



Monkey Business

No 151 - March 2024



Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

Hello Everybody,

This report starts with our second visit to the Legh Arms at Prestbury, we decided to give it another airing so we could experience the 'snug' which is not a very large room but sufficient for our needs on the night, as we were 13 in number, and fitted perfectly. Whilst everything is good about the actual pub I have had some comments that the twisty road for the last few miles is very difficult to negotiate - with a few strange junctions even harder to understand I can agree with this as there is one really difficult junction somewhere near the train station that has confused me both times. I decided this month to try the public car park and, yes, it is really good and spacious but the lane that leads to the pub is dark and not well lit. Out of the three street lamps one was not working, making it darker still, so, on balance, I decided we should continue our nomadic wanderings and to try another venue for April; of which more later.

It was really good to welcome Eric Ody, who hails from Uttoxeter, who made the great effort to come to shake hands and have a chat among friends. You will remember, from previous reports from the Deanwater, Eric has the absolutely gorgeous 20HP Crested Eagle Drop Head in powder blue whose proportions are so perfect only VDP could have achieved it, Eric has an interesting question on which to ponder; it is quite true that many of our cars that have been discovered as wrecks and have needed original registrations restoring. Via the great offices of Dave Culshaw (in my case with AYP), Mick Fletcher, on behalf of the AOC, and John Fox from the Alvis Archive Trust many of us have been able to collate the evidence required by the DVLA so as the cars

can be reunited with their original registration marks; but with caveat that the registration cannot be transferred. So, to Eric's question; His car does not fall into that category and he has been approached by various would be buyers to sell the mark off his Crested Eagle which starts with ALE (you can guess one was a brewery). Eric wants to know if the DVLA will grant his car the right to retain its original mark as he feels the car would lose an important part of its history to be given a so called age related Scottish mark in exchange for just a few Shekels, this is a good question Eric, answers on a postcard please if anyone knows.

Our lady stalwart, Elizabeth Bennett from Chester, I trust you will appreciate it is she that is the stalwart and not that she owns one, was with us and it is always a pleasure to talk to a 'fellow' Georgian on subjects so varied they could not be listed here. Just to demonstrate the width of our catchment area Duncan Mather from Cheadle - Staffs that is - not Cheshire was showing photos of the coachwork and paintwork restoration on his Alvis TD project, Duncan professes to be new to matters Alvis but that is not actually true as his father once owned a Speed 20 so it runs in the family.

It is fantastic that both ladies and chaps can come to the meeting and feel comfortable when flying solo as it is that couples can also feel equally valued and this month saw 3 couples namely our newlyweds Simon and Melissa; whose Firebird project is progressing and in fact may well be sporting hinges with closed pin clearances after his Good Friday visit to Disley. Charles and Judith Van-Ingén whose TD21 DHC is photographed leaving the car park sensibly with the hood closed. I was pleased to welcome Peter and Karen Lakin, we see Peter regularly so it was very good to see Karen join in the conversations, always adding new dimensions to the subjects of the night. This month Tim Brown was flying solo and Jayne was missed by us all but I



The poseur from last month's given up and decided he can't compete with Charles



The first of 2 things up for identification - any clues?

hope she will be with us for April. David Culshaw, as ever, had news of a historic nature but this month I was not part of his deliberations so I cannot actually report what he had unearthed, and finally to Mike Robinson. At the February meeting Mike brought a 'what is it?' puzzle for us to solve in the shape of a hand tool and not to be out-done this month I bought a mystery tool that I have had in a box for years so please see the photographs and a prize awaits anyone who



And here's the second...answers on a postcard to Chris please

comes along to the meeting with the explanation as to what the BOTH tools are.

So on to the activities of the month - if Dean O'S doesn't mind me treading on his toes; Eric Ody is also a meeting host at the Coach and Horses at Fenny Bentley (2nd Tuesday) where we were joined by Mike (sorry I don't know his surname). Mike is soon to retire from his business, that of a pig farmer near Nottingham, and he is researching into his chosen car in preparation for his retirement project which will be a pre-war Alvis probably a DHC. Also at the meeting we



Eric about to bumpstart the largest traction engine he's ever seen

welcomed a young chap, yes YOUNG, who is now the owner of a TA 21 and also is a steam enthusiast, so much so that Eric, and Philip Wood (Philip was in his Alvis) and I all went to the steam



extravaganza at the Statfold Country Park at Tamworth, where Stephen Wallbank actually works as an engineer and was working as

fireman on the day. In one of the sheds Eric and I came across the biggest traction engine both of us had ever seen as the photograph of Eric at full stretch still cannot reach the top of the rear wheel shows. All in all we were lucky with the weather and we had a really wonderful few hours riding the rails, eating and viewing the museum artefacts

So on now to the happy subject of April's meeting: A chance phone call from Peter landed just as I was about to leave to try out a venue for April's meeting so with no more ado we agreed to meet at the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant for lunch, we both had a wonderful meal, my lamb was cooked to perfection and Peter's linguini was very much to his liking. This, together with a really good wine list of all price ranges, and staff that are really obliging and cheerful means that I have booked us in for next Tuesday the 2nd of April at around 7 PM.

Many of you will remember I started our meeting at the Drum and Monkey at Alderley Edge and it seems the wheel has completed 360 degrees, although it has taken 10 years to do it! Anyway, as I say we will be enjoying the light nights by next week so please join us for what promises to be a super night.

If you are coming from, say, the train station proceed through the village and turn 'half left' at the junction up Macclesfield Road, which is a reasonably steep hill, The hotel is about two hundred yards up on the right. The car park, which is in part sloping but there are at least two tiers that are more or less level - one is right at the top by the hotel entrance and the lower tier just below it so I think those of you with heavy TD doors should be okay. If not phone me and I'll arrange for you to be served USA open air cinema style in the car.

So to recap: The venue for April is on Tuesday 2nd at the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant, Macclesfield Road, Alderley Edge SK9 7BJ. Enter the hotel up the three steps where you will be in reception on your right is the lounge and bar and through the lounge is the restaurant and we will be seated in an alcove on your left. I think, this month, we will probably make a decision regarding our home so please try to join us so your opinion can be aired.