

November 2024 Newsletter

MIDLANDS

Austin Seven

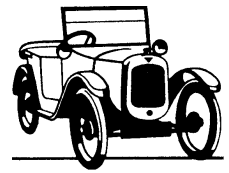
CLUB



Thank you to Andy Lowe and all the other volunteers who helped to make the 40th Classic car show a great success!



The Autumn Leaves Run undeterred by the wind and rain of Storm Ashley!



Chair Chat

Hello and welcome!

The Bring & Buy meeting was reasonably well supported thanks to those members that took the time to attend, and thanks to John and Alison Roberts we raised a goodly amount for the club! The Autumn Leaves Run went very well even though the weather was atrocious and I got drowned while I was videoing, both the lunchtime stops at, 'Ye Olde Hobnail Pub' and at the end of the run at Blackwell village hall, (for the archives to be seen at a later date!)

Well the NEC show went well, with plenty of interest shown and we've given out quite a few membership forms, so hopefully pick up some new members and we sold quite a bit of Regalia. Thanks to Andy and all those members that helped out over the 6 days of the setup and show, Ian and I had the Saturday off this year for the first time and boy did I need it! I think I'm getting old! I put a short Video on our Facebook page for those who haven't seen it.



As I write this, I'm preparing the special to go to Dave Tedham's funeral. I hope to see a few of you there to give him a good send off.

Well that's about it for another month, please try and make it to the talk by Clive Danks on, "A Tale from the Potteries". I'm sure it will quite enlightening and don't forget if you haven't booked your place on the Christmas dinner get in touch with Brem A.S.A.P. as we are restricted to 32.

Regards Rick Bishop

Oops overdue membership?

This could be your last newsletter if you haven't renewed your membership!

It was due on 1st October 2024.

We have beaten inflation as the subscription remains at just £30 with all the great benefits your MA7C club offers you! Together we offer friendship, problem solving advice, events during the year and sharing our ideas in our newsletter AND have fun driving our Austin Sevens together.

Ways to pay: by BACS - Bank details – NatWest, Sort code 60-07-40, Account 81063717. Cheque or cash when you come to club night.

Thank for your support as we continue our journey in the MA7C together.

IF YOU have paid and HAVEN'T GOT YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FOR 2025 PLEASE CONTACT PAM, as you aren't on the new membership list.

[**dtrickett331@btinternet.com**](mailto:dtrickett331@btinternet.com)

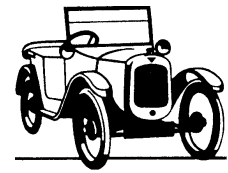


Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription.

New Members

A warm welcome to all our new MA7C members this month Russell Sykes, David Lusty and Paul Eames.





Events


Please let Andy Lowe know if you hear of any more events which you think members would enjoy
2024 (Club Events in Bold)

26th November
Club Night. Talk by
Clive Danks

“It’s only a Cup of Tea”
A tale from the Potteries.

A fascinating talk with audience participation
by Clive Danks (An MA7C member)

Come to club night on Tuesday 26th November
at 8:00pm at Beoley village Hall. Save the date!



10th December **Christmas Dinner at the Fleur de Lys, Lowsonford. Places are still available, book with Brem (he will circulate the Menu when it arrives).**

