



Monkey Business

No 127 - March 2022



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

That's more like it, with a healthy 19 attendees to the meeting an atmosphere of normality abounded. Although it was a dry night it was quite cold but we still attracted 3 wonderful cars namely Peter Lakin's regular show of his Firefly tourer although without its usual driving companions Simon and Melissa, who were delayed, ringing church bells in support of the Ukraine, and so had followed on. This Firefly has been Peter's constant companion for over 30 years now and has done more running time than mending time and that is true of any well sorted Alvis.



Next up for a mention, and I hope you will forgive me for waxing lyrical once again, is the beautifully proportioned and rare drop head coupe Crested Eagle campaigned by Eric Ody, last with us in June 2021. You must be fed up of me questioning how Vanden Plas managed to design and build such a beauty as most of its stable mates are imposing lumbering things, described as 'town cars' or, in the eyes of some, early English perpendicular, but they did. Last but not least of the car park beauties is another of our regular cars which is the post war TE21 belonging to Charles and Judith Van Ingens. Driving from the Wirral peninsular as regular as



this car does in all weathers again shows that the more Alvises are used the more sorted and therefore reliable they become.



I was delighted to welcome back into our fold visitors from afar namely Judy and Robin Willmott who together with Robin's brother in law David Ward (a Morris Minor devotee) boosted our numbers. Before exporting themselves across the Pennine divide Robin and Judy were Cheshire-ites and David still lives locally. It was a shame there wasn't an original Graber to make a car-park four, but I mustn't be greedy as the people are blessing enough; although a car park sporting such artistry in metal as a Graber coupe (there I go again) is a place to be seen in even in a monsoon.

I was pleased to give Gez Holt a lift to the meeting as she was able to give us an up-to-date report on Mick Fletcher's recovery which is slow but positive. We all wish Mick a speedy return to our numbers following his ordeal as soon as he is able.

I don't know what steed brought Mike Robinson this month as no car is listed. Mike and I have a great admiration for the Smart and Brown model 1024 toolroom lathe that we both have various models of. Mike has been a convert for many years now and my latest addition to the home workshop is a VSL model, which is growing on me in leaps and bounds of admiration every time I use it. I have wanted to upgrade my Colchester Student for some years and mistakenly a bought a Cole's CVA lathe and, having fought to get the two-ton thing into the workshop, the first time I used it I knew we were not going to get on and sold it immediately to replace it with the S&B. It must be rather like Judith picking up a violin and knowing instantly whether it is a winner of her affection or



not, but at least a violin doesn't weigh two ruddy tons!! If ever there was a lesson to be learnt of try BEFORE you buy, this was it but all's well that ends well.

Talking about the happenings at Disley, the news that AYF has returned looking somewhat unloved but with renewed vigour and enthusiasm I will be setting about remedying the coachwork problems and working to prepare her for paint. I must say it is good to open the pass door through to the garage workshop and look upon the beautiful lines of yet another VDP masterpiece of design excellence; which is their two door, 4 seater saloon, with the straight-back body on the SB speed 20 chassis making the perfect combination.

Onward we go through to our two visitors from Wales and nearly in Wales who are Richard Pant-Locke from somewhere unpronounceable and Elizabeth Bennett from Chester, Elizabeth will soon be taking up the reins of her new Alvis steed but has her priorities set on a new kitchen first.



Chris Bluer came with his light hearted outlook, and Mk 2 Jaguar, and we enjoyed eating a Deanwater meal which is always of consistently good quality, I haven't heard any more news from Chris regarding his engine repairs but I will keep you posted when there is some news.

So who will I mention next? No need to ask, it is our meeting mascot, or as Cilla would have put it 'Our Norm' and of course Claire his ever-patient carer! The perfect duo who are utterly happy and content in each other's company and bring much colour to the gathering. Last but not least was Mike Fitkin whose horticultural season must now be getting underway and motoring will for a time at least take a back seat if you will forgive the pun.

