

Monkey Business

No 48 - December 2015



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

What Alvis troupers we are, even at this January meeting there were two cars in the car park! It was a nice night and only after we had arrived the thought struck Gez and me that we should have brought either my Firebird or her TA14 as they are both residing together over winter. Mick was not able to attend because he was on clandestine duties somewhere in Wales evaluating a very special car so I collected Gez and took her to the meeting, had we got that one together we should have been three Alvises. Having said that Norman only came in his TA14 because Claire had nicked the Volvo and gone on a girls' night out; so the trusty Alvis was his only option, after all he wouldn't be that much of a cheeky chappie to bring his other 'B' thing to our gathering, surely.

Our other intrepid Alvis-borne travellers were Tim and Jayne Brown whose TD is now so regularly used it has settled down well. However Tim tells me it does know how to shift a bit too much oil, but this could be as a result of the car's resting period before Tim got it and the rings still being a bit gummed up; a good summer blast to the south of France with an ever increasing proportion of diesel engine oil and a few filter changes should sort it. If that doesn't cure it then out must come the spanners for a rebore; but I have said to Tim that, because the car is in such regular use, he may be better getting a spare engine, getting it sorted and changing it one weekend. That is in fact just what Bill Melville did to my Firebird in 1964 and that engine is still in it having done 200,000 miles so far.



Tim and Jayne's TD makes an early and hopeful bid for this year's Bent Valve Trophy



As does Norman - although his claim was downgraded when it transpired Claire had nicked the Volvo for the night!

John Fenn Wiggins was with us this month now being fully recovered from both 'flu and parties and was in good fettle, which now matches his rebuilt engine in the TF which is only waiting for the final head tightening and fine adjustments then off for a full season working hard.

We welcomed the very important persons, in the form of the Bent Valve winner Elizabeth Bennett and Brian - thus proving the worth of the award so justly deserved.

No meeting would be the same without our very own Peter Lakin who arrived "en moderne" (is that French, Latin or just Franglais?) with Simon and Melissa. More about Peter later in my report about Tim's do at Gawsorth, so read on.

Stephen Walley, having just bought a Firebird saloon, now has a Firebird for all weathers brought Trish Wilson having braved the roads from above Buxton and although it was a nice night in Cheshire you have no idea just what may be going on up in them there hills. It can descend with thick fog or deep snow in minutes at this time of year with absolutely no hint down on the plain, so thank you both for risking it to join our happy throng.

I spent some time chatting with Charles and Judith Van-Ingen who kindly called in on their way home from the Leeds Armouries museum where they have been asked to provide some musical entertainment for an event in the museum ,

something Simon and I had a hand in doing a very similar thing for our locksmiths' annual gathering in the very same place a few years ago. Charles is also one of the first to pop his head over the parapet to say he would be willing to help with International when it comes our way, an offer that I can't see falling on stony ground.

I also noticed Mike Fitkin had joined us to make a total of 17 members which is not bad for the first meeting in January so soon after Christmas. Next to join in the fun was Richard Plant Locke and, as he walked past the bar, the hotel staff eyed him intently to see just what lump of car he had hidden under his jacket this month. In truth Richard had been highly restrained and only brought himself, although he did say he has had to nip out and buy an extra 2 toilet rolls for his newly returned Straight Valve Trophy.

This talk of rolls now segues nicely into Tim's meeting next year at Gawsworth Hall. Tim kindly asked me to join him and Jayne to visit Gawsworth to choose where the Alvis park is to be at the Richards' family annual vintage and classic car show and we were met by Rupert Richards who is the son of the owner and following this meeting I can tell you we are for a great day. Apart from the fact that it is a beautiful and very old Cheshire house it is their family home and we are invited to join them at their rather large garden party; the family are motoring enthusiasts in their own right with quite a racing pedigree on both two and four wheels and I felt really relaxed in Rupert's company. There will be a payment at the gate that

covers entrance to the charming house as well as the show. The amount is not yet set for 2015 but the family only really want to break even on the day so it's all in proportion to what it costs them to put on the show.

So back to the purpose of the visit, which was to choose a suitable place for our cars. We arrived in style in Tim's TD and I must say it went down well outside the Hall's front door with father and son enthusiastically out admiring the Alvis. Mr Richards senior is himself a Daimler Dart enthusiast. This is the Peter Lakin extra bit as after some discussion and a good look round we have decided to take our place next to the Rolls Royce club and this is probably going to be the only gathering where Peter Lakin can bring the Phantom and one of the Alvis and have them parked next to each other, but on two different stands! There is plenty of room in the field and I hope we will see the new Gazebo that Gez and Mick will have purchased by then and I must thank all of you that have made a donation toward its costs and for those who haven't I would say pray for a dry day.

