



Monkey Business

No 138 - February 2023



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

For our February meeting this year the weather was kind enough in that it was dry, no wind and no frost, as usual Charles and Judith were brought to the fold in their 1965 TE 21. As the photo will show, these modern telephones make the most fabulous cameras in that the picture was taken as we were leaving, and without flash; where they generate the light from is nothing short of a miracle. At college I was always taught to look carefully at any answer to a calculation and, if I had got something for nothing the answer was wrong, but these cameras seem to prove that rule wrong.



It was really good to welcome Tim and Jayne Brown to the Deanwater although the room was full and, as I arrived a little late, we were at opposite ends of the table so not much chance of a catch-up, Similarly Simon and Melissa arrived before me and again we were not in chatting distance. The same applied to Peter Lakin although, with our Peter, one doesn't need to be sitting close to have a conversation with Peter! Norman and Claire joined us and for once Norman was well behaved so Claire didn't need to look on in resignation.

It was also good to welcome Jon Reeves and his pals David Combey and Kevin Malloy for their first time at the Deanwater in 2023. David has not yet been 'found' by his Alvis so he and Kevin are, for the time being, maintaining their enthusiasm for Jaguars, for which I don't blame them oh, if only we had had that engine with a red triangle on it!

Gez joined us, under her own steam, and kindly gave me some books she no longer needed so they could be assessed by the Archive Trust, for inclusion in the collection, or sold to boost funds. Here it is good to report that some months ago Mike Robinson gave me some records from a Matthew Wright, relating to his 12/50, which covered his time of ownership of the car from 1965 to 1971. These were assessed by the trustees and it was decided they are the

type of records best kept with the car and are now with a very grateful owner in Belgium.

Talking of records Dave Culshaw very kindly gave me a wonderful postcard sized 'give away' advertising Ken Frith as the landlord of the Dandy Cock Inn Disley.



The picture side is divided into 4 photographs, one showing Kens' joy, his Weber grand piano and another showing Ken at the front door with his two Alvises fronting up to the door; one is his SA20, RN 2005 the other his unique Carlton bodied short chassis 4.3 FGT 510. This card must have been printed in the late sixties, around 5 years before I came onto the Alvis scene. Ken became my mentor as I helped him put FGT 510 back on the road, by then the car hadn't been used for some years and in fact, because of this help, it was the first Alvis I ever drove. Giving rise to the eternal phrase Ken used when we returned to the pub, which was the Mecca for all cars of interest, whose owners, on our return, pressed Ken as to how the 'lad' had driven the car? To be told after a moment of thought followed by a mmm, Ken declared the experience as more a series of phenomenal avoidances than actual driving! Thank you Dave for bringing back such wonderful memories.

Talking of memories Gez and I had been discussing, some time ago, our dear friend John Pryer who succumbed to cancer. In the conversation I remarked that I had no photographs to remember John by and Gez gave me a few photos of him on one of our many trips abroad which again has brought back wonderful memories; so thank you again Gez.

This memory of John Pryer leaving us now brings me to report on our more recent losses, Firstly for those who knew Ernest and Marjorie Shenton will know that the fountain of all things Alvis, both technical and social, was installed at their home, Gandria, on Caverswall Common in the Midlands. Sadly Marjorie has now joined Ernest who left us some years

ago. Nina, their daughter, has sent me the arrangements for the committal of Marjorie's ashes to be placed with Ernest at Caverswall on the morning of our next evening Deanwater meeting. I will ask Simon to incorporate Nina's message for anyone who wishes to attend.



At our January meeting the sad news had just arrived regarding the passing of Stephen Walley, from all accounts this was both sudden and unexpected and our condolences go to Enid Saunders whom we have seen with Stephen at many of our gatherings, I hope Enid will join our gang of ladies and continue to join us at the Deanwater as I am sure Stephen would wish. I understand Stephen had a son who is handling the arrangements but in case any of you didn't get the message from Tim, Stephen's funeral is at Macclesfield Cemetery on Thursday 9th March 2023 at 2.45pm. The cemetery is on Prestbury Road SK10 3BU. Please could you let Simon know if you're planning to attend so he can give an idea of numbers to the family.

