### A life with Austin Sevens and Friends.



This book has been generated following a talk given to the Beaulieu Friends. The request was made by the events coordinator Mike Webster and the secretary. I was asked to give a talk about our experiences with our Austin Seven cars and our friends in the Austin movement. The talk took place on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the lecture theatre at Beaulieu on a stormy night. Joy was with me as she was very much involved in all these trips.

Beaulieu requested we bring one of the cars to the event so I took the Cambridge Special to the event. It was placed in the theatre below the projection screen. There was an attendance of around ninety people in the theatre and it was said to be a successful evening. The talk took place over 2 hours with an interval at the half way point. The car created a great deal of interest. I had driven it to Beaulieu in the rain on the morning of the event.

The presentation was built from our comprehensive catalogue of photographs and put together as a Power Point presentation. There was enough detail to give an idea of what was possible and the capability of these small cars. I felt it would be a good idea to create a printed record to share with family and with the help of a local provider the idea became a reality.

Joy and I hope you enjoy the book which covers the period 1977 to 2019. Life and the cars started long before and continues today but the longest trips were made in the period covered in this presentation.



Our first Austin 7 was discovered in 1962 before the children were born this meant there was always an Austin 7 in our lives without a break since 1962, then continuously throughout our children's lives whilst they were still at home with us.

As parents Joy and I cannot say for sure how the children felt about these wonderful small cars. Joy remembers that Peter once asked her not to stop at the school gate, so we assume that Austin 7's were considered as old bangers by their peers. These days they are considered by many younger people to be rather 'cool'

Joy took her test soon after we acquired the Box Saloon and it became a hit with her. After approx. 10 years a major repair was required involving body off, so Joy found another Austin 7, a 1936 Mk 2 Ruby. Joy found it in Shrewsbury in an Antique dealers collection. It too needed work so I refused to pay the asking price of £200. Joy urged me not to be hasty, so a deal was done at £180, so then we had number two. A rapid repair was undertaken and the car was made ready for road use.

At that time Joy was using a very nice Mk 2 Land Rover SWB for her work as an agency nurse. Petrol was getting too expensive to continue with the LR at 16MPG so it was sold. The Ruby then came into use. Having given up her 4 wheel drive Joy was pleased how well the Ruby performed even in the heavy snow that winter. During that period \Joy was working at the Nuffield Hospital in Shrewsbury.

In the years up to 1979 during the 1960's and early 1970's the Box saloon was in use then the Ruby was her daily transport until we moved to Bournemouth during February 1979. Joy drove the Ruby all the way to Bournemouth during a very cold and sometimes snowy spell of weather following the removal van, approx 180 miles. During that period and then onwards into the early 1980's we had used the Austin for local use and Austin club holidays. No particular details were recorded of trips until our first long trip to the 1977 Queens Silver Jubilee Rally on the Isle of Man. In 1979 we joined the Dorset Austin 7 Club.

The period post 1979 is not detailed anywhere, it was a period of work and schooling, careers and routine. I worked for a period of close to two years as Export Sales Manager based in Frankfurt Germany in the period 1986 to 1989. Living away from family travelling 35 Countries developing our export markets.

I eventually returned to the UK following corporate plan changes and broken promises, I was then made Marketing Manager. At that time I was approached by Marcel Leisi to join him at Exitflex following the death of his agent Roy Elgar. I agreed and resigned from DeVilbiss to escape the Corporate world. I was appointed Managing Director of Exitflex UK Ltd. Joy had coped with a great deal in my absence then she joined me as Company Secretary, based here in Christchurch Exciting times which we both found rewarding.

The family by this time had a feel for the kind of life we led. These few pages may help to fill the gaps.





