



# Midlands

# Austin Seven club

## Winter Newsletter 2010



Many thanks to Chris Danks for the photo.



# Forthcoming Events

## Club Nights 2010 Monthly Meeting's

24<sup>th</sup> November Film\DVD night  
15<sup>th</sup> December Christmas meal

## Events

12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November NEC Classic Car Show  
26<sup>th</sup> December Boxing Day Run

**Remember to read this list in conjunction with the list in the A7CA Magazine for national events. Please let the Committee know of any event's that you go to that you think may be of interest to other members, so we can include in the list of events.**

**Web Site:** [www.ma7c.co.uk](http://www.ma7c.co.uk)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010-2011

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<b>D.V.L.A.Sec</b>	<b>John Hamilton</b> , 38 Roman Way Bromsgrove, B61 0DT (Before 9.00p.m.)	<b>Tel: 01527 870146</b>
<b>WEB MASTER</b>	<b>Rick Bishop</b> , Home Straight, 4 Reynard Close, Redditch B97 6PY <b>Email:</b> rick.bishop@virgin.net	<b>Tel: 01527 404946</b>
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Opinions expressed in the magazine are those of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Committee or Members

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



# Chair Chat

The Restoration Show at Stoneleigh was evidently quieter than usual . I missed it this year as we were trolling about in the fjords. Considerable confusion was caused as early arrivals could park in the showground but then they changed parking to a very wet field. Not popular with the punters. Fewer stands and fewer public is not a good start for the new organisers of this show.

Despite the damp weather, 28 x Austin 7s, one Austin 10, a Morgan, a MG and three moderns enjoyed a meander through part of the Cotswold and through three private estates, taking in some of the beautiful Autumn colours. It was suggested that the MG and the Morgan should not try the third estate, as the exit involved a slippery bank which with a liberal coating of mud, a dash of rain and A7 thin tyres made for an interesting climb, but it also required ground clearance, lacking in the MG and Morgan!

Congratulations to the Harris Family who won the quiz with full marks. Whilst most people had found most of the answers, only the Harris team and one other read the question, 'How old is...?' The answer was 800 years NOT 13<sup>th</sup> C. The quiz must be harder next year!

The idea of a start, a middle and an end, all involving food seems to have been very well received and we are very grateful to Andy and Sheila Attridge and Ken and Sheila Turner for refreshments at Honeybourne and Blackwell respectively.

By the time you read this, the Classic Car Show at NEC will have happened too. We can thank Andy Lowe for masterminding both this and the Restoration shows. We are exhibiting three Jewels and Mervyn Hoyle is showing his fully loaded grocer's van and raising money for charity. Finally a RK Saloon celebrates the 100,000<sup>th</sup> Austin Seven built umpteen years ago.

Looking forward , don't forget to order your place for the Christmas meal at the Old Sils on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, please speak to Elaine Devey. Thank you, Elaine. And remember the Boxing Day Run, details should appear elsewhere in this newsletter. But just in case you don't get that far, its 10.00 hrs at Cofton Park, Longbridge, at the usual entrance opposite Groveley Lane.

There are about 25 former members (too many names even for pack drill) who have omitted to renew their membership, but I won't berate them here because they will not have received this newsletter!! There is a place on the committee for someone to replace my former role as "General". Let's have a volunteer please, talk to any of the existing committee. Also

## WE STILL NEED AN EDITOR

**Talking about newsletters, just like everyone else, we have to look at costs too. We still haven't put up the membership fee, but we do need to make some serious savings. So rather than incurring heavy printing and postal charges each month, we are planning to send as many newsletters out via email to as many members as we can.**

**So, please email your email address to "rick.bishop@virgin.net " and you will receive the colour version.** The 'Grey mag' and those without access to email will continue to be posted by 'snail mail.' Our thanks to Leslie Marriner, our guest Editor, for this two monthly edition.

That's me, finished chatting for the month, in fact for two months, as this Newsletter covers November and December. So, to those who I won't be at the November meeting or the Christmas Dinner, have Jolly Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year in your Seven.

