



Monkey Business

No 161 - February 2025

Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths



A cold but bumper attendance night with 19 friends gathered for our monthly meeting, and an apology from Tim and Jayne Brown.

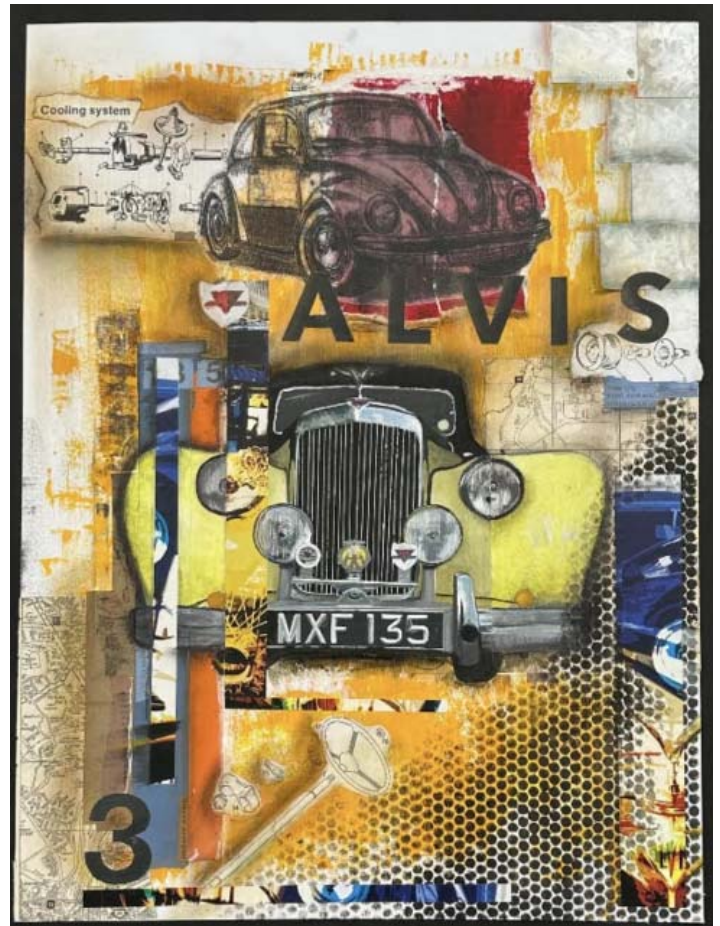
I was pleased that David Culshaw and Steve Moore finally got together so Dave could pass along the known history of Steve's recently acquired 12/50. I didn't manage to get round to everyone so I hope Steve found Dave's news interesting.

It was a cold night and the only Alvis in the car car park was piloted by Charles Van-Ingen with Judith as engineer navigator for the run, Their TE certainly sees some action. Always good to see Peter Lakin, but especially this month fully recovered from last month's spill on the way to the meeting, with no ill after effects; and I can add that the 12/60 has been cleared for repair.

Having been away for the last couple of meetings it was really good to welcome Elizabeth Bennett back into the fold. Of course our meeting would have less colour if our mascot wasn't with us so I am pleased to report Norman and Claire Blundell joined in the fun. Mike Robinson had a tale or two and he made the third of our pre-1930 contingent; which makes me proud that we cross all borders. Talking of which, it is so good to welcome Eric and Denise Ody from across the Staffordshire border, along with Duncan Mather also crossing the same border. Sadly no progress photos this month on Duncan's project TD21.

Also in mentioning Steve Moore earlier it is right I say here that Steve was with his pals Johnathon Reeves, Kevin Malloy and David Combey - whose Alvis has not yet found him - but it will!

I was especially pleased to see the Donnelly family in the persons of Shaun, Shirley and Katie. I was at Trojan Engineering recently where Katie was taking a practical hands-on interest in the restoration of the family project car - yet another SB Speed 20 DHC by VDP. The discussion was that Shaun was proposing to change the central accelerator to the modern position, so Katie would find it easier to drive, whereupon Katie soon put a stop to that idea and originality won the day. Katie is studying for her A levels and I assume art is one of her subjects as you will see in the accompanying photograph; Katie showed me a painting she has done in the form of a collage that largely features Bill Buxton's TA 21. I am sure you will agree with me that we have one very talented young lady in our midst, If that superb entry doesn't get her a first and a few stars I don't know what will. Personally, I am really impressed with Katie's eye for detail and the light and shade she has incorporated in the prismatic

