



Monkey Business

No 157 - September 2024



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

A really lovely evening to drive to the Alderley Edge Hotel & Restaurant to our September meeting, however, as the sun set, you could clearly feel the change of season was in the air with the slightest damp chill clearly felt for the journey home. Nonetheless we were 17 strong with 4 Alvis cars present, sadly these didn't include BVC 46. But I know Simon is working hard clearing away some of the rebirth niggles of a car not used for half a century and is winning.

Francis, Elizabeth Bennett as well as Mick and Gez who were sailing away the following night on the same Rotterdam crossing I am on going to Germany. Sadly, my return is on Tuesday the 1st so I cannot be with you for the October-fest but Simon has agreed to be your host for the night.

So, back to the night; Dave Culshaw is busy working with Mike Robinson where Dave is tapping into the wealth of local motoring history Mike probably didn't know he had; the part I gleaned was something to do with an Alvis and two pigs! I have asked Dave to give me a short precis of this research local to our meeting for future inclusion in Monkey Business when their joint research is complete. To top it all Mike regularly comes in his 12/50 so all round is a top man.



I took GS my Firebird which will soon be sporting a complete set of brand new shock absorbers (amazing that after nearly 90 years I have bought OEM from Andre Hartford themselves!) This forms part of the complete chassis and running gear overhaul, which will include the wheels being rebuilt, new springs (thanks to research by Giles Lacey) and any bushes etc found to need work. The Firebird has served me with 99.9% reliability over 40 years and 125,000 miles and is now due a well-earned bit of attention, when the saloon is operational. Peter Lakin arrived in JJ, his Firefly, telling me he is now confident enough in the car since the engine rebuild to consider a continental tour next year so who knows what adventure lies ahead? It hardly needs saying that Charles and Judith Van-Ingén arrived in their resplendent TD whose total mileage must put GS to shame.



In fact I did have occasion to look at the new mural Simon and Rob have had done to the railway arch where their locksmith business is in Manchester city centre - which incidentally is wonderful and worth a trip to see and, of course, to spend some money getting that lock and key cut that no one else has got or can make you a working example of (well artists have to be paid you know, just ask Judith). Whilst in the arch I espied a Firebird front bumper blade no doubt receiving some attention - well I got one up on D O'S on that one!

I am equally happy to report AYF will be back with me during October, so it looks like there will be much to celebrate in 2025 (hopefully). I had apologies from Duncan Mather, Ian



It never ceases to amaze me of the broad subjects covered in our monthly conversations and this month I was asking Judith about a locksmith student of mine who himself was classically trained as a violinist by one Kato Havas, Judith's answer was deep and involved, and with the noise from our assembled gathering I need a refresher when next we meet. The next to arrive was Eric Ody complete with the 'boss' Denise who had heard something of the good time we all have and, wanting to know what it is that draws Eric across county boundaries, was welcomed into our midst. But only after my trying to make her visit memorable by showing her to a lovely seat in the restaurant I had selected with a lovely view of the setting sun over the beautifully wooded area -

only to be castigated for my efforts! The mere fact this seat, with the superb situation and vistas, was a little way from the rest of us seemed to be a problem - oh well I did my best to please! Claire and Norman joined us and I am delighted to report that Norman is recovering from a medical procedure very well under Claire's care and attention so that is excellent news. Simon and Melissa sadly, as I mentioned earlier, sans BVC, joined the meeting and together with Tim and Jayne Brown much hilarity was heard to be being enjoyed. The next and final members of our group were Johnathon Reeves, Richard Brocklebank and David Combey whose most amazing joint stable of cars, from Alvis TA 14's to a Williams prepared Aston Martin, Lola and a Mk 9 Jag, means there is an conversation to be had on any and every level including applied mathematics if that lights your light.

So accompanied by the Looney Tunes music 'That's All Folks'

Our next meeting at the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant is on Tuesday October 1st at around 7 pm and can be found at SK9 7BJ. As I said sadly I cannot be with you and Simon is your host so you're in for a good night.

And finally: Simon is re-sending the Christmas fare and instructions regarding paying me, but PLEASE remember to put your name against the payment and email me your menu choice remembering the November meeting is the closing night for entries.

And now a quick round up from our roving reporter, Dean O'Spyder...

I spotted Charles and Judith participating in an excellent 5 night trip to Northern Ireland organised by the Scottish Section, but really by Joe Stewart who lives outside Belfast.



Charles and Judith's TD photographed in Portaferry on Strangford Lough.

The group visited the Giant's Causeway, Mountains of Mourne, Strangford Lough and the Titanic Quarter. With the weather being excellent it was hood down all the way.

On another note, if anyone out there is interested in having a fine saloon AYF's sister car once owned by Walter Williamson is up for sale on carandclassic.com. At £150K it's about half what Chris will have spent on AYF by the time he's driving it!



1934 Alvis Speed 20 SB Vanden Plas 'Flatback' coupe

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

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 .