Happy Austineering, Brem

# Out and About

## Restoration Show 2010

It was a cold dull morning when Ian Devey and I were about to set off in the special. I made a comment to Ian something along the lines of “You don’t want the roof up do you its only wimps that have the roof up”. Boy was that a mistake, even with the proper gear on it was “B!!!!!!!!!! Cold”.

Anyway we made the 1/2hr journey to Stoneleigh in double quick time; to find that Andy Lowe had arrived 5 mins before us and had got his Box saloon positioned on our stand which was a touch small especially as the TR3 club behind had taken up a few extra feet. A quite word in their ear had the desired effect and the TR3 was moved allowing me to back the special on to the stand.

The regalia table was then unloaded and set up in anticipation for a good days sales. The new club flag was erected and I must say it stood out well among all the other clubs flags. Some of which are very hard to read. Anyway 10 o’clock arrived and the public were duly let in, the number’s this year were definitely down, as was the number of stalls etc. This was slightly disappointing; however there was a good deal of interest on the stand, and we signed up one new member, so it was worth the effort just for that.



Hope to see you on the Boxing Day run Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am start at Cofton Park Car Park.

Rick Bishop

### **SECRETARY’S APOLOGIES**

I would just like to apologise to those of you that had to pay extra for your postage for last month’s newsletter. This was a genuine mistake on my part and I hope you will find it in your hearts to forgive me. See you out and about soon. Pamela.



## AUTUMN LEAVES RUN 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2010

The run started at The Ranch, Andy & Sheila Attridge`s Caravan Park, where we were treated to refreshments before we started.

Before very long we were tackling Saintbury, Hill which isn`t for the faint hearted. Recently John has had Jemima`s (our A7) engine rebuilt, three times in fact, which at the time I thought was a little excessive but at this point I was very grateful that Jemima could show off her new found strength and deliver us safely at the top. The weather sadly began to decline and light rain soon descended upon us. It was now I remembered why we take a towel with us; to soak up the steady trickle of water that seeps in through the windscreen, however not to feel sorry for myself I looked at the open top cars and again appreciated Jemima`s fine bodywork with a hard top.

Having been fortunate enough as a child to spend a lot of time in the Cotswolds with my family it was lovely to see familiar places. The autumn colours were so varied and deep and the golds and reds of the turning leaves were made more pronounce by the background of the evergreens. I knew from experience that the views here were spectacular, but the misty rain cheated us from these views at times, Jemima boldly soldiered on past beautiful countryside that we could enjoy despite the rain, and when we got to Snows hill there was a break in the cloud which meant Jemima stopped leaking in rain and I could concentrate on the clues set for the run.



Lunch was at the Plough Inn at Stretton on Fosse, we took a picnic! But I am told the lunches were thoroughly enjoyable, and all totally refreshed we set out again.

The run took us through three private estates in all, the type of dwellings that make you green with envy but in beautiful locations that we would not usually be allowed to witness. Jemima seemed quite at home along these long private drives and so I am in negotiation with John to see if we can acquire one! (I think he may refuse as there is too much grass to cut)

We finished the run at Blackwell village Hall and Ken, Sheila & team provided refreshments here, which again were much appreciated.

The first Autumn Leaves run must be heralded as a success with 34 cars taking part 28 of which were A7s, our thanks must go to Brem, Jenny & team for such a lovely day and organising such a picturesque journey.

**Alison Roberts**



Many thanks to all concerned. It certainly sounds as if this is one for your diary for next year.

## Workshop Terminology

Anyone who ever worked in a shop, even a little bit, will relate to these ...

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted vertical stabilizer which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench, at the speed of light. Also, it removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh sh-- ...'