I must sign off now for another month but:
just to remind you I hope to see you at: **Deanwater Hotel,
Woodford
Cheshire
SK7 1RJ**

On the first Tuesday of February which this month falls on the 3rd.



Tim and Jayne jumped at the opportunity to drive the car in daylight and are seen here outside Gawsworth

STOP PRESS: An update from Tim Brown

I have had further discussions with Rupert Richards at Gawsworth Hall and the prices have now been fixed for the show on May 4th, at £5.00 per person, for the driver and each passenger in an eligible car, payable on the gate on the day. This fee also allows access to the gardens and entry to the house, which also looks well worth a visit.

We are welcome to have our own gazebo and set up camp very much as we have done at Tatton in the past and we also have the option to have our own barbecue at the end of the day, if we wish.

Please let me know on 07799 118771 or :timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk if you wish to attend and I will add you to the list of entrants to be submitted before the day.

Calendar of Events for 2015

Important:

All venues are liable to change, please check the monthly "pinkun" for full details of each of the events, below and for any up to date news before making plans.

Sunday 15th February

Valentine's Day Lunch

At the Spread Eagle, Sawley, Nr Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 4NH

Contact: Mick Fletcher 01254 260999 or 07703 506685

Email: mick.fletcher@totalise.co.uk

Sunday 22nd March

Canal Boat trip from Foulridge

Contact: Mick Fletcher 01254 260999 or 07703 506685.

Email: mick.fletcher@totalise.co.uk

Sunday 29th March. 11am

A.G.M. of the Alvis Owners Club Ltd, to be held at the Glebe Hotel, Barford. near, Warwick.

Sunday 26th April

Drive it day.

Contact your local Noggin and Natter coordinator for details.

Mick Fletcher: 01254 260999 or 07703 506685.

Tim Brown: 07799 118771 or email:

timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk

Anne and David Salter: 01423 870350 or email:

davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

Monday 4th May

Gawsworth Hall Classic Car Show

Contact Tim Brown on: 07799 118771 or

:timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk

Friday 15th Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May

Northern Alvis Weekend,

Oulton Hall, Rothwell Lane, Rothwell, Leeds, LS26 8HN.

This year, our flagship Northern event has so much to offer, that we thought it a good idea to turn it into a two-day event. Commencing with a Friday evening welcome buffet, a full, busy weekend is on offer. On Saturday, a Gala Dinner will precede the Concours d'elegance and driving tests on Sunday. Preferential rates have been negotiated for the partial and full weekend. Further details will follow.

Contact Anne and David Salter 01423 870350 or email

davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

Sunday 31st May

Knaresborough Car Show and Hog Roast.

Contact: Anne and David Salter 01423 870350 or email

davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12th 13th and 14th June

Passion for Power at Cholmondeley.

Contact, S Whitaker 01200 447874 or Email at

piscisteve@gmail.com

Sunday 5th July

The Carding Shed, Hepworth, Holmfirth.

Contact: Andrew Wisdom 01254 676591 or Email

andrew.wisdom@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday 19th July

Newby Hall, Near Ripon, Yorkshire.

Contact S Whitaker 01200 447874 or Email at

piscisteve@gmail.com

Sunday 2nd August

Hebden Bridge Vintage Car Show

Contact, S Whitaker 01200 447874 or Email at

piscisteve@gmail.com

Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th August

Croft Nostalgia weekend and Historic race meet.

contact, S Whitaker 01200 447874 or Email at

piscisteve@gmail.com

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August

Alvis Owners Club, International Rally at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford upon Avon. (More details to follow in the bulletin and Pink un)

Our annual International major event - rooms available to book from 2nd January 2015. Tel : 01789 731173

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September

Vintage by the sea. The Midland Hotel, Morecambe.

Contact Andrew Wisdom 01254 676591 Email.

andrew.wisdom@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday 18th October

Northern Section AGM at Coniston Hall Hotel, Coniston

Cold, Nr Skipton, Yorkshire BD23 4EA

Contact Anne and David Salter. 01423 870350. Email.

davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

Friday 13th Sat 14th and Sunday 15th November

National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Tuesday 1st December

Christmas Dinner at the Deanwater Hotel

Wilmslow Rd, Woodford, Cheshire.

Contact, Chris Taylor, Tel: 07890 414130 or E-mail:

chris@ctml.co.uk

Monday 14th December

Christmas Dinner at the Houghton Arms

Blackburn Rd, Higher Wheelton, Withnell, Near Preston. PR6 8BL

Contact. Mick Fletcher 01254 260999 or 07703 506685

Email. mick.fletcher@totalise.co.uk