



Monkey Business

No 159 - November 2024



Written and

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

Wow, a bumper meeting for November, with Peter Lakin and Charles and Judith Van-Ingen arriving in Alvis cars, but especially Peter in JJ his Firefly tourer, on a nice but, nevertheless, November night.

We were 18 in total (just two short of the Christmas special) and we welcomed an old friend back to our midst, now a new Alvis owner, in the form of Steve Moore from Whaley Bridge. Steve has not joined us for some time but is now the proud owner of a 12/50. It is amazing how many Alvis are now centred in our catchment area; with Steve's 12/50 and Ian Francis in his lovey SA 20 C&E tourer from New Mills being new in this year alone I am now surrounded by owners with delightful and varied Alvis cars.

Next to welcome and broadening our international appeal even further we welcomed two of Duncan Mathers' relatives from Canada who were Janette and Stephen McCrea, it's probably stretching things a bit far to assume they came to old Albion to coincide with our meeting but hey I can live in a dream if I wish! I hope Stephen went away knowing that owning an Alvis is now on his bucket list.

I was pleased to see Eric Ody who is always a welcome border raider, along with Richard Plant-Locke, but at least Eric only crosses county lines not international ones as PP does. As Eric says it is good to get the car out of 2nd gear occasionally and stretch its legs up to at least 50 MPH. I was a bit upset to see our mascot Norman Blundell has been in the wars as he is sporting a head injury but with expert help



Hood down in November? Retired farmers are clearly made of tough stuff. Do you think it stayed down on the way home?

and support from Claire it seems he is on the mend and will make a full recovery - you have all our thoughts and well wishes, Norman. Always good to see Tari Mirza, this month sans Michelle, and we will be missing both of them at the December bash as they are out of the country but we look forward to seeing them to welcome in 2025 on January 7th.

I posed David Culshaw a puzzler about a Stockport registered TA14, just in case its original owner was a Disley resident. If it was it would be another car to add to "Alvis in Disley" if I ever get to writing it! (time would be a great starter). A couple of days later came part one of David's research which is an extract from the Stockport registration records held in the local library. It makes very interesting reading and brought back a memory of UDB 608, which was the 1961 Land Rover I took my test in, thank you David.

I mentioned Steve Moore earlier, the new owner of a 12/50; Steve is known to us as a pal of Johnathon Reeves – he of very long term family TA 14 ownership - who joined us along with other welcome friends namely Kevin Malloy (formerly the owner of several tasty Jaguars) and David Combey, who is also a Jaguar fan. We are still working on David to let his Alvis find him.

I also mentioned earlier Charles and Judith Van-Ingen and, further to a conversation she and I had at an earlier meeting, Judith has kindly loaned me a book studying stage fright in violin players, written by one Kato Havas. You might be wondering where this is going and, to some extent, so am I, however it all started with one of my Locksmith students saying he was a trained violin player but, sadly, a bicycling accident put a stop to that. He mentioned that he had studied under Kato and, not wanting a student to get the upper hand, I had asked Judith the low down only to get the book to read; which contains yet another fantastic quotation from Tommy Beecham, which is one of the best I have seen recorded. This just goes to prove that no subject is too remote, or off the wall, at our meeting for someone to know something about it to broaden your experience.

My closing attendee this month is Mike Robinson, another of 12/50 fame, who, between himself and his son, have an encyclopaedic knowledge of machine tools if that is anything that ever crosses your threshold to know about. Especially the Smart and Brown 1024 high precision lathe where Mike and myself both own an example.

So on to December's meeting which is our pre-ordered Christmas meal at The Alderley Edge hotel next Tuesday. We are 20 in number on I believe two tables, I will have a list

of who offered what if any of you can't remember and of course please return any trophies from last year you were awarded.

The meal is booked to be served at 7.00 pm so please be there around 6.30 so we can get drinks ordered and paid for and seated in good time as they have another event on that night. Of course, as usual, anyone not partaking of the Christmas dinner is more than welcome to join us but, as from the Deanwater days, I would think a delayed arrival to around 9.00 pm is advisable. I know at least two have booked rooms so please contact reception if you would like to stay over.

So, we meet at the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant,



Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge, SK9 7BJ at 6.30pm (18.30) on Tuesday December 3rd.

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

I happened to be driving through Thelwall near Warrington one Sunday when I happened to espy an Alvis Firebird parked up in an odd place. Stopping to investigate I discovered Simon and Melissa, in BVC 46, who had arranged a surprise meeting for Rod Lister's 80th birthday. Rod is the nephew of Clifford Greenwood, who bought the car in 1940 and owned it for over 30 years. Rod had spent many happy hours in the car, going all over the country.

Apparently, Clifford kept the Firebird for his holiday car after he'd replaced it as his main car, because he enjoyed driving it so much.

Melissa was a little white faced as, apparently, the brakes weren't up to much and there'd been an odd moment involving the choice between combined standing on the brake pedal, hauling on the handbrake and ramming it into first, or going straight through the lights.

Talking of lights I understand the headlamps are officially classified as glow worms, so Simon has some winter projects!