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

**SKILL SAW:** A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

**BELT SANDER:** Electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**WELDING GLOVES:** Heavy duty leather gloves used to prolong the conduction of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

**TABLE SAW:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.



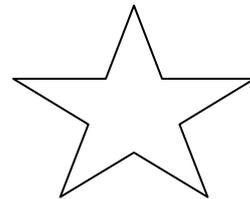
**GET THE GREY MATTER WORKING FOR A**

# Christmas Quiz



1. Which continent is the Turkey bird from?
2. In which author's novel is it "always winter but never Christmas"?
3. Which of Santa's reindeer was Rudolf's father?
4. In which century was St Nicholas born?
5. Only male reindeer have antlers: true or false?
6. What told Dick Whittington to turn again?
7. What bird did Queen Elizabeth I decree should be eaten at Christmas?
8. Which biblical town's name means "house of bread" in Hebrew?
9. Which element did Pierre and Marie Curie announce the discovery of on December 26<sup>th</sup> 1898?
10. What is the name of Scrooge's dead business partner?
11. If you were born on Christmas Day what star sign would you be?
12. What did Brenda Lee love doing to her Christmas tree?
13. In Cinderella, what is the name of Prince Charming's friend?
14. Which nickname for Hollywood sounds Christmassy?
15. In the pantomime who was Aladdin's mother?

**Good Luck**



**Answers later in the magazine.**

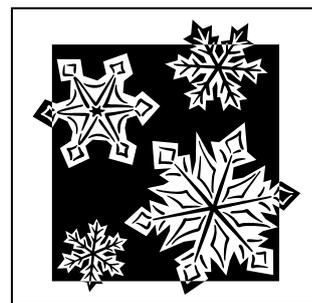
Only a bit of fun, don't complain if you disagree with the answers have another drink and chill out!

# **NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT IS FILM NIGHT.**



*You could be the star of  
the show.*

## **Christmas Greetings**



If you wish to give to charity, as we have done in the past, instead of sending each other

Christmas cards, we shall be doing this at the November meeting.

We have chosen to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support as so many of our lives seems to have been touched by this.

We hope you find this a charity worthy of your support.

**Christmas festivities are on**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Contact Elaine if you want to join in the fun.

See you on the Boxing Day run?

# Meet the member.

We have had several attempts at getting profiles of members in the newsletter and it fizzles out, hopefully we can keep it going this time.

It would be good to hear how some newer members got "hooked" too.

## "The Mariners"

For those of you who don't know, Keith and I live in Hinckley, Leicestershire and we began our Austin "career" in 1973.

We didn't set out to buy a vintage car, and *my* only experience of Austin7s was at college, when a chap called Mike Tibet had this cute little runabout! I later found out it was an Austin7. (Mike, when last I heard, was taking care of the Milliner register)

Some 6 years later when Keith was working at MIRA, a colleague of his was going to Australia to work for a couple of years. He wondered if we wanted to look after his Austin7 while he was away. After a bit of thought we accompanied him to a lock up in Rugby to see this Austin7 "box saloon".

It was quite appealing in a 1970s sort of way! So we decided that we would buy it rather than look after it and duly parted with £75.

What did we know about old cars?... Nowt!

So on cup final day 1973 we trailed GV 2225 a 1933 RP saloon (known to us as Flossie) home. To begin with we bodged it up and proudly set off to a do. As luck would have it my dad met Pete Blackburn who was then chairman of MA7C and so our involvement with the club began. The first club night was memorable in more ways than one, as it was also the beginning of our friendship with fellow A7 rookies Andy and Chris Lowe.

Ignorance was bliss, so we decided to do it up a bit more and drive it to see my pen friend who lived in Germany close to the then East German border.

It was a great experience with no major hiccups. That was to be the first of many A7 trips.

To cut a very long story short we have been fortunate enough to enjoy our Austin over the past 37 years and have met some super people and been on some great holidays and runs. Over the years we have had a bash at being club treasurers and started the regalia by having club T shirts printed, we were part of the *first* Longbridge Rally and also ran Stanford Hall for 24 years. How time flies when you are enjoying yourself!