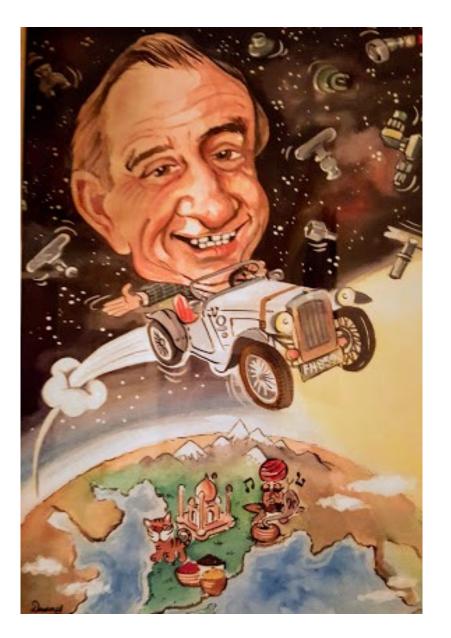


An Illustrated talk in 2 parts.

The Background, The Cars, The rebuild, The trips table, Isle of Man, Euro Tours 1992 and 1997 Molentocht, NL Beaulieu Moments. Interval



South America, 2005 Route 66, 2006 Euro Tours 2007. **Corsica**. 2008. Eisenacht 2008. Cossonay. 2008. Euro Tours 2012, Last of the Summer Wine tour 2017 YE TOTIE



Me as imagined by my colleagues and noted local Artist Cartoonist Danny Byrne. Created as a souvenir for my retirement when they wished me Bon Voyage to be free to wander at will.

India being where I regularly spent time looking for business.



- In 1962 we needed a car, not an adventure. The choice was a Fiat Topolino or an Austin 7.
- Joy made the choice for The Pink Austin 7 of course. What happened next was just not expected.
  - Here you see joy at Beaulieu as a class winner with the car as it is today.
  - When you get to be known in A7 circles you come to realise the possibilities and of course you probably become addicted somewhat !!

### 1962. Our first Austin 7 Box saloon.

Joy, then expecting, needed a car instead of the faithful Velocette LE.



# My Dare Devil Wife JOY.

Around 1960 I discovered why Joy was late for a date. She was riding the New Brighton Wall of Death on the Handlebars. Joy is not shown here, a member of the Dutton family is demonstrating how to do it.



### Our Distance travels started in earnest in 1977. Family and career delayed an earlier start. 42 K miles in 43 years.

Isle of Man. Jubilee Rally.	2 weeks	1977		1937 Ruby	375	Pre War A7 Club
Euro Tour. 7 Countries 14 days	2 weeks	1992		1934 Cambridge	2300	750 Club N Herts
Euro Tour. Le Tour France	2 weeks	1997		1934 Cambridge/ Trailer	2260	750 Club N Herts
Holland. Zuider Zee Rally	1 week	2000	Solo	1937 Ruby	1300	D Dickenson
Euro Tour. Berlin		2002		Absent/ Dialysis.	0	
South America. Argentina, Chile.	6 weeks	2005	6 cars	1934 Cambridge	4000m	V Leek
Isle of Man,	1 week	Aug-05	Solo	1934 Cambridge	700m	GM
USA. Route 66.	5 weeks	2006	5 Cars	1934 Cambridge	3600	V Leek.
Euro Tour. Grapes and Gateaux	2 Weeks	Aug-07		1933 4 Seat Tourer	1659	750 Club N Herts
Corsica.	3 Weeks	Aug-08	3 Cars	1934 Cambridge	2600	GM
DIXI 80th Anniversary. Eisenach DE	8 Days	Sep-08	3 Cars	1933 4 Seat Tourer	1560	GM
Morges. Switzerland. CH	8 Days	Oct-08	Solo	1934 Cambridge	1500	GM
Yorkshire Experience	1 week	Jul-09		1933 4 Seat Tourer	1500	PWA7C
Watermills and Windmills. Norfolk	1 Week	Jul-10		1933. Type 65	800	Bryan Norfolk
Ireland. Ring of Kerry and touring Eire.	2 weeks	Sep-10		1933 4 Seat Tourer	1200	DA7C
Brittany . France.	1 week	Apr-11		1933 4 Seat Tourer	480	DA7C
Cossonay. Switzerland. CH	8 Days	Jul-11	Solo	1934 Cambridge	1400	GM
Yorkshire Experience	! Week	Jul-11		1934 Cambridge	1500	PWA7C
Euro Tour. Alpine Amble. Switzerland.CH	2 Weeks	May-12		1934 Cambridge	2150	750 Club N Herts
Molentocht. Holland.	1 week	Spring 13	Solo	1933 4 Seat Tourer	800	D Dickenson
Yorkshire Experience	1 Week	Jul-13		1933 4 Seat Tourer	1500	PWA7C
Tulip Trip. Holland. Goes.	1 week	Apr-14		1933 4 Seat Tourer	1300	IMS and Friends
Watermills and Windmills 2	1 Week	Jul-14		1934 Box Saloon	850	Bryan Norfolk
Spain, Cantabria.	1 week	Oct-14		1933 4 Seat Tourer	520	DA7C
Yorkshire Experience	1 week	Jul-15		1934 Cambridge	1500	PWA7C
Totie Tour. Essex	1 Week	Jun-16		1933 4 Seat Tourer	900	750
Isle of Man.	1 week	Jul-16		1934 Cambridge	700m	GM
France. Dordogne. Last of Summer wine tour	2 weeks	Sep-17	4 Cars	1934 Box Saloon	1350	GM
Spain. Andalucia.	1 week	May-17		1934 Box Saloon	450	DA7C
Spain. Andalucia.	10 days	May-18		1934 Box saloon	475	DA7C
Totie Tour 2 Essex	1 week	Jun-18		1934 Box Saloon	900	750
Isle of Man.	1 week.	Sep-18		1933 4 Seat Tourer	700	DA7C
Yorkshire Experience	1 Week	Jul-19		1934 Cambridge	1346	D Dickenson

