



# Monkey Business

## No 163 - April 2025

*Written By Chris Taylor*

*Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths*



A smaller meeting this month with 8 attendees and 8 apologies namely Peter Lakin who was at a white tie event, Eric and Denise Ody both suffering with a cold, Claire and Norman, Judith Van-Ingén, Melissa Griffiths and Jayne Brown completed those not able to make the night.

However, news was brought by Duncan Mather that got David Culshaw quite excited - which is not something David is known for! The hot topic was that Duncan, in conversation with a work colleague, had unknowingly doubled the number of known surviving examples of the Smith-Clarke Kenilworth Utility Motor. David tells us he was instrumental in Alan Stote becoming the custodian and restorer of the only known example. Well, until this news from Duncan doubled the surviving examples from one to two! So well done Duncan.

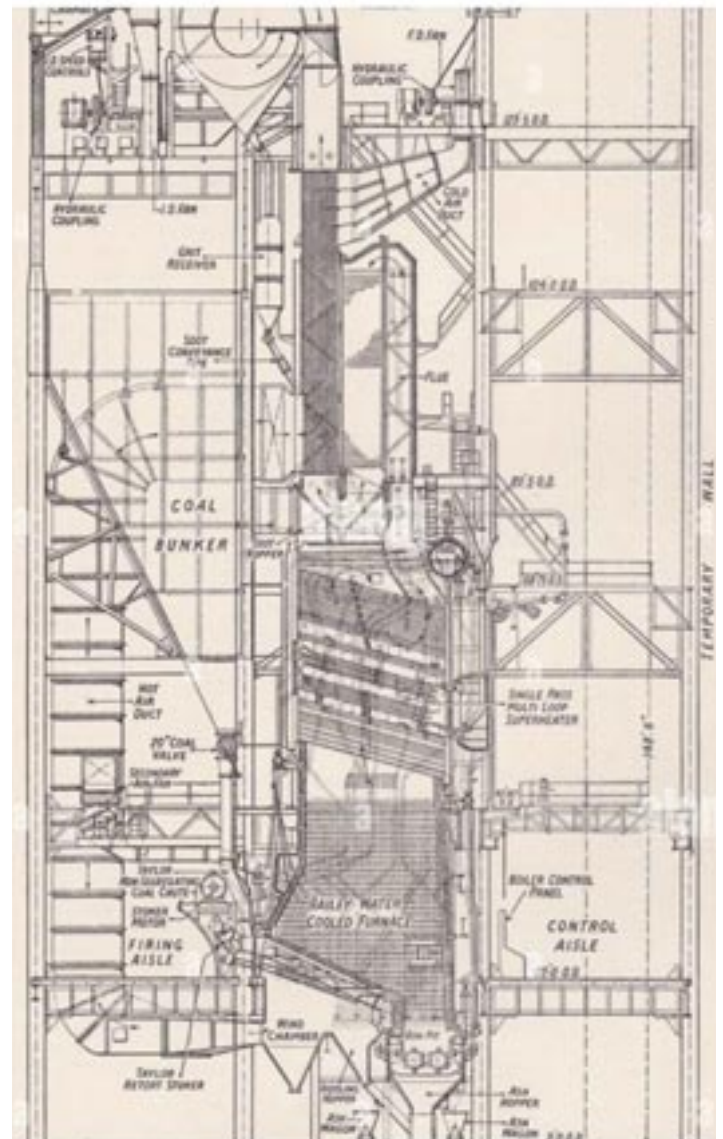


Tim Brown and myself had a chat regarding this year's Tatton Park AOC stand which clashes with another Northern event so it seems most will do one event on the Saturday and the other on the Sunday, please let me or Tim know if you want entering for either event. Tim & Simon also had a good natter, no doubt about AOC business. It was really good to



see Elizabeth Bennett at the meeting as, for all sorts of reasons, her attendance has been thwarted by occurrences beyond her control so good to welcome her back into the fold.

The fact that Judith V-I could not attend didn't stop Charles and of course borne by his 1965 TD21. We had a great discussion with Richard Plant-Locke about furnaces in power stations and, in particular, the lack of cooling towers at the old Battersea power station because it supplied hot water, by pipes under the Thames, to the housing estates in and around Pimlico. Here I was able to add my two penn'orth as I had worked in Manchester City centre's own power station, on Bloom Street, that similarly supplied hot water to the surrounding office buildings; we've forgotten more that we know nowadays about efficient energy recovery! It just shows there are just no limits to the subjects covered.



Since last month I have been totally engrossed on the project Alvis, with much done and much more to do. Now the engine has run I'm all fired up with enthusiasm and today was a twelve-hour shift, working on the wiring. I am making progress with things coming alive, although the ignition warning light has given me the run-around for days as I thought I had made an error in either the design or installation of the charging circuit. I eventually traced it to the bulb holder itself where there was clearly a part missing, so a special shaped copper washer was made and, lo and behold, there



is now light, I can only hope it goes out when I next run the engine.

Even the rare original SF 28 semaphores could be demonstrated to Ian Francis who called today in probably the best Jaguar XK140 I have ever seen and heard. I won't do my usual waxing lyrical about the immortal XK engine but it was a delight to hear it pull away up Leafield Road.

So, as they say, that's all folks except to add I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting at the Alderley Edge Hotel & Restaurant on Macclesfield Road Alderley Edge on Tuesday 6th May- post code SK9 7BJ - at 7.00 pm



**A picture from Eric's meeting at the Coach & Horses in Fenny Bentley on the 2nd Tuesday of the month - in case you want to go**

