Documenting Room Booking Power App

Started from this template - [PowerApps/DeskReservation at master · aprildunnam/PowerApps · GitHub](#)

However it definitely did not work out of the box for me. I had never looked at Power Apps before and I am not an IT professional, so this is a complete novices guide! I document below all the steps I had to take to get what seems to be a fully working app (as far as I have tested).

First thing to do is to set up the Sharepoint lists that you will use as data sources when you import the app. Following directions to set up sharepoint lists – I think the name of the lists here is important (although they get specified to some extent in the data connections below) so you need to note the names should be, e.g. Desks and NOT Desks List. Also the name of the second list is Desk Reservation and NOT DeskS Reservation.
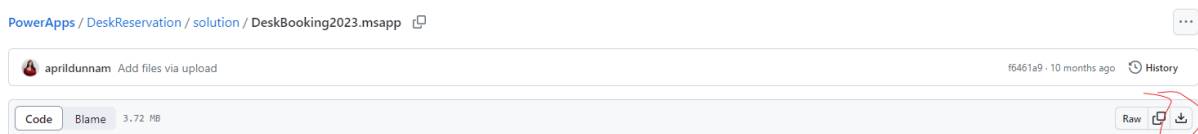
And I found that ALL the column names are required to be present in the List even if they say they are optional (or at least you will see lots of errors thrown in PowerApps if they are not present, but at the point it wasn't functioning for other reasons so I don't know if their absence stops the app from working but safer to include them).

Also, later on I found out that the default column option when setting up the list doesn't give the required functionality in the app – the problem and the fix is described here: [Desk Reservation app cannot find availability between reservations · Issue #117 · aprildunnam/PowerApps · GitHub](#).

Also, one of the required columns is not shown properly in the Github instructions: [\[Choice\]\[Status\]\["Booked","Checked In"\] · Issue #85 · aprildunnam/PowerApps · GitHub](#). If this isn't correctly set up then the Check In function doesn't show up on the My Reservations page later.

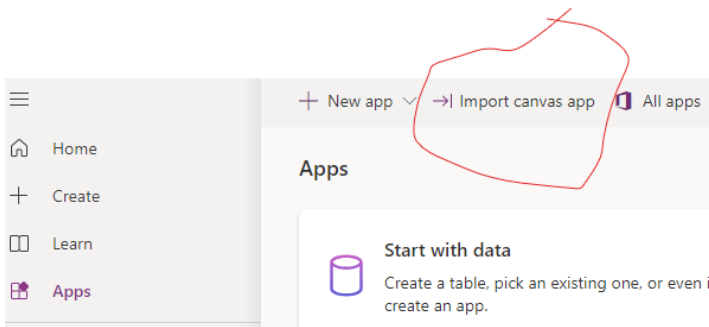Figuring out how to install was tricky.

First to download a working file you have to navigate all the way into the file (e.g. the msapp or zip file) in the github tree and then click download
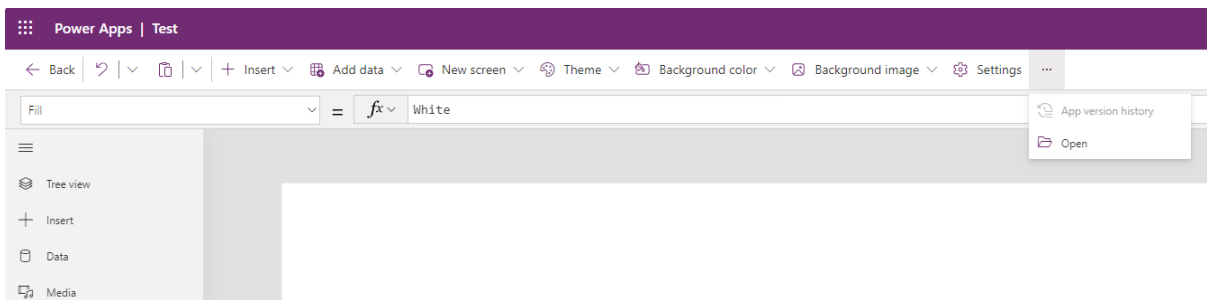

If you try downloading at a higher level then you download something that LOOKS like the file, and has the correct size but it appears to be empty. If you use this file in the steps below you get an error about it not working.