### Here you can see our other Austin cars. 1934 Cambridge Special, 1933 4 Seat Tourer, 1937 MK2 Ruby, 1933 Nippy Type 65.

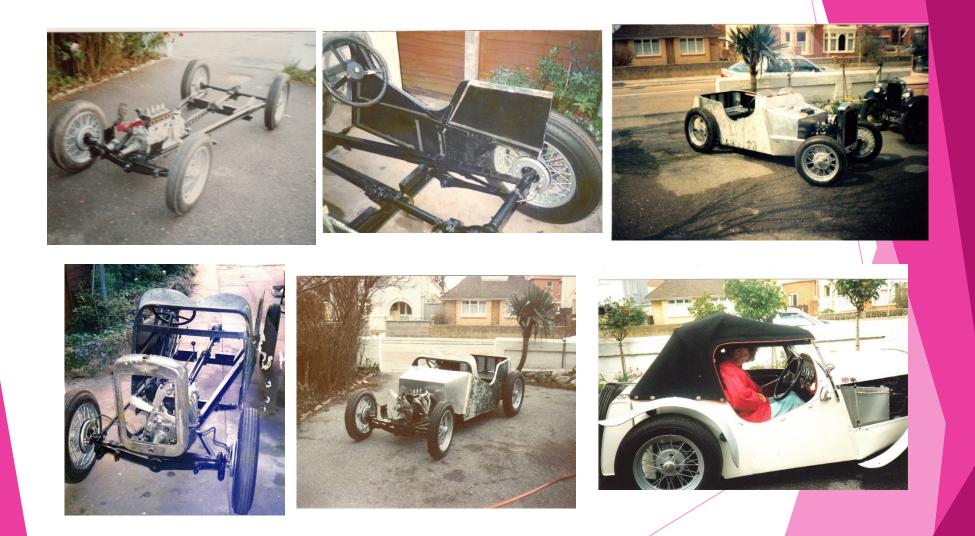








# Cambridge found 1988 late. The decision was made to rebuild as a low sports tourer.



### 1977. The Queens Silver Jubilee event. Isle of Man, 375m.









### Euro Tour. 7 Countries 14 Days.1992. 2300miles Here you can see George on the Klausen Pass.



### Route Events and Numbers.

Ghent Belgium, Luxembourg, Stuttgart Germany, Innsbruck Aust<mark>ria,</mark> Vaduz Lichtenstein, Interlaken Switzerland, Mulhouse France, Epernay France, Calais France.

