



Monkey Business

No 50 - April 2015



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

Quite a milestone having reached our half century, which has flown by, - *Hmmm, I think we actually reached that with last month's 49A Chris!, B'er T'er* - and we were able to celebrate with fine spring sunshine, and, with the hour having moved, a longer evening in the light. We had a record of 5 Alvis in the car park which comprised: Simon and Melissa in 'JJ' (Firefly tourer) ably piloted by Peter Lakin - the photo of them arriving, however, shows nothing of the small small problem suffered on the way home where JJ disgraced herself by discharging the engine coolant all over the road! This incontinence must be put down to sheer old age and probably hastened by the highly aggressive pre-war anti-freeze, because the leak was traced to the block casting having become paper thin underneath the transfer port; so perhaps those of us with detachable blocks should all carry out tests to see if we tread the same path as Peter, just a little way behind - as the three of them didn't get home until around 4am it might just be worth a quick look.

Stephen Walley's Firebird saloon is a splendid car and has now settled down to running really well and if Stephen can keep the revs below 5,000 for an appreciable amount of its running time the engine might last the summer out. We welcomed Tick (TA14 DHC) to the car park which Gez is maintaining to a very high standard with Mick Fletcher and Stephen Whittaker as her passengers. Next up is John Fenn-Wiggins in his immaculate TE, I was looking at this car before the light faded and I am sure the car could not have been up to the quality we now see when it was new. John tells me the power steering needs some getting used to and I can think back to the days when Robin Bendall breathed life back into Prince Philip's TD; I was reading the mountain of records that



John Fenn-Wiggins with what may be the last showing of the "Winter Car"

were with the car and there was a many times repeated theme when the car went for service after power steering became available, it was offered to be fitted to his car and the prince's very clear instructions left no doubt that he wasn't having it under any circumstances – perhaps he knew something Alvis didn't. Charles and Judith Van-Ingen completed the 'set' in their splendid TE which sounded really crisp through the loo window as they left the Deanwater!

I must hang my head in shame as I never gave a thought to collecting GS (Firebird) from Gez's on my way to work that morning, I pass within 200 yards of Big End and deserve a good telling off about forgetting the car. From the Chester area and beyond - if life as we know it exists over the border - but it is always a pleasure to welcome Brian and Elizabeth Bennett from 'our side' in Chester with Richard Plant-Locke following closely behind from a bit beyond if you get my drift. Richard is now the proud owner of GS's old motorhome roof and girders which were ceremonially loaded last Friday and will be finding a new use in Wales providing shelter for something or other. My house is now demolished and to those who know the Ridgeway when I went down last Saturday it looked to me for all the world like a giant mouth with a tooth missing. Mike Fitkin made his usual marathon trip to us and we were joined by Les Durrant.



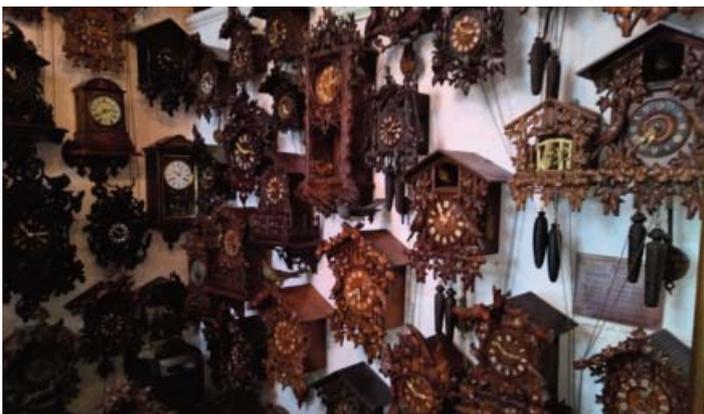
Steve Walley and "Big Bird" next to Gez's "Tickless"



JJ arrives in fine fettle - sadly a situation not destined to last!