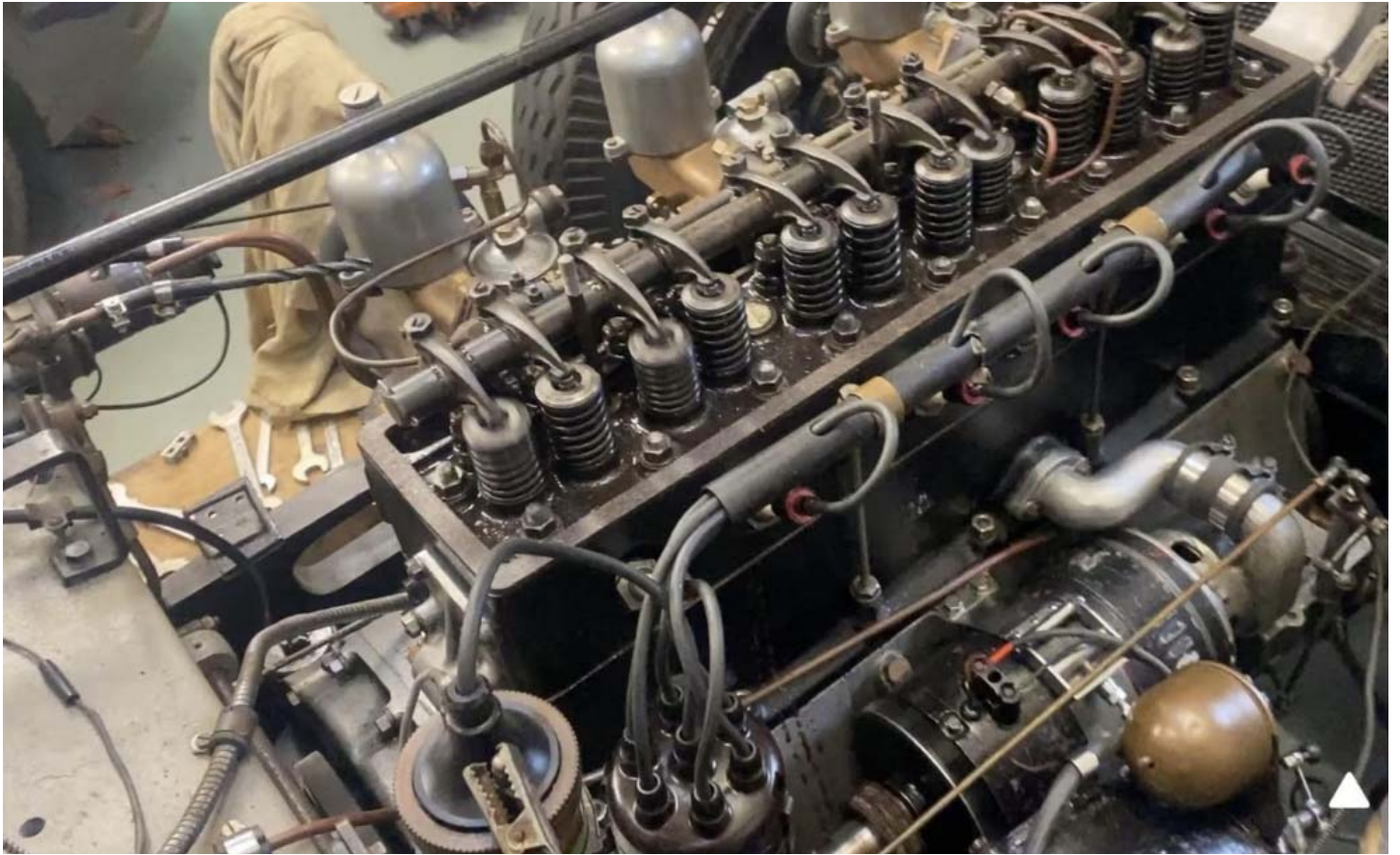


letters of the number plate, shows a real power of observation.

I was about half an hour late, as predicted, having driven directly from Rugby and sadly this stopped Simon and Melissa being with us as he was rushing back also from Rugby for a meeting with his architect.

I will sign off here as my news is that I am 100% devoting my waking hours to the project Speed 20 - and I can report this week that I have started the engine for the first time since 1962. I did it on the handle as I haven't yet bought a battery so the coil and pump were powered from a battery charger. The picture on the following page is a still from a video you'll all, no doubt, want to see on Tuesday!

I am pleased to report that on Friday 28th Ian Francis (SA Speed 20) joined me for the second start-up where we began the process of doing the hundreds of adjustments a new engine needs to refine its running. I can say it purrs like a kitten on tickover and barks like a dog when given a few revs; which is a sound peculiar to the 2511cc engine. All in all, I am one very happy bunny with all the anxiety of an unknown



engine, and the work and expense to bring it back, rewarded with success, so now on to the next phase to get the car on the road.

So to sign off may I remind you that April's meeting is next Tuesday which is the 1st of April at the Alderley Edge Hotel and restaurant SK9 7BJ at around 7pm