Receptions were held in Ghent, Luxembourg, Sindelfingen, Stuttgart, Vaduz, Epernay and Calais.

60 cars, Planned distance 1700 miles, 7 Countries, 150 people from all four home countries plus visitors from Germany and Australia.

Visits to the Mercedes Museum in Stuttgart and the Schlumpf Museum in Mulhouse.

Major passes for Austin Sevens, Silvretta 2036 m. Klausen 1948m and the Susten 2259m.

Euro Tour 1992 images. Here you can see the Klausen Pass, The Glaciers which we were beside and our hotel in Interlaken





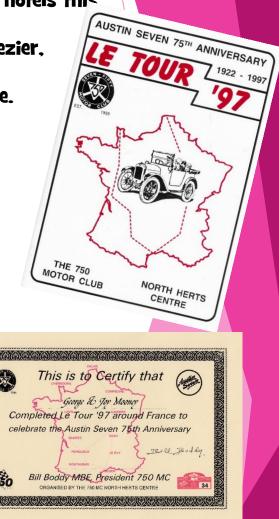




### Euro Tour. Le Tour France 1997. 2260 miles.

Celebrating 75 years of the Austin Seven. We were 75 cars also welcoming a contingent who shipped I I of the cars all the way from Australia for this wonderful tour. I commissioned a trailer for this event and the campers went into hotels this time. I was the only articulated Austin on the tour. The route was Cherbourg, Laval, Saintes, Perigeux, Montauban, Bezier, Le Puy, Vichy, Auxerre, Compiegne, Calais. The end date was the awful weekend of Diana's death in France.





### Euro Tour 1997. Images.



#### 26 August 15 1997

#### Seven celebrations

BOURNEMOUTH couple George and Joy Mooney were today due to join fellow Austin Seven enthusiasts on a 1,500 mile round trip through France.

The tour is being organised by the North Herts Centre of the 750 Motor Club to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Austin Seven.

The route takes the entrants from Cherbourg, down the west side of France to the Mediterranean at Cap d'Adge with the return route through central France via Vichy, Auxerre and Compiegne, leading to a finish in Calais for a celebration dinner on August 30.

Some 75 vintage cars, mostly Austin Sevens, are due to take part, most from Britain but with two entries from Holland, eight from France and no less than 14 coming from Australia.

For the event, the second long distance rally they have taken part in, George and Joy are using their 1934 Austin Seven Special which they have had, appropriately enough, for seven years.







### Holland . Zuider Zee Tour, 2000. 1300 miles.

After 2000 we also joined in with the 2008 and 2013 Molentocht events. Dave Dickinson arranges all UK entries and we had great fun with friends from all over the Uk and some Dutch friends. We always travelled alone to Hull from Bournemouth happily without trouble.



### Beaulieu memories.

Before the interval here are a few personal memories at this famous venue. Millionth Visitor celebrations 1993, Driving tests 1996, Peoples Choice at PINK cancer event In 2015 and Joy taking best in class in 2017 and 2019.





An Attractive exhibit seen during our 2008 trip to Eisenacht for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniv<mark>ersary of</mark> the first Dixi made under license from Austin in 1928.



# Welcome Back.

This cartoon watercolour was presented to us when we left Shropshire by a member of the Severn Sevens club that we had started with Peter Relph back in the 1970's



