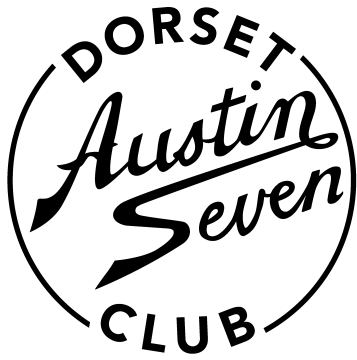




NEWSLETTER

September 2000



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CONTENTS

Club Contacts	2
Editorial	3
Secretarial	3
Club Run	4
From the Internet	4
Letters	5
Weather Lore	5
Tip of the Month	5
Family News	9
The Way We Were	10
Here & There	11
Events	12

FEATURES

Pit Stop	8
Technical Torque	6,7
The Way We Were	2
	9

CLUB NIGHTS

are held on the third Thursday
of every month at
The Tyrrell's Ford Hotel,
Avon (on the Ringwood/
Christchurch Road)
B3347

This month's front cover features another picture from David Burris - this time recording one of his jaunts to the famous Pegasus Bridge, France in 1993.

EDITORIAL

The September Newsletter is always a rush to publish to accommodate everyone's holidays in the long chain of willing (?) helpers. So a big thanks this month not only to you, the contributors, but also to the back-room boys (and girls) who have done a sterling job at a difficult time of the year.

On the business of thanking willing helpers, the Committee have expressed their official thanks to Barry and Elaine for patiently snapping us all with our cars for the archives and, hopefully, a print for yourselves.

This month we have two letters of thanks - one from Peter Treliving's wife, Judy and one from the organiser of the Ellingham Show.

More thanks, this time to David Burris who not only continues to provide us with topical photographs but has come into ownership of volumes of Practical Motorist from its beginnings in the thirties and has allowed me to photocopy suitable articles and adverts for the Newsletter. This month, a little late I must

admit, I couldn't resist the article on taking your car abroad. It makes very interesting reading!

I am always open to suggestions (thank you madam) and, as a result of one clean one, I have presented the Diary and Future Events page slightly differently to incorporate all events in one list each month. However, sods law dictated that this month there isn't a lot going on outside of club circles so it doesn't look too different at the mo'.

Also, being a little pleader, may I have your photographs for the front page - otherwise it's turning into the Dave Burris Album each month! And remember, if you do it in an Austin 7 - tell us about it!

David

Deadline for the next issue is 29/9/00. Please send material to me by post, fax or E-mail or pass it over to the Editorial Team at Clubnight.

SECRETARIAL

H i Gang

September already and the summer, what there was of it, is almost over but there are still plenty of Austin Seven events to look forward to. As I write this I am looking forward to the Firework Cruise from Bournemouth Pier, Beaulieu Autojumble the following weekend, and Club night with Mark Ching's talk on thatching not forgetting, of course, the Coast to Coast Run towards the end of the month organised by our own Bernard Cowley.

Pat and I went on Ben and Marion Trimby's run to Longford Castle near Salisbury last month, not usually open to the public, but only

occasionally to an organised group and it was one of the best of the year. I was unable to go on Roger Ballard's 'Bison Drive' due to other commitments but Pat took the Tickford and she had a super day out. I did enjoy the Bison sausages at supper time though!

That's it for this month, see you at Beaulieu.

Glyn

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THE CLUB BISON RUN

20th. August 2000

or - "And now for something *completely* different!"

Wall to wall sunshine greeted 6 Austin Sevens plus 1 modern at QE School Wimborne, for Roger's Bison Run. The route followed the Tarrant stream, through the 'Water Splash' at Tarrant Monkton and on along the valley to Stubhampton. We then 'chugged' uphill, crossing the rolling hills of the Cranborne Chase, over into the county of Wiltshire, through the Donheads, Tisbury and the picturesque village of Hindon. The route then took us to East Knoyle and through tiny lanes to the Fox & Hounds for the lunch stop and liquid refreshments. The pub is situated on a hill with far reaching views over the Dorset & Somerset countryside. We were then joined by 4 more members with their Morgan/Motorhome.

After a good 'natter' and suitably refreshed, Roger led the convoy to the Bison farm, where we were met by the owner/guide. The 'Party' climbed aboard a hay-wagon, towed by a tractor, for a bumpy ride into the field occupied by a herd of Bison. Apparently, the female Bisons were all named after American Presidents' wives, including one called Monica (Not a cigar in site!) We were all advised to remain on the wagon for safety reasons, as a young bull Bison was jealously guarding his females and off-springs. The wagon was then towed into an adjoining field where we were introduced to a fairly

tame herd of Red Deer with some of the less shy taking pellets of food from our hands.

