Insurance and outlined plans to liaise with other insurers.

Finally, clubs voted unanimously to transfer ownership of Jack French's historic garage - a long-standing A7CA exhibit - to the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum, ensuring its preservation and relieving A7CA of future financial responsibility.

The meeting closed at 7:40 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for 13 January 2026.

Ruairidh Dunford
A7CA Secretary



The Calm before the Storm

Photo taken by Dick Bessant at the recent Young Drivers' Day. All set up, just waiting for the cars to arrive.

More photos on the front cover.

New Members

Welcome to the Devon Austin 7 Club

We welcome two new members to the DA7C this month and look forward to seeing Harry and Simon at events next year:

Harry Millman lives in Newton Abbot and owns a 1935 Special in red.



Simon Heighway lives in Axminster, and doesn't have an Austin 7 at the moment.

A message from your editor

Some of you may remember that at the AGM earlier this year, I said that I would like to stand down as editor of "Devon Sevens" at the 2026 AGM. David and/or I have been producing the newsletter since the DA7C was set up in 2010, and we feel that it would benefit from some new ideas, and ideally, someone who finds it easier than I do, to keep up to date with new technology!

To date no-one has come forward to take on the role, so, as the AGM is only 3 issues away, I thought it might be useful to publish what is involved, in the hope that someone will think 'I could do that!'

Firstly, everything is computer based, which means the job can be done anywhere in the county or beyond.

A lot of our members are very good at sending in copy every month - it would be nice to hear from more members, but there is always enough content to fill the newsletter, even if it is quite thin during the winter months! It is then just a case of arranging the pages and photographs etc. Most can be copy and pasted, but occasionally something comes in by post or over the phone that needs typing out. We have always used 'Publisher' to produce the newsletter, but apparently that is being discontinued, and we are looking into alternatives at the moment.

Once completed, we use a Compressed PDF software to reduce the size of the file before emailing the newsletter to all DA7C members as well as the editors of other Austin 7 magazines and a few other individuals with an interest in Sevens.

Every year there are a few members without email (10 this year), and we print a copy for them and send it by post. If the new editor didn't want to take this on, we would be happy to continue to do this - we're not planning on going anywhere, and will still have an interest in the club.

At the present time there are 11 issues of 'Devon Sevens' per year - we have a break at the end of December and don't produce a January copy.

This is a role that could easily be taken on by several people working on a rota basis - in fact I could probably be persuaded to do a couple of issues each year!

If you would be interested in taking on the role of editor or for more information, please contact David (details on back page) or myself (details on page 13).

Thank you

Janet Aylmore

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale

1934 A7 Box Saloon. Owned by the present owners for 20 years, and has been stored in a modern agricultural barn. The car has been used no more than 10 times since purchase, and has run well on each occasion.



Offers around £5,999

For more information contact Claire Galloway at:
cp.galloway58@gmail.com

For Sale

Jim Spence has a number of spares for sale including:

2 x 23¹/₂ inch half shafts - one new original, unused the other needs a shoulder repair.

2 x petrol tanks - one very good.

A very useful engine stand.

A low compression head and an engine block.

A few sumps and some bearings still in boxes.

Some stub axles.



Jim lives near Weston - S - Mare and is looking for offers around £250 for the full collection - he can be contacted at jspence976@gmail.com for more details.

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

Mon. Dec.15th & Mon. Jan. 19th Club Zoom Night - see page 3 for details

Sun. Jan. 25th Sunday Saunter, Agricultural Inn, Brampford Speke, Details on page 3

Sun. March 8th A.G.M. and lunch - please see page 2

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.

February 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 February 2026 issue should be with me by **Wednesday January 21st 2026** and the newsletter will be distributed on or before **Wednesday 28th**.

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

Many thanks. Ed.

*The Committee of the Devon Austin 7 Club
wish all members and friends of the club a
Happy Christmas
and a peaceful and healthy New Year.*





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

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

Keeping in touch with the Devon Austin 7 Club



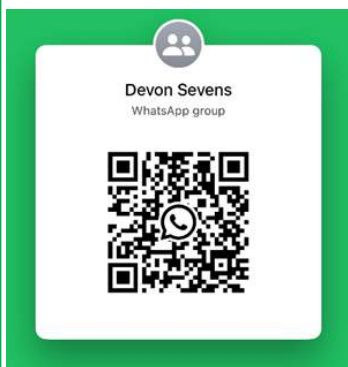
For details of upcoming events, news, club regalia, history of the club, photo gallery and much more visit the website - **www.devonsevens.co.uk**.

The password you need to access the 'Club Members' section was included in the e-mail accompanying this newsletter. In this section you will find the Members Map, Tool Loan Scheme, On-Line shop for club clothing and the Committee Meeting Minutes.

You can also access the club's website including membership application forms using this QR code - just scan the code and it will take you directly to the website.



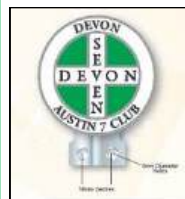
You can also have a look at our Facebook page where you can share A7 stories with other enthusiasts, ask for advice or just see what others are doing with their Sevens - **Devon Austin Seven Club**.



Devon A7 Club **WhatsApp** group. If you have not used **WhatsApp** on your mobile phone before, it is a very useful, quick and easy way to pass a message to a group of people. If you were, for instance, thinking of taking your A7 out for a run and fancied some company, a quick message on the group could well attract some local members to join you. There is no sign up, cost or 'spam' involved so if you would like to join, just use this QR code, or email Steve Wise (contact details on back page).

DA7C badges for sale:

Car Badge.



There is a choice of 2 styles of Car Badge. Both have the same Green & White motif with black lettering.

1. A small windscreen self adhesive badge which is ideal for a "Modern" if space for a larger external badge is not available. - **£1 each**
2. A high quality Chrome & Enamel external badge as shown in the Illustration. **£18.50 each inc. postage.**

Embroidered Badge.



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

Cost is £3.50 (plus 50p postage)

Lapel Badge.



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

All badges can be purchased by contacting Steve Wise by phone or e-mail or can be collected from any club event. Contact details are on the back page.

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

Chairman:

Viv Gale - North Devon, Tel: 07890 471973

E-mail: vivgale6@gmail.com



Secretary & 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.