



Monkey Business No 155 - July 2024



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

That was the month that was! Probably the busiest motoring of the year with so many calls on one's attentions and patronage that it is sometimes difficult to decide where to go. We were 17 strong with 5 apologies, two of which sadly came a little later in the evening as BVC 46 had developed a problem of fuel reticence so, sensibly, Simon and Melissa decided to draw stumps on the expedition and return to base; however this shows great promise for September's meeting as BVC 46 did make it to Tatton, albeit with a bit of a limp home but, again, another teething problem quickly sorted. It has to be remembered this car hasn't run for half a century and Simon bought it totally and utterly dismantled - and not by the chap he bought it off - so it is a great demonstration of tenacity on Simon's part to have got it this far and Melissa's patience in letting him!

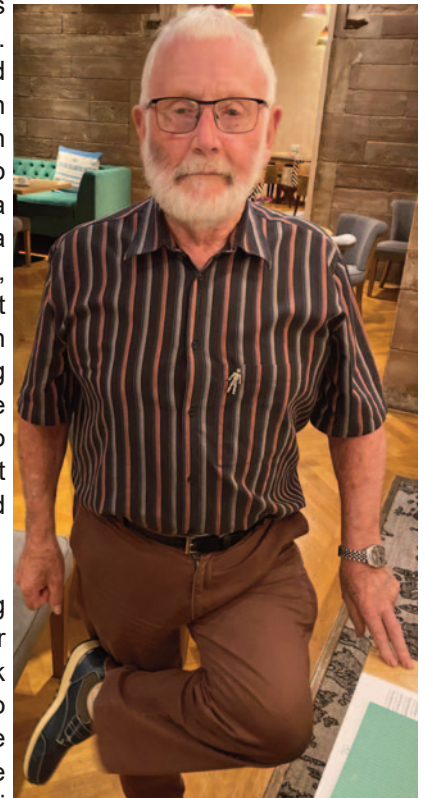
However, cars that did arrive at the Alderley were; my Firebird, Ian Francis in his gorgeous SA speed 20, Peter Lakin in his Firefly, Mike Robinson in his 12/60 and Charles Van-Ingén in his TD drophead, so a good spread from the Vintage to the Classic period passing through PVT.

Just an extra note which is to welcome Ian Francis for his second time of joining us - and this time with his SA Speed 20. The car is a very late SA and sports the new Cross & Ellis tourer design which lasted in several variants until war stopped production; for instance my Firebird has a tall one, the Firefly has a short elegant one and the speed 25 and 4.3 had a long one. All essentially one design from 1933 to 1939, on many different chassis, so certainly a winning concept.

For a while Mike's car had Peter Lakin and me guessing, as the gearbox is clearly the correct one but does not have the awkward latch lever to access the reverse gate. However Mike came up with some photos taken whilst the car was in

restoration and the gearbox has had a lovely conversion to spring operation, copying the production models of the all synchro box, which is a plus for the driver and an explanation for Peter and me.

Joining us from Uttoxeter were Eric and Denise Ody, which bears out my appreciation of the ladies wanting to accompany the car nuts to our meeting. Denise was chatting with Claire Blundell and Norman was showing us his practice moves to fully serve as the Cheshire Imp. Norman and Claire could not join us on the Tatton AOC stand as Norman was lucky enough to have been offered a cancellation for a medical procedure, which he jumped at, but which clashed with Tatton, I do hope during his imp stance rehearsals he didn't do himself a mischief, but we all wish him a full and speedy recovery.



It was a lively meeting with much churning after we had eaten so I think everyone managed to speak with everyone else as the photos on the WhatsApp group Tari Mirza has kindly created shows. Dave Culshaw came with some important discoveries and returned to me some information I have about the 20HP Silver Dart which Alvis displayed at the Scottish Motor Show at Kelvin Hall in, I think, 1931. My theory is that Alvis were trying out various model names for the forthcoming launch of the new 20HP car which we now know as the Speed 20. We know it was also called the Silver Eagle 20 and the Silver Dart, and there may be other names yet to be discovered, before they settled on the SA Speed 20. Why SA? Well here my thoughts are 'S' because it was designated as a sports chassis, as opposed to 'T' which was intended as a Touring car, and 'A' because it was the first of its kind. This was Alvis's tried and tested car type designation used throughout the vintage period and lasted to the end of car production.



