

## Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section



# COTSWOLD ALFA DAY 2006

## The scenic drive and quiz

The Scenic Drive is an entirely optional part of COTSWOLD ALFA DAY. It is simply a planned route through some of the glorious Cotswold countryside, by way of local landmarks and beauty-spots. It is designed as a leisurely drive, not a race. The route uses a combination of A and B roads and lots of typically narrow, and often bumpy, Cotswold country lanes.

Included to add a little extra interest is a series of observational questions for you to solve. All the answers can be found along the route and you don't even need to get out of the car to find them. Answer them all correctly and you could win a prize!

The whole route is around 55 miles in length and will eventually return you to the Roman Court Hotel. You can do as much or as little of the route as you like. You will rarely be more than 10 miles from Stow. The entire route can be completed in about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours if done non-stop. But please take your time - the barbecue is not until 3pm. Have a go at the quiz, or stop en route to explore some of the beautiful and interesting places that the Cotswolds has to offer. But most of all enjoy driving your Alfa through some of England's finest scenery.

*The Alfa Romeo Owners Club expects all members driving the route to drive sensibly and legally. Please obey the speed limit at all times. All cars taking part must be road legal.*

### Information and questions

Stow-on-the-Wold is the highest town in the Cotswolds at nearly 800 feet above sea level.

#### QUESTION 1

In the centre of Stow is an hotel named after which mythical beast? (Ignore the 'the'.)

*If you are at all worried about damaging your car please use 'THE SAFE OPTION'. Drivers follow the route entirely at their own risk.*

### The route (all distances quoted are approximate)

**STOW to WINCHCOMBE** *Approx. 23 miles, on fast B roads, and narrow lanes, through pretty villages and secluded valleys, with an 'off road' section, lovely views, an historic Abbey, and a steam railway*

- 1 Starting from the Roman Court Hotel head north up the A429 Fosse Way into Stow.
- 2 Pass the BP garage. In the town centre turn left at the traffic lights on to the B4068, sign-posted to Lower Swell and Naunton
- 3 You have a nice run now of about 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles. After Lower Swell the road speeds up, but soon narrows again as it drops into the shallow valley of the River Eye. On the right is Eyeford Park. After 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles you come to a crossroads, marked left for Bourton and right for the Cotswold Farm Park, but our route continues straight on. Soon the road curves left and drops down hill.

- 4 At the bottom of the hill is a crossroads, sign-posted right for Nauton.

#### **You have a choice here;**

*Our route turns left at the crossroads. This will take you through a ford. It is quite shallow and should present no problems*

- 4a If you have decided to give the ford a try, you turn left at the crossroads and then immediately right, sign-posted to Lower Harford. Go through the ford and follow this road for 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles. This will bring you to a t-junction close to the A436. Turn right, that is away from the A436, sign-posted to Alyworth. Follow this road for 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles - enjoy the curves at Alyworth - until it reaches the B4068 at a crossroads. Turn left here, sign-posted for Cheltenham.
- 4b **THE SAFE OPTION** If you don't fancy the ford keep straight on at the crossroads. After 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles you will pass the crossroads where the route from the ford rejoins the B4068.
- 5 We should all be back on the B4068 heading towards Cheltenham.

## QUESTION 2

When the B4068 meets the A436 Cheltenham is sign-posted right. Where else is also sign-posted right?

The area around Hawling is known as the 'High Wold'. It was this area that became famous for sheep farming.

The first part of Guiting Power's name comes from the old English 'gyte', meaning an outpouring of water, no doubt from the many springs that surround the village. Power is derived from the 13th century lords of the local manor, the Le Poer family.

## QUESTION 3

The Farmers Arms in Guiting Power is supplied with real ales by which local brewery?

*Some of the roads on the route are little more than dirt tracks. If you are worried about damaging your car please use 'THE SAFE OPTION'. Drivers follow the route entirely at their own risk.*

The Salt Way is an ancient road that linked the salt producing town of Droitwich with Lechlade at the head of the navigable River Thames from where the salt could be quickly transported to London.

Hailes Abbey is an English Heritage property but National Trust members are also entitled to free entry. It is the site of a substantial Cistercian monastery founded in 1246 and dissolved in 1539. As well as the Abbey ruins there is a collection of finds from the site on display. There is no tearoom but there is a toilet.

The Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway runs steam trains from Toddington to Cheltenham Racecourse, via Winchcombe, every weekend throughout the summer.