Our daughter Helen has been brought up in the A7 fold and briefly owned a Ruby whist in 6<sup>th</sup> form. We now have 3 sevens, Flossie the RP, a 4 seat tourer (JO) a great restoration project if ever I saw one which it had a tree growing through it when we first saw it! Not forgetting Keith's pride and joy, the van he made from scratch.

Of course Keith's hobby then became his business and the rest as they say is history. Oh and the colleague from MIRA is *still* in Australia!

That's a brief history of the Mariners perhaps the next editor Sandra can tell us how they got started. Then hopefully more of you will join in.

## **Austin a family affair**

I knew I shouldn't have loitered at the bar on the club AGM. No sooner had I ordered a drink when Andy and Brem accosted me with wit, flattery and plain simple persuasion to ask if I could pen a series of articles for the newsletter. As the evening drew to a close I left quietly, hoping their request was mere chit chat. Two days later the phone rang..... 'Hello its Brem'..... well you can guess how the conversation went.

My first dilemma was what to call the series. Numerous ideas, (well one or two) came to mind. Maybe I should recognise the majority of long suffering wives and partners, as we (the men) spend endless hours tinkering under the bonnet, or a cryptic title like 'W5' (an excellent hand cleaner sold by a well known German supermarket guaranteed to keep all towels oil free!). In the end I decided to cut to the chase and go for **Austin a family affair** which best reflects how we got into Austin Sevens and the many new friends we have made since.

Seven's are a fairly recent addition to our extended family, I restored numerous cars (*1953 Landover 4x2, Wolsey Hornet, Morris 1000, and Lotus S3*). Throughout that time our children (Colin and Nadine) were not interested in the succession of classics that was until six years ago when at the Birmingham show Colin spoke to John Barlow. So if anyone should take the credit John's your man.

A few weeks later Colin telephoned me to ask I would look at an Ulster rep for sale in Cambridgeshire. As you can guess the Austin bug bit, Colin's garage was duly tidied to take the EA and not much later out went my Lotus, to make space in my garage for our new shared interest (bit of father son bonding or that was my excuse). That first car has now grown to four, (two each), all in different states of road worthiness, spawning a network of new friends and contacts.



## FOR SALE

### ASSORTED AUSTIN SEVEN MARK 1 RUBY PARTS FOR SALE

#### (SOME BITS MAY APPLY TO OTHER MODELS)

1. Pair of Mark 1 doors – good condition £50.00 each
  2. Pletchley sliding roof parts – off Mk 1 Ruby but will for Mk2,  
possibly others £50.00 or reasonable offer
  3. Back axle – believed to be sound – willing to dismantle to check condition.  
If in good condition, £150.00 o.v.n.o
  4. Front axle complete with spring and track-rod Offers
  5. Bonnet Mk 1 Ruby £50.00
  6. Side panels for Ruby bonnet – with vents Offers
  7. Ruby Wheels £15.00 each
  8. 6 volt semaphores – pair £50.00 pair
  9. 6 volt cut out box £15.00
  10. Austin 7 3-speed gear box – gears rusty but casing ok. Believed to be off '33 model.  
Any reasonable offer
  11. Set of connecting rods for Austin Seven 1934-1939 possibly fit earlier models  
Any reasonable offer
  12. Pitman's Handbook for the Austin Seven and  
Eight by Station Abbey. £15.00
  13. Steering Wheel – Ruby £10.00
  14. Other odd items for Ruby – rusty bumpers, floor panel,  
gearbox cover, Ruby chassis extensions etc, (good) All open to offers
  15. Pair of Austin 7 front seats – leather – not perfect but ok if you wish to keep originality  
Reasonable offer
  16. Mk 1 Ruby windows - Doors x 2  
- Quarter lights x 3 (no surrounds)  
- Back window All open to offers
  17. Ruby running boards – no rubber £15.00 for the pair
  18. Side-lift jack for Austin 7 later models (see p.19 Pitman's)  
can also fit s.v. Fords £15.00 o.v.n.o
  19. Austin 7 Hub puller £10.00
  20. Door hinges Mk 1 Ruby Offers
  21. Fan blade, mounting bracket and bottom pulley offers
  22. VW 6v dynamo for conversion as detailed in Austin Seven  
Companion, page 260 'That Dreaded Dynamo'
- Other bits:**
- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| AA and RAC Badges                         | Offers |
| Pair Mark 1 Mini rear lights              | Offers |
| Early Mini dry cone suspension tool       | £15.00 |
| Early Ford hub puller s.v models and 100E | £15.00 |
| Ford s.v. 'mushroom' valve removing tool  | £10.00 |
| Pair side lights for Austin A30 / A35     | Offers |
| Locking petrol cap – fits?                | Offers |