Tim Brown, sadly sans Jayne, joined us and handed out the car passes for the upcoming AOC stand at Tatton where Tim had a good attendance on both Saturday and Sunday, as the photos show. GS 6656 had its first meeting with BVC 46 on the Sunday so they had a lot to chat about.



However, back to the meeting, Charles and Judith kindly supplied us with a box of chocolate Petit Fours which were hugely appreciated and received with enthusiasm as the photos show, check Norman caught in his usual act with the ladies! Sadly Mick and Gez could not join in this month as



Gez wasn't well enough to come and it's a very long way for Mick to come on his own. Regrettably, also unable to be with us was Elizabeth Bennett, who is in New Zealand with family. Elizabeth is unsure exactly

when she will be returning but has pre booked her place at the Christmas dinner to be certain of a meal, of which more later.

On the night Mike Fitkin collected his Tatton ticket and was passing on one or two of his contacts for trimming and, judging by the result on his cars, they are very worthy recommendations. Next up was Duncan Mather, whose articles on his TD restoration in the AOC bulletins make



fascinating reading. We are privileged to get preview photos of the car's progress, which leads me to report my SB 20 saloon is now actually receiving paint, at long last, in the form of something called Epoxy Primer - which I am assured will stay attached to the metal unlike the last lot which could be peeled off in sheets! However it seems I'm not alone as one poor Rolls owner discovered. I'm not sure if this makes me feel any better but it just shows corners cannot be cut on these finishing processes.



so to other events covered this month, Giles Lacey kindly organised our attendance at Hope country show on bank holiday Monday which, for two people and a privileged parking spot (as Chris Holt used to refer to entering), for a Fiver must be the best value meeting of the year although Tatton is free! Please contact Giles if any of you would like to enter next year, it's a reet good do!



So now to finish, I am including the Christmas dinner menu for you to decide if you would like to eat the pre-arranged meal at the Alderley Edge hotel. It will be our normal 1st Tuesday of December (which is the 3rd) in our usual area just off the main restaurant unless we are too many in which case no doubt we will be in the main room. I would like your menu choice and payment at the absolute latest by our November meeting please. BACS payment to Mr C Taylor, NWB 01-10-01 A/c 02816539. PLEASE fill in your name on the 16 character reference and send your menu choice by email to: chrisalvis20@gmail.com

And finally our next meeting is on September the first Tuesday which is the 3rd at 7.00 pm at eth Alderley Edge Hotel & restaurant, Macclesfield |Rd, Alderley Edge Cheshire SK9 7BJ

FESTIVE MENU

IN THE GRILL ON THE HILL

The perfect treat for a get together with friends, family or work colleagues
Private dining rooms available – please ask

MENU



Butternut squash, sweet potato & sage soup, warm bread (VG)
Duck liver & orange pate, spiced cranberry & juniper chutney,
dressed baby leaf, toasted brioche*
Smoked haddock & leek tart, spinach & fennel salad, lemon & basil oil, aioli (V)
Panko breaded fried Brie, warm chilli & cranberry compote (V)



Roast breast of turkey, garlic & thyme roast potatoes, glazed root vegetables, sage & apricot farce,
shredded creamed Brussels sprouts with bacon, pigs in blankets, pan gravy *
Herb crusted baked salmon supreme, creamed potatoes,
Provençal vegetables, tomato Beurre Blanc *
Slow cooked daube of beef, confit garlic crushed roasted new potatoes,
orange & honey glazed carrots, wild mushroom & thyme jus (NCGI)
Individual chestnut, butternut squash & blue cheese Wellington, garlic & thyme roast potatoes,
honey glazed root vegetables, sage & apricot farce, Brussels sprouts and red wine jus (V)



Traditional Christmas pudding, warm brandy sauce, orange crisp
Dark chocolate & Baileys pot, festive berries, shortbread *
Tarte au citron, cinnamon Chantilly cream, lemon & lime syrup (V)
Cranberry & cinnamon panna cotta, mulled berries (NCGI, V)

2 Courses £28.00

3 Courses £34.00

Add £4.50 for coffee and warm mince pies

Payment please to Chris - account details on the previous page