

ALVIS CARS in "TOP GEAR"

BBC's Top Gear tries a drive-in audience format and invited a few Alvis along

On Monday 7th September, an eclectic selection of Alvis cars were invited to attend the filming of the first two episodes of the new BBC TV "Top Gear" series.

AOC member Stuart Wilson received the invitation through a friend to bring his newly renovated 1962 TD21 Series II drophead coupe and he asked if he could bring along a few more Alvis cars to celebrate the Centenary of the marque.

Some bright spark at the BBC had the idea of beating the virus rules and creating a drive-in movie feel for the show's audience, so they were looking for a selection of drophead cars. With help from the Club, Stuart managed to get a brilliant 5 additional Alvis cars together in 24 hours.

The Alvis team included Stuart's 1962 TD21 Series 2 drophead, the 1937 Lancefield Speed 25 (c/o Neil Jones from Red Triangle) 1938 Goodwin Special racing car (c/o Alex Simpson from Earley Engineering), a 1938 4.3 litre tourer (Mike Baker), a 1951 TA21 Tickford DHC (Malcolm Kindell) and a 1952 TB21 roadster (Mike Wilson).

The cars met at Dunsfold Airfield in Surrey for the recording last Monday evening.





The Alvis Top Gear team on arrival at the airfield

All the Alvis cars got there on time (apart from the TB21 which broke down en route, sadly) – and were split up and lined up on the runway in ferry queue fashion.



However, it was a great way to get a socially distanced audience of petrolheads together so they could show their motors off.





Then the 'show' started. The audience participants were asked to titter, titter more, laugh, belly laugh and roll about laughing. Cheer, cheer louder, cheer with whistles, cheer with car horns. Clap. Clap louder. Headlights on headlights off.

Drones overhead and cameras everywhere must have captured some brilliant shots and let's hope the Alvis cars get beyond the cutting room floor and are broadcast worldwide. We will have to wait until early October to find out.