28th December Dave Wilcocks Memorial Trial, lincsa7events@gmail.com & PWA7C

2025

28th January **Club Night: Alternative Bring and Buy + Pizza**

5th/9th February Retromobile, Paris

21st/23th February Race Retro, NAC, Stoneleigh

25th February **Club Night:**

21st/23rd March Restoration Show NEC

25th March **Club Night:**

13th April Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb, season opener

29th April **Club Night:**

17th May Redditch Classic Motor Show, www.Shakespearesrally.com

27th May **Club Night:**

30th June 1st May PWA7C Stonehurst Rally

30th May 1st June www.vintagenostalgiafestival.com ; Wiltshire

24th June **Club Night:**

7th June SWA7C Bryngarw Rally

29th June Beaulieu Austin 7 Rally

29th June SA7C Guildtown Rally

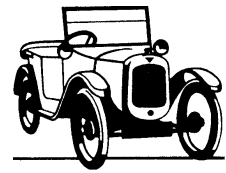
29th July **Club Night:**

22-24th August Silverstone Festival

26th August **Club Night:**

30th September **Club Night: AGM**





Members Musings

Young Members – Robin Boyce

We all know that we need to enlist more young members to take over, as grey hair predominates. I'm doing my best and a few years ago offered my eldest son a drive in the Chummy. After a short trip with much crashing of gears and standing on the brake pedal he got out, slammed the door and declared that he would never try that again. No sense of adventure, some people.

Yet he now has his own 'unusual' cars, a small fleet of Citroen 2CVs; a concours saloon, though more d'etat than d'elegance with its idiosyncratic French styling; a decrepit-looking Van, Oily-Rag they call it these days, student transport in my day; another everyday saloon; and a half share in a BMW motorbike-engined saloon that he once took up to 85mph then chickened out, with the car threatening to shake itself to pieces and the standard brakes a worrying thought. So perhaps he is a younger member, but in a different club.

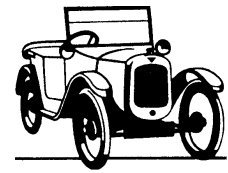
By the bye, the lad and his bride set off in the no.1 saloon for their wedding in the south of France, but got caught up in a carnival parade in the centre of Paris, and then the car broke down. It was sent home in disgrace and they let the train take the strain. A kind villager lent his 2cv for the photographs.

My other son is into vintage tractors, and has no mechanical sympathy... So I have started to educate my grandchildren with the forlorn hope that the MA7C will still be here and they will be able to drive cars in 10 and 13 years time and become the third generation of the family to run an Austin 7.





Celebrating 100 years of the Austin Seven



Autumn Leaves Run '24

Matt Brough

The annual MA7C Autumn Leaves run took place on Sunday 20th October. This relaxed drive through picturesque Cotswold countryside saw a number of members bring out their Sevens (and a couple of other machines) for the last official Club run of the year. Storm Ashley threatened to spoil the day's plans; indeed, the morning was especially wet and windy. However, after lunch the precipitation eased off and blue skies and low, seasonal sun picked out some wonderful autumnal hues in the trees and hedgerows.

Meeting up at 'The Ranch' in Honeybourne we enjoyed hot drinks and refreshments courtesy of the Attridge family, whilst listening to Brem's 'pre-match briefing' and his warning that the ford crossing near the Guitings might require waders after recent weather! Sideways rain meant that there wasn't much chance to admire other Austins in the car park, so with route instructions in hand we headed off: the Rainex on the windscreen of our RK saloon was certainly put to the test!



Mickey admires a seasonal adornment!



A hardy bunch of Austineers prepare to face the weather!



With rain easing off it was lovely to admire some of the 'Autumn Leaves'

The morning drive, with its straightforward route instructions, took us through some beautiful Cotswolds scenery with stunning autumnal colours on display at times. We passed Broadway Tower and travelled through the Spring Hill estate until we eventually arrived at 'Ye Olde Hobnails Inn' at Little Washbourne for our delicious pre-ordered roast lunches. Luckily, the aforementioned ford wasn't quite as hadalpelagic as we had all feared and we were able to press on with little ado. In fact, one large puddle at a t-junction was almost as deep as the ford crossing!



The RK braves the wet Cotswolds!

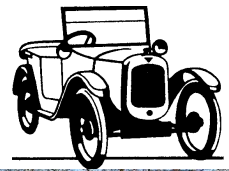


Preparing to cross the ford – no problem for an Austin 7!





