

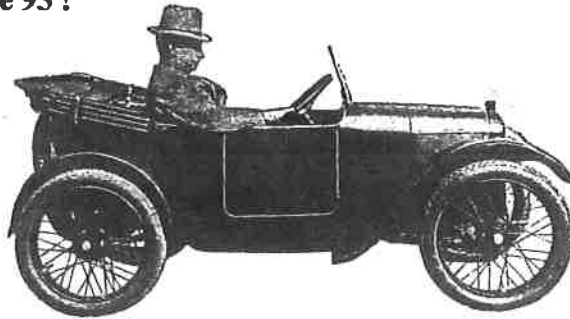
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Soon July 21st will come around. Is this a significant date for you? If not, it should be, as the Austin Seven was officially first announced then - at Claridges in London in 1922. That was 95 years ago and thanks to our members & others around the World, it's still going strong. Actually it was in January 1922 that Herbert Austin announced the forthcoming production – at of all places the annual dinner of the Birmingham Motor Cycle Club. Subsequently it was to almost put motor cycles off the map and certainly caused the demise of the crude cycle-cars of the time.

Three prototypes were originally produced, each with different transmissions, but only one proved effective and was put into production. It was No. XL3 and in June '22 it was registered as OK 3537. XL1 never emerged from the Northfield works at Longbridge due to it's badly-designed transmission, and XL2 only made a couple of appearances before it was returned to have the same transmission fitted as XL3.

Most publications show Austin at the wheel of one of the prototypes fitted temporarily with acetylene lamps, but here's one photograph taken earlier fitted with no lamps at all. As you know, the productions models were equipped with electric lamps from the start.

So wish your Seven a happy Birthday and may it and you have many more – especially if you too are 95 !



Bill Sheehan