Seems to be multiple ways to install in PowerApps.

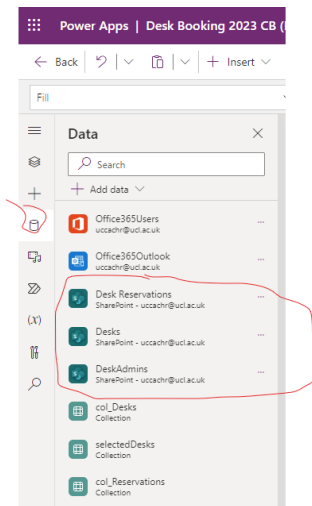You can go to Apps and then Import canvas app and then upload the ZIP file available on Github.

Otherwise you can do Create – Blank App – Blank Canvas App and then when into the 'Canvas' click on the three dots to reveal the 'Open' dialogue where you can import the MSAPP file available on Github.
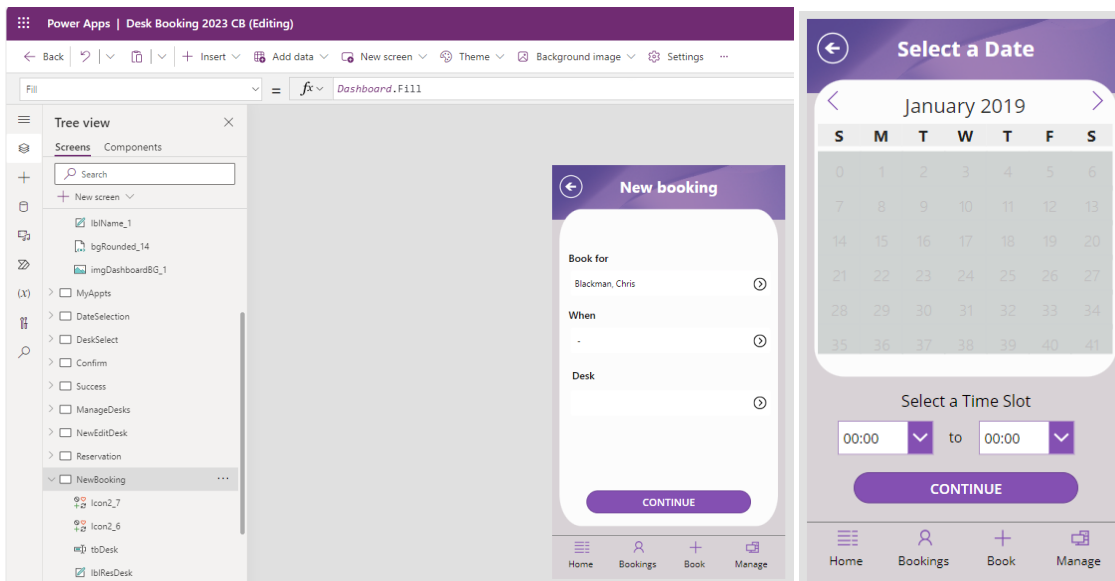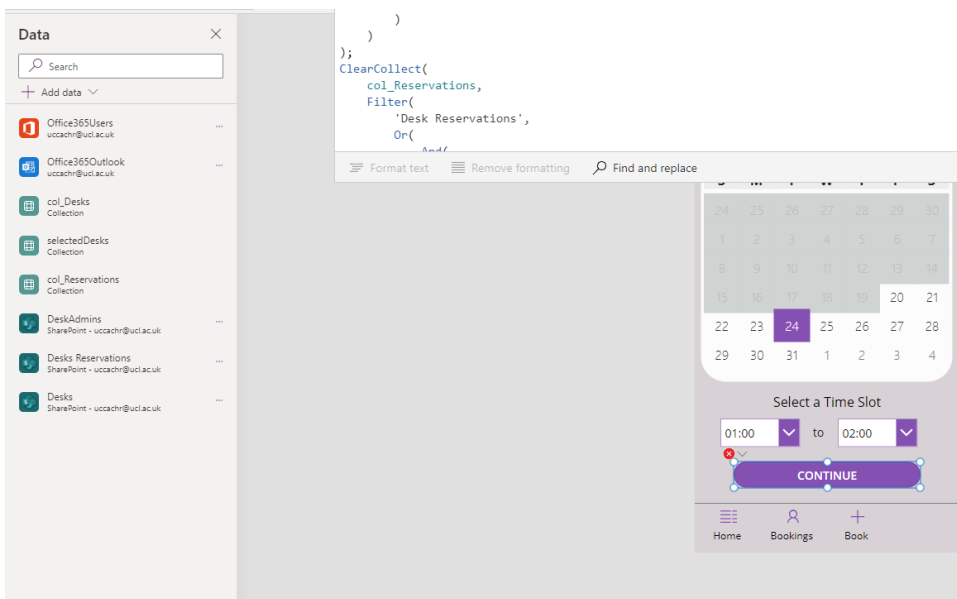