Celebrating 100 years of the Austin Seven



With the afternoon sun breaking through, the run was thoroughly pleasant as we meandered amongst honey-coloured Cotswold villages and hamlets. We paused to admire the scenery and take a couple of pictures, including snapping one of the best road signs I've ever encountered (see below). The distance travelled for the day's run was around sixty miles and finishing at Blackwell Village Hall we were met with tea, cakes and a chance to chat to others about the day. Dad (Ian) was honoured to be awarded the Sheila Turner Memorial Trophy; apparently the landlord of Ye Olde Hobnails was asked which car he would most like to take home and he chose our RK – I'm sure the period Mickey Mouse radiator mascot had something to do with it! A great day out in old cars with fellow Austineers: many thanks, as ever, to Brem and Jenny for their great organisation.



The sun comes out to play and reveal beautiful Cotswold colours



Surely a contender for the best road sign in Britain?!



Ian with the trophy at the finish in Blackwell

Additional pictures from the Autumn Leaves run.



There was no problem for an Austin Seven to pass the fallen tree.

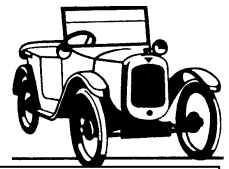


However Gail Warrington and her daughter, as her car shows, got out and helped to move the tree into the hedgerow!





Celebrating 100 years of the Austin Seven



Then things got a little tricky with driving wind and rain. Poor visibility and rain blowing through the air gaps that all Austins have!



Undeterred, we all successfully arrived at the lunch stop, although perhaps a little damp.



After a delicious lunch and lots of Austin chatter we were on our way. Then one of the cars, (not an Austin) was seen reversing back up a hill, saying the standing water was too deep. Ready for the challenge, the Austins descended down the hill and successfully negotiated through the water.



Our next instructions told us this sign does not apply to our all terrain Austin Sevens!



The road was interesting and the cars did get rather muddy, but the Austins were on their natural 1930s style roads.

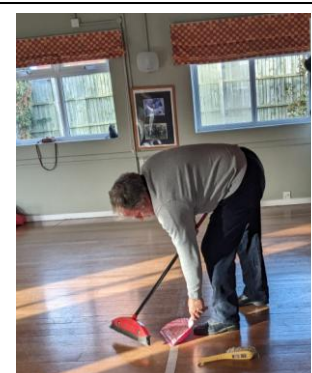


We drove over the highest point in Warwickshire with the red Kites flying overhead.

Everyone thought it was an exceptional drive with many interesting features to enjoy on the way. We would like to thank The Attridge family for fortifying us we hot drinks and biscuits for the start of our day, the Hanney sisters for the beautiful drive through Spring Hill estate and a special thank you to Brem and Jenny for organising the day.

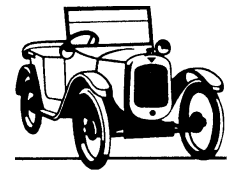
Come and join us for the spring run and another adventure!

Pam Trickett



Ian Devey cleaning the cakes crumbs at the end of the day.





Dorridge Day Classic Car Show.

We looked at the weather forecast for the day and it was either going to be brilliant sunshine or rain with potential thunder storms. So Dave decided it would be prudent if he fitted the windscreen wiper to the newly installed vacuum motor and spray rainex on the window. After a hopeful glimpse of blue sky in the early morning, this rapidly changed to heavy rain. Fortunately, we regard our Austin Seven as a, 'Use in all weathers car!' Dave prepared the car for a crank handle start, as he had been having some trouble with the starter motor. On the third attempt it burst into life and he reversed the car out of the drive. Then, he realised the oil tray would fill with rain water if he left it on the drive so he rushed out to put it away, slamming the car door in the process. As a consequence, the window winder flew off the door, but was then wedged into place and we were on our way.

We travelled along the country roads to the Black Boy Pub in Knowle where all the classics would meet. On the way, Dave tried his windscreen wiper, which turned out to have been hurriedly fitted the wrong way round. (Fortunately the rainex was doing a good job). There was a good selection of classic cars in the pub, now standing in ever increasing puddles.

