DORSET A7 CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1983

Hello there,

Here we are again with Easter over, Spring upon us and the Daffodil run around the corner. We had nobody that I could see wearing the Shamrock at our last meeting and not a Guinness in sight. Seems it was a quiet St. Patrick’s night but a super evening with a large turnout for a very well-run quiz. Thanks Lawrence. There was rather a lot of barracking from certain latecomers, no names! but it was me and him with the rest home helped out by Jones the spare part!

I know several of you will have got your cars back on the road again. Glyn had 'Choc Box' road tested the same day as our 'Henrietta'. Two passes, cheers!

The next meeting will have spares, natter and Feely bags - we hope you enjoy it.

I had one letter in response to my moaning, but it only said what I had strangely just put in the newsletter two days before receiving the letter, but I include it because the message is a good one.

Stop moaning, Editor, and start writing members.

This is a very brief newsletter this issue as I have no contributions sales or wants.

It is interesting to note that the secretary of a well-known club has noticed that some club newsletters are very repetitive. He probably means DORSET re printing other people’s letters. I knew they would rumble us so put your thinking caps on and send me something for the May issue.

Letters to the Editor

Old School House, Charlton Horethorne, Nr. Sherborne,

Dorset DT9

8.3.83

Dear George,

In February's editorial, you bemoaned the lack of contri­butions to the newsletter from club members. For such a small club, we have a really first-rate collection of the many Austin 7 models, including a Mulliner, Tickford and early Chummy. Would it not be possible to run a series of articles on members' cars? I am sure if approached by you, members would be prepared to write a short history of their vehicle and its specification. You could always start the ball rolling with your Box Saloon

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Cressey

(P.S. Editor says you can stop him bemoaning by sending him some copy!)

EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY 17th APRIL Daffodil Run.

THURSDAY 21st APRIL Club Night Dormers. Feely Bags.

THURSDAY 28th APRIL Committee Meeting Dormers

SUNDAY 1st MAY Club run to Portsmouth. Depart Ringwood Cattle Market 10.00 a.m.

THURSDAY 19th MAY Club Night Dormers.

FRIDAY 27th MAY Camping for Spring Bank Holiday for 3 days in the Cotswolds. Depart Ringwood cattle market 6.30 p.m. Ring - R. Cressey, Crofton Denham 526 for details.

SUNDAY 5th JUNE Club run to The Hawk   
Conservancy at Andover depart Ringwood cattle market 10.00 a.m.

SAT/SUN 11/12th JUNE CALDICOT rally. Contact events committee.

THURSDAY 16th JUNE - Club Night Dormers

SAT/SUN 18/19th JUNE BERKLEY CASTLE rally contact events committee.

SATURDAY 25th JUNE Evening run to Sir Walter Tyrell Pub at Cadnam. Depart Ringwood cattle market 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY 3rd JULY Beaulieu Rally.

SUNDAY 10th JULY Club run to Warbarrow Bay. Picnic. No Pub stop. Depart Wimborne Square 10.00 a.m.

THURSDAY 21st JULY Club Night Dormers.

SATURDAY 23rd JULY Evening Run. Depart Wimborne Square 7.30 p.m. Destination T.B.A.

THURSDAY 28th JULY Committee Meeting Dormers.

AUGUST 22nd - 30th incl Holiday run, North Wales. Further details from Glyn Llewellyn or Gary Munn.

'HENRIETTA'

I will start the story of Henrietta and complete it in another issue. My dear wife was riding a 1954 Le Velocette to work in Birmingham. We lived in Edgebaston and to get back from Joseph Lucas where she was a nurse, she has been known to follow the bus, hoping to get home stopping at all the stops and finishing up at Elmdon Airport, miles away.

Well we were expecting our first child, so we decided to buy a banger. I was now on about £21 a week and had a company car, the world was my oyster.

I kept my eyes open for a cheap "inexpensive" car and narrowed it down to a choice between a FIAT TOPPOLINO and a BOX AUSTIN 7, both of which were on garage forecourts at about the same money. The world was a different place in 1962! So the inspections were made and despite my inclination to buy the FIAT, Joy showed good taste and wisdom and went for the AUSTIN and £45.2.0d changed hands lickety spit and the man delivered it home to the garret.

HA 9643 had started life in Smethwick, so it was a local car and we knew it could find its way from Joseph Lucas to Edgebaston without any trouble. This was our first car and an exciting moment, almost as exciting as the first time Joy tried to drive it and then stop it! Oh, by the way, when you see the car, look at the mascot and you will see where the 2/- came into the price.

