



Monkey Business

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Written and

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

I fall for it every time! Chris had said “I’m away for the meeting so could you please be host?” “No problem” said I, completely forgetting that with the hosting comes the additional duty of writing Monkey Business; will I never learn? October’s meeting was a bit of a cut down event with apologies for absence from Tim and Jayne Brown (preparing for holidays) Elizabeth Bennett (still in New Zealand, so a bit too far to come back) Chris Taylor (on his way back from Germany) and Norman and Claire (no proper excuse given!). Even so we were 10 happy diners in all.

Weather may have played a part in the absence of others, given it was the first almost dry day since what felt like a repeat of Noah’s flood! The only Alvis in the car park was – and you’ll be amazed at this – Charles and Judith’s TE, as Peter and Karen had arrived with Melissa and me in a modern, so there were two possible Alvis cars not present! Mike Robinson and Dave Culshaw were already well ensconced and discussing, of all things, the Alvis Goodwin Special possibly having been fitted with a tow bar and used to tow a pig trailer. It seems there was a local (to Alderley Edge) farmer who had fitted a tow bar to at least one Alvis to transport his livestock – hopefully there will more information to follow in the future.

Richard Plant-Locke (never know if it has an e on the end or not so I spell it different every time!) had made it over the border from Wales so, naturally, a report has been sent to the Border Force lamenting their lack of control and, finally, we were joined by Tari Mirza, sans Michelle who was at choir practice.

The fewer numbers didn’t seem to affect the volume in the



room too much so another enjoyable meeting was had by all. Next month’s meeting is the last before the Christmas do; I can’t believe we’re already talking about it but we are. Hopefully you have booked your place with Chris; if not do it now before it’s too late. Sadly Melissa and I have to tender our apologies for November’s meeting as we’re at an evening with Kate Mosse – the second ‘e’ means it’s the author not the model so it may involve less alcohol and fewer drugs.

For the rest of you, who have no excuses, the next meeting is on November the 5th at the Alderley Edge Hotel.

And now a message from our roving reporter Dean O’Spyder...

It seems there is no part of the UK where a certain couple aren’t prepared to travel to. It’s a good job they don’t go reiving like another Drummer or there’s be no spares left for the rest of us! This time I was passing the East Anglian Section’s recent Autumn Gathering when I spotted Judith taking a picture of Charles driving out of the gates of the Red House in Aldeburgh. The picture aims to recreate the image shown on the front cover of the May 1979 AOC Bulletin (and as reproduced in David Culshaw’s splendid work – Alvis Society, page 204) of Benjamin Britten driving his TD21 Series II.



Sadly a tree now obstructs the view of the house so it’s not an exact reproduction.

For those of you interested in knowing more, Charles told me that BB's car, 861 PBJ, still exists and is now in Guildford.

Since returning from Germany it has been all change at Taylor Towers where WJ, Chris's stunning VdP designed Speed 20, saw the light of day after 14 years in the flat garage – that's the garage at the flat he owns, not one that's collapsed by the way. Sadly, a short lived time in the sun as it is now down at the house and its place has been taken by the Firebird.



But the big news is that AYF, his saloon, has been retrieved and is now also at the house, resplendent in its new livery and restructured coachwork. Lots to do before it hits the road under its own propulsion, according to Chris, but at least there is light at the end of the tunnel; hopefully not just someone with a torch bringing him more work.

