

NOVEMBER
AND
DECEMBER
2019

Midlands

Austin Seven club



Our Speaker for November James Butler with his model for Green Howards D-Day memorial.

Merry Christmas



and a Happy New Year



The Officers of the Club

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:	Bob Prophet , Soley's Orchard, Rectory Rd, Upton-upon Severn, Worcs, WR8 0LX E-mail: rsprophet@tiscali.co.uk	Tel: 01684 592509
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:	Lesley Marriner , 202 Ashby Rd, Hinckley, LE10 1SW. 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, Ilminton Road, Blackwell, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4PE	Tel: 01608 682463
D.V.L.A.Sec	Bob Bickley , 78 Pamela Rd, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2QH (Before 9.00p.m.)	Tel: 0121 6249654
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, B'ham B28 0BN	Reg No 6803165

These are the present committee members. If you have a query please contact one of them as they are here for you.

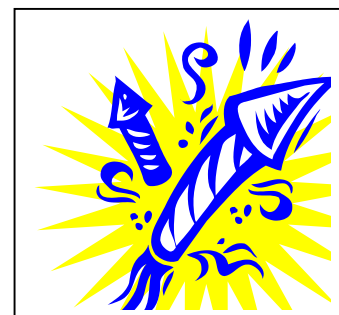
Opinions expressed in the magazine are those of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Committee or Members

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

27th November Club Night.....

We have a Speaker

Please support this evening don't let it be a damp squib!



11th December.

Christmas Meal and Party Night

*At the Old Silhillians . Please contact Elaine Devey (see officers details) if you want to join in. Buffet style meal £10.40.
Competition and quiz to complete the fun.*

January Club nightThe Alternative Bring and Buy.

Chair Chat

A report on the Autumn Leaves Run appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The October club meet was the annual Bring and Buy or as our wives would have it, 'time for some of the old rusty metal bits to change sheds/ garages / shelves'. John Roberts was master of ceremonies and even with a diminishing quantity of goods to auction, he managed to put £32 into the club coffers. Arnold would have been well pleased with his apprentice! Well done and thank you John. Only 36 people attended but there were times when the room actually sounded like an auction house. Our thanks too to the runners, Ken, Arthur and Andy Lowe and to the number "crunchers" Ian, Elaine and Norma.

November Club Night will be a talk by the Sculptor, James Butler RA. entitled 'James Butler, Sculptor, Life and Work'

Born in London in 1931, he lived most of his early life in Kent. He was educated at Maidstone Grammar School and Maidstone College of Art before moving to St Martin's School of Art in London followed by the RCA.

He spent 10 years working as a professional stone carver with the Master Mason, Gerald Giudici and is responsible for many carvings that can be seen on buildings throughout London, including the 'Queen of Beasts' in Kew Gardens. He taught sculpture and drawing at the City and Guilds of London Art School and was a visiting tutor to the James was Royal Academy Schools. . James was first elected a member of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1964 and is a member of the Royal West of England Academy (R.W.A.), Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. (F.R.B.S.), and a Member of the Society of Portrait Sculptors.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon, creating statues for *Julius Caesar*, *Coriolanus*, and other productions. Incidental contacts with Madame Tussauds in London included *The Beatles*, the model *Twiggy* and the bull- fighter *El Cordobes*. For their Amsterdam museum he made statues in plaster of two figures from Rembrandt's *Nightwatch*, of Rembrandt himself, his son *Titus* and his two wives, *Saskia van Uylenburg* and *Hendrickje Stoffels*. It was as a result of these projects that James and Angie decided that their daughter – who was born shortly afterwards – should be called Saskia.

In 1972, James Butler was commissioned to make a portrait statue of President Jomo Kenyatta. The majestic 12 foot seated figure in the centre of Nairobi was a turning point in his career. He gave up teaching and became a full time sculptor. The demand for public commissions has continued both in the U.K. and abroad.

His large monumental figurative sculptures including the *Rainbow Division Memorial*, a pieta placed at the site of the Battle of the Croix Rouge Farm in Fère-en-Tardenois, France; the

winged figure of Daedalus, a *Memorial to the Fleet Air Arm* which stands in the Embankment Gardens in London; the *Memorial to the Green Howards*, a seated figure of a contemplative soldier, described as 'one of the most moving war memorials of our time'; and the figure of *Field Marshall Earl Alexander of Tunis* in Wellington Barracks, are just a few examples of his love for the military hero.

In contrast to the towering figures he is so well known for, he has designed for the Royal Mint, the *Royal Seal of the Realm*, the *Jubilee* coin and the *50 pence piece*, commemorating Roger Bannister's 4 minute mile.

