

DEAN & MARCHES

More than 40 people assembled at Early Engineering for our August get together. Early Engineering are Alvis restoration and repair specialists. They are located in Herefordshire on a fairly new industrial estate set on the edge of a small village. They occupy at least three joined up big windowless industrial units with no indication of what is inside.

The owner welcomed us and guided us into the first building after telling us they carry out all work on all ages of Alvis. Once inside everything became rather amazing. Alvis cars of all ages being lovingly restored by the staff of eleven engineers.

Inside the building were at least fifty Alvis cars, some awaiting restoration, some restored and being stored. Just Alvis cars everywhere you looked, even an open wheel racer, owned by a Norwegian gentleman and used on British VSCC events.

What attracted me was an Alvis that had recently finished the Peking to Paris rally and was back in for re-preparation ready for its next long distance rally. The body had been removed to allow access to most of the car and it was interesting to not many non Alvis and non period parts which are allowed to be fitted to these long distance cars, for example, a Ford Type 9 five speed gearbox! There were several rally car builders in our group and they were all amazed at what they saw. A very interesting evening.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our next meeting will be on Monday 23rd September, 7.15 pm. We will gather at the Hopewell Colliery café for a talk on mining in the Forest of Dean. The Forest of Dean was a major player in the Industrial Revolution and both iron ore and coal mining took place.

Hopewell Colliery is at HR9 6JZ or 162/601114

Another interesting evening is promised so bring friends and family particularly if they are interested in Industrial history.

Stuart Harrold