



Monkey Business No 155 - July 2024



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

The weather for our July meeting was on our side, it was a lovely balmy evening and that attracted 21 friends, to gather at the Alderley Edge Hotel & Restaurant And at least 5 cars; mainly Alvis but one notable addition which was David Combey's replica Lola 770 Mk3B, (wouldn't that make it a Mk4?) David tells me this car was one of a very few created by GTD in Poole as their main production was of GT40 kits and a rare treat it was to hear it leave - a very un-Alvis sound! I say at least 5 cars as I know Tari and Michelle's TF 21 was present, but I can only assume the top car park was full as I didn't actually see the car in the flesh.

Most unusually Charles and Judith were early bird arrivals at the restaurant; with no car listing so I can only assume they had joined us on their way home from another engagement. In which case I think Charles deserves a prize for it being their first attendance not in his Alvis for about 10 years. Always remembering, that when Charles was indisposed, Judith brought the car flying solo. Unless of course he made a mistake by entering in the attendance book his AOC member number instead of the car number, regrettably



membership numbers of any clan does not gain prizes at the fast approaching Christmas do (at least from an organisational perspective).

I have yet to work the fine details with our new home about Christmas which, hopefully, will not need to be quite as early as the Deanwater was. Hopefully we won't be competing with the Woodford & District Over Sixties Nude Leap-frogging Society for a room which had to be booked a full 12 months in advance. But talking of Christmas our attendance even with two apologies from Melissa Griffiths and Elizabeth Bennett was 21 friends, which is just 3 short of our farewell Christmas do at the Deanwater last November, so for mid-year we are getting something right and the new home seems to be settling down to be the 'norm'.



An ever changing line up!

I include a photo from Duncan Mather who along with Eric Ody are our most welcome regular border raiders, as opposed to reivers (that accolade goes to another - read on) from Staffordshire where Duncan is making good progress with his TD21 project and judging by the quality of the interior cabinet work the car is going to be a stunner.



I am also really happy to report that Eric Ody is making a strong recovery from his surgery and is now back behind the wheel of his most beautiful VDP bodied Crested Eagle.

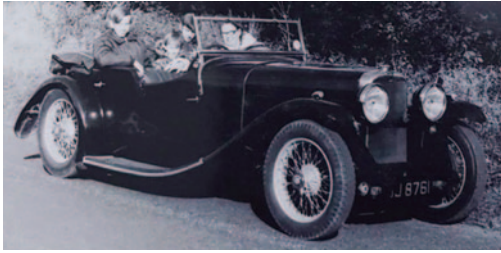
So onward to the actual meeting where I had somewhat optimistic reported last month that we would be holding a Firebird Fest by welcoming Simon and Melissa with BVC 46, however, due to work commitments, it sadly wasn't to be, Simon simply could not get home in time to bring BVC. However it was great to see Mick Fletcher and Gez make the supreme effort to bring his Firebird saloon COA 208 from Blackburn. I, to stop being lazy, brought GS 6656 to the



meeting and collected a speeding ticket on the way home, photo included with a certain perverse pride from a new camera which won't be taxing

me again! To complete the set of Firebirds (although in the form of just the engine) was Peter Lakin complete with Karen and daughter Naomi making it a real family night out in JJ8761, his trusty Firefly, which we are celebrating is now back on the road after failing to proceed somewhere in the middle of

Scotland when touring with Jack, Peter's son. What is really good is to see the car still performing family transport



as a photograph from the 1970's recently turned up on social media showing the then owner's family filling the car.

Notwithstanding work commitments BVC did actually need a bit more awakening work and a small party of Firebird know-alls gathered at a certain Car-thedral to help BVC on her way to being the reliable transport we know Alvis 4 cylinder cars to be. The car responded well to the treatment and Peter, Simon & I also responded very well to a lovely alfresco meal provided by Melissa, washed down by a rather good 5 year



old Chateaufeuf du Pape provided by Peter, Simon having donated the car and it seems I didn't actually bring anything except perhaps my charming personality and wit!!! Anyway all that is at it maybe but I really do expect to see BVC at Alderley Edge next Tuesday or there will be trouble.

Peter and Chris setting up Simon's Firebird (above) and, to show how well they did, it made it to Arley Hall (right), although it did cook its voltage regulator on the way so Simon is frantically trying to replace it in time for Tuesday's meeting



As the photo shows Mike Robinson brought his 12/50 tourer VM86757 for his first visit to the Alderley. It seems Mike has had historic connections with the hotel so really it was hello again, although his first visit with VM since leaving the

Deanwater. Whilst talking of matters historic Dave Culshaw gave us his usual glimpse into all matters of Alvis antecedence. David's depth of knowledge is breathtaking and between him and Wayne Brooks in the USA there hasn't an Alvis turned a wheel one of those two gentlemen can't report on it. Norman and Claire joined the meeting as with his impish manner Norman brought light to the affairs of the meeting and as usual Claire looked on; rather in the fashion of Dr Mosley I'm going to get Norman to practice standing on one leg then Cheshire can have its own imp to challenge the Lincolnshire one.



To complete the report and again whether it's an omission or error but Tim & Jayne Brown haven't listed their TD 21 as being in attendance which is why I said earlier we were at least 5 cars, anyway, car or not, it's always great to welcome



Tim & Jayne who do so much for the AOC in the North.

Charles and Judith's TD photographed at Knaresbough, apparently the car was last there 40+ years ago in much worse condition than now and returned with a stuffed Gannet on the back seat!

Last but never least is our border reiver from Wales, Richard Plant-Locke. It must be a great shock to his car to finally get out of the indirect gears and speed along in excess of 20MPH! but then they wanted their own government who seem to be even dafter than ours.

So looking forward to August our meeting will be at the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant,

Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge SK9 7BJ from 19.00 on Tuesday August 6th next week. where we will try again for an expanded 4 cylinder fest, 6 & 8 cylinder cars are of course also welcome.