The lead car for the parade set off, followed by a long convoy of classics, passing through Knowle and into Dorridge. Despite the rain, there were plenty of people to cheer, wave and video us as we made our way to Dorridge Park. Only one car stopped with mechanical problems. Dave had to put his foot down to keep up with the modern classics. The road to the park was narrow, bumpy and muddy as a consequence, some people spent some time wiping off the mud so they could be pristine for the visitors. When Dave got out he saw one of the headlights was in a comical position after all



1931 Box Saloon (or is it a van?)

the bumps, so prepositioned it in place. Amazingly, as we set up the MA7C pennant, the clouds moved away leaving the sun to shine for the rest of the day.



1937 Austin 7 Super Accessories



1925 Pram Hood

Three other people had brought their Austin Sevens and the pennant became a magnet to draw them and the public to our car. We had many visitors admiring the car and asking lots of questions. Both children and adults enthusiastically sat in the car for a photo. It was an enjoyable day and it was great to give Austin Sevens a higher profile with the public. Pam & Dave

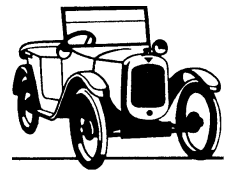


RK saloon





Celebrating 100 years of the Austin Seven



NEC

Thank you to all those involved in the Classic Car Show and gave their time so freely. Especially those who brought cars, often at the last minute, due to mechanical problem of others.

Cars on display were :

Elaine Devey - Pearl, David Robins – Chummy, Ron Rudge – Opal, John Eden – Ruby, David Nightingale – Big Seven.

Particular, Thank You, to those who fetched, carried, and returned items and helped to pack up at the end of the show.

If you find yourself with something from the show or are still wearing the MAC badge or it has been washed on your jumper. Please return on club night.

Andy

NEC by Numbers – Andy Lowe

Feeling secure that someone else would write a report, I thought I would look at the figures behind the event.

15th... December 2023 Application sent in for the show

31st ...May 2024 offer of stand received and accepted

4th... June ticket offer and advert for show for the Newsletter received.

40.... Years of the show at the NEC, before we were at Bingley Hall in Birmingham

12th ... Contract for the show signed (yes it is that formal!)

2nd ... September started persuading members to bring their cars and asked for volunteers.

1st ... October completed entry for the Show Guide, you collect by the door.

36 ... wrist bands offered for displaying 5 cars

14th ... October sent press release, which got 2 extra Wrist bands

5 ... cars lined up to be on display

7 ... Members used the club code to get discounted tickets

38 ... members were lined up for passes to the show

5 ... car park passes were organised to get maximum use at the show

22nd ... October passes and attendees details sent to organisers

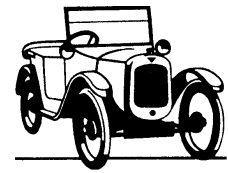
18 ... emails sent with Attendee notes and site maps sent

23rd ... October attendees received confirmation of their wristbands by email

31st ... October I received **my** email because I realised I had made a cobbler's of **my** email address

6.30 ... each morning the alarm went off for 4 days





Madresfield Driving Tests – Robin Boyce

This was the 77th running of this ambiguous event by the Vintage Sports Car Club, tests laid out on the ¼ mile Gloucester Drive of Madresfield Court, in the shadow of the Malvern Hills and home of the Lygon family since the 12th century. You would think that variations of 5 tests laid out on this narrow strip might become a little boring over such a time but the great variety of competing cars and spectators' vehicles, parked along the side the track and the relaxed atmosphere still attract competitors and audience alike.

So as you cannot enjoy the atmosphere or chatting with friends, here are a couple of the cars and the story of the Court, taken from the official programme.



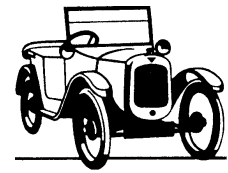
Nick Cook's 1907 Stanley H20 steam car which exhibited wonderful acceleration for that era.

The 1906 Bianchi 28/40 of 7400cc. Just two years after the youngest cars in the VCC's Brighton Run, the Bianchi was in a new world.



Further entertainment came from the Croome Brass Band.





