



Monkey Business No 173 March 2026



*Written and
Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths*

You'd have thought I'd learned by now!

You would have thought that, by now, I would have wised up to it. "I'm away teaching" says Chris, "would you host the meeting?" Naturally I agreed, forgetting the sting in the tail of being responsible for writing Monkey Business! Be warned, it could happen to you.

Despite it being February, and still in the dark, miserable,



night mode we managed a very respectable gathering of ten Drummers and an honorary Taylor (or is it tailer) replacement in the form of Rio, my Airedale. Melissa was away visiting her dad so rather than leave Rio at home I thought I'd let her come and see what all the fuss is about.

We were joined by Elizabeth Bennett – who had made it after a bit of a fight with the satnav, and Eric and Denise - doing in reverse pretty much Melissa's

journey to her dad's. We were delighted to see John Woodcock and Barbara Holmes and they were deep in conversation with Peter Lakin and Duncan Mather when I arrived. Norman and Claire Blundell completed the set.

Much conversation was heard around the table and both Duncan and Elizabeth had been out in their respective post war cars. I'm not actually sure what model Elizabeth's is, as it's got several features not normally seen on a TC21.

I took BVC out after the meeting, only up to Peter's where it's parked up in a spare garage while I planned to have some work done at home and needed the car-thedral for furniture.

There was a topical discussion about the causes of loss of power with petrol pumps and fuel starvation being the favourite given the symptoms. Mind you, given the price of fuel at the moment, a bit of starvation in those 6 cylinder cars might be a blessing. As Chris may be about to find out as I've seen a video of AYF's engine running and sounding super.

We've been talking about alternative venues and Chris and Peter have tried a couple of them. One of them demanded pre-orders and the other was unsuitable in the access and car park departments, so they were non-starters, however we have a new venue. Suggested by Tim and Jayne, and tried and approved by Chris, full details follow;

Finally, a quick plug for Mick's new summer meeting. A Sunday breakfast meeting at Hamish's in Blacko. It'll be the 3rd Sunday of each month between April and September assembling between 9.30 and 10. Full address is Moorcock House, Gisburn Road, Blacko, BB9 6NG

And now a message from Mr Taylor about our new venue...

As you are aware I have been looking for a new home ever since the Alderley Edge threw us out!! The Bulls Head at Smallwood has been a good stopgap but at last I think we have somewhere new to try.

This is on the recommendation of Tim & Jayne and having tried it today (carried there in AYF) I find their attitude to me as the host most agreeable. Carol and I have taken lunch today (Thursday 2nd) and the food is excellent, the two car parks are also good and the pub has several areas most of which will serve us very well, and the facilities have passed the 'Carol' test.

So our first meeting at the new venue will be this, the month of April and on the 7th from 6.00 pm, it is a large somewhat complicated building on several levels so for ease on this our first test of it I have booked the 'Snug' which if you park in the top park whose entrance is just after the building on the right if approaching from the Wilmslow direction and the snug is the first room on the left immediately upon entering from the top park.



The venue is: The Bulls Head, (not to be confused with Smallwood) Wilmslow Road, Mottram St Andrew, Cheshire, SK10 4QH.

Our host for the night is Jasmine, who, I'm sure, won't mind us wandering about to get our bearings as we might ask to change our seating area for future 1st Tuesday meetings.

Today (Thursday 2nd) Carol & I took lunch in the conservatory which is up two half levels with the facilities away near the snug but it does have a magnificent view of the lower car park for the lighter nights.. Anyway, all that can be sorted when we've tried the place and agreed it's our new home

So I've said about 10 persons but if we are more then we may have to move to another area as the snug's capacity is about at its limit at 10 but as I say we've got to start somewhere

And another message - this time from Duncan Mather...

I've bought myself a ticket to Gawsorth on May 4th (Bank Holiday Monday and "may the fourth be with you") with the idea of taking the Alvis.

The event isn't in the AOC's Calendar. When I first attended (in my TR4A) there was an Alvis group (2022 I think). Tim did try to arrange another gathering there a few years back, but I think he was the only one there (I said hello but wasn't in any car myself).

I spoke with Rupert Richards (the owner) and he seemed open to the idea of setting aside an area for a host of Alvis to congregate. I was thinking to circulate a general call to the folk who often attend Chris or Eric's gatherings to see if they might be interested to turn up. The idea would be that it's just a gathering of friends, not an AOC event.

If folk might be interested to appear, I told Rupert that I'd let him know the number of interested parties nearer the date. He could then suggest an area to be reserved based on the likely number (or tickets sold). It's not likely to be at the front-of-house which is usually reserved for his mates in the Manchester Motor Club. Much more likely would be at the back (amongst the hoi-polloi) where past club gatherings have been, but – depending on numbers – he may direct us toward the woods where the Corvettes or the Morgan's gather and graze.

If you're interested I'll be at the noggin on Tuesday where we can have a chat - or email me: duncan28@mather.me.uk

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

Not much happening at the moment it seems as the weather has been pretty shocking. However I was in Wales and saw Charles and Judith's car in Llandudno. They need to be careful as that's Plant Pot, the Welsh Reiver's territory and who knows what will have been unscrewed by the time they get back to the car.



Simon was spotted driving BVC through the Cheshire lanes and I managed to snap a picture of it and Peter's Firefly ensconced in the garage. Peter's hopeful PN will be back soon from the painter's so we'll probably see Simon doing the trip in reverse shortly