Both ways seem to lead to the same outcome.

After import, which requires you to make some data connections the first thing you need to do is to change the existing data connections which point to the Github owners Sharepoint files to the Sharepoint lists you created earlier. To do this you need to select the Data 'tab' in Canvas and then delete and reconnect each Sharepoint connection in turn (I assume the naming needs to be preserved).

The first problem was that when running the app, when followed the 'When' link from the New booking page of the app (shown using tree view below) I was not able to select a date from the Date Selection page.
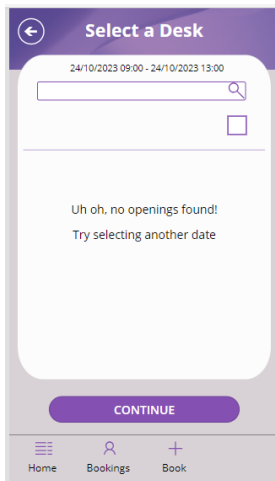
This turned out to be related to the naming of the sharepoint lists I believe – you can see below that the code on that page is looking to 'Desk Reservation' but I had followed the name given on Github and it was called Desks Reservation.
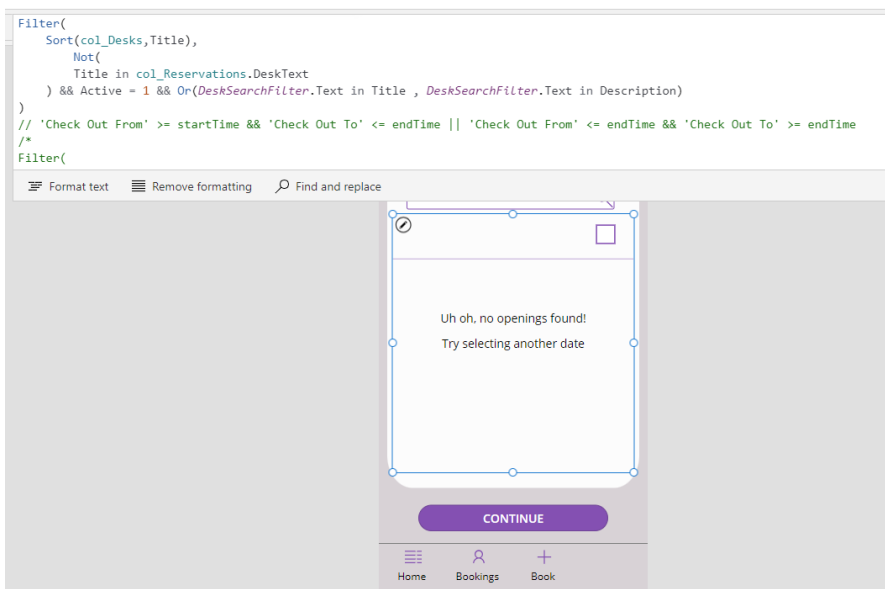

Changing the file name allowed a date to be picked.