## Engine Trouble      By a well known Bristol club member

A couple of friends called round one evening and since, in those days, we kept little drink in the house (I'm not sure whether we couldn't afford much, or the few bottles that we *did* purchase, disappeared rather quickly! Probably a combination of both.) The two lads quickly volunteered to fetch a "carry out" for us all. We lasses were content to chat away for some time but this lengthened into hours till eventually we realised that, with only fifteen minutes to closing time, we would need to fetch our own drink or remain thirsty!

My Ruby (a £10 bargain) was on the drive so we hopped in sharpish and pulled the starter. No luck! This was not uncommon, however, and fortunately we live on a hill; so I removed the stone from against the wheel, released the handbrake and let the seven run out of the drive and down the hill – as I'd done so many times previously! Into second gear and ... BUMP! I tried it three times but still no luck – what's more, we had run out of hill.

The car came to a halt at the kerbside and I jumped out to investigate under the bonnet (a frequent occurrence with the sevens!) As I did so, a helpful man strode up to ask

"Having trouble, ladies?"

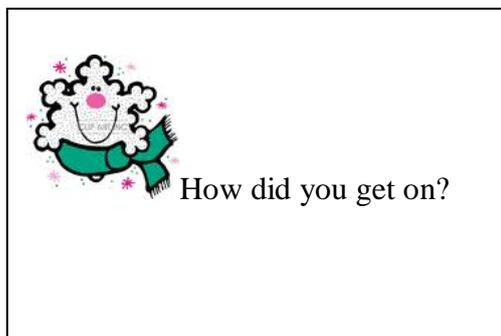
"Engine trouble," I replied as I quickly snapped the bonnet shut. "Please could you help us to push the car into that car park?"

The problem had been immediately obvious when I lifted the bonnet but I didn't wish the gentleman to observe that the car had no engine! Unknown to me, my husband had removed it during the day.

Fortunately the car park was outside a pub so we lasses did just manage to purchase our long-awaited drink. Meanwhile, the lads had returned to find not only the engine-less car had disappeared but also their wives were missing! We lasses had the last laugh as, next morning, my husband (clad in oily boiler suit) had to take the engine down the road in a wheelbarrow to reassemble the old car, watched by the raised eyebrows of folks walking past in their 'Sunday Best' to the church next door!

### Quiz answers.

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. North America             | 11. Capricorn          |
| 2. C S Lewis                 | 12. Rocking around it. |
| 3. Donner                    | 13. Dandini            |
| 4. 3 <sup>rd</sup> AD        | 14. Tinsel Town        |
| 5. False                     | 15. Widow Twanky       |
| 6. Bow bells of London       |                        |
| 7. Goose                     |                        |
| 8. Bethlehem                 |                        |
| 9. Radium                    |                        |
| 10. Jacob Marley ( not Bob!) |                        |



**Midlands Austin Seven Club**  
**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

**Sheila, our regalia rep, may have that item for a christmas present or stocking filler give her a call or browse the stall at club night.**

**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 443160

**Classics & Chrome**, Unit 8, Hinkley Business Park, Brindley Rd, Hinkley, Leicestershire LE10 3B Tel: 01455 637921

**Do you know of any more information we could add to benefit our members?**