# 2005. South American adventure.

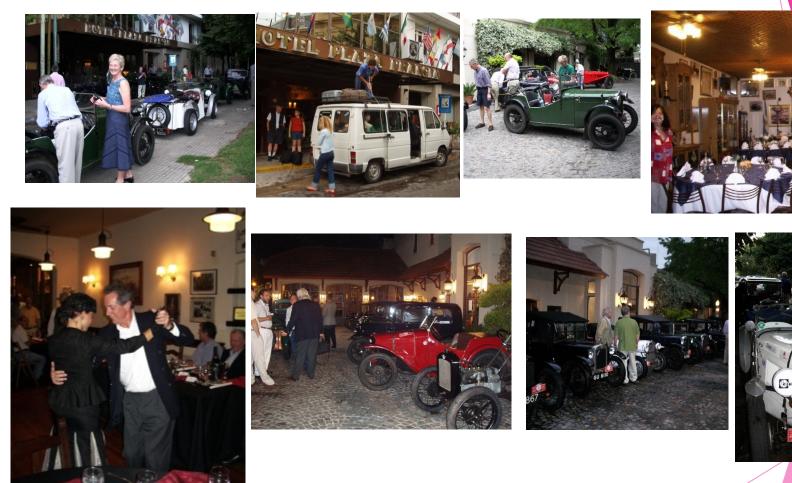
A six week trip with 6 cars to drive from Buenos Aires to Vina Del Mar Chile and return covering approx 4000miles. We travelled along part of the route covered by John Coleman in 1956. The cars went by Roll o Roll off ferries and we followed by air from Heathrow, here you can see we were met at the airport by John Coleman who came to see us depart. The labels on the cars were to help the handlers of these ancient cars on the ferry to know how to start and drive them.





Cars by sea, Join by Air to Buenos Aires. Met by Mac and his club. Fantastic, collecting from customs in our hard hats.

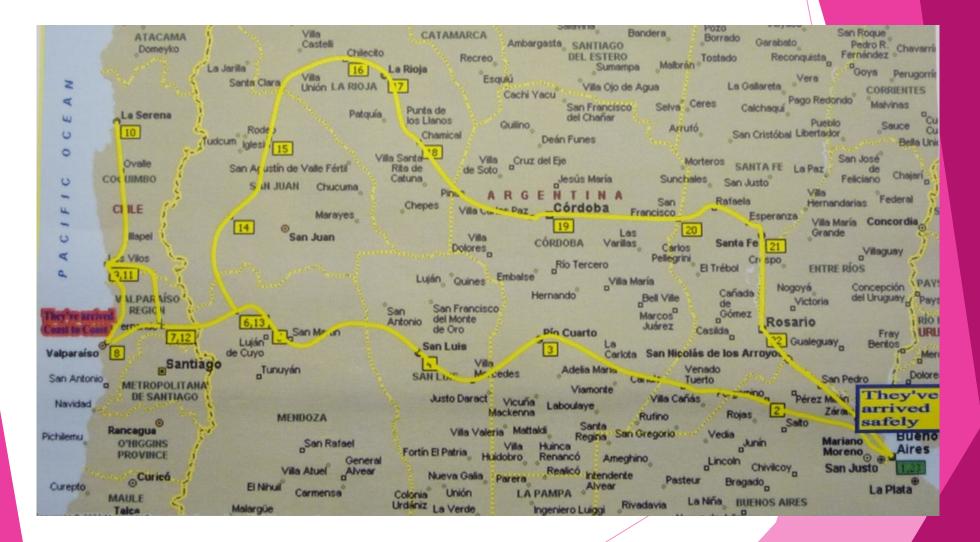
### 2005. South America. Here are a few pictures taken in Buenos Aires ,



We were entertained in the evening before departure by the Club Amigos de Automoviles Antiguos. The Cars were left at the club overnight. We all squashed into a mini bus to get us to the club from the hotel for the off ! Cier

# 2005. South American adventure.

Route and stopover destinations are shown in detail in the next slide. Here you get an Idea of the route . Across by the southern route and return by the Northern route