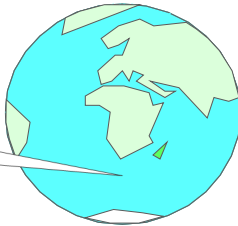
Upon our return to the farmhouse and still in brilliant sunshine, we went for a stroll through the woodland and returning, were greeted with welcome cups of tea and delicious home-made sponge cake, taken on the lawn. This was followed by a brief visit to their museum and shop, where several purchases of Bison steaks etc. were made.

It sometimes may not be appreciated, the amount of forward planning and organising that has to be carried out prior to our monthly runs. (Never has so much been owed by so many to so few!). Our thanks go to Roger for his well planned and organised "something different" August run, which everyone enjoyed very much.

BeeVee & EsAre

(Brian Willborne via E-mail)

Thanks for writing up a truly unique run (and for getting it to me already typed up!! - Ed.)



From the

PRODUCT NEWS

Phil Haywood from the Vintage Bearing Company in Burton-on-Trent is manufacturing a small batch of Austin Seven 3-speed clutch release bearings for a customer in Australia. They will cost £80 each +VAT and should be ready in October. If you would like to add your name to this order contact VBC tel: 0283 500 678, fax 0283 500 789, e-mail VBC@breathemail.net

An eminent manufacturer of pistons would be willing to do a run (25 sets) of high quality pistons for Austin 7 application. These pistons are going to be expensive but worthwhile for those of us who require something better. I have no interest in the venture other than the need to find the 24 other people required to make this happen. Contact alan@roverworks.com

M Blake is advertising solid copper head gaskets for Austin Sevens in today's VSCC newsletter. Tel : 01584 711112. He needs an original or drawing to work from. David Cochrane: david@ingineur.co.uk

LETTER BOX



Dear Club Members,

I am writing to convey my sincere and grateful thanks to you all for your kind thoughts, words, letters and deeds for Pete and I over the last few months. We have found much strength and comfort.

My family were so proud and overwhelmed by the lovely flowers, generous donations and the wonderful turn-out of friends and cars at dear Pete's funeral - just what he would have loved!

Kind regards, Judy Treliving

ELLINGHAM & RINGWOOD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Dear Mr Whitter,

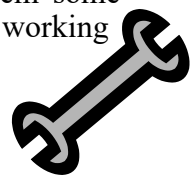
I write on behalf of the Ellingham Show Committee to thank you very much for the kind donation of £20 towards our funds. As you will appreciate, every little helps in this day and age and it is nice to find an organisation who really appreciates the work that goes into a show of our kind.

Yours sincerely, Linda Turner, Show Secretary

TIP OF THE MONTH - WHEELS

1. If you have your Seven wheels enamelled or powder coated, then before fitting them back on the car, carefully remove the enamel/powder coat from the wheel nut seat. Otherwise the nuts will work loose and you'll lose a wheel - or two.
2. Periodically remove your rear wheels and check the large nut on the end of the half-shafts. Over time you can get quite a bit of play due to minor wear. The nuts should be as tight as possible unless you want a broken half-shaft!. It's suggested you use a long spanner, ideally with a three foot piece of piping attached, to really give them some welly! And don't forget to put a split pin back in again to stop the nuts just working loose.

Gary Munn



WEATHER LORE

We've all heard of St.Swithin (15th July):

*Oh St Swithin if thou'll be fair,
For forty days shall rain nae mair,
But if St Swithin's thou be wet,
For forty days it raineth yet.*

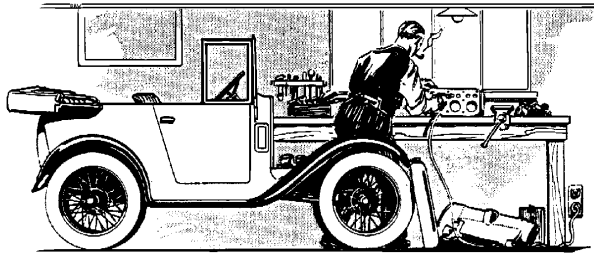
but there are also others at this time of year to look out for:

St Bartholomew's Day (24th August):

*If St Bartholemew's Day be fair and clear,
Then a prosperous autumn comes that year.*

and an unusual pair of dates for St Michael & Gallus (29th September and 16 October):

*If it does not rain on St.Michael & Gallus,
The following Spring will be dry and propitious.*



**technical
torque**

TAKING THE
CAR ABROAD

TAKING THE CAR ABROAD



PIT STOP



MOUSE BENT ON WINNING

MALLORY PARK 6th. AUGUST

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The heat is now on. The championship points are taken from the best eight results from the season and, as Dorset Dave had a bad start to the season, every place is now crucial to securing that longed-for first place. There are two distinct achievements - to be top *overall* and to be "First in Class". This year, there is no prospect now of Our Boy being first overall as he will have finished in only 8 races exactly and, although 7 of those have been class wins with full points, there was the outing at Mallory Park in June when the plug was blown out and he only finished in third place.

