



Midlands

Austin Seven club

March

Newsletter 2011



Every lounge should have an Austin7 body, do you agree chaps?
Thanks to Tom Langham and more of Tom's car later.



Forthcoming Events

Club Nights 2011 Monthly Meeting's

March 30th BRING and BUY
 April 17th COTSWOLD RUN (get your entry in NOW!)
 17th Drive It Day (See details later in mag)
 April 27th Noggin and Natter

Other events feature later in the magazine and are in addition to the ones in the Association Mag.

Web Site: www.ma7c.co.uk

Meetings held the last Wednesday of the month, Old Silhillians Rugby Club, Knowle (Jct 5 M42)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010-2011

PRESIDENT:	John Ward , Well House, Milcote Road, Weston on Avon Warwickshire CV3 8JX	Tel: 01789 751175
CHAIRMAN:	R Bremner-Smith (Brem) , Tanglewood, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 8JY Email : rbremnersmith@uwclub.net	Tel: 01789 773758
SECRETARY:	Pamela Bishop , "Home Straight" 4 Reynard Close, Redditch, B97 6PY E-mail: pamela.bishop@yahoo.co.uk	Tel: 01527 404946
TREASURER:	Ian Devey , 25 Robin Hood Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0BN Email: the_deveys@yahoo.co.uk	Tel: 0121 244 7409
SOCIAL SEC:	Elaine Devey 25 Robin Hood Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0BN	Tel: 0121 244 7409
EDITOR:	(Senior) Lesley Marriner (With the help of guest Editors) Email : marrinerkl@yahoo.co.uk	Tel: 01455 636926
MEMBERSHIP:	John Roberts , 18 Oaktree Lane, Cookhill, Warwickshire, B49 5LH	Tel: 01789 765349
SPARES:	Arthur Davies , 164 Crabtree Lane, Bromsgrove, B61 8PH	Tel: 01527 872908
REGALIA:	Sheila Turner , Rowan Cottage, Illmington Road, Blackwell, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4PE	Tel: 01608 682463
D.V.L.A.Sec		
WEB MASTER	Rick Bishop , Home Straight, 4 Reynard Close, Redditch B97 6PY Email: rick.bishop@virgin.net	Tel: 01527 404946
Club Registered Address in England & Wales	Midlands Austin Seven Club Ltd. 25, Robin Hood Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0BN	Registration Number: 6803165

Opinions expressed in the magazine are those of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Committee or Members.



Chair Chat

Those, who attended the Quiz night , enjoyed an excellent evening under the watchful eye of Quizmaster, Roger Price. The one line humour and banter, worthy of Morecombe and Wise, belied the competitive spirit of event and as a member of the victorious team, we each enjoyed a chocolate bar to 'help us work rest and play'. Nice one Roger!

Eagle eyed , James Clough has found an interesting item on the web. For those of you who do not do computers, talk nicely to your Grand children! Evidently Autocar magazine has just completed its 5000th Road Test. And what was the first one you ask... no less than an Austin 7. Have a look on:

<http://www.autocar.co.uk/CarReviews/RoadTestsData/Austin-Seven-780-cc/202082>

and there is a video of a current Road Test on: <http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-video/austin-7-video-review/>

'Visit Worcester' is promoting a Motor Festival at Worcester Racecourse. With rather short notice, a club stand is not practical but individual members might like to attend. For further information try www.visitworcester.com or ring 01905 721152. Applications need to be returned by Friday 1st April. This is an event that is growing and the site is excellent.

Should I have been surprise at the fantastic response to the plea for a Secretary. Not a peep. We need more support to help run YOUR club. However, we do have a new DVLA specialist, Bob Bickley has agreed to take over role formerly managed so well by the late, John Hamilton. Thank you, Bob, I know you have landed in the deep end with this, as three members are about to re-commission their Pride and Joy/retirement project / old 7. I have written to the DVLA advising them of the change of name but no acknowledgement yet.

This month's Club Night is a 'Bring and Buy'. So get rootling in the garage, shed, loft or store and sort out some automotive bits that you have stored far too long and let someone else pay to be their caretaker!

The Evesham Festival of Historic Air Balloons and Classic Cars, on 4th/5th June at Crown Meadow, is another event that is growing. The contact here is David Williams on 07852 823880. Also in Evesham on Sunday 3rd July is the Hampton Ferry Car Show on the riverside. Contact 01386 870782 or email : denldeeley@yahoo.co.uk Lots to do in the Vale!