I must also now record more sad news just in from Shaun Donnelly that our long member Bill Buxton has also just died, this is indeed sad news and from our meeting our condolences go to Edie, Bill's wife. Bill as many of you will remember was a regular at our meeting going back to the Drum and Monkey days and was a close friend of Shaun's dad Phil McAndrew. I'm sure you will remember Bill's black and yellow TA21 that he bought from our member Mike Fitkin a very long time ago. The car was in a parlous state but with the judicious re-purposing of several copper water tanks Bill, who was a master plumber and could do such things, rebuilt all the rotted way inner wheel arches - which will be a matter of great surprise to any subsequent owner who chips the paint to see a gleaming copper wound. As yet I have no details of Bill's funeral so please look out for a message from Tim which I am sure will be issued when the arrangements are known.

Lastly I must pass on our condolences to Peter Lakin who lost his mother on last Tuesday. Peter's mother enjoyed her 100th birthday not long ago with all her family so had a full life with a loving family.

This has been a sad few paragraphs to write but I know all those I have regrettably had to report on will wish that we should meet next Tuesday, the 7th of March at the Deanwater (SK7 1RJ) to celebrate their lives and continue the joy of our meeting in their memory.

One last thing for me to mention is that I have been contacted by a good friend in Canada who. now in his eighties has decided the time has come to sell his Alvis, Marinus is a world renowned restorer of Steinway pianos, so he is a fastidious man, and I am sure that his Firebird saloon is a well-tuned example. Marinus wishes the car to return 'home' to the UK where he feels it can be looked after with better support here than in Canada and especially to someone young "if such exists" so he is offering the car at a very low price of about £4700 subject to exchange rates. I am sure Marinus will help with shipping arrangement at his end but of course the buyer will have to pay the fees. If any of you want the car or know someone who does, please contact me in the first instance and I will effect the introduction.

I hope to see you all on the 7th

And now a message from Nina Shenton...

I just wanted to let everyone know the arrangements for mum's (Marjorie Shenton) committal of ashes at St Peter's Cemetery, Caverswall .



POSTCODE ST11 9EA

Please meet by the White railings opposite the entrance to the cemetery at 1030 to allow time to walk up together and meet the vicar and undertaker there.

DRESS CODE There isn't one but note the ground is quite uneven so let your footwear be comfortable and safe

PARKING you can park roadside by the white railings. Or you can park at The Red House Pub car park nearby. If you park on the pub please pop a note on your dashboard to say you are attending a committal of ashes and will return with Nina afterwards. If you park at the Red House leave the car park by the top entrance walk towards the village square. With your back to the Red House pub and facing the large central tree and village stocks walk straight ahead and down the road opposite. The pavement is slightly raised with the white railings along side between the path and the road. As the railings stop by the entrance to Caverswall Castle that is where we will meet.

REFRESHMENTS After the committal we will return to the red house who are opening at 1130 for us. You will be able to purchase a hot or alcoholic beverage and Sandwiches will be provided around noon.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Tuesday 7 March at 1030.

Finally a word from our roving reporter Dean O'Spyder...

Hopefully everyone should have seen the picture, sent by Ian Hardaker, of Simon's Firebird flying in formation, if not here it is...



I thought, as a comparison, I ought to pay a visit to Simon's car-thedral and see how much progress is being made and found that there is some as you can tell...



Simon told me he is waiting for the weather to get slightly warmer to ensure the temperature, while the paint dries, remains at least three degrees above the dew point to avoid blooming. Blooming hurry up is what Melissa says! Simon is under serious pressure from Melissa to get it ready for their wedding in October so there is a definite deadline. He assures me that once the scuttle and windscreen surround are painted with one last coat it's off to Andrew Wisdom for the hood and that he will paint the wings and bonnet while it's away - as long as the temperature and dew point are compliant!