An Appeal to Members

Newsletter contributions needed

I hope that the newsletter is valued by our members. It does take a considerable effort to produce newsletters with interesting and varied content. Although the club has several regular contributors, we always welcome new contributions.

Please send your letters, articles, photos, comments, sales and wants to dtrickett331@btinternet.com or by post to David Trickett, 2 Dunchurch Close Balsall Common, CV7 7PN.

Copy for inclusion in the following month's newsletter is required by the 12th of each month.

Keeping in touch

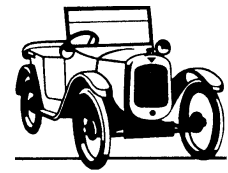
As well as the newsletter you can keep in touch and up to date via our Facebook Group: Midlands Austin 7 Club and the Website: www.ma7c.co.uk

Toolbox Tools

These tools are available for members to borrow. Contact Dave Trickett. If you have other tools which members would find useful and you are prepared to loan, please let Dave know.

Hub Puller
Valve spring compressor
Engine stand
Crankcase front bearing removal tool (see Woodrow for instructions – crankcase damage possible – use with care)
Flywheel puller
Valve seat cutter
Rear hub locking tool
Clutch alignment bar
Rear hub locking tool





Technical Tips

Derusting Parts – Chris Johns

Those of you who like to get spectacular results with minimal effort, this is just for you. Not of course, that Austin Sevens ever suffer from any form of rust.

This method of derusting parts, unlike just about any other thing to do with restoring old cars is very cheap and involves virtually no physical effort. It works on the principal that rust occurs through electrolytic action – as I am sure you will remember from your chemistry lessons at school, and you just reverse that process

Requirements: - Large plastic container, water, washing soda, old pieces of steel plate, 3 or 4 crocodile clips. Some wire, a battery charger (12v will do but 24 volts is better), goggles and rubber gloves (available from any good kitchen)

Remember wear the rubber gloves (but you had better tell her what you have used them for) and a good pair of goggles – the process uses washing soda and it is not good to get it in your eyes and on your skin.

The Process:

Take a large plastic container – a garden waste bin obtainable from a garden centre (or as in my case pinched from my wife's garden paraphernalia) is ideal. Fill it nearly full of water – they take about 25 litres. Add some washing soda – now this is the hard bit because it involves going into a supermarket to get it – but believe me it is possible – once you have summoned up the courage to go through those doors it really isn't too hard – alternatively you can persuade someone else to get it (like I did). You need to add about 10g for every litre and give it a good stir. Take your crocodile clips and join them together with wire sufficiently long so that you can daisy chain them around the edge of the bin. Now take a few steel plates – doesn't matter if they are rusty but if they are, clean off a contact point and clip them around the side of the container with the crocodile clips and cleaned off bit above the water level so they are all connected together. Now take your part to derust and suspend it in the electrolyte. Make sure that it is not touching the metal plates. It is best to do this with a piece of copper wire and a piece of copper rod or pipe – that way you can connect the power supply via the battery charger clip and hang your bits onto the rod with wire loops to make the connection but make sure that you have a good connection by filing a contact area onto your bit being rescued.

Now comes the fun bit. Take an ordinary battery charger connect the red (positive) to the plates and the black(negative) to the rod with your bits on it. Keep the battery charger well away from the bin – it doesn't do the battery charger or you much good if it falls in. Switch on the battery charger. You will almost immediately see little bubbles in the electrolyte near the component and the plates – it's working. Now go off and have cup of tea. Be patient it can take several days to clean a badly rusted part. If it is badly scaled, after a couple of hours take it out and rinse it in water and knock off the scaly surface rust which by this time should be quite loose, and put in back in the bath. When it is finished? (don't worry it won't do any harm to leave it in too long), take it out and wash it off and with a scouring pad (be careful that you are not caught pinching this out of the kitchen) clean off the black surface deposit and hey presto it should be bright and shiny underneath.