Following my comment last month of the starting performance of Johnathon Reeves' family TA14 I had a response from David Culshaw who was able to offer at least one tangible reason why the car should be so spritely. It seems that, in the sixties, David was instrumental in the production of replacement fibreglass wing sets for the TA14 and Jon's father, Keith, was a very early customer for the 'full set' which included the valances. David reports these replacements gave a weight saving that was not inconsiderable and would certainly contribute to the cars good performance.

To conclude this month's report I must add that Tim and Jayne Brown had to miss the meeting as Tim allowed work to get in the way. However Tim has asked me to mention that, as the dedicated hard working chairman of the Northern Region of the Alvis Owner Club, he is organising Northern Alvis day this year and would extend a personal invite to all Alvis cars and their owners to the weekend event. I know the work that has to be put into creating a programme that can be enjoyed by simply turning up and to that end Simon will be including the programme and booking details for the event with this Monkey Business so please do give Tim your support.

One event you can attend by just turning up is of course our next Deanwater meeting at Woodford Cheshire (SK7 1RJ) which will be on Tuesday April 5th at around 7.30 for fun, frolics, food, drink and you never know we might even mention a car or two, machine tools, music, theatre and many more subjects I have heard covered over the years so please come along and join in.

Northern Section Weekend

Bank Holiday weekend - Sunday 1st May to Monday 2nd May 2022 at

De Vere Cranage Estate, Cranage, Nr Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 8EW



Northern Section Weekend 2022 will be take place at the fabulous De Vere Cranage Estate, near Holmes Chapel, just a stone's throw from Junction 18 of the M6.

If you have already booked into the De Vere Cranage Estate, we look forward to seeing you there, we look forward to seeing you there and if you have not yet done so, there are still rooms available please see separate flyer for booking details.

All rooms are booked on a Bed and Breakfast basis only and we hope that if you have booked to stay at the hotel you will join us at our celebration dinner on Sunday 1st May at the hotel. Even if you are not staying at the hotel you can still join us for dinner on the Sunday evening, and we very much hope that you will do so, subject to availability.

The dinner will be a 3 course set menu, followed by tea or coffee, at a price of £32.50 per head.

To join us for dinner, whether you are a resident or non-resident, please return this form as soon as possible and **by Saturday 16th April at the latest**, with a cheque for the cost of the meals payable to AOC Northern Section with the following details:

Name - Guest 1:

Name - Guest 2:

Dietary requirements (if any):.....

Lead Guest contact details:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Email address: **Phone No:**.....

Return all forms, with payment to:
Mrs Anne Salter, Crag Mount, Fulwith Rd, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. HG2 8HL
Or Email: davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk

Northern Section Day, Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May 2022
Gawsworth Hall, Church Lane, Gawsworth, Cheshire SK11 9RN
Booking Form
Closing date for entries 16 April 2022

If you require an acknowledgement of your entry, please tick here (). If you have not included an email address below, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The entry fee of £5 per person will be payable in cash on the day to Gawsworth Hall, our hosts. You will need to pay on arrival and will be directed to the Alvis stand by the marshalls. Please arrive by 10.30am.
PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND IS REQUIRED

Name.....Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Address.....
.....
.....

Email address.....

Tel number.....A.O.C.Membership No.....Section.....

Names of passengers.....
.....
.....

Car Details

Class (please tick one only)

Model.....

A. 1920 – 1931 (inc 12/60)

Reg. No.....

B. 1932 – 1940 (inc Speed 20)

Year.....

C. Post War Saloons

Type of Bodywork.....

D. Post War Convertibles

Coachbuilder.....

E. Specials

F. Preservation Class

Unless you indicate otherwise, all cars will be entered into an informal concours competition.

Where there are insufficient numbers for a particular concours class the organisers reserve the right to amalgamate a class or classes with another class or classes.

Please use a separate form if you intend to enter more than one car.

I understand that to comply with MSA regulations only fully paid up members producing a current AOC or 12/50 Register membership card will be able to take part in any activities on site. I confirm that the car is road legal and that I hold an appropriate full driving licence.

Signed.....

Please send your completed form to :-
Post: Mrs Anne Salter, Crag Mount, Fulwith Rd, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. HG2 8HL
or
Email: davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk