



# Monkey Business

## No 106 - December 2019



*Written By Chris Taylor*

*Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths*

This meeting was our Christmas bash where yours truly and Gez had set out the Monday before to 'pay-in' and submit the menu choices. Whilst we were there I showed Gez the newly refurbished Woodford room, in which I had the pleasure of celebrating an unconnected birthday and , agreed that, subject to Barry the manager at the Deanwater being able to do a little re-arranging of previous bookings, the room would suit us very well. The very next day I was informed the changes had been made and the room was ours.

At the all-important awards ceremony it was unanimously decided that we would re-book the room for 2020 which I did, so it falls to me to say please get your booking in early next year as the maximum capacity of the room was nearly reached this year and I would hate to turn anyone away due to indecision.

So to the night itself, 25 diners were seated and, taking a leaf out of Gez and Mick's book from the many dos they organise, I had prepared little menu choice slips to act as aide-memoirs. I am pleased to report all went very smoothly, even allowing for a couple of late bookings made direct to the hotel which were included without fuss.

The meal was very well received and I could hear that the volume was rising in direct proportion to the amount of alcohol being consumed! I bet we could be heard by the ladies in the Gold suite at the other end of the building, which is a good thing as it shows we cannot be silenced or subdued just because they have 'our' room! In fact they have done us a favour as the Woodford room suits us just fine. As we have now come to expect, the meal was cooked and served to perfection by Barry's great team of lads and lasses and I think Chris Bluer summed it up by saying that the famous Deanwater Christmas Pudding with real white sauce was the best he had ever tasted and to me that is praise enough.

We were all dressed up for the occasion and, not long before our night, I had attended the Locksmiths' national banquet where the lady organiser had requested we should 'dress to impress' so I had splashed out and bought a silk shirt which is something I have wanted for many years. In order to freshen it up I asked my friend Carol for her advice on how to wash it, and the reply came – "oh, carefully". Wanting a little more help than that she asked for the shirt and finally found the smallest little label I have ever seen and, when the laughing, subsided I was, I thought rather harshly but fairly, told the shirt was no more silk than my socks and in fact it was 97% Polyester and 3% Elasthan (whatever that is). So, in fact I had bought a rather flash plastic bag!!!

That's taught me about internet shopping for clothes, so there will be no more of that - if Caveat-Emptor has any significance, it certainly applies to that swindling system of

search engines where you put in what you desire and clever web designers can unknowingly lure you away to unwanted pastures Anyway I am not complaining as it had a brilliant effect on one or two of our ladies so I didn't feel so bad in the end.

Such a do would not be complete without some props being brought and it fell to no other than our Norman to furnish us with a couple of animated/powered Father Christmas hats that waved about like windsocks in a force 9 and played seasonal tunes. Tunes not quite to our usual standard that Judith V-I would aspire to but at least recognisable - which is probably more that can be said for the victims finding themselves wearing the hats at such an august gathering. I bet they haven't made an appearance at any 'B' club event Norman may have attended, and as usual Claire looked on probably with her mother's wise words ringing in her ears.

So meals away, glasses resting we came to the pinnacle of the Drummers' Year, yes the prize giving. Once a little silence had been attained the proceedings began with Mick Fletcher presenting the Straight Valve trophy which he awarded to Elizabeth Bennett for her unswerving loyalty and commitment to the meeting and I must say it couldn't have gone to a more deserving recipient.

However that is true of all our winners in that in a way there is a connection between the lucky and well deserved winners of both the Robin Bendall trophy and



the Bent Valve. As you will know the Robin Bendall trophy is usually given for the most miles driven to one of our meetings but this year an exception has been made. I met with our own roving reporter, Dean O'Spyder, and he regaled me with a story worthy of The Lyme Mastiff staying with her fallen Knight at Agincourt amid all the continued battle. Finally after all these years the story has a parallel in Melissa stoically staying with Simon and a very dead Speed 20 on the side of the motorway, with all the hubbub of passing traffic, trying to return to the Deanwater from the Spanish trip. She waited whilst a recovery vehicle arrived and refused to leave the scene with any passing A Teamers despite the very



cold and windy weather; this action, I am sure you will agree, deserves recognition and how better than the Robin Bendall trophy?

