



Monkey Business No 143 - July 2023



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

It was a lovely evening, the Americans were celebrating Independence Day, and nearly all was right with the world; at least all was right with our small bit of it at the Deanwater. We had 5 gorgeous Alvis gracing the car park representing 3 decades of car production; starting in the twenties with Mike Robinson's 12/50 tourer, then on to Peter Lakin's 12/60 saloon; my Firebird tourer representing the thirties, and finally to the sixties with Tim and Jayne Brown and Judith Van Ingen in their respective 3 litre cars.



Brown's face seeing Judith off for a safe journey home to the Wirral.



Judith deserves a special mention by demonstrating the strength of purpose that our ladies have. Such that, when Charles found he couldn't come to the meeting, Judith did no more than jump in the car and, flying solo, brought it herself; clearly not wanting to miss the fun at the Deanwater. We also see the glee on Jayne

We were 16 in total so two tables were occupied whilst most of us ate our evening meal and very good it was too. I had only had one apology from Shaun Donnelly who couldn't be with us but wished the meeting a great night and, later on, much 'churning' took place so everyone could chat with everyone else. Another of our stalwart ladies, Elizabeth Bennett, was telling me of her very great disappointment that sadly her planned solo drive, in her TA21, to the AOC's international bash in Scotland had to be abandoned early into the journey as the car suddenly deposited a load of water onto the floor. This was later discovered to be a burst heater hose which, if that had been known earlier, could have been quickly dealt with by bypassing the heater; but, as we always say, hindsight is a wonderful thing. Luckily it happened near home so Elizabeth was able to return and take her everyday car to Scotland, thus demonstrating the sheer determination of a Drummer lady to not be defeated.

This month we welcomed Duncan Mather to his first time with us. I do hope the exuberance of the assembled crowd doesn't put him off from future attendance as all are welcome. It is always great to welcome Mick and Gez, as it is a fair run from Blackburn, although not quite so far for Gez from Heaton Chapel. Dave Culshaw who has been a loyal Drummer since our time at the Drum & Monkey was again helping with more historical research. I know he was instrumental in identifying the mysterious and unknown Alvis that Mike Fitkin repatriated from France that was proved to be formerly owned by King Edward VIII.

So, now on to Norman and Claire Blundell who have gone

eco-friendly with a new electric something or other to replace the Volvo! However, I am sure you are anxious to know the result of Norman's quest with Kristina. Well, all nearly went well. As you know, Norman left June's meeting full of confidence that he had got the pose just right, and decided to try it out with the next feather duster round; with perfect timing he mounted the chair and adopted his statuesque pose. What he didn't know was that Kristina was on to him having seen some of his rehearsals and, playing along with his scheme, continued with her duties with a nonchalant air and caught Norman unawares by giving him a good dusting down that surprised him so much he fell off the chair. Poor



Norman is now having to make use of a walking stick whilst he recovers from the tumble, so when you see him over the season with his stick give him a nudge and a wink to let him know you know why!

Mentioning Norman also brings me to the Bent Valve Trophy handover. It was back having been engraved by Simon but the trouble is I still can't remember which way it was going!

It was really good to see both Simon and Melissa at the meeting and even better to see much progress with BVC, his Firebird DHC, in readiness for their great day. It may well be BVC's great day too as both events may indeed happen on one and the same day. Simon tells me that once the doors are hung properly it's off to Andrew Wisdom for the hood to be fitted.



Talking of going back together I can report solid progress with AYF's restoration, in that the rear seat is now a finished job, and I am sure you will agree the result is showing great promise.

So on to other happenings through the month, GS and I joined Manfred Fleishmann's Crossing Borders run, which, this year, was organised by Huw Morris-Jones through the



beautiful hills and dales of North Yorkshire, ending at a farewell lunch at Bowcliffe Hall enabled by the good offices of the Archive Trust. There are just a few photos to record the event, including one visit to a proper Yorkshire pub, in Malton, that Huw had built up to be an experience for our foreign guests, now so rare. To my, and the landlord's, surprise he was making our visitors feel more at home by ordering a pint of euro-

fizz. This surprised us so much that the landlord decided this should be taken through a straw - one was supplied and dutifully used by Huw so as not to upset anyone.