# Cristo Redentor Pass. 10,499 ft above sea level

### Start date 7 Feb , Return date, 17<sup>th</sup> March. 2005. Longest day mileage 240, Shortest 65 miles.

DATE	DESTINATION	HOTEL				
ARGENTINA						
7/9.2.05	Buenos Aires	Plaza Francia				
10.2.05	Pergamino	Fenicia				
11.2.05	Rio Quarto	Opera				
12.2.05	San Luis	Quintana				
13/15.2.05	Mendoza	Puerto Del Sol				
16.2.05	Uspallata	Uspallata				
CHILE						
17.2.05	Los Andes	Plaza				
18/21.2.05	Vina Del Mar	Rokamar				
22.2.05	Los Vilos	Lord Willow				
23/25.2.05	La Sarena	Hostal Del Mar				
26.2.05	Los Vilos	Lord Willow				
27.2.05	Los Andes	Plaza				
ARGENTINA						
28.2.05	Uspallata	Uspallata				
1.3.05	Callingasta	Posada de san Eduardo				
2/3.3.05	San Jose de Jachal	Hotel Plaza				
4.3.05	Chilecito	Riviera				
5/6.3.05	La Rioja	Plaza				
7.3.05	Chamical	Victoria				
8/9.3.05	Cordoba	Holiday Inn				
10.3.05	San Francisco	Gran Liberatador				
11/12.3.05	Santa Fe	Holiday Inn				
13.3.05	Rosario	Howard Johnson				
14/17.3.05	Buenos Aires	Plaza Francia				



First Stop at The Mc Guire Station Ranch for an ASADO. Barbeque at home of Santiago Mc Guire who drove the lead car to his home. The lead car from club had disastrous steering.



When in Mendoza we visited 2 vineyards, here you can see joy in front of the party at the first one where the proprietor gave us a wonderful luncheon in the grounds. UK Phone boxes in Mendoza. In the wilderness with the cars.

2005. South America. Here are a few more pictures, You can tell it is warm look at Joy, Bare arms !! 43 degrees. Vince with the winning horse in the Austin Seven stakes, Joy with the tings we forgot and had left in the room. On the road to Chillecito with Peter and Adriana.













# 2006, Route 66. 3600 miles. Feb, Mar.

A trip for 5 cars to follow Route 66 starting from New Jersey to Santa Monica California. 5 weeks with the last week in California. The cars here lined up at Southampton awaiting loading on to the Roll on Roll off Ferry.



### Outline Route from NJ to Chicago, Historic R66 map.





# **Routing Details.**

The route starting in Newark New Jersey. The trip is covered in 20 stages.

Newark to Lewisburg, Butler, Napolean, Chicago, Springfield, Cuba, Springfield, Claremore, Oaklahoma, Shamrock, Tucumcari. Santa Fe, Grants, Holbrook, Williams, Kingman, Las Vegas, Needles, Barstow, Santa Monica.Ca. Hospitality and Company en route.

Austin Bantam VP Bob Brandon meets in Butler shows us around the Austin/Bantam Museum. Later we had a picnic at his home. Red carpet treatment at the Pontiac for lunch in Springfield. Press meet and interview in Cuba with Bob Cunningham from Austin Bantam Society Robert Paige R66 Guru to join us for a few days from Springfield. Claremore, Birthplace of Patty Page, also Will Rogers museum. Lunch Stop in Amarillo at Western Sizzlin' Steak house, Cadillac Ranch. Overnight at Famous Blue Swallow Motel haunt for Hollywood stars. Tourist Officer Santa Fe to greet us. Followed by stop at Continental Divide R66. Train from Williams to Grand Canyon. Greeting gathering and party at Norman Booth's home, Barstow. Reception at Jim and Katie Johnsons home in Ventura CA.

### USA. 2006. Route 66 Old Alignments. New Jersey, Chicago, Santa Monica California.

Here you can see us with Ken at the docks, Las Vegas on the strip, Amarillo at the Cadillac farm and Vince in New York



### Press Interest.

### We attracted a great deal of interest everywhere !



Marlies Bishop of Great Britain polishes one of the five pre-war Austin Seven 'baby cars' at the Santa Fe Motel and Inn on Monday. small group of enthusiasts from Great Britain are traveling along Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles to re-create a trip taken by Jac Rittenhouse. Rittenhouse was a traveling salesman who, in 1946, kept a diary of places to see, eat and stay along post-war Route 66.