Next the DeskSelect screen was not working – no Desks were available to select despite data having been added to the Desks list in Sharepoint.
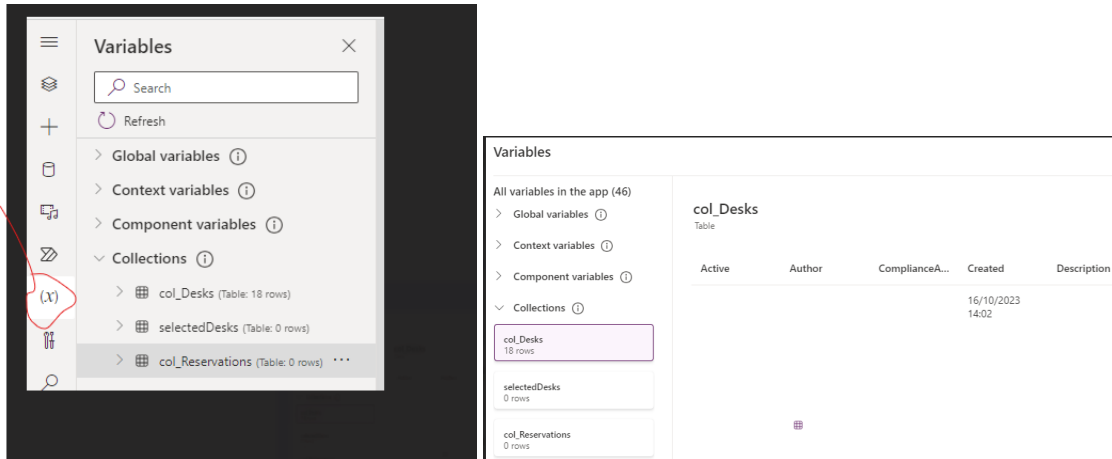
This almost proved a showstopper.

I could see the data being parsed on this page was the Col_desks and Col_reservations data sources:


```
Filter(
    Sort(col_Desks,Title),
        Not(
            Title in col_Reservations.DeskText
        ) && Active = 1 && Or(DeskSearchFilter.Text in Title , DeskSearchFilter.Text in Description)
)
// 'Check Out From' >= startTime && 'Check Out To' <= endTime || 'Check Out From' <= endTime && 'Check Out To' >= endTime
/*
Filter(
```

Format text   Remove formatting   Find and replace

But these are not user defined, they seem to collect data from the Sharepoint lists.

I could see under the 'Variables' tab that some data was being 'seen' by the Col_desks variable as it had some values under the columns that I had entered but for reasons unknown it didn't pass this into the app.