So to the closing farewell lunch at Bowcliffe Drivers Club the



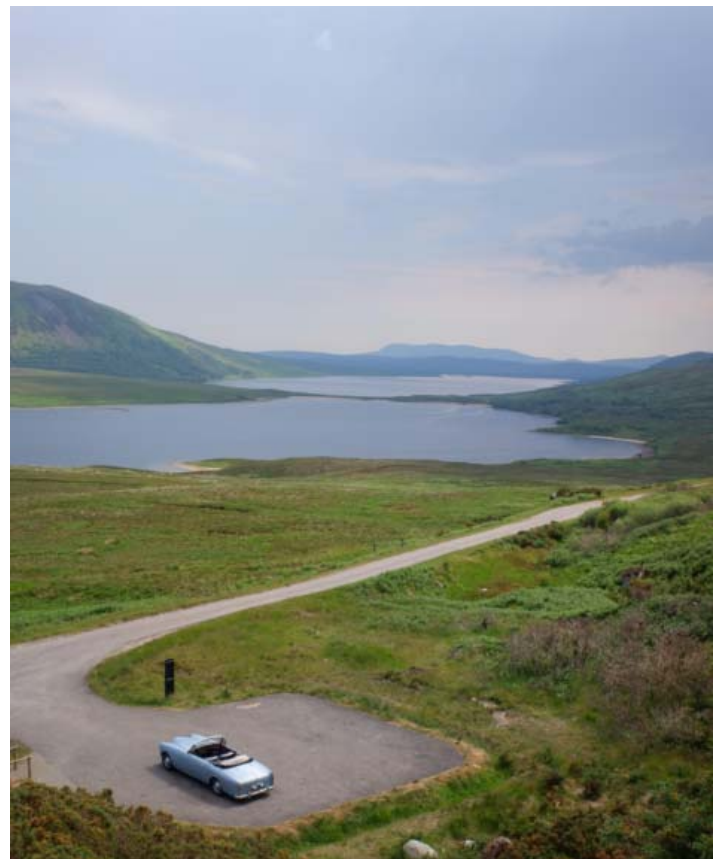


photos are self-explanatory with the lunch party gathered and the cars parked on the lawn, the goodbyes were said and off to the ferry at Hull for the night sailing to Rotterdam and Cheshire for me and GS.

all comers with Aston Martin, Jaguar and anything else of interest being welcome, a wonderful discussion with long established Bentley owners brought back memories of so many people that used to frequent the Dandy Cock in Disley in the seventies and eighties, who were mutual friends with Ken Frith. A very lively reminiscence took place, almost to the exclusion of the others at the meeting, but it was a great night that has itself formed a new lasting memory. Again, there a couple of photos to record the night

As a 'stop press' I have just received a photo from Charles Van-Ingen showing their Alvis on their personal follow-on-tour after the Crieff weekend. It is at as lonely a spot as can probably be found these days, which Charles says was taken from Cnoc Craggie, on the remote single track A836 between Altnaharra and Tongue at 27 degrees C. Which is a coincidence as Altnaharra also recorded the UK's lowest ever temperature at -27 degrees C.

By another coincidence on the Crossing Borders tour we were joined for an afternoon by Robin Willmott in his TC108G Swiss Bodied Graber. Robin invited me to join him and Judy at their local noggin & natter as they join us at the Deanwater, when visiting relatives in Alderley Edge. So, seeing that his meeting at the Triton Inn at Sledmere was only 10 miles from our centre in Malton I made my excuses for the night and on that beautiful evening drove to Sledmere, which I understand is better known for its horsepower on legs than on wheels, and what a wonderful night we had. The food was excellent and company better and welcoming. As Robin's meeting is



GS at Robin & Judy's Noggin (T) with (B) an Aston departing later

So that will do for now with a slight apology for lateness due to a houseful of contractors with music (well that's what they call it) blaring out so concentration is somewhat robbed. Until next Tuesday then I hope to see you at the Deanwater (SK7 1RJ) on Tuesday August 1st at around 7pm.