Butler continues to work on commissions with undiminished enthusiasm, and on a much smaller scale, also spends much of his time producing sculptures of children, dancers and female nudes. His wife Angie and 5 daughters are often the source of his inspiration. He lives and works in Warwickshire.

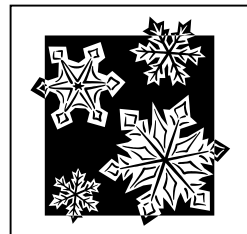
As Midlanders, you will probably have seen his sculpture of the 'Jester' at the North end of Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon. Currently he is working on a sculpture of William Shakespeare which will be sited on the new roundabout just to the South of Stratford on the A3400.

The evening promises to be interesting and informative, please support it with your presence.

11th December will be the Christmas Party as usual and the format will be the same as last year, which was deemed most successful. It will be a buffet style meal. Please make sure you book your place(s) with Elaine Devey. The price will be £10.40 as 2012.

There have been no volunteers to organise a Boxing Day Run, so it must be assumed that nobody wants one, so, don't go to Coughton Park on 26th Dec., or you will be very lonely!!

As this is the last newsletter before the festivities, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a very **Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.** **Brem**



Ideas for presents.

- **IF** you are looking for a present or stocking filler for an "enthusiast", give Sheila Turner a ring. She has a good selection of "goodies" that may fit the bill.

Don't forget to look out your unwanted presents and "treasures" for the Alternative Bring and Buy in January. All monies raised go to club funds.

REVIEW of BERT HADLEY, A SON OF BIRMINGHAM

A Tribute, compiled by Geoff Roe.

Published by the Pre War Austin Seven Club Limited

ISBN No: 978-0-9572426-2-3

Softback. 220 pages, 300 plus images

From.....Mr G.Beckett

77 All Saints Lane,

Nettleham, Lincoln

LN2 2NJ.

gabeckett@tiscali.co.uk

Price £18.00 post paid

The name of Bert Hadley is certainly known to most Austin Seven enthusiasts with his exploits at Brooklands, Shelsley Walsh, Donington and the like with the side valve and twin cam racers. His general life before, during and after his time at Austin's is however less well known.

Meeting Bert in 1980 for the first time, Geoff Roe, the book's author, struck up a friendship with the Hadley family which still endures long after Bert's death. This has enabled Geoff to write a full and fascinating biography of the man.

Hadley's death in 1993 sadly ended their friendship but set Geoff to thinking that Bert's life history should be recorded. Thus, through his archives, family, friends and many motoring enthusiasts, a full and accurate account of Bert has been written. The research has been both far ranging and in depth, with Geoff speaking to many hundreds of people. His great friendship with Bert shines through in the often personal way the book is written.

This Birmingham boy rose from humble beginnings, and after joining the 'Orstin rose through the ranks to become one of the racing greats in that era of British motor sport. Around a third of the book is devoted to his time at Longbridge. Fascinating reading it makes with much new and revealing information about the workings of Longbridge coming to light. With the onset of WW11 curtailing his racing and sadly frustrating his quest for greater successes, Bert immediately applied to be a fighter pilot but at the ripe old age of 29 was turned down flat. A loss perhaps to the RAF! Remaining at Austin's for a while he was eventually seconded to the Ministry of Labour as an Inspector and Bert thus embarked on a new career.

Peace saw Bert continuing with the day job but his pre war driving skills were remembered by many and his subsequent exploits with the Jaguar, Jowett, Healey and Triumph works teams at Le Mans, Mille Miglia etc. make for exciting reading. Austins however were not forgotten and Bert's exploits with the Work's Grasshoppers are legendary.

Together with a list of Hadley's racing successes, copies of correspondance between such luminaries as Herbert Austin, Murray Jameson, Leonard Lord etc. show the high regard he was held in the motoring industry and press.

1955 saw Hadley in his last race, this time in a TR2 at Le Mans, and where he witnessed the tragic deaths of eighty people after Levegh crashed his Mercedes. Time to hang up the goggles. Bert's career in the Civil Service continued until his retirement in 1975 and with the heritage movement starting to move up a gear Bert was drawn into all sorts of motoring memory events. Austins formed a large proportion of these memories and Bert's support in the various Austin clubs' sporting activities are well

documented. Geoff rounds off his book recounting the legacy that Bert left, together with the continuing interest shown by Clive, Bert's son, in all things Austin.

The book, in A4 format, is intelligently written in a manner that holds the reader and is never dull. The 300 plus photographs are largely excellent in their quality, nicely dispersed throughout the text and the general appearance of the publication is a testament to the skills of Nigel Hancock, who after taking over the mantle from the late Dave Wilcox, became its editor.