### **British** invade Butler

#### Austin attracts auto aficionados

By JEFF ANDRASOVSKY Eagle Staff Writer

A mini-British invasion will arrive on the East Coast at the George and Joy Mooney of Bournemouth, Great Britain, pose end of the month. But no redcoats will be among them, nor any mop-top lads.

About a dozen Britons are bringing five of their antique Austin Seven automobiles, which they plan to drive to tions of the fabled Route 66. They will stop in Butler Aug. 28 and 29 to see where the American version of the tiny

cars were built. Then, it's on to Chicago, "Mother Road" through Mis- weight special body making 1940. souri, Oklahoma, Texas, New them a little more sprightly." Mexico, Arizona and California, where "America's Main mph and cruise at 45 mph, he Street" ends in Santa Monica. said They also plan side trips to

the Grand Canyon and Las founded by Lord Herbert Vegas along the way. The Austin Seven got its

name from its horsepower. "The Austin Seven's rating ingham. comes from an old system of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

with the 1934 Austin Cambridge Special they will drive on the Route 66 trip in early September. This photograph was taken last year during the British 750 Motor Club's excursion from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Santiago, Chile.

classification which only takes a Butler banker, and business-California along remaining sec- into account the piston area," man Carl Cheeseman met said Ken Cooke of Hertford- Austin in New York and got shire, one of the participants. his approval to build an Amer-"The actual horsepower pro- ican version of the Austin. duced is a massive 10.5 for the They were built in Butler from early cars and 12.5 for the lat- 1930 to 1935. After the Butler er ones," Cooke said. "Some of company hit the skids, it was where they will start their the cars, like mine are near reorganized by Miami busicross-country trek, and get standard, but others do have nessman Roy Evans and pro-

their kicks as they travel the some mods - and a light- duced the Bantam from 1938 to Participating in the Route 66 They have a top speed of 50 trip are:

Richard and Marlies Bishop of Exeter, Great Britain, in The Austin Motor Co. was their 1938 Sports

Ken and Eileen Cooke of Austin, and produced the cars Hertfordshire, Great Britain, in from 1922 to 1939 at the facto- their 1930 Tourer ry in Longbridge, near Birm-

■ Vince Leek of Warminster.

In the late 1920s, Elias Ritts, See Austin on Page 5



Joplin, Jerusalem, Phillips No I filling station Texas for 50 years. Abandoned properties. Joy at the Texas Border.



# New Mexico Artwork.

Here you can see a life size bronze of a wagon and team of horses, quite spectacular. There are so many exhibits around Santa Fe.



Joy cleaning windows in Chicago.- Fancy a movie ?- Little and large.- Joy in a jump su<mark>it ready to go.</mark> The elderly gentleman approached us at Bony and Clyde memorial. He was amazed that we had come from the UK in old cars. He said that he had never been out of the state and he was late 70's.





# Journey's end.

Santa Monica Pier, LA,CA. Followed by a week in LA area including a day at the beach in Malibu. A visit to the Queen Mary Conference Centre and the homes of the Film Stars



Euro Tour, Grapes and Gateaux. 2007. 1659 miles, we travelled mostly with Kevin and Marion.



### Corsica 2008. 2600 miles

Two cars from the UK plus a joiner in France from Switzerland. Here you see Joy posing on her Birthday in the decorated village. Two fingers to someone and Pamplona on the bull run.