At the same time I noticed that it is possible to have a Manage Desks tab if your details are provided in the DeskAdmins list in Sharepoint, so I thought I would see if I could connect to the Desks Sharepoint list using that function. The problem was that even though I entered my email address (and its alias form) in the DeskAdmins list I didn't get that functionality. I added all versions of my email address and name (as stored in the UCL Outlook database) and after this I did get the Manage Desks tab when I played the app (I think it uses the syntax Surname, First Name for the lookup, or possibly First Name Surname, rather than the email address itself). This change gave me the Manage tab in my app (although note it is worth going to the Data tab and manually refreshing the Sharepoint data source if you have made a change in Sharepoint and want to make sure the App reads that change)
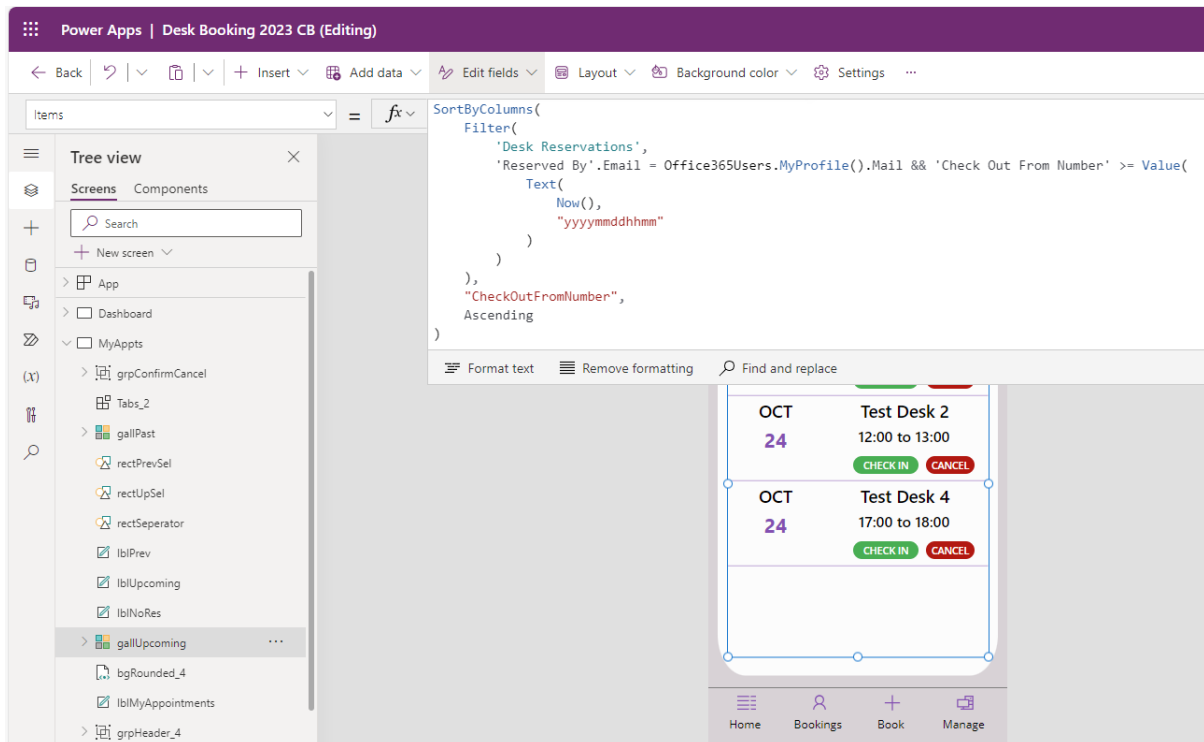

I then manually added three desks via the Manage tab which wrote data to the Desks Sharepoint list and, again for reasons unknown, the app was able to see these desks (even though it still ignored the ones that had been manually entered on Sharepoint into the list). It was then possible to make a booking which wrote data to the Desk Reservation list in Sharepoint.
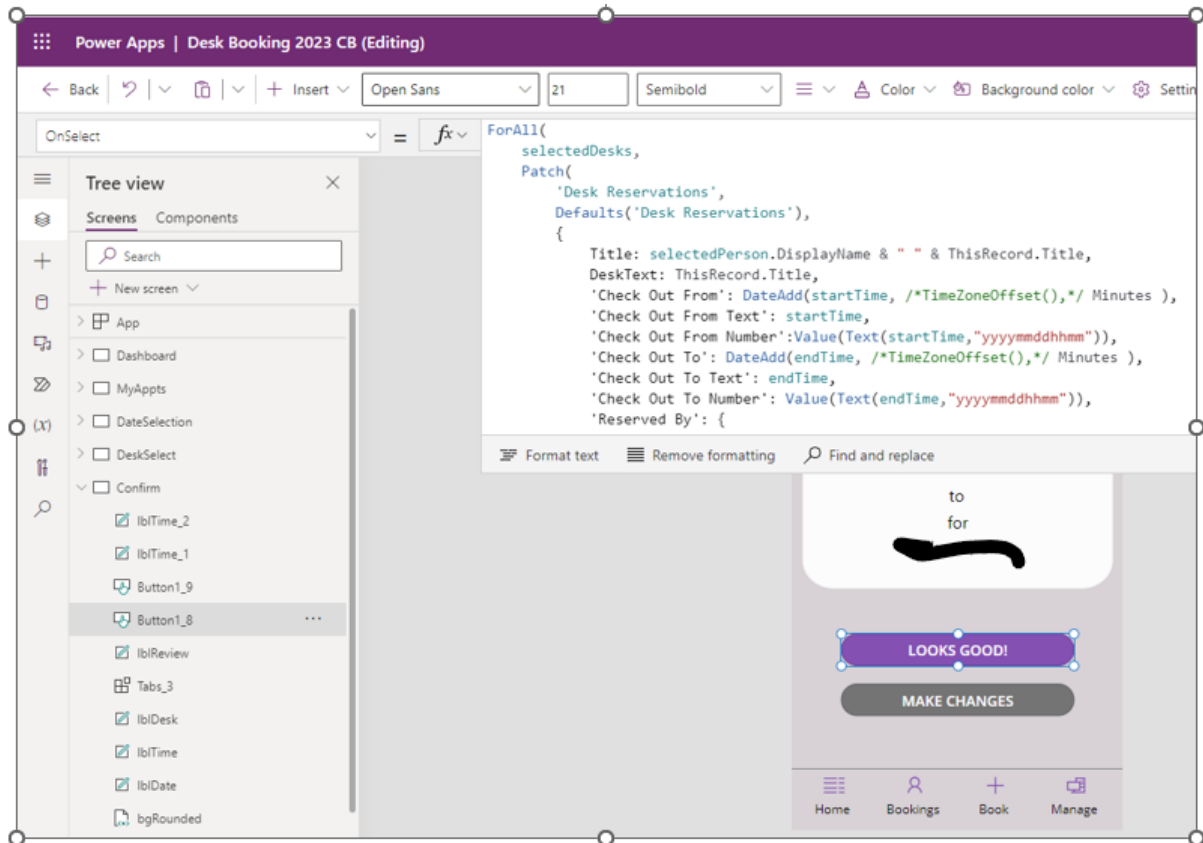
So at this point the reservation system was functional but the existing bookings were not being shown in the app.