An important account of one of the greats of motor sport, this book should grace the shelves of all Seven enthusiasts. Mr Roe is to be congratulated.

Chris Garner
Archivist – The pre War Austin Seven Club Limited



For Sale. Austin & Bonnet believed to be Mark 1 Ruby, good condition £50.00
Steering wheel – Ruby.....£10.00
Some window glass- phone for details
Panel surround over gearstick **£ Offers**
3 speed gear box casing- gears rusty(possibly salvageable) casing ok
£Offers
Pair of chassis extensions for a Ruby will fit Mark 1 or 2
See Part number BR149 and BR150 on page 139 Wyatt
(These items are prone to rust so examine yours) **Sensible Offers**

6volt_Volkswagen dynamo suitable to convert Austin 3 brush dynamo to CVC system. See Austin Seven Companion page 260..”That Dreaded Dynamo “ They claim that you can obtain 45 amps, an improvement on what Austin can offer! **Best Offer**

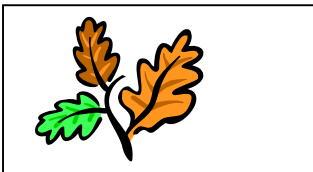
Book of the Austin Seven and EightPitman £10.00

Complete set of “Old Glory” magazines from Issue 1 up to and including July 2013 (Issue 1, premier edition now rare and only available Secondhand. 281 copies in total **Best Offer**

Contact Tom Parry tel.01952 771352/ mobile. 07711979829

For Sale

I understand that the Ruby of the late Ron Lake is on the market and I cannot find the details at the moment so if you are interested please contact Brem and I am sure he will help. My apologies ED.



Autumn Leaves Run 20th October 2013

The Ranch Caravan Park at Honeybourne provided the ideal starting point for an amble through the Autumn Leaves with a cuppa and biscuits thrown in. 43 members, wives, partners and navigators assembled with 17 Austins and 4 moderns. The CC stop was much appreciated by all the crews particularly those who had already driven some way. (CC =Coffee & comfort) A very large thank you to Sheila and Andy yet again.

The run started dry and it became brighter as the day progressed. The drive through Spring Hill was not as colourful as we have known, but we were a week earlier, due to the change of dates by the Restoration Show.

The lunch stop at the Kings Head Inn in Bledington seemed to satisfy everyone, Judging by the noise of conversation and despite the fact they had to cater for an additional 8 crew members who just turned up on the day. As it was, the room they had reserved for MA7C was at bursting point and 7 people were obliged to eat in the bar!!



We left Bledington in sunshine but during the afternoon it clouded over and by the time the later arrivals made it to Blackwell Village Hall it was raining hard. During the tea stop we had some really heavy rain but all the Leaf Kickers were safely gathered within, some of the damper ones were gently steaming!!!

Our thanks to Ken and Sheila for arranging funding the tea at Blackwell and to the Philps, the Harris family. Thanks also to the Philps, Harris and Deveys for their help with clearing up. Even Ian Devey was seen holding a dish cloth.

RBS



What a posh new trophy! And the winners are John and Alison Roberts .

Roving Reporters

Angela and John

STOKE BRUERNE VILLAGE AT WAR



This is a really good event with lots of re-enactors and the whole village seems to get involved.



There are trips on the canal and Cheese and Fudge narrow boats selling Black Market goods and lots of other stalls.

Re-enactors on the towpath.

“George Formby” entertained



In the Post

Dear Each and All

Recently I was talking with Eric Martin, the Membership Secretary for the Essex A7C, about the difficulty that A7 clubs have in getting their members to complete the details about their Austin 7s on the Club Membership Renewal Form.

As I think we all agree, this information is extremely valuable and useful for all Austin 7 owners and enthusiasts when provided in the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register.

I fully appreciate that many members cannot be bothered and will not take heed when prompted to do so by their own club.

Therefore, I thought that it might be useful if I, as the A7CA Registrar, pointed out the reason and usefulness gathering this data, in a letter, that you might wish to include with the club membership renewal form. It might help!

Any way, if you think that it may help, then here it is.

Best regards, Jim Blacklock
A7CA Registrar (www.a7ca.org)



The A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register

Dear Austin 7 Owners

I understand that my main responsibility as the **A7CA Registrar** is to look after the **A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register** on behalf of ALL OWNERS and ALL ENTHUSIASTS of Austin around the world. In other words I am trying to **look after the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register for you who are reading this now.**

The **A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register** has been built up, since 1970, by the previous six A7CA Registrars and continued by myself today, and has been compiled from the data that has mainly been passed onto us by the Member Clubs of the A7CA and the Austin 7 owners themselves (either directly or via the A7CA Website). The A7CA Member Clubs have in turn gathered the information from their membership, when the members have joined and on an annual basis when their membership is renewed.

