



Norfolk Austin Seven Club,
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NORFOLK NA 7TER

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Dear Each

First of all, may I thank you for supporting me in the setting up of this new club for those of us interested in the original Austin Seven, as well as other Austin car models made through the life of the company, and old cars in general. I think that it may be appropriate that we are starting a club for Austin cars in the Centenary year of the founding of the Austin Motor Company.

A quarterly Newsletter to coincide with the issue of the quarterly A7CA "Grey Magazine", will I hope be sufficient for the time being, as we just see how things progress. If there is anything that you the members want to put in the Newsletter, please let me know. How about some articles from you on "Amusing Automobile Anecdotes", with an annual prize awarded for that voted the best; also obviously any technical tips or little dodges gained from years of experience would be welcome; and how about "A knitting an Austin 7 competition"?? Anyway, food for thought I hope. One final question about the Newsletter, does anybody object to receiving the newsletter by e-mail, assuming of course that they are appropriately connected? Please let me know as it would save the club postage etc..

As you all know, the main object of the Norfolk Austin Seven Club is to provide a means of like minded people getting together, to get to know each other and to enjoy using our old cars of character. We have the monthly Noggin & Natter Meetings, and I hope that we can organise a couple of runs in our "joyloppies" to a visit to some place of interest. One thought that I had is that we might do a run to the Aircraft Museum at Flixton, Nr Beccles. Or how about a trip to the Woodforde Brewery at Woodbastwick or the St Peter's Brewery at South Elmham? Maybe a treasure hunt ending at Wroxham Barns? So if you have any suggestions as to where and when, please let me know. Just thinking way ahead, should we book the December meeting as the Christmas Dinner, or should we have a Club Dinner at another time of the year, and avoid the extra round of turkey and plum pudding? It's your club so lets talk about it.

Membership Matters

As of the end of January, we have nearly 60 members (25 couples plus 8 individuals), with requests for Membership Forms from another three people, which I think is a great start. So once again, thank you all very much for joining me in this new venture. I was wondering if I should issue a list of the club's members contact details to all members of the club, and update it in the Newsletter, so that we can easily contact each other, but I need to get your feed back before I can do anything further about it, bearing in mind the various "legalese" there is around today! It just occurs to me that this subject title is most apt, because without members we have no club, so Membership Does Matter!!

The Inaugural Meeting

At the Inaugural Meeting in January there were some twenty eight members who enjoyed a good noggin and natter with old and new friends, which is the main idea of the club. We had to get through the official business of voting on the Club's Constitution, a copy of which is attached.

Next was the forming of the Committee. I was proposed and voted on as Chairman, for which thank you. However, as nobody was keen to join me on the committee as Secretary, Treasurer or Committee Member, then it was decided that I should also cover all positions!!! So a committee of "5-in-1" has been voted in!!! I will attempt to do as much as I can for this first year, but I really hope that there will be some volunteers willing to come onto the committee by or at the first Annual General Meeting, which we decided would be in January 2006. If any of you would like to volunteer to help me during the forthcoming months, then I would look forward to hearing from you.

One member asked if there will be any speakers at the monthly meetings, (I'm sorry but I can't remember who raised the question, but maybe they would remind me?). If anybody would like to arrange for a particular speaker to come along, please give me a call.

One problem that did become very evident at the Inaugural Meeting was that the car parking at the Marsh Harrier is not sufficient for our needs. So the next meeting will be held at the Parson Woodforde Pub at Weston Longeville (situated between Honningham on the A47 and Attlebridge on the A1067 Fakenham Road out of Norwich – map attached). For those not familiar with the Parson Woodforde, it is a traditional freehouse pub, with bar meals available, where we can have the use of a room at the back, free of charge. Ray, the landlord only asks that we use the largish car park at the rear so that we do not fill up the front car park. I realise that moving to the Parson Woodforde will be further for some of our members to travel on club nights, for which I'm sorry, but it has been extremely difficult to find somewhere to hold our meetings that has a large enough car park, is interested in having a car club meet there, that has a convivial atmosphere, where you can get a decent drink at a reasonable price, that does not charge for the use of a separate room, and will give us a nice run to through country roads in the summer months. The Stag Owners Club, the Norfolk Jaguar Drivers Club and the Association of Norfolk Car Clubs meet at the Parson Woodforde on a regular basis. Please give it a try.

