



Monkey Business

No 153 - May 2024



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

I start the report of May's meeting on a positive note, The Alderley Edge Hotel had arranged our tables in the alcove just off, but connected to, the main dining room, as Peter Lakin and I had originally requested, and it made all the difference. We were greatly impressed with the staff who even remembered what some of us had eaten the month before; they were most attentive and the excessive wait some had last month for their meal did not happen this time. As I have said there will be a period where we get used to each other, one difference, and in Charles Van-Ingen's words is actually easier for us, in that at the Deanwater when we wanted extras like a pudding or coffee we dutifully went to the bar to order and pay for it, whereas at the Alderley they take such orders at the table and bring them along with the card machine; so it's actually the same but we don't need to move!.

Anyway to the report, I thought we were slightly down on numbers but in fact we were 12 strong which along with apologies from Mick & Gez, Norman & Claire (who were touring on the Isle of Man) and Tari and Michelle, we were actually right on our average attendance. I was pleased that Elizabeth Bennett, Tim and Jayne Brown, Peter Lakin, Simon & Melissa Griffiths and Richard Plant-Locke were all with us so they could experience life at the Alderley and their opinions, along with everyone else I spoke with on the night were positive about the venue. It is now settled that we return to the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant (their full title) as our new home. It has taken 5 months to find a suitable replacement for our beloved Deanwater but the Alderley fits the bill exactly, so I hope now the nomadic wanderings are over to see you all in our settled home. It is certainly somewhere you could take anybody to in the words of one of our regular attendees.

The weather on the night was glorious and without a doubt my comment in the signing-in book that 'Spring has Sprung' was so true, we had two Alvis cars to appreciate one was Tim and Jayne's TD21 and the other Charles and Judith's TE21 of which I have received the daring and technically challenging contre-jour photograph taken by Judith giving us a most

unusual view of the cars with the setting sun behind. I can only hang my head in shame that my Firebird wasn't there! My only excuse being that, living the life of lastminute.com, I needed to call at Marks at Handforth Dean to swap some



The picture quality from Judith's camera below isn't too great so I haven't been able to increase the size so I've included 2 pictures of the cars!

new clothes I'd bought wrongly ready for my drive to Dusseldorf the next day. Sorting the Firebird out was just one hassle too many, I must be getting old!

However, I have some good news to report in that Peter Lakin's engine is now ready for putting back in the Firefly after a rebuild. I am going to Church Minshull with my balance beam lifting thing to help Peter put it back, so there is a good chance JJ might be ready to join us one the 4th and I will make the effort to bring GS. I haven't had an up to the minute report from Simon about the progress of BVC so I hope DO'S will bring us up to speed on his keyhole observations.



David Culshaw, as ever, knew more about our cars than even we do and an in-depth conversation was had with Duncan Mather who brought photographs of his father's Speed 20 (then a saloon, now a well-loved special). He had been to Yorkshire to see the long-term owner of the car, Duncan thought that it is a shame the car is now a special but, as I remarked, at least it has survived, and is loved and used by its current owner, so all is not lost. Let us not forget that these

prewar cars all passed through a period where making them ready for the new MOT, and repairing tired coach built bodies, either saw the end of them, or their conversion to specials, as such expense well exceeded their value. So we must be grateful to those devoted owners that any survived at all.

The next report I have is that Eric Ody has been in hospital for an operation which took place on Bank Holiday Monday. Eric has messaged me to say he is recovering well and, on all our behalf, I have wished Eric a full and speedy recovery, I will report more when I know more.

So, onto the next meeting for June (yes June already) which is on Tuesday 4th at around 7pm at the Alderley Edge Hotel, Macclesfield Rd, SK9 7BJ

I look forward to meeting you hopefully with fine and warm weather and plenty of cars to enjoy.

And now we hear from our roving reporter Dean O'Spyder

I've been out and about looking for progress, particularly in the Griffiths' car-thedral. His hope to have BVC out for Melissa's eldest son's wedding were apparently dashed by a non-conforming regulator. Close but no cigar!

I espied a replacement RJF92 being fitted in place of the original RJF2. Needless to say it's taken Simon some head scratching to work out how to connect everything but it looks like he's sorted it - for those of you who are interested the two images below show details of the RJF2 taken from the Firebird handbook wiring diagram and then the connections on the underside of the RJF90 series.

Sadly Simon tells me he's away teaching next week so won't be back in time to bring the Firebird to the meeting so you'll just have to be patient and wait until August to see it!

