



# Monkey Business

## No 165 - July 2025

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*Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths*



July saw a healthy 14 friends gather at the Alderley Edge Hotel for our monthly social, with apologies received from Tim & Jayne, Simon and Melissa and Duncan Mather who were all missed,

However two Alvis cars graced the car park; namely those of Peter Lakin, who came in JJ his Firefly tourer by Cross & Ellis, and Charles & Judith Van-Ingén in their TD 21 DHC looking resplendent as always.



It is with much regret that my Firebird has developed major clutch trouble so can't be used and work on the project Speed 20 has taken rather longer than I expected. As I can't move the '20 to pull out GS's engine to sort the problem with the clutch it seems 2025 is not to be my year with a working Alvis.

That having been said work on the Speed 20 is progressing and a rather tricky misalignment between the lamp bar end flanges and the existing holes in the wing and sub bracket has now been solved; thanks to Mick Fletcher for



being able to supply me with the parts I needed. So, along with 41 other bits, a batch has now been assembled to be chrome plated which will open the way to fully assembling the front end and, wiring the lamps and horns, will see the car almost ready for sea trials. It is my aim that August will see the car out and about, albeit rather carefully driven at first.

It was really good to welcome Mick Fletcher and Gez Holt to the meeting, it is a long way for Mick to visit us but I am ever so pleased whenever they can manage to arrange to call in. Mick's and Gez's memories go back a long way and we can chat endlessly about our shared experiences over the years. Elizabeth Bennett is one of our most regular attenders and it is always interesting to chat with Elizabeth as, now being an actual Alvis owner again, there are endless adventures to discuss.

Our group is always enhanced by a visit from Eric and Denise Ody who also travel a fair distance from Uttoxeter to join the fun and it makes me somewhat guilty that I live so close, but don't worry I soon get over the guilt! I don't know if I mentioned it last time but Eric has sold his gorgeous VDP, DHC Crested Eagle and bought a Jaguar XK 140 in stunning condition, this is not the first venture Eric has had with a '140 but he tells me this one has a far more responsive engine and clearly has been very well put together. I will just pop a bit in here about Eric's monthly meeting which is the second Tuesday at the Coach and Horses in Fenny Bentley near



Ashbourne. A few times a year Eric slots in a lunchtime do, as well as the regular evening meeting. A grand time was had by all (see the photos) so give Eric your email if you ever want to



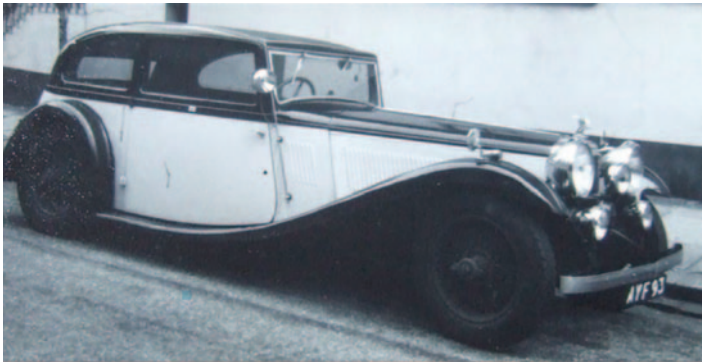


Eric's meeting included, for the technically minded, a master class on oil pumps by Giles Lacey

be included. Talking of meetings, by the time you get this it might already be too late but if you want to take a place on the AOC stand at Tatton Park on August 16th & 17th please contact Tim Brown without delay.

For our meeting to be somewhat less than complete something would have to be missing, can you guess what? Yes you're right - our mascot cum cheeky-chappie, none other than Norman Blundell who Claire was unable to control so we were royally entertained by Norman (at least the ladies were!), all leading to a lively night.

I had come to the meeting with another quest requiring super sleuth Dave Culshaw to investigate; whilst watching a black & white film called 'I'll never forget you' I espied, parked up in Berkeley Square London, a VDP 2 door fastback saloon and, although it looks very similar to AYF (my project Speed 20),



Chris's Speed 20 at the top from an old photo with 2 images from the film shown below - apologies for the picture quality!

I think it is actually an SA series not the SB as mine is. But of course I could be mistaken - as you can imagine a photograph of my television screen is not overflowing with pixels! However, by the next day Dave had discovered the film is a retitled remake of an earlier film for the American market, made in 1933 which, of course, is bang on for the SA 20. Just around the corner, of course, in Berkeley Street, was Charles Follett's showroom where without doubt the car had been sold from. Not only that but Dave has narrowed the search down to only three possibles that were two tone painted. That is probably as far as we can go right now but this snippet joins the others at the Trust and eventually may well be a jigsaw piece to add to a car's history.

Next we were graced with two new members to join our happy throng namely John Woodcock and Barbara Holmes who have bought a TC 21 and joined us as fellow Alvis enthusiasts. However it was to be a very pleasant surprise to me to discover John not only had previously worked for the North Western Electricity Board, as I had done, but also he also worked at the Bax Road depot in Chorlton-on-Medlock where I was apprenticed all those years ago. Although Dave was not in the same department as me and he was there a little earlier we both knew so many people that our paths must have unknowingly crossed, watch out for August's meeting as if John is there it will be an electrifying night.

So that is probably all for now folks except to say I hope to see you all at August's meeting which as usual will be at the Alderley Edge Hotel and restaurant from 7pm SK9 7BJ on Tuesday 5th .