



Monkey Business

No 147 - November 2023



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

Well, sadly, November 7th arrived and 24 of us gathered to say our goodbyes to the Deanwater; our home for the past 10 years, where we have been very happy in every respect. As I said in my report 146 it will be hard to better, however move we must, so the hunt is on - of which more later.

It was really great that friends from afar, like Eric and Denise Ody, joined us, and Duncan Mather from Staffordshire who I am pleased to say has become one of the family. The lads' team of Johnathon, David, Kevin & Brock helped to say our goodbyes properly. Of course our meeting would not be what it is without our ladies, and Gez Holt, Elizabeth Bennett, Claire Blundell, Melissa Griffiths, Jayne Brown, Michelle Mirza, Denise Ody and Judith Van Ingen, when grouped together, show how strong their representation is; and long may that continue and grow. There are many car meetings that would be glad of that number of chaps! But we did outnumber them slightly with myself, Charles Van Ingen, Norman Blundell, Peter Lakin, Brock, Kevin, David Combey, Jon Reeves, Duncan Mather, Dave Culshaw Tim Brown, Tari Mirza, Mike Robinson, Simon Griffiths, Eric Ody and Richard Plant Locke making up our numbers attending. I have included all our names for posterity with it being the end of our Deanwater chapter.

The hotel did us proud as, even though there wasn't time from the announcement of closure and Christmas, to actually organise our usual bash I had agreed with the powers that be to lay on the full Christmas menu, for those who wanted it, as the night's special menu. Although it is probably the earliest full Turkey dinner I have had, it was very pleasant in the eating - especially when finished off with the Deanwater Christmas pud with their to die for white sauce.



If there's only one Alvis in the car park you know whose it'll be!

There was one Alvis in the car park and I don't suppose you need any prompting to know it came from the Wirral

peninsula, reliably bringing Charles and Judith,.

We also decided that with the uncertainty of finding a new home in time to have a Christmas do, it would be prudent to hold the annual awards ceremony, which had to change on the very night itself as to who got what! Elizabeth was going to get an award, for being the lady that had completed



If we had an award for 'Best Gurning' I think we've seen the winner!

the longest solo drive to the AOC international weekend, but her Alvis had other ideas and didn't actually leave Cheshire, So, that brought another runner up to the fore, in Judith who earlier in the year had driven their Alvis solo to the Deanwater when Charles was somewhat less than 100%. Therefore, Judith quite honourably won the

Bent Valve trophy in her own right,

Next up was the Robin Bendall Award was quite easily going to be won by Peter Lakin as the furthest drive to the meeting. However, Peter almost fell at the last fence as, although he had set out that morning (at some ungodly hour) to go to the south coast, to collect his twin repaired block castings for his Rolls P2 engine, and to then deliver them in Cambridge to the specialist machinists and then on to us at the Deanwater, he decided to go home from Cambridge and come with Simon and Melissa. And in so doing ruled almost himself ineligible, however the concensus was that he had earned it.





Last, but nowhere near least, we come to the Straight Valve Trophy that is awarded by the current holder to whomever they feel has deserved it most. Simon won it last year, so it was his choice. As you may know BVC is finally getting close to being on the road but he too fell at the last hurdle in the race to have it ready for his wedding. Which meant he was very grateful to have the loan of Gez's TA14 Tickford. It wasn't

the first time he'd borrowed Tick this year and so he felt it only right to recognise Gez's generosity in getting he and Melissa to various events.

So we all left the meeting wishing each other a merry Christmas (just in case) and off we went; those of us that were staying to our rooms and the rest off home.

So to start our new chapter quite literally - and I have even indented it (*even though I don't usually - B'er T'er*) - we now look to the future. I had invited suggestions of anywhere that may suit our needs and I got a total of 18 helpful suggestions which I provisionally reduced to three as a starting point. The winner, with the most suggestions, was easily the Stanneylands Inn and Hotel which is pretty close to the Deanwater, So, last week, as I was on my travels, I decided to visit the two top suggestions, beginning with the Stanneylands Hotel. Which, as I arrived at the nearby traffic lights, had a road closed diversion, but nothing to suggest I needed to follow it to get to the Stanneylands. In an ever hopeful manner I drove towards the closure and, to my dismay, when I arrived at the actual road closure I had not yet arrived at the hotel and so had to drive back to the lights. I then did a big loop of 5 or 6 miles, on dead reckoning, until I was far enough round the other side for the Sat Nav to get the right idea, but as I drew closer, the road closed signs started to re-appear! I decided it couldn't be that the Stanneylands was cut off from doing business without alternative arrangements but, as I drove along, I could see I was approaching what I recognised as being the self-same machinery and barriers that had blocked the road coming the other way! For a moment or two I suffered a loss of humour but, as I arrived at the actual barriers, I saw a driveway where I could turn in only to find it was the actual gateway to the hotel that I had been looking at from about 20 yards away at the other end of the barriers. But, since I had never been there before I didn't know it was the Stanneylands drive I was looking at from the wrong side of the barriers, so I could have parked up and walked to the place - isn't hindsight a wonderful thing? Ah well, that's life.

I drove into the car park and immediately saw that it is perfect for our use. Now to the next amazing part of my day; I was

walking towards the reception, but gazing round the carpark and pathways, when, suddenly, I heard my name called out, which of course caused my brain to go out to tea as I didn't even know I was there myself so it was impossible for anyone else to know. But as I walked on, and a repeat of my name was uttered, I was, by then, close enough to recognise none other than our very own Tari who, as he was leaving having had luncheon there, had seen me drive past and kindly waited for me. Of course, he, with local knowledge, knew to park just at the roadworks and walk to the hotel! Anyway who was it that said coincidences don't happen? Well I can say that one did that day and, having gathered my composure, we went in and chatted to Lee, the hotel's operations manager who himself recognised Tari, so we were on to a good start.

Lee has agreed that, for our December meeting, he will reserve some tables for our use. To those of you that want try it out, enter through the main reception doors and turn right, on your left is the bar and beyond the bar and slightly to the right is a lowered area where our tables will await us. There is a varied menu which will certainly have enough variety to suit all tastes and which is online for anyone to to study before they come, but ranges from a lite-bite at around #8.00 to fillet steak at #26.95 (why I am getting a '#' instead of a pound sign is a mystery) so let's meet there at our usual time of around 19.00 hrs on December 5th and give it a whirl.

The address and postcode is; The Stanneylands Hotel & Inn, Stanneylands Road, Wilmslow, SK9 4EY and I think the diversion will have ended by then. I hope to see you there where I will announce our venue for January's test run number 2.