Note – for those who have difficulty in telling the black from red wire on the battery charger – if you get them the wrong way round and leave your component in the bath ' derusting' for several days – it will be gone when you get back because you will have made a rusting machine instead of a derusting machine!

A few tips:

Do it in a well ventilated area the bubbles given off are hydrogen which is highly inflammable.

Make the anode plates as big a surface area as possible.

Make sure that your component faces an anode – it will only derust surfaces that can 'see' the anode.

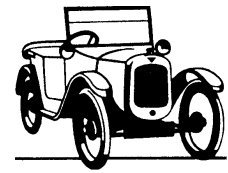
It will not derust hollow sections but if you put an anode inside wrapped in porous foam so that it doesn't touch the surface of the component it will derust the inside. If it touches the component you will knacker your battery charger.

Keep the current as low as possible. You can make the process more effective if you can make a low voltage source giving about 0.5 amps. But don't worry a battery charger is quite effective.

It will also remove paint – very slowly.

Make sure the anodes are only mild steel – some metals like chromium can create nasty substances in these conditions.





Don't try it on non steel components.
Do all this whilst the wife is out if you know what is good for you.
You could do a complete body shell in theory but you would need an awfully big plastic bin.
The two photos show the equipment and a half treated spanner



How simple can it get?



You see it really does work

Events

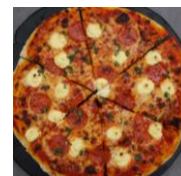
The Alternative Bring and Buy + Pizza

January 28th Beoley Village Hall

Bring your unwanted Christmas presents or item you no longer need and our expert team will sell them for club funds.

“One person’s junk is another person’s treasure”

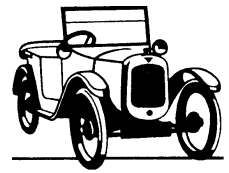
Bring your cash and buy your treasure!



Come along, bring some items, buy some items, make some money for the club and have a good time!

Pizza will be available alongside the silent sale.

At the end of the evening remaining items will be auctioned.



From the Archive

The seven

Designed, created, from a thought.
An idea, a plan by an ingenious man
Sketched in chalk on table green
The most wonderful little car
The world has seen.

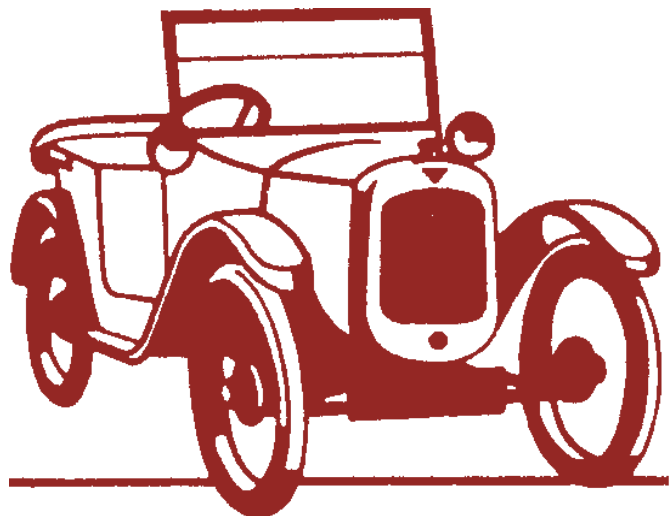
Seven horses from the hills
Harnessed by man's skills
Given free rein, they run free
Giving great joy to all who see
And more to those who ride,
Undeniably!

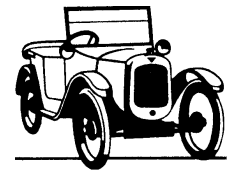
On city roads or country moor
This Brummie fellow is foot sure
A trip to the shops or foreign tour
He's never found wanting
This thoroughbred of "four"

Fire up on race day
And he'll blow the opposition away
Since his charm as ladies say
"I'm going to invest in him
One day!"

Many of Sir Austin's babies
Still run the road today
Splendid in their livery.
Sir, if you can look down,
if you can see
I'd just like to thank you for the pleasure.
You've given to all Seveners that be.

by Paul Guest (From MA7C newsletter winter 1999)





Regalia

Christmas present ideas!

