



# Monkey Business

## No 139 & 140 - April 2023



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*Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths*

The March meeting saw lovely clear skies with a bright full moon and this brought out 19 'lunatics' to the Deanwater, all our usual gathering of friends, it was good to see Shaun Donnelly back in the fold, now we have his new email address. I know Shaun has been working on his Silver Eagle and the car will soon be running again so hopefully we will see it and them at some of this year's outings. Charles and Judith were again Alvis borne in their TE21; I think it will now be difficult for anyone to beat them to the top accolade as this year closes but not impossible.



I must now report on the sad side of the month with the funeral service for Bill Buxton where Bill's family had worked on MXF 135 his TA 21 to be able to attend his send off and the car looked fantastic and the perfect mark of respect for Bill. Mick Fletcher and Gez arrived in the beautiful TD 21 that David Lowe has owned for about 30 years and the car still looks showroom fresh. The service was lovely and was conducted by a personal friend of Bill's. This was the first time I had experienced a funeral that contained so much relevance to the deceased and it made for a real celebration of Bill's life.



This, unique to me at least, service, with such personal relevance, was to be repeated the following Monday, when I

found myself in company with Elizabeth Bennett, for the re-organised, due to snow, funeral of Stephen Walley. The celebrant was a lady vicar to whom Stephen was step-grandfather, so the first quickly became a second - and within a few days of each other. Again, what a wonderful celebration of Stephen's life with such personal recollections of Stephen as a living person; coming right up to date with Enid giving a most impassioned talk of her time and travel experiences with Stephen. It just brought back memories of Ken Frith's funeral in the 1980's where, upon arriving at a bursting St Mary's church in Disley, the Vicar looked at his full house and declared "I didn't know (and here he looked down at his bit of paper for the name) Mr Frith, but I can see he was a very popular man" and the differences really struck home with me.

Anyway, to lighter matters in March. On the Wednesday of that week saw me at the Coach and Horses in Fenny Bentley at Eric Ody's lunchtime meeting called The Mad March Here Event. Now I'm not sure if this is a mis-spelling, or a play on words, as to where the lunch is being held as I know Eric does move it round his catchment area somewhat - so this lunch gathering is not to be confused with his second Tuesday evening meeting at the same pub. We had grand time with great food and as I have now come to expect a noisy ladies' end. However, those who were at our Deanwater Christmas gathering last year will remember the presentation of illuminated warning sign which was in full



display so any of the chaps close by could not plead ignorance. I am very lucky living on the somewhat arbitrary AOC border between the Midland and Northern regions to be able to meet friends from afar like David and Kaye Webster, from somewhere in Leicestershire, to mention just one couple I hadn't seen for quite a while, whilst not personally travelling beyond above a 50 mile radius.

So, back to the Deanwater, in March, where Mike Robinson handed a whole collection of Alvis related records which have now all gone to the Alvis Archive Trust for assessment

and onward forwarding to any appropriate recipient, or entry into the Trust's inventory as is deemed appropriate by the assessors and trustees. Thank you Mike, it is so important for the personal records we all hold to be appraised and not discarded as irrelevant, or of no interest to others, now we have the Trust to carry out these tasks. Dave Culshaw likewise brought me photographs from the Ernest Shenton collection which are, as I write, being sent round the meetings to hopefully put names to some of the forgotten friends from the past. I will have one of the albums with me on Tuesday where hopefully a few names will be added.

Now I will segue to the 140th, April, meeting where, apparently, we had bright sunshine with a cold wind. At the meeting we had no fewer than four Alvises gracing the car park; namely the family TD21 of Tim and Jayne Brown, Tari and Michelle Mirza in their TF 21, Peter Lakin, with Melissa and Simon as passengers, in PN, Peter's lovely and very rare 12/60 saloon and last, but not least, you know who - Charles V-I in his TE21. This month Charles was sans Judith whom he had sent out scratching out a tune or two to gather in a few Shekels to help mitigate the effects of rampant inflation. Our very own cheekie chappie, Norman, was with us along with Claire and we were also joined by Jon Reeves and David Combey, so it was a very full house



April's meeting saw Shaun Donnelly accompanied by Shirley and Katie to boost our vibrant ladies' department and they were seen in deep conversation with Claire, Melissa and Jayne. However, upon leaving, Shaun declared he wasn't bringing the ladies next time! Now this was in jest I hope as, if it wasn't, he isn't going to allowed into the inner sanctum if he dares leaves them at home in May. Our ladies are the envy of other meetings and the backbone of ours with the possible exception of that noisy lot at Eric's lunch dos!

It's nearly 6' o'clock now as I write this but I am going to close with an amazing experience I enjoyed today. Near where I live is the very historic Wybersley Hall, formerly the home of Judge Bradshaw. Bradshaw was the President of the High Court of Justice which led him to become one of the signatories on the death warrant of King Charles the 1st. Also, as a much later relative, Christopher Bradshaw Isherwood, the author, was born at Wybersey Hall. Why do I mention this you ask? well not for any reason other than for the whole of my time life in Disley, Wybersey Hall has been a mysterious derelict collection of collapsing buildings that can be part seen on the back road to Marple. In a casual conversation with my next door neighbour we touched on the subject of Wybersey and it turned out that two parts of the estate have now been sold off and he is restoring the old coach house adjacent to the Hall. I was delighted to be shown round his project but what really got me was a sneak



through the undergrowth to see the actual Hall and, as the photos show, is in a neglected state; there can't be many more early 16th century historic houses left so untouched, for heaven knows how long, that are still a full recognisable building and not a pile of imagination on the floor, I just thought I would mention it for pure English historical interest.

Finally, to the next meeting at the Deanwater, I hope to see you all there at SK7 1RJ on Tuesday 2nd of May at around 7 for 7.30 all are welcome, hungry or not.