We stayed in Birmingham for a few months, eventually moving out to Tamworth to our first house and the Austin, now Henrietta, came with us and seemed to find its way around very well. In the months whilst we were at the flat in Edgebaston, Joy woke one day in the bedsit to find me sat on the side of the put-u-up with the engine in bits doing running repairs. The car had been restored and was very tidy, but more of that later

George

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No new members this month, strange how our membership stays around the same each year, yet we seem to see a lot of new faces at the Dormers these days, and very welcome they are too.

Gary and I were all set to go to the A7CA meeting last Sunday (10th April) when, at the last moment, Bernie phoned to say that it had been changed to the following week! That is the day of the Daffodil Run, which both Gary and I have entered any offers from members not going on this run to attend the association meeting. Please contact Bernard Cowley (Tel. Wimborne 887666)

Glyn

SERVICES

MUNWELLYNS - A7 Mechanical Repairs and Restorations. All work undertaken. Ring Glyn on New Milton 613080 or Gary on B’mth. 745951

Austin Seven Brake Relining Service

Set of 3 shoes, any year (Exchange Service) £15.25

Clutch linings and rivets 1923/36 £ 8.50

Clutch, linings Borg & Beck 1936/9 £ 8.50

Exchange Borg & Beck clutch plate 1936/9 £10.50

All prices include postage & VAT

Service by-return of post from: Bernard Cowley, 232 Rempstone Road, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset. Wimborne 887666

Mig Spot and Gas Welding by skilled technician done at your home by arrangement or in Workshop. Contact Chris Smith at Ringwood 78066.

Car trailer for Hire. If you need a car too this can be arranged with or without driver. Competitive rates. Contact: Chris Smith on Ringwood 78066

Editors Other Bits

Despite criticisms from certain quarters for repeats, rather like the BBC and WHITE CHRISTMAS, I have reproduced here the first of a series of letters from Tom Newsome now well on his way to AUSTRALIA!

Good luck Tom, See you Club Night!

Sunday 14th. November 1982

Dear All,

As you can see I'm at Firenze (Florence for the less well informed). Due to the inconsistency prevalent in Italy, I was unable to withdraw money at one place and all the banks shut midday Friday until Monday morning. As the weather has made it impossible to camp, I'm in a cheap (but very good) hotel 15,000 a night. That’s lire, not pounds, about 6 quid a night. Stephen joined me in Toulouse where I was staying with friends waiting for him. We went for a jaunt to Andorra and discovered that there was little we had in common. So, without any falling out and by total mutual agreement we parted in Toulouse and still of course remain good friends. I think it surprised us both, but 6 months would be a long time together in such a small car.

With that all behind us now the journey resumed 5th November.

First let me tell you what happened after leaving Melbourne. Returned home to pick up remaining tools, cloths, etc. and set out that afternoon arriving at Humberstone Hotel in Luton for B & B. Steve wanted to see his girlfriend so hitched from Toddington to London and we all met next day at Dover. Had spent the evening with my parents - it was nice. Realised that in haste had left my green card on the kitchen table but Dad said he would post it on to Toulouse and I organised a duplicate to go to Steve's by first class mail. Belt and braces I suppose. Caught the evening ferry to Calais after saying goodbye - no 'Au revoir' to my parents. Had a lump in my throat I must admit. Mileage to data 220.

Couldn’t find a place to kip and lost way for about ½ hour in the dark. Fond my tracks again and slept by a hedge using tent as a ground sheet. Warm evening but it rained so rolled it round me and, presto! - kept dry.

Next day (MTD 325) headed on to Paris. Beautiful day so aired the tent which I'd rolled up wet. Arrived in Pithiver, the twin town of Ashny so they let me camp for free.

Next day, 20th. October, had a long drive to Toulouse (MTD 490) arrived in Toulouse with mileage now 894. Only problem on the way was one which gave all the symptoms of blocked jet but was in fact loose and intermittent connection on the points.

Had a lovely time and rest with Tom and Sonia Lewis in Toulouse for a few days and did little. 25th October is their wedding anniversary (7 years) and my birthday so of course we had a special celebration. Left message for Steve to ring a certain number and he joined us that evening.

Went to Andorra, setting out on 2nd November and returned early on the 4th. Beautiful scenery and hell of a climb up the Pyrenees. Fully laden, Egbert did well. Very hot day and the petrol boiled in the carburettor so removed the bonnet and put it in the back. Saw Steve off in Toulouse on the 4th., set out on the 5th myself heading east along the Mediterranean (Toulouse MTD 1284). Camped at Vauvert that evening having passed through Sete and Montpellier. Greased car and fixed annoying noise inside speedometer. Can't afford for that to fail, can I? MTD 1483

When I'd left The Lewis’s, Sonia and children had bad colds and I found I' d caught one too. (Ate apples and oranges and it was gone after 48 hours). Looking for campsite 6th November night in St. Tropez. But St. Tropez is shut! Two perfect strangers who lived in a caravan befriended me and insisted I ate with them, had a lovely evening with Philippe and Maria. Instead of erecting the tent, 1 slept in lean-to shelter. Beautiful warm Mediterranean evening but very windy. Next morning, they gave me a bowl of coffee before setting out. MTD: 1662.

