



Midlands

Austin Seven club

April

Newsletter 2011



Time for the Motor home branch of the MA7C to take to the road.



Forthcoming Events

Club Nights 2011 Monthly Meeting's

April -Noggin and Natter

May – Bring your car/ Driving tests.

Events

Packwood House Rally (See Out and About page for details, enter ASAP!)

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

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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)





Cotswold Chair Chat

31 cars started and most managed the assault course although I understand your chairman's parentage was brought into question. (They were married). Two cars unfortunately had to be medi-vaced home later in the day. A Fabric body saloon* suffered magneto problems and was recovered and the Harris Ruby broke a half shaft just short of Paxford but Mick, was picked by our Sweeper, John Cookson, taken to The Ranch where he handed in his questionnaire and collected his Land Rover and trailer. The Marriner tourer cried 'enough' having climber the West face at Buckland and despite the gallant efforts of Andy Lowe, it refused to generate sparks from a defunct coil. A new coil at the completion of the run enabled it to get home.

It was great to see Harold and Edith after his spell in Hospital. Harold was in good form offering technical advice to Team Russell whose number two car was suffering from a touch of the vapours above Sudeley. Richard Ellis joined us at the start and, as he had to be at the Ratcliffe Hospital in the afternoon, took the opportunity to start teaching his daughter to drive the Gordon England on the grass where we had all assembled prior to the run. We were sorry to hear that Heidi Collins is reducing her stable and this was the last Cotswold that UK 6181 would do under her control. Anyone interested in UK 6181 contact Heidi direct. Chris and Sue Johns went to considerable trouble to ensure all the quiz questions were answered. This despite the fact the Gloucestershire CC closed part of the route at Salters Way near Hailes Abbey. In such straitened times, it's hard to understand the logic of resurfacing a 'white' road on a Sunday with all the resultant overtime costs! Maybe GCC is flusher than most!

I omitted to thank John Cookson, Pauline and their twin daughters at the Ranch, for their efforts as sweepers. I believe they had more to do on this run than the previous 4 put together. Many thanks too to Andy and Sheila Attridge who yet again hosted the finish and laid on a superb tea with both sarnies and stickies! An excellent finish to a good days motoring.

***Tailpiece.....**Does anyone know who owns the fabric bodied 7 ? It started the run, but the sparks dept. failed. There is no record of the crew signing on. Those I have spoken to do not recognise the car. Do any of you photographers have a picture of the car with a number plate showing? This is **not** a witch hunt but it would be good to know who joined us. They may already be members.

Have you entered for the Packwood House Rally on Sunday 10th or the Longbridge Run on Sunday 17th July. Last years' Avoncroft Rally was popular with all attendees and Packwood is probably even more interesting with both house and gardens to view. Entry forms and more details of both these events can be found in the February edition of the newsletter.

There is a private collection of major aircraft parts that is only open to the public by special arrangement in former farm buildings near Ombersley. This includes the nose / cockpit and crew area of a Canberra, (and you thought a Ruby was small for four), a multitude of aero engines and aircraft equipment, avionics and armament. In addition for the ladies, there is a collection of wartime domestic equipment including a steel framed kitchen table which trebles as an air-raid shelter and bed for two!! There is a large picnic area around a pond on the farm. Please contact me in the first instant. The date chosen is 24th July and members would make their own way to the Holt Fleet. Please let me know ASAP if you are interested as a number of clubs are anxious to include this run in their calendar. There is a reply notification elsewhere in this newsletter. Please Note: There has been a date change for the 90th Anniversary 2012 Road Run. It will now take place on Saturday 21st July 2012.

ATB Brem

Yet Another Bit Of The Big 7

Re-engineered.

At long last after a year of work, progress is now gathering momentum on the engine re-build. I picked up the re-machined block, crank and head from CBM last October but it took another two months to locate another camshaft that could be cleaned and returned to service. After several failed attempts at getting an acceptable camshaft, most were in the same condition or worse than mine. I even looked at one out of an Austin 8 engine as essentially they are almost the same but this had gone the same way. During conversation with Robin Taylor, he was taking an engine apart and I could have first refusal if the camshaft was salvageable. Well, as you can see by the before and after it was just about do-able. The lobes were slightly marked and had some surface pitting but not too much.

The fix was to use a small diamond stone followed up with an oilstone. The lobes can be returned to operation, any small pits left are not to worry about as at least they can retain a small reservoir of oil, so long as the main surface is flat and smooth. The surface metal is extremely hard and so the job takes patience and hours of work. It might not be in strict engineering terms best practice but it is thought to be a working and satisfactory fix.