Finally on to the pinnacle of the Drummers' year which is the ward of the Bent Valve

trophy. You will remember I said earlier there was a link this year between the Robin Bendall trophy and the Bent Valve and this year the Bent Valve is to be shared between all the Drummers who participated on the earlier mentioned Spain and Portugal trip. It is not so much that they participated in the tour but more that they were going to try to drive from the ferry to meeting 104, but greater forces that even Gez could control were working their worst to prevent this happening. Would you believe that from the original planning the ferry

had one engine blow-up and therefore had to sail more slowly, with the knock on effect it had to transfer from Portsmouth to the shorter crossing to Plymouth which landed our travellers



about 80 or so miles further away and a day late. I know you will agree that on this occasion INTENT outweighs the actual result and the award was received by Gez who, with Mick organised the trip, on behalf of joint winners Mick and Gez, Tim and Jayne, Simon and Melissa and Charles and Judith. Each pair will hold the trophy for a quarter, so remember folks, at our nearest meeting before each quarter day please bring it with you for onward transmission to the next lucky couple (to be chosen on the night at random depending on who is there). Hopefully the event will be recorded with a mini-ceremony and photos in the car park with any present interesting car to show the seasons changing.

The night concluded with Tim Brown giving a short address to thank all for their efforts and a support throughout the year.

I must now sign off as our B'erT'er is going away and needs this in his hands within the hour, but, needless to say, I do wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year for 2020 and the new decade - which depending on my ability to get Monkey Business out will either be tomorrow or will have been yesterday! Finally thank you for the support you give the Deanwater meetings to make them the success they are and, with continued support through the year from Peter, David and Mike of the Register, I hope we can strengthen the camaraderie between the clubs. After all an Alvis is an

Alvis however old it is!

I know Tim will be giving the full calendar for 2020 but I am going to get in first with a cheeky reminder of the premier event which is of course, Tatton Park.

Kind regards to you all and I hope to see you at the first meeting of the New Year and Decade at the Deanwater Hotel on Tuesday 7th January, post code SK7 1RJ.

### ***And now Tim Brown reports on events past, present and future in the Northern Section...***

Hopefully you will have all celebrated a fabulous Christmas in the usual style and with 2020 and a new decade almost upon us, I am looking forward to the new year and the centenary of the Alvis motor car, with some excitement, not least because of all the great activities that have been organised both nationally and also more locally by us in the Northern Section.

However, before we move on to what is in store for next year, I must report on the two noggin Christmas events that have taken place this month, firstly in the southern end of the section with the Deanwater Christmas Dinner, where, on the 3rd December, a fabulous group of boisterous revellers got the Christmas season off to a cracking start enjoying one another's company as always and the wonderful Christmas fare laid on by the excellent staff at the Deanwater hotel, who look after us so well throughout the year and of course thanks to Chris Taylor who brings us all, so happily together at his regular monthly meetings. Long may they continue!

On Sunday 29th December Mick Fletcher hosted his noggin Christmas Dinner at the Spread Eagle at Sawley, where I understand that 20 members were in attendance and ably proved that the Christmas celebrations were far from over and enjoyed an excellent meal and a very lively afternoon amongst friends, a number of whom were determined to continue the party atmosphere long after the luncheon ended. You really can't beat a good Alvis do!

Our 2020 calendar of events start early in January on the 8th, when the Yorkshire noggin & natter Christmas Dinner will take place at the General Tarleton in Ferensby, which is bound to be a great evening out and will round off the 2019/2020 festive season to perfection.

Our calendar will then proceed with some great activities, including our official season opener, the Ladies Lunch in February; Tea Spares & More in March; Gawsworth Hall on VE Day Bank Holiday Friday in May; Newby Hall in July and many more fun activities throughout the year, full details of which are shown below. As always, make a note on your new calendar and we look forward to seeing you at some or all of these, in order to help make 2020 a special year full of celebrations.

On a national scale, the main event for the club will be the Centenary International Alvis Weekend from 6th to the 9th August at Coombe Abbey in Coventry. I am sure that this will be a great weekend, with some very special activities and events so do please try to come along and join in the fun and

celebrations.

Finally, I would just like to thank you all for helping to make 2019 such an enjoyable year and to send you all my very best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New year and I look forward to seeing you again soon for another fine year of Happy Alvising.

If you have any queries, or comments about any of our events, please contact me at:

PLEASE NOTE – Stephen Walley's noggin will have a change of date in January, when it will be held at the Three Shires on Friday 31st January (not on the Thursday as is usually the case).

## Northern Alvis Owners Club Calendar of Events for 2020

### Important:

All venues are liable to change, please check the monthly pink for up to date news of each event before making plans.

