



Monkey Business

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Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths



Apologies were received from Tim & Jayne Brown, Peter Lakin, Duncan Mather and Richard P-L. Just as an explanation Tim was at a board meeting and Peter was in Greece celebrating his 20th wedding anniversary, yes his 20th! where did those years go?

Notwithstanding the above we had a bumper turnout with 20 friends gathered for our 1st Tuesday bash and the noise level was back to normal. Ian Francis (SA 20 with the cutaway Cross & Ellis tourer) having tested the waters as it were brought Laura his wife who I chatted with, having previously met Laura at one of Eric's lunchtime Coach & Horses gatherings, and then she and David Culshaw covered several subjects of mutual interest. Eric and Denise Ody drove from Uttoxeter with the news that Eric has sold his gorgeous 1934 VDP drop head Crested Eagle after teens of years of ownership and replaced it with a stunning Jaguar XK 150. Apparently this is not Eric's first '150 and it certainly is a head turner and, Eric tells me, much lighter to drive even though it does not have power steering; so that's one thing Jaguar got that right - as well as the immortal engine and sheer good looks what is there not to like?

Norman and Claire Blundell arrived with two friends that we have met before, in fact at meeting 132 which was August 2022. You may well ask why such a long gap before returning to the premier gathering? Well, all I can discover from the signing in book that gives any sort of clue is that Frances and Andrew McDougall are from Melbourne, Australia! So I reckon that'll do, it was really good to renew acquaintance with our antipodean friends with, I hope, more to come in the future.

Elizabeth Bennett was accompanied by her daughter Philippa whom I have met before on the AOC stand at Tatton. We three had an in depth discussion regarding spoon fitting Rainbow pattern wiper blades fitted to her TA21 and I was able to forward Elizabeth a link to the exact replacement item the following morning. It's strange how coincidences occur as I knew where to go to find what they wanted as, not a week before, I had been trawling the internet for a pair of new blades for AYF and I remembered seeing what Elizabeth wanted as I scrolled the catalogue of parts looking for mine.

Next up were the three regular attendees, Johnathon Reeves, David Combey and Steve Moore. Johnathon you will remember owns his father's TA 14; David's first love is Jaguar, but only until the Alvis with his name on it finds him; and Steve Moore has recently bought a lovely 12/50 tourer with a PN registration like Peter Lakin's 12/60, If that isn't



another coincidence that, after nigh on a century, two cars registered in Brighton end up in neighbouring counties and will hopefully meet again at Alderley Edge when Peter's PN is repaired after the spill.

Simon and Melissa joined the throng and were deep in discussion with all no doubt covering subjects like BVC's brakes or perhaps I should say lack of them! Which is something to be sorted but, as I am also finding with a car that has been 'from together' as much as BVC and AYF have been, it is no mean feat to get everything tickety-boo first time. In the immortal words of our dear departed friend John Oliviera "you have all the bits, the job is to make them fly in formation" I need add no more. All the more reason to take my hat off to Bernie Mulvany who many years ago completed the construction of a Speed 25 powered fun special but missed his target by one day due to an MOT centre mixing up the dates of his appointment that caused him to set off a

day late with the car's maiden voyage to join us on a holiday tour. So what's in a day you might ask? Well that delay caused Bernie and Pauline to drive in one go from his home to La Rochelle (ferry excepting of course) which I reckon is some sort of record! Which means both Simon and I probably have no excuse for mentioning teething troubles.

I see the next signings were Charles and Judith Van-Ingen ably brought to us by their ever trusted TD 21 drophead. Charles and I were discussing the true value that needs to be paid to have a proper restoration of any coach-built car and, when analysed, it is an eye watering figure, no wonder the movement is going through value changes with our type of car, but gladly we are in it for pleasure and not profit.

The third car of the night to grace the car park was Tari Mirzas lovely TF21, I may have mentioned this before but it is the third coincidence of the night in that the registration mark of his TF is 1711 TF well it is a TF that bit is obvious but also the car was first registered on the 17th of November, was that arranged or was it a lucky occurrence? We will probably never know (unless our super sleuth can throw any light on the subject).



That's all I have to report except to say, as I am typing this, we are 3 days after the summer Solstice and on our way back to winter so get all the fun and use out of your car of whatever stripe for the rest of the season, our next meeting is July – the 7th month already!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Alderley Edge Hotel & restaurant, Macclesfield Road Alderley Edge SK9 7BJ on the first Tuesday of July which is the 1st at 7pm.

And now a word from our Roving Reporter Dean O'Spyder...

I've been out and about as usual and saw a most amazing sight in Nantwich – BVC drawing to a stop without a look of fear on the driver's face! Apparently Mick has provided new brake shoes, with Green Gripper linings, and after much setting up Simon seems to have achieved something really special – the ability to stop! He set them up, drove round the block, and then set them up again – with dark mutterings about Smith-Clarke's patent adjusters being a bloomin' pain but there's no doubt that they do work.

Looking through the garage window in Taylor Towers I saw



that AYF has been fitted with sparkly wiper arms and is ready for some rubber to go on to complete the ensemble. It's certainly showing some serious progress for Chris's hours in the garage.

Lastly I popped down to International where I spotted a few Drummer's cars, but I was especially pleased to spot Gez's and Elizabeth's cars lined up side by side, looking resplendent. Elizabeth clearly took Chris and Simon's advice on wiper blades – new ones are the best way to stop it raining!



