



Monkey Business

No 126 - February 2022



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

February 2022 weather warm & dry

That's more like it, the good old days are returning with 17 revellers determined to have a good time. It was so good to see Claire back on all cylinders - although I have heard a rumour that Norman is about to divest himself of six of his ten cylinders of interest - anyway it was good to see Claire keeping Norman in check, well as far as that is humanly possible.



Simon, Melissa and Peter all borne to the Deanwater in JJ his trusty Firefly tourer and reliably home again (it's a four-cylinder thing you know, this reliability thing). Although I must say Charles and Judith demonstrate and equal reliability from their 6-cylinder 3 litre, which I assume can be put down to it being post-war. Not that pre-war sixes are UNreliable but they do need much more tickling under the chin than do the fours to keep them at the top of their game; or however the message to the new owner in the handbook puts it.

Whilst on the subject of sixes, Chris Bluer arrived in his newly purchased Mk 2 Jaguar. I forgive him for this moment of



aberration as some unlooked-for work has been found deep in his Crested Eagle engine that will have to be remedied; but all this costs time and with all the work he has carried out on the Model T Ford he just wanted something to use. What better than anything with the legendary XK engine? Which surely must rate as the finest way any drop of petrol could meet its end. I must say the car looks resplendent and will give good service.

On the subject of Jaguars, it was really good to welcome David Combey back into the fold who hasn't yet found his dream Alvis; In the meantime David too has bought a Jaguar but in the form of a Mk 9 just to keep him going in a certain style, again with that wonderful XK engine so no complaints from this quarter. David was accompanied by Jonathon Reeves who I hope will work on the family TA 14 one day as, when I remember it running had the most startling performance of any TA 14 I have ridden in – and no doubt it will be reliable too!

Well, no meeting feels right with the effervescence of Jayne Brown so it was really good to see her and Tim back and on good form. So now, Boris, if you are reading this, please be advised life has returned to normal so you can relax all your regulations.

For yet another month Stephen Walley was able to venture forth with confidence of getting home to Buxton; so that means I was okay at a meagre 650 feet above sea level and so was Elizabeth Bennett who, if Chester is above sea level it won't be by much. To complete the 'Cheshire set' Tari and Michelle Mirza completed the February complement and a great meeting was had.

During the meeting Simon was able to finally present the





Straight Valve Trophy to Peter. Awarded at the Christmas 'do' but hidden in my Firebird's boot it has travelled back and forth almost enough to qualify for the Bent Valve Trophy!

I was also able to present another well-travelled trophy - the Robin Bendall Trophy, to Tim. This one was hidden in Simon's bookcase behind the Christmas tree at the time of the December

do and it's amazing that I remembered to bring them both to be able to present them!

So looking forward to the next meeting, we will gather at the Deanwater on the evening of the first Tuesday of March (yes March already) which is the 1st of the month (SK7 1RJ) so you can't get much closer to spring which is just round the corner. I've got snowdrops showing their welcome little faces in Disley; the crocus are colouring up in Crowcroft Park as I drive into Manchester; the nights are getting shorter; and hopefully the three storms will be only a memory so I look forward to welcoming you all to join in the fun.

And now an appeal by Richard Plant-Locke

I had some rather disastrous pre-Christmas luck. I am writing this in the hope that you can pass it on to all the enthusiasts on your email list. And if they pass it on as well if they feel it could help I will really appreciate it.

I had some of my better mascots and other car parts stolen just before Christmas. I thought if you could pass the list around if anyone sees a number of these items for sale together they may be able to inform me of their whereabouts and sale method.

I have been keeping a watchful eye on eBay and Facebook. The thing is the thieves will probably have taken them out of the area to dispose of them. So if someone spots the items for sale then I can inform the Police. Or maybe just buy back my prized items.

I cleared out my front room to have some building work done and put the items, furniture and some other car parts in to storage. It was from there the items were stolen. And such an odd and interesting mix of items together. The storage was on my property and unfortunately not covered by any insurance.

The list.

2x Hare mascots. 1930's (Small paw) one with both ears upright one with one ear cocked. Both stamped one in almost perfect condition with a bit of wear from polishing etc. The other showing its age chrome polished through in places and a few bruises from being the first member of the family to arrive at where ever it was arriving.

1x 32 Silver eagle mascot. Chrome on brass and signed. Again a little battle hardened and evidence it had spent a long and varied life enjoying the open road.

1x Alvis 12/50 cut out. All there and in usable condition

1x Rolls Royce Cut out. (Very similar to the Alvis but with fuses) totally like new. Possibly NOS

Alvis 12/50 Radiator cap. (Brand New Alvis Register)

1924/6 Alvis 12/50 spare wheel cap and retaining screw.

2x Alvis Rotax headlamp centres with the three spokes all needing work. Good centres and badges.

Alvis Register plaque

0 to 80 MPH speedo head with the trip and mileage windows. chrome lever at the top to zero the trip. In a square dash mounting. Silver backed

A totally rebuilt Triumph TR 2 to 3A steering box. Also one needing work. Both RHD.

A cream and beige MG key ring and keys also a further badge. Both pre-war colours.

4x different Bluemels "Brooklands" sports steering wheels. One MG T type with brown rim one a large Black rim like an Allard or similar one smaller pre war flat type and one earlier 4 spoke sprung Alvis type but smaller Dia.

4x Suzuki Swift GTI Wheels.

2 Bicycles. One Marin intermediate. One Specialized Mountain.

A large quantity of African carvings mainly in wood. Some smaller animals in stone. Various carvings of eagles, elephants, face masks. Even a warthog.

2x 25 Litre drums of engine oil and 2 25 Li drums of coolant.

I know this is a long shot. However long shots have worked in the past. Some of the items will be incredibly difficult to replace and others are irreplaceable.

Any information would be gladly received.