The first thing I saw was a post on an issue with the date format being read on the gallUpcoming part of the MyAppts page in the app - https://github.com/aprildunnam/PowerApps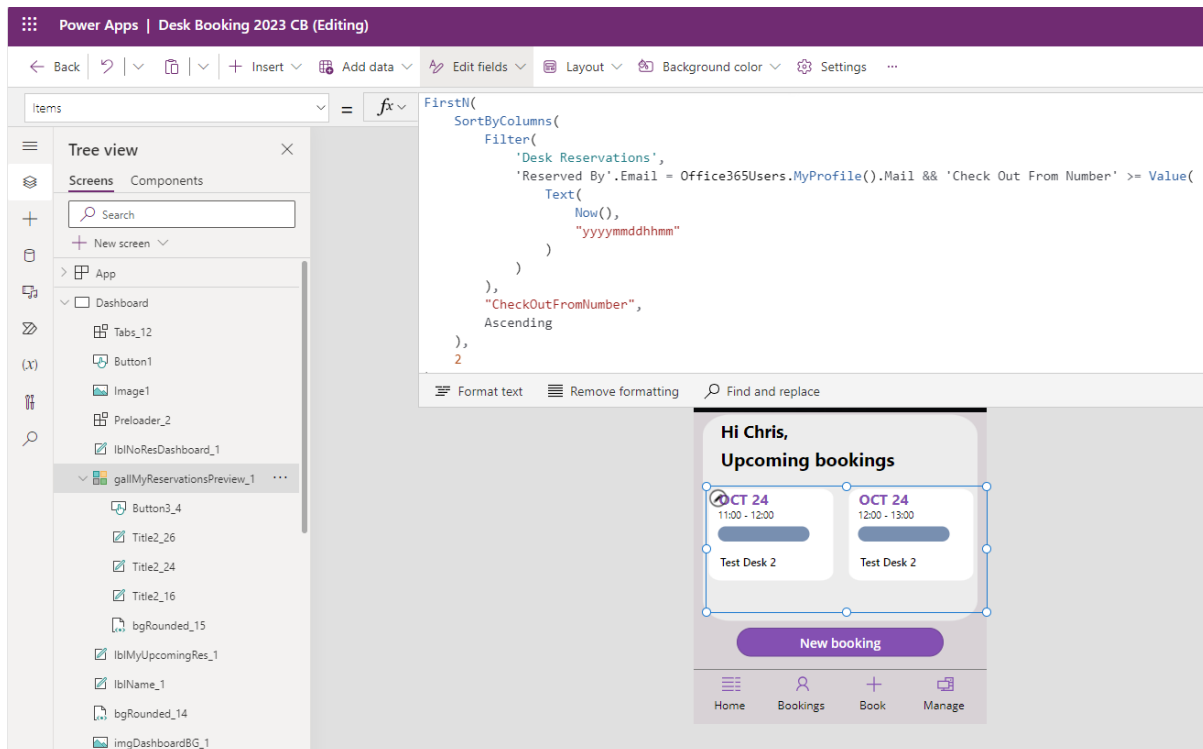/issues/100#issuecomment-1503758120. I corrected the format for the 'Check Out From Number' format on that page (adding in the additional hour notification) but it didn't fix the problem. I also noticed the syntax being shown was different (the code starts with FirstN, which my code didn't).