MA7C regalia items are now available to purchase from:-



Focal Image 45/47 Broad Street Bromsgrove B61 8L Tel 01527 832984.

To place an order, please email artwork@focalimage.co.uk, addressing your email to Al (short for Alastair).

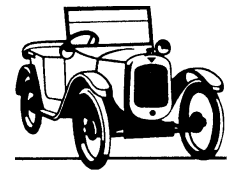
4 items of clothing, 3 colours, 3 sizes choice of Austin scripts.

RG122 Regatta Fleece £?	RX151 T-shirt £7.60	RX301 Sweat Shirt £15.50
RX101 Polo Shirt £9.00	Austin scripts £6.00	Austin scripts £6.00

If you want to look at these items you can visit <https://focalimage.yourwebshop.com/>

Then email Alastair at Focal Image to place your order.

NB The prices quoted are from 2023, please check with FocalImage.



Sales and Wants

1932 Austin Seven RN Box Saloon



Owned for over 23 years by my late wife and sadly now for sale because I need more garage space.

Brass radiator and Headlamps. Rewired and regularly MoT'd.

The last MoT (pass) was in July 2023 and the car has since developed a water leak which I've not found the time to fix.

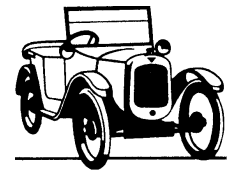
£5,250 ono

For further information, please call John on 07764252716

Seen at the NEC, this lovely van in the Royal Mail livery. Sold at auction for £16800.



Also seen at the NEC on the PWA7C stand, the earliest original Austin Seven van body known, owned by Ken Simkiss



Garages and Austin Seven Services

The following are suggestions from MA7C members. If you know of others in the Midlands area please let the Editor know.

Avon Motors, Fleet Farm, Fleet Lane, Twyning, Gloucester GL20 6DQ (tel: 01684 290441 or 07891 919895). Also a one-man band but excellent work. He is also an MOT Inspector in Newport. Services and repairs my Morris. About 3 miles south of Upton upon Severn.

A.U.B. (Classic and Vintage). Formerly Auto Units (Birmingham). 23 Solihull road, Shirley, Solihull B90 3HB.

Tel: 0121 744 4348 or mobile 07973 471560.

Auto electrical specialists, repair, rebuild or refurbish starter motors, dynamos, wiper motors, cut-outs etc.

W Pym & Son, 113 St Peters Rd, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9HN. Tel: 01384 257841.

MOT, general garage repairs.

Daves Engine Centre Unit 3, Royal Victoria Works, Birmingham Road, Studley B80 7AS. Tel 01527 854968.

Website: <http://engine-centre.co.uk/>.

Engine rebuilding including white metalling.

Baldwins Garage, 17a Stoke Road, Bromsgrove B60 3EQ. Tel: 01527 874663.

MOT, general garage repairs.

Midland Brakes, Unit 4 Station Rd Industrial Estate, Station Rd, Rowley Regis B65 0JY. Tel 0121 561 2212.

Website: <https://www.midlandbrakes.com/>

Relining brakes and clutches.

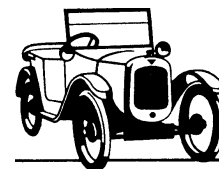
Kings Norton Garage, unit 4 Eckersall road, Kings Norton Birmingham B38 8SS tel no 0121 433 3166 or 07867 525039 who have been maintainers/repairers of many historic vehicles including A10's and A7's.

Speedo and Instrument repairs

Some members will have use Richard Jenkins from Redditch for instruments. He is moving to Wales and his new address is : Richard Jenkins, MONTANA 3, New Bryn Ffynnon, Bethania, Blaenau Ffestinog, Gwynedd, LL41-4DL

There were Richard's cards with the monthly Magazine and Newsletter on the table at club nights.





Committee Corner

Midlands Austin 7 Club (MA7C)

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