Austin Seven Clubs Association (A7CA)

On Sunday 16th January I attended the meeting of the Austin Seven Clubs Association, at Gaydon, in order to see through the acceptance of the Norfolk Austin Seven Club's application to join the association. We were voted through, so the club will come under the association's insurance umbrella as far as third party liability insurance is concerned. It was good to meet other Austin Seven enthusiasts from all over the country, meeting one or two people I already knew and putting faces to the names that I had come across over the years of the reading the Association Magazine.

Some of the subjects discussed at the meeting:- the original Stanley Edge Austin 7 design drawings will soon be available on a CD; back issues of the Grey Magazine are available and that the Association is looking into the possibility to put all the back issues onto CDs for posterity. Howard Annett gave details about the Austin Centennial Weekend at Longbridge, where the A7CA is looking after all the Austin Seven entries. I have got some Entry Forms for the event for those of you who planning to go, so please let me know if you want one. Charles Levien, George Crummett and one or two others picked up an entry form at the January Club Night, so it might be an idea for you to get together about the weekend – please let me know if you are interested in such a joint effort/excursion and I will put you in touch with each other. I also have a Yellow Pages listing of hotels in the area, copies of which I can pass onto whoever wants a copy. There is an Armoured Car Austin Seven in Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, that is looking for some buckshee transport to and from the Longbridge event, so if any of you know Eddy Stobart maybe you could put in a good word?!!

One of the benefits of by being a member of the A7CA, is that members of the Norfolk Austin Seven Club get access to the **RH Classic Car Insurance Scheme**. On the 20th January I had a word with Mr Alan Mitchell, Chief Executive of **Richardson Hosken Specialist Car Division**, to make him aware that the Norfolk Austin Seven Club was in existence and a member of the A7CA, and he was quite agreeable that we can benefit from the scheme, details of which are attached.

Association of Norfolk Car Clubs (ANCC),

The Norfolk Austin Seven Club is also a member of the Association of Norfolk Car Clubs which promotes liaison and joint events between car clubs in the region. They organise the Cars In The Park event on the first Tuesday evening of July. In the past it was always held at Dunston Hall hotel, but after last year's display of discourtesy by the duty manager we are looking to hold it elsewhere! I'll let you know when it has been finalised.

Amusing Austin Anecdote.

As I had suggested that we ought to have such a section, I guess that I had better start it off, so here goes.

Back in about 1966 when I was a mere callow youth, doing my apprenticeship as an agricultural mechanic with Eastern Counties Farmers, in Halesworth, I was the proud owner of a 1936 Ruby, which I had brightened up by painting the wings with Valspar Pillarbox Red paint. I called the car Emily for some reason that escapes me now. Anyway, one Saturday morning I was "bombing along" through the sleepy hamlet of Holton, on the outskirts of the metropolis of Halesworth, when a hundred yards ahead of me I spied a Bobby pedalling along on his bike. Before I got up to him, he ambled over to the kerb, dismounted, wheeled the bike over the pavement, leant it up against the wall, walked back into the middle of the road where he raised his hand to stop me!!

"Good morning Sir." Says he to me, in a broad Suffolk accent.

"Good morning Officer." Says I to him.

"Nice little car you have here Sir." Says he.

"Thank you." Says I.

"Makes rather a lot of noise if you don't mind me saying so Sir."

"Ah!" Says I, realising that my temporary repair job of an old baked bean tin wrapped round the exhaust pipe had slipped from covering the great hole just after the bend below the manifold, "Yes officer, it seems to have just developed a bit of a leak in the exhaust pipe."

"Funny." Says he "I've been listening to that for the last month! Would you mind getting it fixed Sir?"

"Er yes officer. Thank you Officer. Good bye Officer"

"Good day Sir."