I know it's still a long way off now but 2012 and the 90th Anniversary of A7 is getting inexorably closer. We need ideas, please, of suitable places to visit with interest for both gentlemen AND ladies and features that we might be able to include in the run.

So far I have only received 10 applications for the Cotswold Run. Last weekend John Russell, Jenny and I reced a taxing new ascent of the escarpment, so check the 7 and let's have your application forms. That's all for now, except to say, a very large thank you to Lesley Marriner, our new Senior Editor, for this Newsletter, wot she have edited!!!! ATB Brem

Austin7 page 3 girls!

Many congratulations to Tanya and Ruairidh Dunford on the safe arrival of their twins Daisy and Poppy, and sisters for Willow.



After those two little gems, another new model has been on display recently.

Classic Revival

I hear that for a mere £30,000 you can relive a bygone age in a new Morgan 3 Wheeler. The Malvern Company ceased production of the car in 1951 and has just unveiled the "new" baby at the Geneva Motor Show. Apparently it harks back to the classic car and has the aeronautical style of a Sopwith Camel. (The start button is a bomb-release button which is used on the Eurofighter.) The road tax is only £17 and with its 1.9 litre engine is capable of 50mpg. Attractive?

If you have cash to spare then join the 300 strong queue who have already staked their claim to relive bygone days.

Bring and Buy March 30th

Bring and Buy March 30th



Remember, it's time to clear out your spares department/ garage, make a few pounds for you and the club and let someone else store sundry, rusty bits. It's the **Automotive**

Bring and Buy

On Wednesday, 30th March at the Old Silhillians

Auctioneer: Arnold Crowe

(No 220/240v equipment please)

From across "the Pond"

Keith has a customer, Robert Hague, in Washington who is restoring a Ruby and we thank him for sharing this with us.



By Claire J. Hauge

This and That, Updates on Cars and People

Field meets and club driving events have always provided an opportunity to reconnect with friends, both old and new. The 2009 Portland ABFM provided just such an interesting opportunity for Bob and me. We had just parked the TR4A and wandered over to the British Auto Works tent to pick up some parts Bob had ordered for a friend. We finished our business there and were in the process of deciding which cars to look at first, when Bob spotted an old friend from the past, driving onto the show field. We walked over to investigate and sure enough, it was Bob's old friend, Mildred, whom he hadn't seen in 34 years!! After a bit of conversation, Bob asked me if he could bring his friend home. I should tell you, he proposed this to be a permanent arrangement and I knew he'd be spending a lot of time with her in the future. What was I to say? Bob can be convincing; he even suggested I could occasionally take her to work with me. Mildred was currently living with a fellow named Burt in Portland. After discussions, off and on, during the day, Burt agreed that for a reasonable price Mildred could reside with the Hague's in Longview. "Mildred" is, of course, the 1935 Austin Seven in the photo. It is the actual car Bob owned 34 years ago and has always regretted selling but is now back home!



In Robert's words

"My interest in British cars began in my youth when I purchased a 1959 MGA. Over the years I have owned, repaired and maintained nearly every British marque except Jaguar, but the Austin 7 was special. The story of my Ruby began 36 years ago. A friend owned a British car breaker yard in Portland, Oregon and frequently imported cars for resale. I was visiting him one day when a transporter arrived loaded with his latest purchases from England. My eye immediately went to the little black Austin and I was smitten.

We negotiated a price on the spot and next day I returned with a trailer to take it home. I've never made a habit of naming my cars, but when the Austin arrived in my garage and I had a chance to take a good look at it, it became apparent that it was a "her" and her name was Mildred.

She was in very good order, all original, and only needed a little puttering here and there to get all systems working. About a year later, after a lot of fun driving her around town, a local businessman offered me more money for the car than I could refuse. Soon after I heard that it had been sold again and after that I lost track of where she went from there.

Two years ago at the All British Field Meet in Portland, Oregon, Claire and I had just placed our TR4A on the field when I noticed a little black Austin drive up."

At this point we are back to Claire's article

Robert Continues

The sad part is that during her absence, owners had been less kind to her.

The motor had failed and an engine, transmission and rear axle from a **Dodge Colt** had been installed. Needless to say much of the bulkhead, floor, driveshaft tunnel and wiring were removed to accommodate the much larger components and 12v system.



