

AA SIGN St TUDY

The Automobile Association was inaugurated in June 1905 by a small group of motoring enthusiasts who banded together to warn fellow drivers about speed traps. They called themselves the Motorists' Mutual Association.

In response to the zealous police enforcement of driving restrictions, the group organised teams of cyclists who, through a combination of signals and salutes, assisted drivers to stay safe on the roads and avoid punitive penalties.

A month later, as the group established an enthusiastic following among the motoring community, they elected to be known as "The Automobile Association."

By 1932 the Association had erected almost 30,000 signs in towns and villages across Great Britain. Most were removed during the Second World War when a Nazi invasion seemed highly likely. At the end of the war, only six hundred or so remained, including the St. Tudy sign, which disappeared years later. There are currently around sixty-five original signs throughout Great Britain although many have survived in museums and private collections.

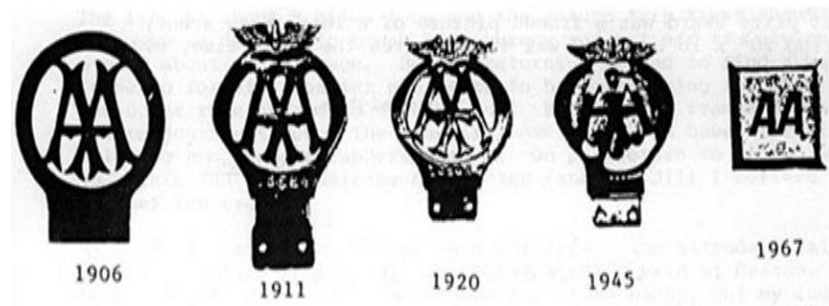


The First AA Patrol Men



Sign erected below the main sign to attract small boys' catapults

AA patrolman with motorbike and sidecar saluting passing members



AA member car badges over the years

The unveiling ceremony

On Saturday 22nd October 2022 at about 11.30am the classic Austin 7's began to arrive in St. Tudy, as did John Foster from the Historical Department of the AA with a classic motorbike and sidecar.

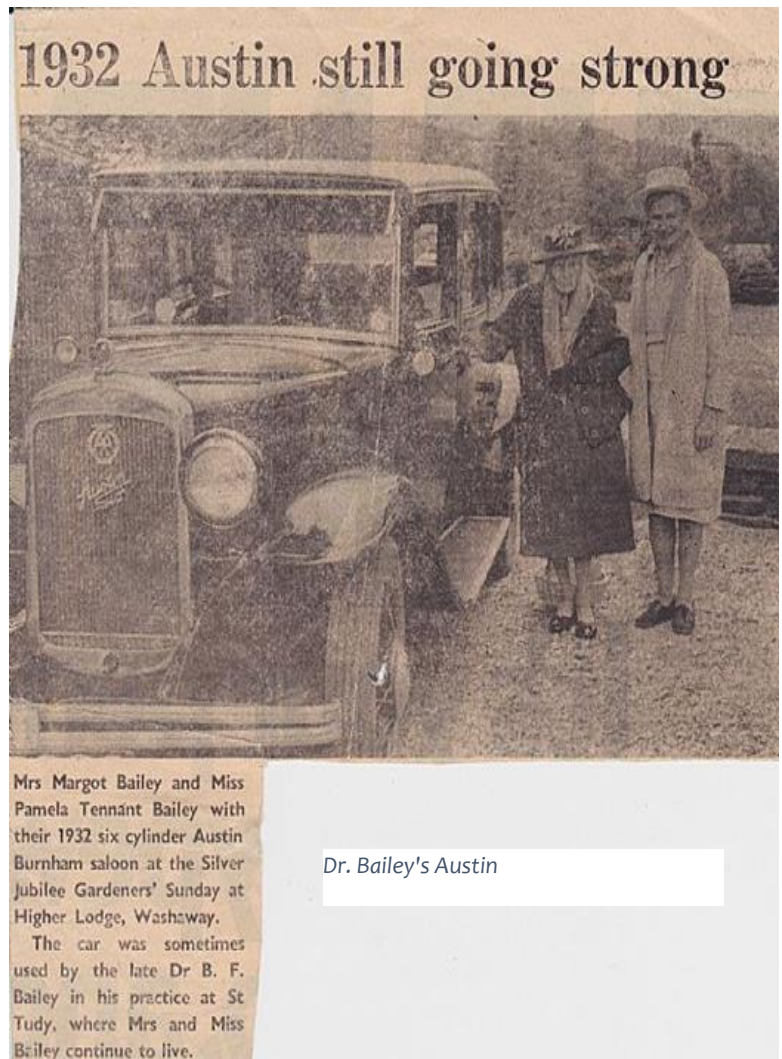
A great number of villagers arrived to look at the cars and watch the unveiling of the sign which took place at 12noon. Redvale Road, where the original sign had been, was packed with not only the numerous classic cars but also about 100 villagers attending the event, all keen to look at the cars, in such immaculate condition, and to talk to the owners.

Gary Keat, who has lived, worked, and retired in St. Tudy, unveiled the replica AA sign, which was put up with his kind permission on his barn at the entrance to Tremeer Lane. Andrew Button, Chairman of the St. Tudy Historical Society, said a few words to thank Pam Free, Angela Aylward and Jonathan March for all they had done in sourcing a sign and organising the event. He also thanked all the owners for driving to St. Tudy, in particular the AA man, John Foster, for driving down from Shropshire with the classic AA motorbike and sidecar. He also thanked everyone who had come to witness this unveiling.

In attendance was the 1932 Austin Burnham once driven by Dr. Bailey, the village doctor, and several members of the Austin 7 Club, led by History Club member Bob Kneale, around the village before repairing to the St. Tudy Inn for refreshments.

Also present was Mark Andrews in his restored Morris 1000 convertible, once owned by Jessica Polden of Maenne Parc, St Tudy.

The weather was kind, it did not rain until mid-afternoon, by which time most classic cars would have arrived back home to the safety of their dry garages!



The original site of the first sign in Redvale Road, long since demolished

AA Sign on Carpentry Shop



The original AA sign, sited adjacent to the filling station, that was once to the east of the church. It disappeared from here in the late 1970's.



The new AA road sign unveiled by Gary Keat, retired builder, and owner of the barn on Tremeer Road.



The new replica AA sign



AA patrol man John Foster arrives on his restored motorcycle combination



**Dr Bailey's Austin, lovingly restored and looked after in Cornwall,
back in St. Tudy.**





The parade of Classic Cars around St. Tudy begins





**Mark Andrews in his restored Morris 1000,
once owned by Jessica Polden of Maenne parc**





The club meet at the St Tudy Inn before they went on tour



Time for old friends to meet up for one last rally this year



Time to pack up and head home



In the beginning:

