



# Monkey Business No 100 - June 2019



*Written By Chris Taylor*

*Bunged Together By Simon Griffiths*

What a milestone; at the meeting I said a few words to thank you all for the support you give our gathering and to celebrate reaching our centenary the year before Alvis's!



We were 18 strong which is a good number considering the awful weather. It was cold and raining hard but that didn't put off 4 of our regular Alvis cars, made up of 3 post war 3 litres belonging to Charles Van-Ingen, Tari Mirza with Michelle and Tim and Jayne Brown, with Mike Robinson in his 12/50, from braving the trip.



Peter Lakin could not be with us as he was away celebrating his wedding anniversary and thought bringing Karen might just have not been her idea of a romantic celebration night out! Which meant Simon and Melissa were not Alvis borne this month - although I hear much work is progressing on BVC 46 so one of these Tuesday nights I am sure we will have a pleasant surprise! Which will be all the more so to BVC itself, as the car hasn't run under its own power for about half a century.



Mike Robinson, in true Drummers' style, brought a Lucas adjustable

spanner which is a lovely worn out gem. Mike would like to restore it but the thread has so far defeated all attempts at recognition, so good luck with that one Mike; although I would just buy one off Ebay (item No 264373485443) for 12 quid and chuck that one away!

On the possibility of the remanufacture of cylinder heads, I think it would be a good idea for any new heads to be designed with inserted valve seats. This would increase the life of the heads as pocketed seats could be replaced and would also hedge the bet in the leaded VS unleaded controversy. The Technical Editor welcomes contributions from members who may have carried out some work on an Alvis which may be of interest to other members for reproduction in the bulletin. He is also happy to provide technical information to members about their Alvis cars. A SAE is helpful for replies.

### THE CLAYTON DEWANDRE BRAKE SERVO

Alvis cars were heading well up-market by 1935 with the introduction of the three and a half Litre designed for special non-series coachwork. For the regular Alvis buyer during the years 1937 to 1939, the Speed Twenty five and 4.3 Litre models were available. These models were fitted with the same standard Alvis made cable brakes which began life on the SB Speed Twenty in 1933. By 1937, the coupe and saloon coachwork was becoming much heavier and brake pedal pressures were becoming unacceptable for vehicles in this class.

The problem was eliminated by fitting the Clayton-Dewandre mechanical brake servo to provide some assistance to the driver. These units are very trouble free, but some maintenance is required, particularly if the vehicle has stood unused for some years, when the two elements of the system can seize and become inoperative. I have come across owners who were blissfully unaware that their Alvis even had a servo, since the brakes WILL operate reasonably efficiently without the servo in operation.



As usual many subjects were covered including an in-depth technical discussion about the pre-war Clayton Dewandre vacuum brake assisted system fitted to many of the late thirties cars showing how the trends of relieving the driver of effort is not new to motoring.

Talking of restorations, in a most uncharacteristic way our very own Norman was getting in a flap, or at least his hood on his TA 14 was as it had lost its rear anchor to the body, upon inspection he discovered the timber rail across the rear of the body was no more so with no more ado he has set to and spliced a new section in so the hood now has something to be re-attached to, and as Claire said, it keeps him out of mischief so a long repair will be good.





In the signing in book I see Richard Plant- Locke has had clarification added by some wag in that we are kindly informed he is AKA Plant-Pot, this is true but there's no Weed near him.

Gez and Mick were early arrivers and were well into the Rosé when I got there; although there was some confusion with the output from the kitchen but it was resolved and peace quickly returned and we all got on with a good meal. I was again pleased to see Elizabeth Bennett join us and, although not at our meeting, I have included a photo for her of the 4.3 saloon she and Brian were so often seen in over very many years. The car does have a majestic presence which is only now becoming appreciated, just think how ahead of the curve Brian was restoring that saloon all those years ago.



So onward now to the 'gadget man' Chris Bluer, Chris brought along a recently purchased heat gun with a digital display, similar to the one I remember John Pryer using on his Speed 20 engine to track bad coolant circulation in his engine. Gez thought this a good idea for Mick to try at his works so the gadget got a good response, however under the guise of bringing it as an item of interest to the meeting I think Chris was using it to hunt down a bit of hot stuff!



**Chris Bluer's gadget nearly saw Simon off as he's just been done for speeding!**

Talking as I was about being ahead of the curve, at the meeting a suggestion came from Mick's direction that our August meeting could be themed as a repeat of alternative night from a couple of years ago, this was received well so it was put into the calendar; however it is only something that may be alternate, it does not mean leave the Alvis at home if you don't want to but perhaps do something alternate like the 'other one' drive it there. However to return to being ahead of the curve I visited the car park quite late on only to discover Mike Fitkin had had a premonition and brought his works van to the meeting.



I haven't mentioned Stephen Walley yet who hasn't sold the Robinson Firebird special, but was making plans to get his Firebird saloon ready for the road soon, so I look forward to seeing Steve Alvis borne once more.

That's all for the meeting now and I hope to see you in July at the Deanwater on Tuesday 2nd July at SK7 1RJ.

My how the year is passing we've just passed the longest day so winter is on its way so get that Alvis used.

### ***And now a word from our Roving Reporter, Dean O'Spyder ...***

I've been out and about recently with a couple of things to report, with the big event this month being International Alvis Weekend in York organised by the Northern Section, Chaired by our very own Drummer Tim Brown.

I happened to be enjoying a cup of tea at The Motorist Hub at Sherburn in Elmet on the Saturday when up rocked Stephen Whitaker & Roland Rogerson in Roland's lovely Firefly with Tim Brown, and our B'er T'er in Stephen's SA20 tourer. Simon even seemed to manage to change gear without making any dreadful noises from the crash box so there's hope for him yet! I don't know if you've been to the Motorist Hub but it's a mixture of café, service and showroom, owned by an Alvis Owner Club member, Simon Spinks. The showroom includes some of Simon's car collection with a fine selection of Alvis cars and even a Ferrari Dino to drool over!



I spotted Chris Taylor at Bowcliffe Hall with the Archive Trust – sadly without GS as he still seems to be playing with clocks rather than fitting his new petrol tank – or working on WJ, his hybrid Speed 20/25!



The Gala Dinner was held in the National Railway Museum and the fancy dress was won by Melissa and Simon in a spot of role reversal as Agatha Christie and Hercule Poirot – Simon seemed to be enjoying it a little too much as you can see from the photo!

Fortunately, the rain held off for most of the weekend and



Sunday's rain came when most people were inside for the prize giving and it was a fabulous turn out of cars. I was eavesdropping conversations as usual and overhead Simon Bostock saying that one of

the Lightning F1s on display was actually his plane when he was a Squadron Commander in the RAF and managed to gate crash him having his picture taken in front of it.

As for the Spitfire fly past...wow!

***Finally Tim Brown reports on events past, present and future in the Northern section...***

The months seem to be flying by and with the longest day now behind us, we are now well into our calendar for 2019. We have unfortunately been putting up with some less than flaming June weather, particularly when compared with last year. I am pleased to say that it hasn't put off us hardy Alvis souls, we are a tough lot and we were out in force at International Alvis weekend last week. There are also plenty of other section events still to come, so please make sure they are in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there!

June 2019 saw the Northern Section host the third in its' three-year cycle of International Alvis Weekends and with the intention of going out with a bang, I like to think that we fulfilled the brief. Over the weekend of 14th to 16th June, the Alvis masses gathered in York and we booked out the Fairfield Manor Hotel, our base for the weekend and from Friday evening onwards, the car park at the hotel was packed with a wonderful array of the finest Alvis machinery. The weather had not been kind all week and all credit to everyone who managed to battle their way through the rain storms to be there and we, the organising committee are extremely grateful that everyone was so stoic.

We opened the weekend with a welcome dinner at the hotel on Friday evening and right from the start, you could tell that there was a party mood. Saturday saw a full compliment of Longstone tourists setting off on a circular route of North Yorkshire, cunningly devised by Paul Chasney. Other activities included a visit to York races, visiting various places of interest in the locality and also taking in all that York has to offer both culturally and retail(y)!

By the evening everyone had returned to base and were prepared for an evening of fun and entertainment at the National Railway Museum. The 200 plus guests enjoyed excellent food and wine in this magnificent and atmospheric venue. Our very own Simon and Melissa, very deservedly won the fancy dress competition dressed as Agatha Christie and Hercule Poirot – you wait until you see the pictures!!

It was an early start on Sunday morning and off to the Yorkshire Air Museum at RAF Elvington, which proved to be a brilliant venue. There well over 100 Alvis cars and their



owners in attendance, which created a brilliant show, glinting in the sunshine, which shone (more or less) all day. Everyone enjoyed the driving tests, concours d'elegance and the

entertainment provided by the Vintage Vocalist, but the icing on the cake for most was the fly past by a spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, which we had been fortunate enough to be able to arrange for the day.



The weekend was rounded off by the presentation of prizes and I would just like to mention the recipients of the Ernest Shenton Memorial Trophy, who this year were the extremely worthy Norman and Claire Blundell and many congratulations to them.

Many also stayed on, on Sunday evening to "wind down", before finally closing the chapter on our Northern Section term of office for International Weekend. I would like to personally thank the organising committee who have done a fabulous job over the last 3 years and should be justly proud of all that they have achieved. That said, I am sure that we are all looking forward to sitting back a little next year and enjoying the centenary celebrations in Coventry.



