



Monkey Business

Nos. 168 & 169

October and November 2025



Meeting 168 was our final meeting at the Alderley Edge Hotel & Restaurant as they 'couldn't cope' with us. I had received 3 apologies; from Tari, Dave Culshaw and Duncan Mather. We were 14 friends including one guest, David Stapleton, who is a locksmith colleague with whom I was flying out to Austria the next morning. Dave, in fact, is no stranger to Alvis matters as he and I were at a locksmith do in Germany a couple of years ago in GS 6656. After which we carried on to meet up with Peter Lakin in JJ, his Firefly, for a short tour of France; taking Epernay in our stride where a happy champagne consuming farmer was to be found! As you can see below!



Norman & Claire joined in the fun chatting with Eric & Denise Ody and Elizabeth Bennett. We all commented that the food in the night was really good, which was in contrast to the month before when it was distinctly mediocre, with poor service.

That month's numbers were boosted with our relatively new friends; Andrew Myers, John Woodcock and Barbara Holmes. Bringing talk of new cars (to us anyway) which is wonderful. Peter Lakin, myself, Simon & Melissa completed the set to say goodbye to our 3rd home.

There was a change of season in the air but it wasn't cold which was in distinct contrast to our first meeting of our nomadic wanderings to find our next home. We went to the Bulls Head at Smallwood near Sandbach which is a family-owned pub, used by the local Rolls Royce club, and is

Peter's recommendation for a try-out. So, meeting 169 was held there on the night of the worst weather imaginable, it was torrential rain with high winds but, still, 13 intrepid Drummers came to try the pub out.



The pub is family owned and, it seems, can happily 'cope' with us and we were made most welcome. The food is of an exceptional quality, with good size portions, and a sensible system for us paying at the end!

As I said the weather was foul and Eric was unknowingly diverted by his Sat-Nav to avoid an accident. Which meant he did what on a summer's day in the Alvis (now Jaguar) would have been a lovely country run round the narrow lanes of Cheshire, turning left & right, up hill and down dale, to finally arrive questioning where on earth he was. Only to discover on the way home he immediately joined the A50 and was home in quick time. Elizabeth had set out but got a tyre warning so sensibly returned home, with the weather being so awful sitting waiting for a recovery would have been purgatory so best avoided. I also had an apology from Melissa, whose father was not at all well so she was off hospital visiting, as well as from Charles and Judith.

So on to the meeting itself, it was great to see Tari and Michelle who were both on good form. Tari had been bidding on a TC 21/100 but it seems he was outbid. Michelle gave us a vocal entertainment from Les Misérables, recently performed at her choral society. We have it all at our meeting, we must do a concert ourselves one day, with Judith and Michelle able to provide the music and lyrics, me the stage management and we can supply several well tuned Alvis to add to the mix.

Tim & Jayne were seen chatting away with Simon and Duncan declared the fish was better than the Alderley so another tick in the box. Peter arrived last as, although he lives

the nearest, he lost his car keys so decided it was better to be late than never and to arrive modern with the weather being so atrocious; rather than in JJ, whose keys cannot be lost as there aren't any!

No place can suit everyone and, sadly, Dave Culshaw found himself having to use a section of the M6 at peak time which we all know is not pleasant. Anyway he did agree the food was excellent and we did manage a good talk on matters historic.

Andrew and Barbara Myers joined us again so I am really pleased they have decided to 'stay', all they need now is to be found by the Alvis which had chosen them to be its custodian - hopefully in time for the the 2026 season.

Talking of which, AYF has now stretched its legs, completing a whole 12 miles with Ian Francis riding shotgun. The car drove well for a maiden voyage but drive train concerns are being investigated as we speak, I did another venture out for Sunday lunch (12 miles more travelled) again getting to know the car. I have made some adjustments but now await salt

free weather to test things out, but the early signs are very encouraging.

Last but not least, great to see Richard Plant-Locke who has been absent for a few meetings pursuing other interests one of which we might persuade him to do a turn at our aforementioned 'concert'.

Anyway onto December - as you will know it is the Christmas do with all menu choices submitted which they have acknowledged and I am waiting for the pub to return my call so I can pay them !!

So, it is at the Bulls Head Newcastle Road Smallwood CW11 2TY

Please arrive by 18.30 and we will start as soon as we are all assembled and they are ready to serve us. Please return any trophies you may have won ready for the big awards ceremony.



AYF out and about - looking fabulous and getting its first fuel from a petrol pump in 60 years
A petrol station is somewhere Chris will have to get used to, as the 6 cylinder cars like to pass anything on the road but a garage!