Statistics are strange things as at 16 member-friends we were a little down on usual numbers but well up in car attendances. If that trend continues in a couple of months or so the cars will have to bring themselves! One pair of miscreants were missing this month but I will say they did tender their apologies in that Tim and Jayne Brown were somewhere touring in South America taking in waterfalls, weddings and lots of wine I am told. That being said some decorum was in the air at the meeting and I can't wait for Jayne's return to give the room its boisterous ambience we have come to love.

I must now report on the gathering at Cuckoo Land to which we were honoured to be invited by Giles Lacy (He of the Ex Dunn T-everything) as although essentially the meeting was organised for the attendees at Paul Shrouder's Yew Tree meeting the museum was on our patch. Well I'm not sure who was the most Cuckoo; those that attended, those that run the museum or the clocks themselves - what an eccentric place and well worth a visit with motor bikes and sidecars, military vehicles and clocks with birds of all description poking out of all sorts of strange places making even stranger noises all accompanied by an fairground organ which, when played inside a building, does somewhat pin the listener to the back wall - or at least you would be on the back wall if various bit of twig and stags' antlers carved on the hundreds



More cuckoo clocks than wall - a sight repeated on every wall in the old school rooms

of clocks didn't impale you first to drive you forward again.

We then went on to a pal of Peter Lakin's pub for our evening meal under the guidance of Peter in Little Budworth (pronounced Buddeth). I must just say that whilst leading the pack to the pub Peter missed a turning and upon asking for directions at a lonely deserted crossroads we were directed back down the road we had come, now we were at a Tee junction and as we started to turn our roadbound leviathons every blessed car on the roads of Cheshire that day decided to join us at that very junction at that very moment and whilst we performed our 15 point turns with all these moderns in our midst absolute mayhem reigned supreme for several minutes; however it was all worth it as a really good meal washed down with a bottle or four of fine Morgon! This finished the day wonderfully and Gez and I had a really good run home in GS. There is no doubt in my mind that as the slight sharpness of the evening gathers pace over the temperature of the day our engines run that much more crisply.



A fine line up at the cuckoo clock museum and in the middle somewhere unseen is one of several motorbike & side car combinations

To finish I must now mention Tim's day at Gawsworth which is on Bank Holiday Monday, the day before our next meeting at the Deanwater. On display at Gawsworth will be our new Event Shelter for our protection; against a roasting sun, I hope! May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have so generously donated to Mick and Gez towards its purchase who, together with Stephen Whittaker, our section secretary, have had a corker of an idea in that via Stephen the section itself now owns the same shelter and they have been able to buy some sort of linking mechanism so we can have about 30ft of shelter at our major events if required, so congratulations to everyone concerned.

That's all folks but remember Gawsworth on Monday 4th with Bar-B-Q and the Deanwater on Tuesday 5th with A-La-Carte; the variety takes your breath away.

And now Tim Brown reports on recent and future events in our region...

Starting with:

Sunday 26th April - Drive it day.

This year the whole of the Northern Section were invited along to join in one "Drive it Day" event converging on Simonstone Hall Hotel in Hawes for Sunday lunch.

Contrary to the weather forecast, it was a glorious sunny day, with blue skies with hardly a cloud. I met with approximately 16 others in a total of 7 Alvis at Shackletons Home & Garden Centre, in Chatburn, having had an early start but very smooth run up in the TD, where we enjoyed coffee al fresco basking in the Lancashire sunshine. Thanks to Mick Fletcher for organising this.

Sadly only Roland and Trish Rogerson and myself (Jayne was away in Belfast for the weekend) were able to continue on to Hawes, the others having other commitments for the day. We then proceeded in mini convoy through the rolling countryside, following the path of the Settle to Carlisle railway, passing the magnificent Ribbleshead viaduct and traveling through some wonderful scenery and pretty villages bathed in spring sunshine.



We arrived at Simonstone Hall to meet up with David and Anne Salter's group and here there was another fine display of 7 different Alvis, which caused some interest in the car park. We then enjoyed a very convivial lunch from the carvery in the company of fellow enthusiasts, before enjoying a leisurely drive home.

Thanks very much to Arthur Brown for organising the event and we are already looking forward to another meeting of the whole region at next year's Drive it Day.