And now to events for July (can you believe that it is July already?) we have the following activities in the diary:

On Sunday 21st July; Newby Hall Vintage and Classic Show. The Alvis Owner Club are invited, by The North of England Classic and Pre War Automobile Club, to Yorkshire's largest one-day Vintage and Classic Car Rally. Always one of the highlights of our calendar and truly one not to be missed. If you haven't already booked in, then contact Harry Fletcher on 07778 319546 or email: [laurenm20042002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:laurenm20042002@yahoo.co.uk)

The following weekend on Sunday 28th July, we will be holding our second joint Northern and Welsh Section event at Bodrhyddan Hall, Rhuddlan. Following the great success of last year's event, we already have a good number of cars booked in and if anyone else would like to join us, then please contact me and I will let you have details of the booking arrangements (it is cheaper to book in advance). Bodrhyddan Hall is a beautiful venue and is only about 40 minutes' drive from Chester, so do please come along for the day. There will be a concours competition with prizes (we did



very well last year), auto-jumble and throughout the day catering options are available within the show area. There is also the added attraction of the wonderful country house of Bodrhydan Hall and its' formal gardens.

Contact: Tim Brown: 07799 118771 or email at: [timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk](mailto:timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk)

If you have any queries, or comments about any of our events, please contact me at: [timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk](mailto:timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk)

## Northern Alvis Owners Club Calendar of Events for 2019

### Important:

**All venues are liable to change, please check the monthly pink for up to date news of each event before making plans.**

### Sunday – 4th August

**Hebden Bridge Vintage and Classic Car Show,**  
Calder Holmes Park, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8EE.

Organised by The Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge, the Vintage Weekend is an annual rally for vintage, veteran and classic vehicles held in the Historic West Yorkshire Town of Hebden Bridge, in the heart of the South Pennines. Entry is on-line only at: [www.hebdenbridgevintageweekend.org.uk/registration\\_info.html](http://www.hebdenbridgevintageweekend.org.uk/registration_info.html)

Contact: Stephen Whitaker: 01200 447874 or Email at [piscisteve@gmail.com](mailto:piscisteve@gmail.com)

### Sunday – 4th August

**MG Northern Day**  
Bewerley Park, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5BD

Harrogate MG Club invite AOC members to their Annual Northern event. Park, in pride of place, in the show ring and spend a pleasant day in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. Stalls, competitions and the town of Pateley Bridge to explore. Bring a picnic or use the on-site catering facilities.

Contact: David and Anne Salter: 01423 870250 or [davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk)

### Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th August

**Passion for Power, Tatton Park Vintage and Classic Car Show**

Tatton Park, Knutsford, WA16 6QN.

One of the UK's most popular Classic Car events with over 90 Classic and performance car Clubs attending and over 300 private entries. Large Auto-jumble and over 250 trade stands. A full weekend event, hosted by Chris Taylor. This is a very popular event for all our South Lancashire and Cheshire Members. This Large show goes from strength to strength every year, having an enormous and diverse amount of vintage and classic cars on display. At this show we have our own club area to display our cars.

Contact: Chris Taylor on: 07890 414130 or at: [Chris@ctml.co.uk](mailto:Chris@ctml.co.uk)

### Sunday - 1st September

**Vintage by the Sea**

The Midland Hotel, Marine Rd, Morecambe, Lancashire LA4 4BU.

A celebration of all things Vintage: cars, live music, fashion etc. As voted the best vintage event in the world by the Guardian Newspaper. The fantastic setting of Morecambe's seafront provides the backdrop that transforms into a multi-venue playground where, visitors can learn the dances, take in specially curated live performances, ogle over vintage vehicles or take advantage of the decade's specific hair and beauty makeovers.

See website [www.midlandvintage.co.uk](http://www.midlandvintage.co.uk)

Contact: Andrew Wisdom 01254 676591 Email: [andrew.wisdom@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.wisdom@hotmail.co.uk)

### Sunday – 8th September

**Hartington Show near Buxton, Derbyshire**

High Fields, Hall Bank, Hartington. SK17 0AT

An opportunity to once again meet with our fellow Midland Alvis Enthusiasts, arrive from 9.30am onwards to enjoy a great country show, Vintage Tractors, Stationary Engines, Vintage Lorries, Cars & Steam Engines. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Giles Lacey email: [lacey\\_giles@btinternet.com](mailto:lacey_giles@btinternet.com) or Tim Brown on: 07799 118771 or email at: [timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk](mailto:timbrownmrics@aol.co.uk)

### Saturday, Sunday – 12th, 13th October

**North Yorkshire Railway in Wartime**

Every October, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway recaptures the spirit of the Second World War for a whole weekend. It is an annual tribute to the men and women who kept Britain's railways running throughout the war. The weekend begins with the ceremonial flag raising on Friday, and continues until it is lowered again on Sunday afternoon. Hundreds of skilled re-enactors help create the authentic atmosphere that has earned it an international reputation for authenticity. Accommodation will be available at Gisborough Hall on Saturday night and also on Sunday for those who prefer to drive back at their leisure. The cars will be parked at Grosmont Station, the RAF base, on Sunday. Further details to follow.

Contact: Anne and David Salter: 01423 870350 email: [davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davidandannesalter@tiscali.co.uk)

### Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th November

**Vintage and Classic Car Show.**

National Exhibition Centre. Birmingham.

See Pink and National press for details. The U.K.'s premier indoor Classic Car Show. A good place to find the pieces needed for the winter project and of course Alvis will be having their own stand. All offers of help are gratefully received.