My original intention was to keep the car as a survivor and have fun driving her around town and for local events. However the next year at the ABFM, I met Roy Wilkes, a Canadian, who was there with his Chummy. He offered to sell me an engine and transmission and I began to plot a different plan for Mildred. I decided to reconstruct her, to the best of my ability, back to original.

Since there are no Ruby's in this part of the country, many hours were spent on the internet searching for photos and suppliers. Thanks to Metalwork Developments I was able to obtain panels and pressings that I would not have been able to produce on my own.

As you can see there is a lot of work to do.

I would not have been able to pursue the project as I have without the craftsmanship and helpfulness of Keith Marriner, Tony Leslie at Holmsdale Sevens, Dave Cochrane of A7 Components and Dave Walker who has provided me with photos and lots of good advice. At this time the plan is for her to emerge with a Dove grey body and black wings and interior.

Many thanks to all who are assisting me with my project."

Thanks Robert and Claire we certainly wish you well with your project.(ED)

OUT AND ABOUT

MARCH

26th- 27th Manchester New Indoor Classic Showcase

An opportunity to display classic and performance cars at this new event.
Details www.cheshireautopromotions.co.uk

APRIL

17th – **MA7C Cotswold Run**

17th– Drive It Day – For Info: www.didbrum.com or Tim Griffiths on
0121 244 6178

MAY

7th- 8th - Marches transport festival (Ludlow) Sally on 01584 87957

info@marchestransportfestival.co.uk Closing date 1st April.

22nd – Rotary Classic Vehicle Display at Bourton Hall Nr. Rugby

22nd - “Remembering Lord Austin Day” Holy Trinity Church, Lickey.

david@austinarchivist.co.uk 01452 728621

JUNE

3rd -5th – Evesham Balloon Festival and Car Show

25th-26th - 2011 Wartime in the Vale at Ashdown Farm, Evesham –

01926 421 802 or 07970384435

JULY

3rd– Hampton Ferry Car Show, Evesham – 01386 870782

10th– **Packwood House Rally**

17th– **Longbridge Picnic and Tour**

Plenty to do so make sure your car is ready to go!



It would be good to have some technical tips, has anyone out there got any to share with us

RR3525 Resurrected!

A tale of Tom Langham and his car

It was really business and pleasure that took us to Tom's home. Keith wanted to avail himself of Tom's musical expertise, so I thought I would go along for the ride and find out more about his introduction to Austin7s.

Like so many boys of a certain age Tom pottered around after his Dad who was a keen car enthusiast, owning and racing 3 wheel Morgan's as well as having Austin7s. It is obvious that anything mechanical is in the blood and thus began Tom's keenness to build things.



I hope I get this story right, as it is quite a fascinating one.

The Austin7 with a sports body was bought for Tom's father, by his father, in 1949 from Nottinghamshire. It is obvious that father and son did a lot of tinkering around cars and events and so the tradition continues with Tom. He had been as a youngster, and still is, keen to watch and learn.

But at the age of 16, music became his first love and he went off to college and eventually on the road as a professional musician (playing with many famous names).

His father sold the Austin in 1963 and that could have ended the story but for Tom showing a photo of it (above) to Ken Turner. It was Ken who, as a jazz fan and a MA7C member, met Tom and introduced him to the club.

Ken later phoned to say he had located the car up North, by tracing the registration number, but only a chassis and a box of bits remained. This

guy had it stashed away in his garage for 40years having bought it from the man who bought it in 1963 from Tom's dad. After much badgering Tom bought the car minus a body and its engine.

Meanwhile under a bench in a workshop in Shirley an engine was languishing, bought by Harold's brother Dennis some years ago. After consulting the log book the engine would indeed fit Tom's chassis but incredibly it *was* the correct one for the car! Harold to the rescue.

And so the car was slowly rising from the "ashes". As it was registered in March 1926 as an open sports Tom decided to put a Burghley replica body on it, but in true Tom style he has already made the ash frame and skinned it himself.



His dad would be proud of him if he saw the result of the "seeds" he had Sown in that young lad.

Although he doesn't always get to meetings you can be sure that he is beavering away in his workshops (and as the cover photo shows sometimes in house) whenever time and commitments allow.

That's the story so far, but he already has another project lurking in the shadows of the workshop and he has another talent for building scale models of fairground rides, perhaps we'll leave that for another edition.

Many thanks to those who have sent me articles.

Happy Sevensing to you all, Lesley.