However, with only 1 point between them and two races to go, Keith Jenkins in his racy looking green 'Silverstone Special' and Dorset Dave and Mouse are having a ding-dong finish in class B.

QUALIFYING

What happens to cars that are left minding their own business in a garage? Mallory has this wicked, and I mean *wicked*, hairpin and as a desperate Dave flew towards it trying to 'get the drop' on Jenkins by leaving the braking late, he found with horror that there were no brakes and his foot just hit the floor!!! On the outside of the hairpin there is just enough run-off to accommodate such flying missiles as Austin Sevens and a disbelieving Dave managed to recover. Vigorous pumping of the pedal brought some hope of stopping - but not much and a few laps later whilst trying to avoid "T-boning" number 34, a dizzy Dave found himself spinning helplessly into the wall on the inside of the hairpin and the front wheels looking distinctly cross-eyed. Practice finished with a trip back to the pits on the back of a recovery vehicle and a compulsory visit to the medical centre. However, having no brakes does wonders for the lap times as a delighted Dave put in his fastest lap yet at Mallory of 1m 09.82s (an average speed of 70.18 mph)

REPAIRS

The near-side steering arm had been bent into the

spokes but, with the help of the rest of boys, a suitably long hollow bar was produced and the offending arm bent (very gingerly I thought) back into place. But how to adjust the toe-in? What we need is a long piece of string I heard them cry - "Will some of my knitting wool do?" I whispered. How to become a hero in an instant! Roger Windley then proceeded to demonstrate how the rally boys do it out in the wilderness - stretch the bright red wool all round the 4 wheels, stand back and - look. Even I could see immediately that a touch more adjustment was needed. Very neat trick. However, time had run out and a determined Dave decided to give the no-brakes strategy another go.



THE RACE

With the championship at stake, the race was fast and furious with desperate Dave putting in 1m 08.85s lap but, on the very last lap, he overshot the hairpin again and Roper took advantage crossing the line 1.9 seconds in front. However, Roper is in Class A, and a delighted Dave not only had a good but hairy race, he put his class-

rival Jenkins into second place by 5.1 seconds to secure maximum championship points.

Due to the 750 Trophy being excluded this year from the famous Eight Clubs Meeting, the final two races of the season are back at Mallory in October. But will a devious Dave decide that having no brakes is an advantage or will we see him scouring the stalls at Beaulieu for a new master cylinder. For regular readers of this column, the glue that on the plugs is still holding but I see there's a completely new head in his box of bits just in case.

Penelope Pitstop

THE WAY WE WERE 2



LEFT - karioke night at the hotel during a club trip to Dunster circa 1989 where George and Lawrence sang King of the Road.

BELOW - folk afternoon in the New Forest during last month's Rounders' Run. Same people, same song - just different hair styles!



Thanks to Margaret for the pics - Ed.

CLUB FAMILY NEWS

THREE YEARS ON

Usually we hear about club members celebrating their major milestone wedding anniversaries. Well we have Suzie and Gary Fatt (who will have posted this newsletter to you!) celebrating their third anniversary on 11 October. It might not seem like many years but what is unusual is that they were club members when they got married, and there aren't many in that category! Mind you Gary did have to check with Suzie how many years it was so I'm not sure whether that mean the time has just flown by - or the opposite!! Anyway, happy anniversary to you both.

MAINZER ON THE MEND

As reported at the last club night, Paul Mainzer has had his open-heart surgery in London and is now well on the mend. He must be a tough ol' cookie though because only two days after the operation he was brought down to Poole Hospital by CAR to recuperate! I'm not sure what sort of car it was, but I don't think it could have been a Seven! We look forward to seeing you in your box soon Paul - you've nearly missed the summer (summer, what summer?).

DESERT-ED

You may be aware that Rosemary and Roger Ballard's son, Edward, is currently on a Raleigh Expedition to Mongolia. Well, at the moment he's actually on a 12 day, 200 Km (125 mile) trek across the Gobi Desert. I hope his feet aren't as blistering as the heat!

(Continued on page 11)

THE WAY WE WERE - a blast from the past

From the Club Newsletter for September 1979

21

THIS MONTH'S MEETING - Technical chat on A7 mechanical & electrical topics at the Nags Head, Ringwood

This month I am very pleased to say we have not only two reports of events but also some letters to the Editor - keep it up - I can do with a rest!

