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Many of you will have already heard via our various newsfeeds of the sad death of Bas de Voogd at his home in Holland on Monday June 24th after a long illness. This happened to be the same day we arrived in Holland for the annual SVW event and it also coincided with the day on which VA Saloon 0251 went to its new owner. This prototype VA was beautifully restored by Bas many years ago, later adapted to his circumstances and subsequently sold to Keith Bush when Bas could no longer drive. Some of us attended the funeral and next month I want to dedicate much of our 4-page spread to Bas as there's so much to write about.

The Holland event (June 25th to 27th) at Alphen aan de Rijn was very enjoyable with 19 SVW in attendance with others in non-SVW cars. We stayed at the Van Der Valk Avifauna hotel in the Green Heart of Holland, which boasts its own amazing bird zoo. The Tuesday evening boat trip starting near the hotel was excellent with a superb buffet during which we could chat with friends old and new. For some the weather was a bit too hot, but not like the record-breaking temperature in France; it did cool off and became rather more pleasant. The main focus of Wednesday was to explore Kinderdijk, a Unesco World Heritage site. Mainly below sea level, this is a wonderful area of dykes, rivers, canals and windmills. That evening we had the AGM (more on this another time) and the gala dinner. The 'big surprise' on Thursday was a trip to Haarlem to visit member Rob Woud's very special collection of cars, collectibles and ephemera. This ultimate 'man-cave' with its fantastic bar is a regular meeting place for local classic car owners. Gobby and myself returned home after Bas's funeral on the Friday night ferry having covered 502 trouble-free miles.

The photo is of Peter and Mieke's VA Woody, which was voted the car we would most like to go home in - The Ratcliffe Cup.

Don't forget to take a look on our SVW Register Facebook group where we now have 145 members.

