



Monkey Business

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Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

Firstly may I wish you all a happy prosperous and healthy 2023,

Eleven friends appeared this month, not as bleary eyed as I would have expected given it followed close on the heels of New Year celebrations. Of course I exclude myself from our clean living cohort! A jolly night was enjoyed notwithstanding the awful January weather which, whilst mild, was dark, wet and windy. On the bright side though, by the time you read this call to February's meeting we will have turned the celestial corner known as the winter solstice and be heading back to scorching summer; no doubt with floods, droughts and everything else nature can throw at us. However just like tonight, which saw Charles and Judith Van Ingen arrive in style (well Woodford actually) in their trusty 1965 TE 21, no one will be put off using the Alvis in the coming season.



I had to apologise to Elizabeth Bennett as I forgot to pass on the spare set of keys to her Alvis that I was given by Robin and Judy Wilmott at the Archive Trusts' Christmas lunch at Bowcliffe so hopefully February's meeting will see that put right. I'm sure that, now I've mentioned it, you'll all remind me on the night.

Dave Culshaw brought some very interesting information from his records on a Firebird sold through Folletts we are trying to allocate a registration number to. We have some unallocated registration numbers and we have the chassis numbers but marrying one to the other is not yet proven; but we are now a little nearer also we are closer to finally identifying a Speed 25 Charlesworth saloon that in the film 'My Favourite Kidnapper' is seen leaving to start a journey as itself and arrives at its destination having morphed into a German staff car! How's that for continuity? This research may seem pointless to some but it does help pass the dark nights.

So on to mention our other intrepid travellers, Peter Lakin joined us from Church Minshull. Because Simon had come straight from work they were in separate cars this month but that didn't stop the jollity. Tari and Michelle Mirza were both on great form and I think there might be an Alvis change in the stable before this season is out, of which, no doubt more news later. I always like seeing our mascot's name in the signing in book which brings back memories of the night with Our Norman misbehaving beautifully and in his cheeky-chappie way getting away with everything while, as usual, Claire looks on wistfully.

So a short report this month finishing with a quick report on my speed 20 Follett saloon which is now coming together nicely. The driver's door has been stripped of its aluminium, the timber frame sorted and repanelled and it now fits the



From this to this.... visible progress at last on AYP

hole in the body as if they were intentionally meant to fit together.

The bonnet has had tons (well not quite) of bog removed and the metal rolled on an English-wheel so it no longer resembles a frozen ploughed field. Also the bonnet has now been made to fit, the windows now wind up and down without needing mole grips on the spindle, as the window channels have now been correctly aligned, and the notice on the Webasto roof declaring that it mustn't be opened (!?) has now been removed and it will open. Closing it right now is a challenge but that will be sorted, even the cabinet work from the interior is being brought back from the edge of total loss. I am having the woods (where they still exist) conserved and repaired rather than replaced as I want the car to show its life journey to almost oblivion.



As the photo of the front chassis section as I bought it shows the car was not exactly in the 'first flush of youth' to quote our Peter. All in all it is now beginning to look quite ready for paint and as Simon once put it 'all its parts are beginning to fly in formation and looking like they are from the same craft'.

So it just remains now for me to invite you to the next meeting at The Deanwater Hotel SK7 1RJ on Tuesday 7th February at around 7pm

I will be travelling directly from Rugby to the meeting so please start without me if the M6 does something awful, as it has a habit of doing.