Let's hope you found those elusive parts at the recent Beaulieu Autojumble. I was thinning out my stock before moving house and found it difficult to get £5 each for A7 blocks complete with valves and followers. Bernard & I were kept fully occupied winding our gramophones and changing needles to attract customers. My classic sale was a police truncheon to a lad who wanted to take something back for his mother!

On the car front, everyone seems to be going for a Chummy as a winter restoration project. Glyn and Gary have both earmarked a car to add to their Austin stable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Phil,

Thanks for the welcome at my first club night. It may seem strange that one of the early members (when we were the New Forest A7 Club) should wait this long to attend a meeting but there is no way I would make the journey in the Chummy. Surely we could bring the venue nearer to the centre of Dorset. Why does the Dorset A7C meet in Hampshire especially as I believe we can no longer meet at the Nags Head? There are at least two pubs in Wareham with rooms available and, to quote, "Wareham - surely the highest density of Austin owners in the South West".

Yours, Adrian Gilbride.

MIDLANDS A7C LONGBRIDGE RALLY

Glyn Llewellyn, son Trevor and myself set off at 10.15am on the 125 mile trip to Birmingham being joined at Salisbury by Roger Ballard and a friend. Having a trouble-free run we arrived at 4 o'clock to be met by Richard Cressey and Margaret and Bernard and family and set up camp. After our evening meal we wandered down to the marquee where we had a very enjoyable evening of drinking and barn dancing. On Sunday morning we were woken by Bernard serving tea in bed for everyone. After an interesting day at the autojumble (where Bernard did well with his stall as usual), we packed up and left at 5 o'clock. The highlight of the return trip was a race, led by Glyn between Marlborough and Amesbury. Z-bends at 50 mph in an A7 are quite something! After stopping for a pint at Salisbury we shook off our "Grand Prix" feelings and continued at a more sedate pace. This was one of our best runs and we hope more people will join us next year.

Gary Munn

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

September Stourpain Bushes Steam Engines



DA7C SW COAST-to-COAST RUN 23/24th September 2000

SATURDAY 23rd Sept.: to join up with others going to Weston-Super-Mare, ring Bernard (01202-887666)

SUNDAY 24th Sept.: For members who would like to join us on the second part of the run back to Swanage, we are meeting at the THREE ELMS, NORTH WOOTON about 12 noon, leaving at 1.30 pm. (DIRECTIONS: From Blandford head north on the A350. Turn left at Durweston Bridge onto A357. At Lydlinch turn left onto A3030. The pub is on the left after 3 or 4 miles.)

CLUB FAMILY NEWS *(Continued from page 9)*

NEARLY DONE

Club member Kevin Wissett is on the home run as far as getting his 1933 Chrome-Rad 2 Seater on the road is concerned. Kevin bought the car 3 years ago and has spent a lot of time restoring the beauty, especially over the last 18 months. The paintwork's been done, as has the chrome. He also had a new wiring loom custom made ("excellent job") and is about to start fitting it. "It'll definitely be on the road this year" said Kevin, after a bit of coaxing. We'll keep you to that Kevin and we can't wait to see it. Going abroad next year in it perhaps?

MAKING THE GRADE

We've got some very proud club members at the moment whose sons have just passed their 'A' levels and got into their universities of choice. Edward Ballard (see above) will be going to the University of East Anglia after his current gap year, to read Environmental Studies. Meanwhile Steven Trebilco (son of Michele and Peter) will be going to Exeter University in October to read Business Management. That's two households that are going to be a lot quieter - leaving the parents more time to devote to Sevensing?!

TREBS

EVENTS

- Thursday 21st Sept CLUB NIGHT** Mark Ching on the art of thatching. Spares by arrangement only. (Ring Phil).
- Sat/Sun 23/24th Sept DA7C SW COAST-to-COAST RUN.** See panel on page 11 for details
- Sunday 24th Sept CLUB RUN** Join the intrepid Coast-to-Coasters for lunch and a return trip to Swanage. See panel on page 11 for details.
- Thursday 28th Sept COMMITTEE MEETING**
- Thursday 5th Oct MID MONTHLY MEET** The Fairmile, Fairmile Rd. Christchurch. An informal chit-chat with friends from about 8.30/9 pm.
- Thursday 19th Oct CLUB NIGHT AGM 2000**
- Sunday 22nd Oct CLUB RUN** Peter Trebilco will be taking us on a North Forest Run (*not* the Kilder Forest - the New Forest!). Meet Ringwood Car Park 10.15 am for a 10.30 off. Pub lunch stop arranged.
- Thursday 26th Oct COMMITTEE MEETING**
- Thursday 16th Nov CLUB NIGHT Auction Night**

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**HAPPY
MOTORING**