The information contained in the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register is useful to Austin 7 owners (current and previous) and enthusiasts for the following reasons:-

- It provides a **One-Stop Source about all the Surviving Austin 7s, world-wide, which is continually being updated and is available to anyone on the A7CA website (www.a7ca.org).**
- Many previous owners want to pass on photos and information about the car when they owned it, so it is beneficial to current owners, as a means of obtaining this type of information.
- If the particular Austin 7 does still exist, then the A7CA Register provides the first step in locating the current owner, without divulging the current owner's whereabouts (so respecting their confidentiality and security) by providing the name of the A7 Club that the current owner belongs to. The previous owner then has to contact that club, who will hopefully be able to pass on the request. It is then up to the current owner whether they want to contact the previous owner.
- For Austin 7 Enthusiasts doing research into particular Austin 7 Models, the A7CA Register gives a means of identifying when that particular model was produced and how many actually remain
- The A7CA Register also provides information as to changes that have taken place with particular Austin 7s during their existence. For example data with respect to changes in Registration Numbers, Colours, Engines, the original donor car for an Austin 7 Special, previous A7 Clubs, when it was sold by auction, and even which country it is in, etc..

- There are so many Austin 7 Specials in the A7CA Register, each of which is “special” in their build, that I have tried to include the name of the car’s builder or the manufacturer of the body, in the model name of these cars. Therefore if an A7 Special is made by Joe Bloggs, then it will be listed as the “Bloggs Special”, and so becomes a unique car in the A7CA Register. So if you own an A7 Special, please provide that sort of information.

Please remember that all this information in the A7CA Register, about your Austin 7 has been provided by you, or the previous owners. The information as to where the car is kept or the owner is totally confidential because I as the A7CA Registrar do not know the actual details of the ownership of these Austin 7s. That information is only available via the Austin 7 Club that you belong to.

When the A7CA Register was passed over to me in July 2012, it contained 10,626 Austin 7 cars and chassis. Some of those entries were duplications because of multiple registration numbers for the same car or other inaccuracies being provided to previous Registrars. It has taken me a great deal of time and effort to try to resolve these problems **for your benefit**. Recently I have separated out entries for Rosengart and Dixi/BMW made “Austin 7s”, so **currently the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register contains 10,231 entries.**

Please help your club to help the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register, by providing ALL THE DATA ASKED FOR WHEN YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please note that just entering “*Same as last year*” is not what is being asked for, because the data that you supplied last year may have been destroyed for some reason or other, including your security.

The A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register and your Austin 7 Club are only trying to provide you and all A7 enthusiasts with an up-to-date source of information about ALL Surviving Austin 7s.

BUT the current A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register CANNOT UP-TO-DATE WITHOUT YOUR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR AUSTIN 7(s)!!

Thank you for taking to time to read this. Most of all, please remember that the most important thing is that all surviving Austin 7s are being used, enjoyed and putting smiles on people’s faces. Surely that cannot be a bad thing, however you look at it?

Best regards

Jim Blacklok

A7CA Registrar, November 2013

Seasons Greetings from ED.

I gave the editors award for 2013 to Angela Hawker and John Tibbets and I am sure you can see why as you read or flick through this news letter. They send me something most months and without them you may only get what Brem and I can muster.

It would be so good to have a few more contributions in 2014. If you only send photos and captions or a few lines you would make an old editor very happy!

Also has any body had any thoughts about celebrating the 50th year of Stanford Hall? I think it would be shame to let it pass without some recognition. Just let the committee know if you have any thoughts either way, and if we do celebrate it we shall need your support. If no one responds it will just pass by.

Have a super festive season and if you go out in your Seven let me know!

PS. If I didn't have a moan this space would have been blank.

Roving Reporters

NORTH NORFOLK RAILWAY FORTIES WEEKEND

We wanted to take the Pearl but the organiser would not answer phone calls or emails so we went to the office at Sheringham but she was unavailable so she obviously was not interested although on the day there were lots of cars some totally out of the time frame and inappropriate.



Here we are on the train and when we stopped at Sheringham Station we were delighted to see Mervyn Hoyle with his veg van raising money for Help for Heroes.



The train leaving Weybourne Station



Corporal Jones



A line up of cars on Holt Station

NORTHAMPTON AND LAMPORT RAILWAY FORTIES WEEKEND



A line of vehicles



A selection of Military vehicles

Re-enactors and the Hospital tents

Church Parade on Sunday