### Wednesday - 8th January 2020

#### Yorkshire Noggin & Natter Christmas Dinner

The General Tarleton, Ferensby, HG5 0PZ

Cost will be £22.95 for 2 courses and £27.95 for three courses. Accommodation will be available at the General Tarleton at a concessionary rate of £95 per room B&B for anyone who wishes to stay. All orders to Anne Salter by 15th December 2019 please.

Contact David & Anne Salter: 01423 870350

email: davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

### Sunday – 16th February

#### Season opening Sunday Lunch

The Sparrowhawk Hotel, Wheatley Lane Rd, Fence, Burnley. BB12 9QG.

Our ever popular "season opener" will be held at the Sparrowhawk Hotel in 2020, with this year, a special emphasis on the ladies and organised by Susan Whitaker (but please ladies, do bring along your other halves if you so wish). Further details to follow.

Contact: Susan Whitaker: 01200 447874 or Email at piscisteve@gmail.com

### Sunday - 29th March

#### Tea, Spares and More

Brook Lane Nurseries, Brook Lane. Rixton, Warrington, Lancs. WA3 6DS

An early spring garden party, with a twist, hosted by Mr & Mrs Norman and Claire Blundell. Arrive from 11am onwards. There will be a new format for 2020 to be announced in due course.

This year's event will be a fund raiser for Prostate and Breast Cancer charities.

There will be the usual activities, with something new for 2020 and once again spares will be on sale from all members who wish to bring them along.

Contact: Norman or Claire: 01925 814715. Email claire.blundell@btinternet.com

### Sunday – 5th April

#### Northern Section AGM

Northern Section AGM, preceded by lunch at the Oyster & Otter, 631 Livesey Branch Road, Blackburn BB2 5DQ

Lunch at the Oyster & Otter at 12.00 for 12.30, followed by the Northern Section AGM at 2.30pm. Further details to follow. (Non-Members are very welcome to attend the lunch but are not entitled to attend the AGM and will be asked to leave prior to its commencement at 2.30pm)

Advance booking please. Contact: Anne Salter: 01423 870250 email: davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

Items for the agenda, and nominations for office bearers to be in writing, and to arrive with the Northern Secretary, Stephen Whitaker by the 1st March 2020 please. Glebe House, Gisburn Rd, Bolton by Bowland. Clitheroe. Lancashire. BB7 4NP or Email : piscisteve@gmail.com

The Northern Section of the Alvis Owners Club will be holding this function in a private room.

### Sunday – 26th April

#### Drive it Day

The section will be organising a central venue where the section membership can meet up at for lunch in order to celebrate the joy of classic and vintage motoring on this special day in the motoring calendar – Further details to follow.

### Thursday – 30th April

#### Barge trip from Whaley Bridge Basin

Northern Section Members are invited to join the VSCC and Riley Register for the annual barge trip on the Peak Forest Canal

The trip will commence from Whaley Bridge Basin, meeting at 11.30am for a 12 noon departure and will incorporate a circular trip, taking in Bugsworth and New Mills, with a 2 course hotpot lunch served on board. The trip is approximately 2½ hours in duration and the cost will be around £25.00 per person.

PLEASE NOTE – this trip is in place of Stephen's monthly noggin at the Three Shires, for April only and this will return to the usual date and venue from May onwards.

Contact: Stephen Walley: 01298 79811 email: astephenwalley@gmail.com

### Friday - 8th May

#### Gawsworth Hall Classic Car Show

Gawsworth Hall, Church Lane, Gawsworth, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9RN

Early May Bank Holiday in 2020 will be held on Friday 8th May in order to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of VE Day and we will be celebrating in style at Gawsworth Hall, where there is bound to be an extra special display of classic and vintage vehicles and we will be doing our bit to ensure that the day is suitably remembered.

This is a one-day classic and vintage car and motorcycle show, with plenty of interest for all to see.

Contact: Tim Brown on: 07799 118771 or email at: timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk

**Sunday - 31st May**  
**Parish Picnic for Petrolheads**

St John the Baptist church, Vicarage Lane, Knaresborough, Yorkshire HG5 9AE

A wonderful afternoon, overlooking the River at Knaresborough with a plentiful bounty of vintage and classic cars. It's a great base for investigating this historic market town and what it has on offer. Arrive from 12 noon onwards. Bring your own picnic, visit the excellent church café overlooking the River Nidd serving hot sandwiches, home-made cakes or walk up the hill to the Mitre pub or Station café.

