



Monkey Business No 130 - July 2022



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

Well, strange as statistics are, we had slightly fewer people than usual but more Alvises this month. In the car park patiently waiting to take us home were:- my Firebird GS6656, Peter Lakin's Firefly JJ8761, Tari and Michelle Mirza's TF 21 1711TF and Charles and Judith Van-Ingens TD21 DHC.

My Firebird is now waiting for some TLC inside the steering box as GS has a developed a gentle sway. The car has become desirous of following the tram lines in the road, cut by the HGV's, in preference to obeying me on the tiller however it is now over 30 years since any work was done in the steering box and over 100,000 miles covered, so no complaints from me on this one but I will be waiting until Tatton is behind us before I start any meaningful work.



Peter spent some time trying to sort it concluding with Simon transporting Peter home. The fault was traced to the failure of the rotor arm and then, as if that wasn't enough, Peter and his son Jack set off for a tour of Scotland only for JJ to drop a valve head, so that meant a recovery home. But it's only one of a very few let downs in getting towards 40 years, of faithful service, both here and abroad; so whilst Peter will be disappointed again, there will be no lasting regret as the car will soon be running again.



July's meeting included a fine line up of Alvis - with the obligatory interloper in the car park!

Peter reported a wonderful trip to the Deanwater but sadly a troublesome run home, that involved the car having an overnight stop, in Mike Fitkin's yard, after Mike, Simon and



After a lovely drive over Peter's drive home was thwarted by a dodgy rotor arm

Next up for a mention was a visit from Dave Culshaw with Carol Munro, David was one of our most regular visitors until we moved to the Deanwater, as the Drum & Monkey was just a short stride from Alderley Edge station, whereas you do have to car-borne to get to the Deanwater. No doubt Dave had some historic news to deliver as he must have the greatest encyclopaedic knowledge of matters Alvis of any living person. I, for one, am eagerly awaiting the publication of his latest book for which I have pre-paid Red Triangle a discounted price for one of the advance copies. Regrettably delays in publication; caused mainly by Covid related

problems with the publisher and distributor - so there, Dave and Red Triangle have something in common with Peter!

Next up for a mention is our newest owning member but one of the longest serving members in the person of Elizabeth Bennett who is now the proud owner of her first Alvis although Elizabeth's total mileage completed in Alvis cars would put most of us to shame, and probably would be the greatest threat to the Van-Ingens if we ever offered a trophy for such an accolade.

Stephen Walley crossed the border from Derbyshire to join us which is more than Richard P-L managed this month, as he did the previous month when he forgot to cross his border from Wales - just not good enough I say, but I know Richard is intending to make up for lost ground in August.

Sadly Tim and Jayne couldn't be with us due to pressure of work, something I used to be familiar with but, with my new found 'freedom from', I can fully sympathise. Coupled with

home, it would mean a day off every 1st Wednesday to recover. However I'm sure something will be worked out in the fullness of time when new routines have been



established and Melissa will be joining us again.

Norman and Claire were both with us and Norman was planning how to enter two cars for Tatton; solved easily by



one being entered in Claire's name and the other in Norman's, so two persons will have two tickets for two cars for two days, it couldn't be simpler!

Most of us enjoyed a good meal, care of the Deanwater, as



that Simon is now working in City Centre Manchester, so it's a long way to leave work to go home to Nantwich to collect Melissa, then drive over to the Deanwater and then back

things return to normal and it is really good to see the familiar staff returning after the forced absences of Covid. Which, even now, is still taking its toll as Chris Bluer had to withdraw from attending as, feeling unwell, he tested positive and self-isolated but I know Chris is now back on all cylinders following a tour of Ireland in (or should I say ON) his model T and I mean Ford not Bentley!



Another happening this month, extra to the Deanwater meeting, was my usual birthday gathering, which this year was amalgamated with my retirement party! We were blessed with fantastic weather and my thanks to everyone who made the journey to the house for the day and the welcome gifts and kind wishes. Equally fantastic was the small but high status collection of Alvis cars including a Royal visitor. New Langdale really is on the map now with King Edward the 8th's old car gracing the drive; which reminds me that, for this meeting, I must take a couple or so SP 20 low wing eagles for Mike Fitkin to study the differences so he will know what to look for. I think he is going to find the right mascot then get the car to match.

Second up was actual Alvis Royalty in non-other than Willie Dunn's personal T-everything, ably driven by Giles Lacey, This time the Tee standing for Touring and not Ford or Bentley as previously mentioned. I see Tari (who is another 'T' looking on wistfully thinking about the drive home in his Porsche, that he had hidden somewhere close by, whilst Giles and Mike got Alvises to take them away from Disley.

Last but not least is a photo of Paul Chasney with his now famous 12/50; this is the car that caused much discussion at the last NEC classic car show where we were asking the show visitors to vote as to whether the car should be restored or conserved. Paul had driven the car to the regular 3rd Wednesday lunch meeting held in the Bowcliffe Drivers' Club hosted by the Alvis Archive Trust, whose home is in the grounds of Bowcliffe Hall. You will be most welcome to join the lunch gathering and you will enjoy good company, excellent food at realistic prices and a small but regular and very welcome donation is made to The Archive Trust for every diner and it doesn't even cost you penny - beat that! If any of you ever want to join in at Bowcliffe (and the Drivers'



Club has to be experienced to be believed) simply contact John Fox or myself, as late as the day before, and we will book you in. The Drivers' Club is members only but they are more than happy to accommodate guests if hosted by an Archive Trust member, which John and I both are.

And have you noticed that the theme of blue is predominant in this month's pictures? all different shades and all looking fantastic.

Finally a request for help to find a bonnet catch for a prewar Alvis. Something like the picture below - please let me know if you can help.



I think that covers everything so along with a few pictures I will sign off for July and hope to see you all in August on the first Tuesday which is the 2nd of the month at the Deanwater Hotel in Woodford SK7 1RJ .

This MB will be kindly coming to you direct from Simon as I have got to re-enter AGAIN all your email addresses on my home computer, I just hope I can get it done a little quicker than I did in Manchester! As another little reminder my new Email address is chris@newlangdale.co.uk