On to the big clean, I have decided to paint the block and head in MOWOG green and so the preparation starts. All the old paint was removed from the block with a scraper and wire brush in the electric drill. All threaded holes were cleaned and a tap run down to remove any debris, the oil galleries were cleaned using a small brush and Gunk followed by compressed air. The inside of the crankcase was degreased, scraped and degreased again.

In fact a repetitive and thorough cleaning job. Two exhaust manifold studs were broken level with the face of the block and after much worrying and head scratching I decided to remove them myself. The method was as follows, file flat, mark centre and centre punch. Rest the engine block on it's side and place under a bench drill, drill a pilot hole and then a tapping hole, tap with taper, second and bottom tap. This process was rehearsed in my head so many times before doing this, I wasted so much brain energy in fear of really messing this up. Typical, the whole process took five minutes, what was all the fuss about??

The block was masked up and then painted after yet another clean. Several coats of paint were then applied. The next job is another big clean up making sure all new and reconditioned parts are to hand ready for the big re-build. New lock tabs, new nuts and studs where necessary and all new gaskets made. A mentally exhausting episode and I've still got to rebuild the engine yet!!

John Richardson

OUT AND ABOUT

MAY

7th- 8th - Marches transport festival (Ludlow) Sally on 01584 87957
info@marchestransportfestival.co.uk Cdate 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

4th –5th Woollaton Autocarna (We shall be camping if you want to join us.*ED*)

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 - Andy Lowe 0121 477 0547**

MA7C event *****

16th- Help for Heroes Gathering at Ramada hotel, Bewdley DY12 1LA (11.30)
Just turn up or Tel.01562 639455

* 17th – **Longbridge tour and Picnic – Sheila Turner, 01608 682463**

15th –17th Cholmondly Castle Pagent of Power, Cheshire. See their website.
Contact Lesley(ED) for further details.

Wanted..... Your views and views of The Cotswold Run.

Cancer Research Race for Life

We have two club members taking part in this event this year (maybe others)
Alison Roberts and Louise Lowe. You can go on the website to show your support for
these girls or give them a donation when you see them. It is a worthy cause and we
wish them luck on the day.

HOME *from* HOME.....

By J F Cookson

Few of us can boast an address better known to members than “The Ranch, Honeybourne”, the finishing point for the Cotswold Run.

The ranch is of course, the home of Andy and Sheila Attridge whose generosity ensures that the end of the run no one goes home without a bite to eat, a cup of tea or coffee and an opportunity to exchange experiences with other members, in comfort.

For most of the year The Ranch is home, also, to more than two hundred families who occupy the holiday homes and chalets discreetly located around the forty eight acre site. A further one hundred and twenty pitches are available for touring caravans. All enjoy the excellent facilities we are privileged to share on our fleeting visits.

Established more than fifty years ago, The Ranch is very much a family business into which Andy and Sheila have invested many, many hours and a considerable amount of money, developing the site and its facilities to their present very high standard.

When business pressures permit Andy and Sheila make full use of their collection of interesting cars. Pride of place must be given to their two Sevens, a 1929 Chummy (OF2368) and a 1932 RN Saloon (KSU 803), both of which will be well known to many members as regular participants in Club events since the late nineteen eighties.



The Chummy and the RN Saloon takes a rest in a quiet corner in the Cotswolds.

The Chummy gained “official” recognition when the late Stanley Edge awarded it Best in Show at Gaydon.



Also regularly exercised are a 1970 Sunbeam Stiletto and a Triumph TR4. All four are maintained by Andy, who studied engineering at Nottingham University, and have made numerous Continental tours since they joined the Attridge family and the happy holidaymakers at The Ranch.

Many thanks to John and his “team” for the rescue work done on the Cotswold Run, especially our car! (ED)

Also thanks to Brem and Jenny for the work they put into organising an event like this and Andy and Sheila for the super refreshments.

Grumpy Old Ed.

As the Rally season approaches I feel I must air my frustration at those few who do not return trophies, and I know sometimes there are genuine reasons for this. It is disappointing for the next recipient to leave empty handed.

When Keith and I did the Stanford Hall Rally it was very rarely that we had all of the trophies returned and all credit to those who went to great lengths to get them to us. Some have gone missing altogether. It was really embarrassing to have to say that *your* trophy had not been returned. I am particularly saddened that The Marriner Shield, which we gave to the Stanford Rally, has not been seen for some years despite having a phone number, which proved fruitless.

Don't forget these 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

Sales and Wants

Assorted Mark1 Ruby parts for sale.