Well I think that is all for this first attempt at a Newsletter. I hope to see you at the Club Nights on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Parson Woodforde.

Cheers,

Jim

Dates for the Diary:

Sunday 20th March – **Cambridge Austin Seven & Vintage Car Club** is organising a Road Run from Milton, Nr Cambridge to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village, near Bury St Edmunds. Contact Paul & Michelle Lawrence – 01763-249210 or fishylobby@aol.com .

Tuesday 29th March - The **Norfolk Jaguar Drivers Club** were looking for another car club to challenge them in a **Quiz Night**, at the Parson Woodforde. Two teams of four were required and when I mooted the idea at the January meeting Anne and Hamish, Val and Dick volunteered for one team and another two of you volunteered to make up another team with Sue and me; trouble is I cant remember who it was!! So would you please let me know as I have already picked up the gauntlet on the club's behalf and accepted the challenge!!!

Sunday 10th April – London to Brighton Austin Centenary Run being organised by the **Austin Owners Club**. Entries in by 28th February.

Sunday 1st May - The Wymondham Old Timers Car Rally will be held at the Gressenhall Rural Life Museum. Contact Mike & Jean Worship on 01508-538490.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May - The Breckland Family Show is being held at RAF Watton Airfield. Contact Ivan & Jean Chubbock on 01362-820416.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May - Broadland MGOC 16th Heritage Run - Contact Mike or Sheila Wilton on 01493 740814

Over the weekend of 14th / 15th May - The Windmill Run, which is Kevin described to me as “a gentle 200 mile run to Holland”. For details contact Dave & Maggie Dickinson, Station Lane House, Main Street, Darley, Harrogate, HG3 2QF. 01423-780060 dickinsond@fsmail.net

Sunday 15th May - The Skeyton Goat Classic Car and Motorcycle Rally, will be held on. Contact Martin the Landlord on 01692-538600

Sunday 15th May - Halesworth Lions “Wings & Wheels” veteran rally is being held this year at Henham Park. Contact Diana Jackson on 01986-875107.

Sunday 15th May – The Norfolk Rally is being held at Hoveton Hall near Wroxham. Contact Mervyn York on 01603-737489.

Sunday 5th June – **Pre-War Austin Seven Club National Autokarna Rally**, Nottingham.

Sunday 5th June - The 3rd Norwich Classic Vehicle Club Rally will be held at the Norwich Rugby Club on. Contact Jason Himpson on 07899-886887.

Sunday 12th June - The 750MC- Norfolk Centre will be holding **Austin Allsorts Rally** at Bressingham Steam Museum. Contact David Charles on 01493-752016.

Friday 17th June - The **ANCC Concourse BBQ** will be held on the evening of, at Felthorpe Flying Cub, from 6.30 onwards. There is no entry fee, there will be music a bar and of course a BBQ, so lets hope for a fine evening.

Sunday 26th June – **Wings, Wheels & Steam Weekend**, Rougham Airfield, near Bury St Edmunds. The **Essex Austin Seven Club** has issued the challenge to the **Austin 7 Clubs of East Anglia** to compete for the **East Anglian Trophy**. This trophy is a “magnificent” cup (made from a Chummy headlamp bowl with Chummy door handles with some sort of solid silver part in it's design!!) awarded to the winner of an inter-club competition, the criteria of which is to be drawn out of the cup on the day!! It could be for the A7 that has travelled furthest between MOTs, for the best A7 restoration, for the smartest A7 there that day, or for the A7 with knobbliest tyres (as opposed to the owners knees!!), or the A7 with the fruitiest horn blast!!!! The Norfolk Austin Seven Club has been invited to join in the challenge so please let me know if you intend to enter under our banner.

Sunday 3rd July - The **National Austin 7 Rally** at Beaulieu. Contact 750MC

Tuesday 5th July - The **ANCC Cars In The Park** night will be on at a place T.B.A!!

8th to 10th July - The **Austin Centenary Weekend** at Longbridge (though it is really only 2 days!).