A German car drew up alongside me in Nice. Asked my final destination. When I said Australia, he said two words which I cannot repeat, but they were of astonishment. Spoke very good English. Got to Monaco - nice place - shame about Grace. Pardon the misquote. Got through to Italy and camped at Imperia having achieved exactly 1800 miles. Petrol is expensive in Italy - 50 pence per litre. Just discovered that bonefide tourists can get coupons for discount so will investigate that tomorrow. A bit late in the day though!!

Made Castiglioncello, near Livorno where I had some spare dynamo brush springs sent to an address. They'd arrived OK. Slept that night in a barn as the rain was torrential, at Vada. Next morning the farmer withdrew his car which was parked next to Egbert as I was getting dressed and rolling up my sleeping bag. I explained myself but he didn't give two hoots, so that was OK.

Weather abysmal. Rain, rain, rain and my wiper motor has failed. Good job that there's a manual control but it don't half make your arm ache after a hundred miles or so. It's just too wet to stop and fix. Weather clear after Crossetto (I've been via Volterra incidentally). Wanted to fix wiper motor but also wanted to make tracks so got to St. Severa and camped in a field. Put tent up in the dark. Horrific rainstorm, howling winds, thunder and lightning. Wind almost gale-force, a real test for the tent. The next day it was so muddy that each foot weighed about 14 lbs. with mud. Took 2 hours to pack up. MTD 2229.

That day, Wednesday 10th., took me to Terracina having passed through Rome. In Rome stopped at St. Peters Square. Kept car in sight. When I returned Gail Stevens was photographing it. Australian from Melbourne, Gail's brother Noel, has 4 A7's and is something of a fanatic. She was going on to France and England, so we exchanged addresses and she took my films for developing. A lovely person. At Terracina stayed at the Rio Grande for 10,000 a night (four pounds fifty) and had Spaghetti again! Got cleaned up and did some washing. MTD 2329. Up early and made for Naples (Napoli). Anywhere south of Rome is dubious. Napoli unbelievable regarding thieves and corruption. Looking at map, two roughs on a motor cycle asked me where I was going. I told them Vesuvius and they said follow them. Didn't like it but a passerby reassured me slightly - said they were policemen. The one on the back showed a walkie talkie and off we went. I felt uneasy but then witnessed a similar pair on a similar motor cycle looking just as rough (no uniform) halt a pair of youths on motorbike, dragged them up against a wall and searched them. Pretty convincing show. Still apprehensive I followed now all four. All was OK and they bid me farewell, telling me to hide things in car etc. When you have got as much in the car as I have, a near impossibility!!

Egbert climbed Vesuvius well. At the summit, parked car and walked up to crater. Wonderful sight, like an inverted bell and rings if you call. About 300 metres across I guess. Returned to park to find a terrified German tell of Napoli bandits who did every car (except 2 - Egbert and the German’s) in the car park before his very eyes. He daren't leave his car. Nothing missing from Egbert. I felt relieved. Wasn't until I was in Naples that I discovered they had tried. Damaged passenger lock by forcing but didn't quite make it. Repaired it so OK now. Got back to Terracina for another night at Rio Grande. Next day made Rome (Funny that - I made Rome in a day!) and saw Coliseum then drove all the way to Castigleoncello 278 miles in one day including Rome is fair going. Slept in car for first time - never again unless I can help it. Called at Serafino's again but the other package never arrived.

On to Pisa, having washed car, greased and done plugs and points. The leaning tower in my opinion shouldn't exist so deserves to be one of the seven wonders. Parked Egbert up against it! and photographed them - really cheeky but you can get away with Blue Murder if you 'No capito'. Rained all day. Pisa's marble was slippery. Went on to Firenze. Torrential flood, the road type rain. Had to fix wiper in closed petrol station. [Found](http://Found.hotel.in) hotel in Firenze where I am now and had dinner last night with Captain John Kelly and his wife Sue. He was second in command of HMS Fearless during the Falkland crisis and talking to him gives me great faith in our British Navy. They had seen Egbert outside the hotel so chose that one to stay in. Spent this morning with them in Firenze and they have given me an address in Saudi Arabia.

Total mileage now 2919 miles. Just been and checked and got a better pen. (note: trying to read this part of the letter it was about time). Will close now. Have had to abridge the information somewhat to bare notes. Reckon if it continues like this I'll have enough for a book!!! Thank you all for such a tremendous send off. I'll try and write in a month, if I can.

Very best wishes,

Cheers, Tommy.