Front axle complete with spring and track rod £100

Front axle beam fits 1923to1935 £60

Bonnet MK1 Ruby £50

Side panels for Ruby bonnet with vents - offers

6volt semaphores NEW £50 pair

6volt windscreen wiper motor £20

Austin7 3 speed gear box gears rusty but casing ok (33?)- offers

Set of connecting rods for A7 1934-39 -offers

Pitman's Handbook for A7 and eight by Station Abbey £15

Ruby Steering wheel £10

Other odd items for Ruby -rusty bumpers, floor panel, gear box cover, Ruby chassis extensions (good), Parts BR149 and 150 including rubber bump stops BR153 -**Offers**

Mk1 Ruby windows -doors x 2, quarter lights (no surrounds), back window -**Offers**

Ruby running boards - no rubber £15 pair

Side lift jack for A7 later models £15 O.V.N.O

Tom Parry (MA7C member) 01952 771352 mob. 07711979829

High Ercall, Nr Shrewsbury TF6 6AE

Austin a family affair (A return of the Anoraks)

I am a true fan of the Saturday morning radio programme Sounds of the Sixties, not only the music but the encyclopaedic knowledge of Brian Mathews. Although released on the first day in the next decade one song that regularly goes around my head when I am in the garage is 'Almost There' by Andy Williams..... not that it sticks in my mind for the lyrics (love and kisses) but the fact that after almost 12 months the RK is about to emerge onto the roads of Warwickshire. As I write this month's article engine and gearbox are back in the car (after thorough bench test) and I have the radiator and rear lights to finish off before wheeling the car down to the MOT station at the end of the month. The job has certainly taken longer than expected but almost every nut and bolt has been taken out cleaned and returned in an attempt to conserve the car's history and keeping restoration to a minimum.



Since we started in Austin's a few years ago Colin has become known as a bit of an 'Austin anorak' in the Bert Hadley racing fraternity but it came as a surprise to find that my brother, who has no interest in cars let alone Austin's had detailed knowledge of one particular 7.

His passion is *Dad's Army*..... (I have often told him to go on Mastermind as his knowledge on the subject is legendary) and it came as a bolt out of the blue when he said to me a few days ago I wonder what happened to the 1927-1928 Austin

Chummy used in the famous series. I was not aware they used an Austin let alone the details, so in true anorak fashion he was able to tell me EU2657 was last used in Series 5 on 3rd November 1972 in the episode *The Desperate Drive of Corporal Jones*. When I questioned him further he believes it was filmed in or around Thetford, so we both wonder if the car was from the Norfolk region. He has tried to locate a still of the car but to no avail. Where is the car now? Does the present owner know of its 'famous' history? Is it still the same powder blue colour? All questions for a bit of investigation.

This weekend Colin, myself and the family are at the second Bert Hadley hill climb on Gurston Hill near Salisbury. The first round of the championship was at Mallory Park when Terry Griffin set a blistering start to the 2011 series. Gurston is a relatively straight forward hill with not too many challenging twists and turns so if the weather is fine the times tend to be close.

Well it's back from Gurston and on with the final bits and pieces on the RK. As with all cars it will never be finished but at least it returns to the road after 40 years languishing unloved in an open garage. So the Andy Williams song is very appropriate tribute to the old girl.

Clive (and Colin)

JOGGLE 2012

The 750 Motor Club is promoting, on behalf of the Austin 7 Clubs Association, a demonstration run of pre-war Austin Sevens and other pre-war Austins from

John O'Groats to Land's End at Easter 2012 between Saturday April 7th and Wednesday 11th April in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Austin Seven.

If you would like details of the event and an entry form please contact:-

Gill Davis, Ginty's, Carlton Green, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 9LE
Telephone: 01223 290740 Email: camionette@hotmail.co.uk

Dear fellow editor. One of my members has a story to tell about UV 6464 (see message below) – it was on the register under 750MC but no longer, apparently, although it is still on the road somewhere. May I ask you run it as a Where Are They Now?

Best wishes David

I am a member of the Dorset A7 club and a friend, David Knight, had a family connection with this vehicle (UV 6464) and relates some prank with the car being hoisted aboard his brother's ship. He would like to be in touch with the present owner if possible, can you help?

Gordon Cowie
DA7C

Workshop TerminologyTo be continued.

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.

VICE-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.

See Paragraph 5 of Chair Chat

MA7C Run to a Private Aeronautical Collection

This run to a farm near Ombersley is being organised for
Sunday 24th July with an arrival time of 11.00 am.

There is plenty of room for picnicking on the farm near their duck pond, but if
Members prefer there is also a range of local hostelrys.

There is no charge for this visit, but there is a collection for the
Hereford and Worcester Air Ambulance.

Location details (map reference / post code) will be sent to interested parties.

In order to establish interest and numbers for this run, please contact
Brem: details on inside front cover of this newsletter.

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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