Eisenacht 2008. DIXI 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Germany 1560 miles. Ken Cooke wanted to go so Kevin and I went with him. We were made very welcome in Germany, the only 3 cars from the UK







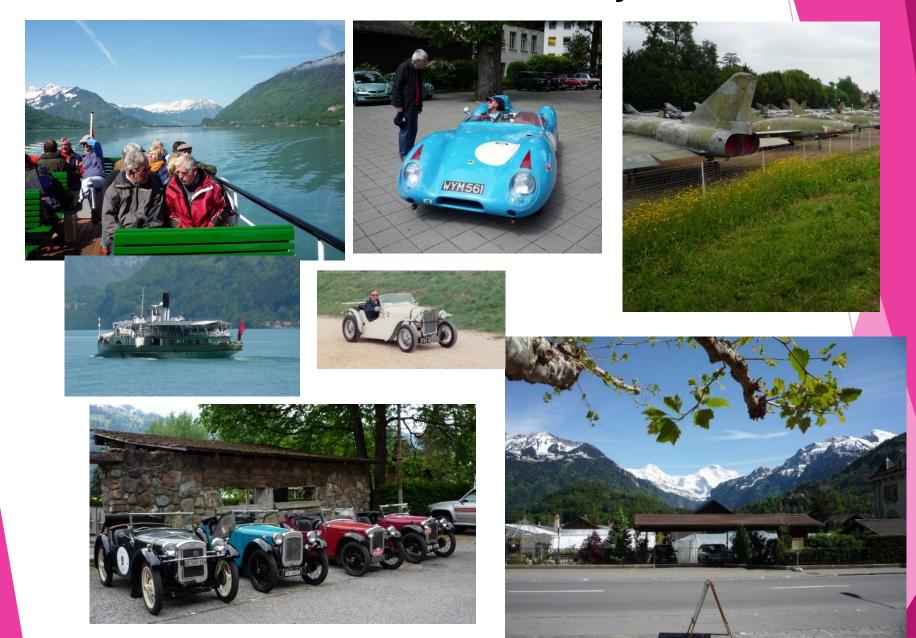








#### Euro Tour 2012 Alpine Amble. 2150 miles. A wonderful event full of incident and once again in Interlaken



# Cossonay switzerland. 1400 miles

This Solo trip was to an event immediately after YE in Yorkshire. We were entered into an event in Switzerland near Lausanne. We were happily pitting with James King owner of Jack Brabhams fl car .



63/1964	DAN GURNEY
64	JACK BRABHAM
65	DENIS HULME
65 🛌	GIANCARLO BAGHETT
65 -	GIANCARLO BA









2017. Last of the Summer Wine tour . 1360 miles. This was a trip to the Dordogne that I organised for Vince as he did so much for us in the past.









# The Yorkshire Experience.

- This year will be the sixth time we have enjoyed this remarkable event. We have used the Cambridge, the 4 Seat Tourer and the Box saloon over the period with the Cambridge scheduled to be used last year.
- Each year we drive to Yorkshire, complete the 5 run days, generally around IOO to I2O miles per day up many really steep climbs. The total is generally in the order of I5OO miles for the week including the drive home. Several times we have completed the journey home full distance in the day taking around I3 hours for the 400 or so miles. We came to our senses over time.
- Just completed this July 1346 miles to the Yorkshire experience in the Cambridge. We took wednesday off this time so the mileage was lower this year.







# Watermills and Windmills Norfolk. And TOTIE, Essex and Suffolk.

- These events have run concurrently starting with Watermills in 2010 and again in 2014 by Brian Norfolk. The TOTIE was then arranged by Peter and Marion Lawson so we joined them with other club members to Essex in 2016 and again in 2018.
- We have used the 65 Nippy, and the Box Saloon on these runs.
- A similar format to Yorkshire with a weekly total around 900 miles. The next TOTIE for us takes place in summer 2020.





### At last. The top, Where are we ?? I know its Spain ! That's all folks.



Travelling the Dordogne in Henrietta, together with Vince and Ian Mason Smith on our 'Last of the Summer Wine Tour' for 2 weeks in 2017.



#### At Home in Eire with ' Nancy ' the Four Seat Tourer, A Dorset holiday with friends and fun with the Irish.



#### On the road in the Spanish Pyrenees 2008.



We are never happier than when we are together on the road in any of our Austin cars, wherever we are heading. Relaxed and comfortable in cars that are old friends and enjoying travelling with others, We enjoy the company and friendship. Long may we enjoy. Memories are made of this and our Family.

Compiled Spring 2020. GM