MA7C COTSWOLD RUN

Sunday 17th April 2011

A picturesque run around the Vale and Cotswolds with a lunch stop at the Craven Arms, Brockhampton. GL54 5XQ

Start: North Cotswold Hunt Kennels Car Park, Kennel Lane, Broadway. WR12 7DP

By kind permission of Mr N.Peel MFH

At 10.00am prompt

(Kennel Lane is a small alley, on the South side of the High Street, between Lloyds TSB and Blandford Books and opposite Averys Tea Shop and the Lygon Arms Hotel)

Finish: The Ranch Caravan Park, Honeybourne. WR11 7PR

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs Andy Attridge

Routes will be charged at £2.00 at 'signing on' to defray club costs for recce and print

Car Entry Form

MA7C COTSWOLD RUN

Start: 10.00am. Sunday 17th April 2011 at the
North Cotswold Hunt Kennels, Kennel Lane, Broadway

Finish: The Ranch Caravan Park, Honeybourne

Name:

Address:

.....

Post Code:Tel:

Vehicle Reg:Model:

Pub Lunch / Picnic - Please circle your choice

Return to: R.Bremner-Smith. Tanglewood, Cleeve Prior, Evesham. WR11 8JY

Services available to Club Members

Vehicle Insurance is available from Richard Hosken Tel: 01277 206911

This now includes a European wide recovery section.

Vehicle Valuations, Available from Sec, I must have a ¾ front view, colour view of the vehicle also a full description and all relevant numbers.

DVLA, Secretary has all the details you need, everything from recovery of original index mark to age related mark information packs, - also a complete listing of all available archive records, index cars, some privately owned by vehicle trusts, including some for light commercial vehicles, he will be pleased to assist you with index mark recovery via the DVLA V765 scheme. Along with dating certificates for age related marked, all are free services for members, donations are welcome! We do make a charge to non-members for these services.

SPARES: are available from Arthur, from engine studs, nuts, plugs, gaskets, tyres, tubes, condensers, dynamo and starter Brushes, HT Leads etc

For Spares & Regalia if you require a certain items please give the relevant person a call so you will not be disappointed.

BOOKS: to help you with your quest for perfection include (these books are not kept in club stock)

The Austin Seven R J Wyatt

The Austin Seven Source Book B Purves

The Austin Seven Portfolios

The Original Austin Seven Rinsey Mills

The Austin Seven & Eight Pitmans. (Out of print but available at auto jumbles)

The Austin Seven Companion 750 MC

The Austin Seven Specials Bill Williams

The Austin Seven Practical Classics Briefings

The Austin Seven Jonathan Wood

Pre war Austin and Austin Seven Unique Motor Books

The Austin 1905-1952 R J Wyatt

Seven Years with Samantha Clive Ball

The Austin Seven Pictorial Tribute R J Wyatt

The Austin Seven Manual Mercury Publications

The Austin Seven Pictorial Tribute R J Wyatt

Whatever Happened to the Baby Austin J Underwood

Austin Seven in the 1930's Brooklands Books

Austin Seven Cars 1930-1935 Brooklands Books

Austin Racing History Roland Harrison

Building Replica Ulsters Chris Gould

Guide to Austin 65 and Nippy's Chris Gould

Austin Seven Chris Harvey

Austin from Inside Freddie Henry

Austin Competition Cars Martin Eyre

Motor Sport Book of the Austin Seven W Boddy

Design for Competition 750 Motor Club

Building and Racing my 750 R J Stephens

MOT STATIONS & OTHER SERVICES

Baldwin's: Bromsgrove Tel: 01527 874663

Warringtons of Warwick Scarbank, Miller Rd, Warwick. Tel:01926 493072

H J Taylor, Willersley, Broadway Tel:01386 852338

Mill Garage, Kings Norton Tel:0121 486 3486 Roger or Bill

Badhams, Honeybourne Nr Broadway Tel: 01386 830307

Croft Garage, Bromford Drive, Bromford, Birmingham, Tel: 0121 748 5700

Egdon Service Station, Egdon Lane Spetchley, Worcester Tel: 01905 345311 (Midway Pershore/M5 Motorway)

A.U.B. Auto Electrical Specialists 23 Solihull Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3HB Tel 0121 744 4348

Alcester Glass Centre, Arden Business Centre, Alcester, Tel 01789 763236

S Phillips. Wire Wheel Builders, Unit 3 Sevenstar Rd Oldbury B69 Tel 0121 544 9060 Afternoons only

Harling Foundries Ltd - Tel: 01424 44316