Contact: David Salter: 01423 870350 email: davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

**Sunday – 19th July**  
**Newby Hall Vintage and Classic car show**

Newby Hall, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 5AE.

Once again, the Northern Section of the Alvis Owner Club are invited, by The North of England Classic and Pre War Automobile Club, to Yorkshire's largest one day Vintage and Classic Car Rally. Entry is by pass only, please contact Ian Thurgood 07778 319546 or email: ian.thurgood@btinternet.com

Contact: Stephen Whitaker: 01200 447874 or Email at piscisteve@gmail.com

**Sunday – 26th July**  
**Bodrhuddan Hall, Rhuddlan**

The North Wales Classic Car & Motorcycle Show

Following our previous, joint Northern Section and Welsh Section events in 2018 and 19, in North Wales, we will be returning in 2020 to Bodrhuddan Hall, Rhuddlan. There will be a concours competition with prizes, auto-jumble and throughout the day catering options are available within the show area. There is also the added attraction of the wonderful country house of Bodrhuddan Hall and its formal gardens. The AOC are likely to be a featured marque at this event.

Contact: Tim Brown: 07799 118771 or email at: timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk

**Sunday – 2nd August**  
**Hebden Bridge Vintage and Classic Car Show,**  
Calder Holmes Park, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8EE.

Organised by The Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge, the Vintage Weekend is an annual rally for vintage, veteran and classic vehicles held in the Historic West Yorkshire Town of Hebden Bridge, in the heart of the South Pennines. Entry is on-line only at:

www.hebdenbridgevintageweekend.org.uk/registration\_info.html

Contact: Stephen Whitaker: 01200 447874 or Email at piscisteve@gmail.com

**6th – 9th August 2020 – Centenary  
International Alvis Weekend – Coombe  
Abbey, Coventry**

**Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th August**  
**Passion for Power, Tatton Park Vintage and Classic Car Show**

Tatton Park, Knutsford, WA16 6QN.

One of the UK's most popular Classic Car events with over 90 Classic and performance car Clubs attending and over 300 private entries. Large Autojumble and over 250 trade stands. A two day event, with our stand once again being hosted by Chris Taylor. This has for many years been a very popular event with all our South Lancashire and Cheshire Members and for others from further afield. This Large show goes from strength to strength every year, having an enormous and diverse amount of vintage and classic cars on display. We will have our own club area to display our cars. Contact: Chris Taylor on: 07890 414130 or at: chris@ctml.co.uk

**Sunday – 6th September – (Subject to confirmation)**  
**Vintage by the Sea**

The Midland Hotel, Marine Rd, Morecambe, Lancashire LA4 4BU.

A celebration of all things Vintage: cars, live music, fashion etc. As voted the best vintage event in the world by the Guardian Newspaper. The fantastic setting of Morecambe's seafront provides the backdrop that transforms into a multi-venue playground where, visitors can learn the dances, take in specially curated live performances, ogle over vintage vehicles or take advantage of the decade's specific hair and beauty makeovers.

See website [www.midlandvintage.co.uk](http://www.midlandvintage.co.uk)

Contact: Andrew Wisdom 01254 676591 Email: andrew.wisdom@hotmail.co.uk

**Sunday – 6th September – (Subject to confirmation)**  
**Hartington Show near Buxton, Derbyshire**

High Fields, Hall Bank, Hartington. SK17 0AT

An opportunity to once again meet with our fellow Midland Alvis Enthusiasts, arrive from 9.30am onwards to enjoy a great country show, Vintage Tractors, Stationary Engines, Vintage Lorries, Cars & Steam Engines. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Giles Lacey [lacey\\_giles@btinternet.com](mailto:lacey_giles@btinternet.com) or Tim Brown on: 07799 118771 or email at: timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk

**October 2020 – (Date and full details to be finalised)**  
**Young Drivers' Event and open day**

Following the great success of the Young Drivers Event at Bicester in 2019, the Northern Section will be hosting another event, this year in Yorkshire, aimed at young drivers who might not otherwise get the opportunity to experience classic and vintage cars and to give them the opportunity to learn more about them and in particular introduce them to the Alvis motor car and to give them the opportunity of driving one. The AOC are all too aware of the importance of youth in sustaining the future of our club and the Alvis marque and it is hoped that through this event, we will be able to whet the appetite of the next generation.

Further details to follow.

Contact: Anne and David Salter: 01423 870350 email: davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