When an appointment is made the app writes several bits of data to the Desk Reservation file, one of which is the Check Out From Number. This happens on the Confirm page of the App when the 'Looks Good' button is pressed – can't remember whether I had to change the data format here or whether it was already 'yyyymmddhhmm'.
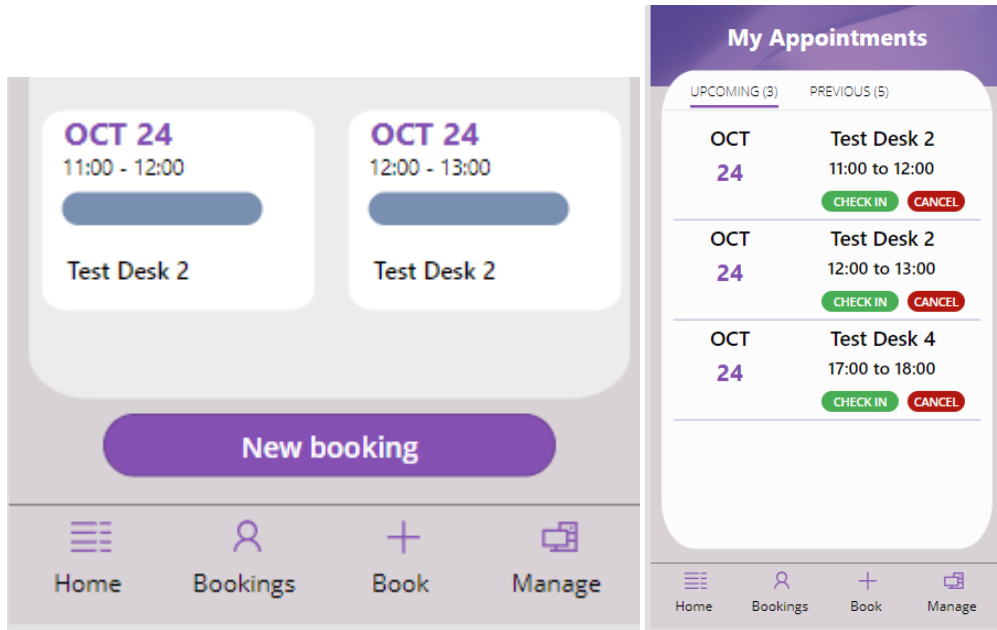
The code shown in the link https://github.com/aprildunnam/PowerApps/issues/100#issuecomment-1503758120 is actually found on the Dashboard page of the app under gallMyReservationsPreview parts, but again changing the data format here didn't get the reservations to show up.

It was then I saw this post - https://github.com/aprildunnam/PowerApps/issues/100#issuecomment-1471463426. The

important thing to note is the change to the 'Reserved By'.Email part of the code from the default in the downloaded app. I guess there is an issue with some setups that mean the way the user lookup is done doesn't work (possibly related to the DeskAdmin user lookup issue?). I changed this syntax on both the Dashboard page and the MyAppts page and then finally the upcoming appointments were visible on both pages.

Initially the 'Check In' button on the MyAppts page was just a blank green box, but then correcting the Sharepoint list as detailed above for 'Status' column fixed that functionality.