Monday 4th May - Gawsworth Hall Classic Car Show

This is now less than a week away and we now have a pretty full stand. If anyone would still like to attend on the club stand, I am sure that we can make room for you, just let me know ASAP. Alternatively, if you wish to come along on the day and just enjoy the show, you are free to do so as an entrant on the day with a classic car or just as a member of the public.

The cost is £5.00 for the driver and each passenger in an eligible vehicle, payable on the gate on the day, which also allows you a tour of the house and access to the gardens. We have a prime position for our stand, adjacent to the Rolls Royce owners' club.

We will be having a barbecue at the end of the day, with the meat etc provided and the cost shared between the participants. Just bring your own salads etc.

Here's looking forward to a great Bank Holiday Monday!

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.

The committee have planned a fun and busy weekend for everyone and look forward to welcoming you to this major event in the North.

If you are planning to attend, please complete the entry form and return it to Anne Salter ASAP in order that we have some idea of numbers.

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

Sunday 31st May

Knaresborough Car Show and Hog Roast.

Please come along to this relaxed car show and hog roast held at Knaresborough church on the last Sunday in May.

There are various stalls to browse, a beer and Pimms stall, boats on the river and a castle to visit as well as touring the pretty town of Knaresborough

A flyer is attached and if you wish to join in the Hog Roast, which is charged at £8.50 per head, please contact Anne Salter by 17th May in order that you can book your place.

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.**

We have been invited to have our own club stand at this prestigious car show, which is considered to be the "Goodwood of the North".

We would like to invite you to display your car on the club stand which is within the circuit and you can do so on any or all of the three days. If you choose to do so, you will receive the benefit of half price entry to the event at £10.00 for the day but you will have to be in situ on the club stand by 8am and cannot remove your vehicle until after 5pm. This is due to the fact that the circuit cannot be crossed once racing has commenced.

We already have a number of cars signed up for each day, but more are welcome. It is sure to be a great weekend of fun.

Contact, S Whitaker 01200 447874 or Email at piscisteve@gmail.com

The 2015 Northern Region calendar is now in full swing, with a number of events having now already taken place. There are plenty more throughout the year, so please make a note in your diary and try to get to these whenever you can, they are sure to be a good day out. If you require any further info' please contact either the organiser of the individual event, or myself and I will endeavour to provide you with further details.



**Hog Roast and Car Show
Sunday 31st May 2015
St John the Baptist Church, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire**

Over the last few seasons, the Alvis Owner Club (Northern Section) has joined with ASOC (North East/North West) for some interesting events. These have included visits to the Ryedale Folk Museum, Saltaire Village World Heritage Site and Helmshaw Mill and Textile Museum, Rossendale. The two marques have, of course, much in common; we declare an interest in being lucky enough to be members of both clubs.

For 2015, one of our joint events is a display of these two prestigious marques in the grounds of St John the Baptist Church, Knaresborough. Our morning Service is at 10 30 am for those who wish to attend. The event itself will get underway from 12 noon with a hog roast lunch. There will be a licensed bar featuring the local Roosters micro-brewery and a separate Pimm's bar. Afternoon cream teas will be served. The day is in aid of fundraising for the church and the Choir.

All ASOC and AOC members will be most welcome as will be members of Ripon Old Cars. The charge for lunch will be £8.50 per person and there will be an entry charge of £5 per car. We need numbers of people requiring the Hog Roast lunch by 17 May 2015. Please therefore contact us either by telephone or email (details below) to let us know if you require lunch..

For those vehicles with Sat Nav, the post code is HG5 9AR. For map using vehicles, the display site is reached via Church Lane off the A59. From Harrogate turn right at the second traffic lights in Knaresborough into Church Lane, immediately after the Dower House Hotel on the left, but before the right turn going up the High Street. From York, proceed down the High Street to the bottom. Turn left at the traffic lights (T junction) and then left again by Premier Mortgage Brokers into Church Lane (the Dower House Hotel will be just visible to your right).

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