



Monkey Business

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Written By Chris Taylor

Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths

A good meeting this month at the Alderley, attended by 16 friends; we must be doing something right! We were joined by newcomer Tony Cooper who lives close by with a lovely red TD21, Tony knew nothing of our meeting and just happened to be at the Alderley, so we gave him our usual welcome and hope to see him as a regular attendee.

Tari and Michell together with 1711TF (who, incidentally, chose its own parking space in the car park!) - *that might be because Tari was saving fuel as he was running on fumes and it is uphill into that space!* - B'er T'er I was particularly happy to hear Michelle is fully recovered from being poorly. On the subject of being poorly, I haven't heard any news about Shaun Donnely yet but I know we all wish him a full and speedy recovery.



I am very short of time this month (as usual!) so this report is going to be brief but to compensate I know DO'S has been out and about and I believe has been holidaying in Northern Spain when he saw Mick, Gez and Tick on parade at Laguardia, of which more later. Also out and about this month, giving JJ a good airing, was Peter Lakin and myself when we joined the South Cheshire Raiders run up in them there hills of Derbyshire around Carsington water and the surrounding area. Peter and I did a little detour to Wirksworth, the site of the Ecclestone Valley Railway, where a bunch of super enthusiastic volunteers are running steam trains on an 8 mile trip - well worth a visit. So, back to the meeting where our regular North Staffordshire raiders Eric and Denise joined us, Eric is a great enthusiast and very knowledgeable on many vehicles and has actually sold his drop dead gorgeous VDP bodied Crested eagle and is now

campaigning an equally beautiful Jaguar XK140. He is also a meeting host himself at the Coach & horses at Fenny Bentley on the second Tuesday.

As another newcomer to the Alderley we welcomed Andrew Myers, who is an aspiring Alvis owner and is canvassing all around him to gather useful information to help him decide what model to go for. We met Andrew at the AOC stand at Tatton Park and I am delighted he took up our invitation to join us at the Alderley. I think Andrew's first contact was with Elizabeth at Tatton so would have arrived at our meeting already well versed about us all (and still he came!).

Another of our regulars from the great county of Staffordshire is Duncan Mather, who is now in a quandary, seeking advice from anyone willing to give an opinion, n as to whether Duncan should buy a Duncan, of TA14 fame! This quest for information also extended to this month's Bowcliffe Hall AAT lunch meeting; dubbed the Third Wednesday Group with this month's meeting on the fourth Wednesday just to keep everyone on their toes (you know it makes sense). So with his head in his hands our Duncan now has about 10 more opinions on top of his own regarding making the second car leap. I don't know if he asked Dave Culshaw where, if he did, no doubt he got information worth two opinions, making it a dozen.

Talking of David C, he has been having a bit of a garage clear-out and kindly passed on to me various pre-war suspension pins in lovely condition, some of which I identified as Firebird/SB speed 20 compatible so they are now in my stock. There were some more pins, that Dave suggested must be Speed 25, which have now been given to Mike Hatton, who is a regular at Erics' Coach & Horses meeting.



What report could be complete without mention of our meeting mascot, I revel in teasing Norman who, in truth, is

our cheerleader and keeps us all going in toning chuckle muscle department, whilst Claire carries out her duties of keeping him in check -but with a twinkle in her eye. And also, up with our Norm, what report is complete without mentioning our most regular attendees in an Alvis; who need no introduction as they are our very own West Cheshire Raiders, Judith and Charles Van-Ingen who were spotted by D O'S their much travelled TD drop head outside the Murray Arms in Gatehouse-in-Fleet, we don't half get about spreading our influence. Judith and I have also been swapping knowledge about the Baritone Saxophone which my AI angel has placed for my digital attention. I do think it's the nicest single reed instrument sound I have yet encountered. Judith was also tasked with finding me a trumpet repairer as I have taken on board Huw Morris-Jones 'suggestion that there can be no better skill to straighten out the pass lamp bezel I have for AYF which has suffered a slight ding, which needs to be sorted before yet another batch of chroming is prepared.

Talking of Huw M-J, I was in Cottingham visiting Huw on Tuesday and much fine progress is being made on his SD 20 Charlesworth Drophead where the nerves of the car are being fitted and connected with a RT Wiring loom.

To finish, and not to upstage D'OS, but I know BVC is now settling down and has been venturing out as far as the Principality. My progress on AYF is steady, in that the car has now had a run round my estate and I know it has at least 1st 2nd 3rd and reverse gears available. I wouldn't dare get up sufficient speed for top gear until the tyres that were under it in 1962 are gone and the car becomes fully legal!!! but the early signs are good.

Some of you already know the manager of the Alderley Edge requested a meeting with me last month but because I was teaching in Rugby I arrived a bit later, due to teaching, and he went off shift before I finished my meal, so I don't know what he wants to tell me.

We must be thinking about our Christmas bash so at some point during this month's meeting let's have a group chat about Christmas and the Alderley itself.

That's all folks! I hope to see you on Tuesday 7th October at the Alderley Edge Hotel and Restaurant SK9 7BJ, for our 168th meeting of the Drummers, from 19.00hrs

And now a message from our roving reporter Dean O'Spyder...

I've been on my travels out and about the country and rather than just touring England I've been in Scotland and Wales as well as a quick trip to Spain. It seems wherever I go I am fated to see either Alvis cars in garages being restored or out and about with their owners enjoying themselves.

It was no surprise to see Charles and Judith in Scotland at Gatehouse in Fleet – I think they spend as much time in Scotland as they do on the Wirral!



Perhaps more of a surprise was to see Simon and Melissa out and about at the Welsh weekend with fellow Drummers, Tim and Jayne. I first spotted them in the car park at the Ffarm hotel and then again at the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.





That involved a trip over the Horseshoe Pass; something Simon hadn't intended to do, given his brakes are still a work in progress. But, as he says Chris Taylor's golden rule is always, "down the hill in the gear you'd go up it" which meant he reached the bottom without mishap, to Melissa's great happiness!

I was happily travelling for a spot of relaxation in the sun when I espied Mick and Gez parked up in Laguardia in Spain, on their way back from their epic trip. Those TA14s take some beating for reliability – especially Tick it seems.



Being a bit of a jackdaw I do like shiny things and the bits I saw through the window of Taylor Towers certainly caught my eye. Lovely shiny chrome ready to go back on AYF. I was too late to hitch a ride with Chris on his sojourn round the estate but I did catch a glimpse of some splendid leather seats and door trim