- 6 Another 2 miles will bring you to a t-junction with the A436. Turn right, sign-posted to Cheltenham.
- 7 After just 200 metres turn right. The turning is just beyond the lay-by.
- 8 After 400 metres turn right at the crossroads sign-posted to Hawling.
- 9 Follow the road for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile into Hawling and take the first turning on the right, sign-posted to Guiting Power and Nauton.
- 10 This is a gated road. If any of the gates are shut make sure you shut them behind you. The surface here is not good so take care.
- 11 After 1 mile you come to a farm and a sharp right hand bend. Another  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and you come to a right turn. Take it.
- 12 Follow this bumpy lane up hill through the hamlet of Tally Ho following signs to Guiting Power, until you reach the old Foxhill Inn on your left, now a guest house.
- 13 At this point turn, around the corner of the guest house. Sign-posted to Kineton and Guiting Power.
- 14 Stay on this road for 1 mile and then take the left-hand turning, sign-posted to Guiting Power.
- 15 Go straight through the pretty village of Guiting Power. As you leave the village you will see the Hollow Bottom Inn on the right.
- 16 About 1 mile beyond the village you will come to a crossroads.

**You have a choice here;**

*Our route turns right. It will take in a section of road that is marked as 'unsuitable for motors' It is perfectly passable. It is a little rough although there are no large pot-holes. If you are worried about your car please give this section a miss.*

- 16a If you have decided to brave the 'unsuitable for motors' section turn right at the crossroads, sign-posted to Kineton. You will come to a gate. If it is shut please make sure you shut it once you have passed through. Sheep roam free here so drive carefully. At the crossroads, beneath a couple of horse chestnut trees, turn left. This is where the 'unsuitable for motors' section begins. You will pass a cottage and another gate. Again if it is shut make sure you close it behind you. Follow this track into Guiting Wood for about 1 mile. It runs alongside the Castlett Stream. You will come to a junction opposite the gates to a pumping station. Turn left. Follow this track for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles until you pass a farm and come to a junction. Turn left. Go along the straight road. At the next junction the 'safe' route joins from the left. The route continues straight on.
- 16b **THE SAFE OPTION** If you don't fancy the 'unsuitable for motors' section go straight on at the crossroads. After about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles take the right turning, sign-posted to Ford and Cutsdean. After 300 metres you will come to a t-junction. The cars that followed the 'unsuitable for motors' route will be coming from the right and the route continues to the left, sign-posted to Winchcombe and Cheltenham.

*We should all be back on the same road now.*
- 17 About 100 metres after the junction where the two routes converge is another junction. It is a right turn sign-posted for Little Farmcote. Take it. This road is known as the 'Salt Way' and the hill you are on is Sudeley Hill. It is 968 ft above sea level.
- 18 After  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile you will come to a gate. If it is shut make sure you shut it again behind you. The road becomes a bit uneven here so take care.
- 19 Continue along this road but remember livestock roams free here so drive carefully. Soon you come to another gate, if it is shut you can use the cattle grid to the right of the gate.
- 20 About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile beyond the gate is a right turn but our route carries straight on. (The right turn leads to Hailes Abbey which is only around 300 yards away.)
- 21 Continue straight on. Soon the road crosses the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway. Steam trains pass this spot at approximately 25 mins to the hour and 15 mins to the hour. Stop and give them a wave!

In the 17th century the area around was Winchcombe was well known as a tobacco growing area.

#### QUESTION 4

On the B4632 is a filling station selling which brand of fuel?

In 1927 Henry Ford tried to buy Winchcombe's parish church. His plan was to have it dismantled and shipped to Michigan where it would be re-erected in Greenfield Village. Needless to say Mr Ford's plan was rejected but he did manage to get away with a cottage from Chedworth and the Smithy from Snowhill!

#### QUESTION 5

Some distance along, i.e. not immediately after you turn into Castle Street, Winchcombe, there is an old stone doorway with some text made of wrought iron fixed above it. What does the text say?

Sudeley Castle was once the home of Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII. It was largely destroyed during the Civil War and not restored until Victorian times.

The Rivers Thames and Severn are very nearly linked between Brockhampton and Charlton Abbots. The River Coln, which flows into the Thames rises just north of Brockhampton, and the River Isbourne, which flows into the Avon and subsequently the Severn, rises just south of Charlton Abbots. The springs are less than 1 mile apart.

On the right as you enter Upper Hilcot is a timber framed farmhouse. A rare sight in an area dominated by the local stone.

#### QUESTION 6

Shipton is actually two villages, Shipton Oliffe and Shipton Solers. Which saint is the church in Shipton Oliffe dedicated too (ignore the St.)?

- 22 When you reach the junction with the B4632 turn left, sign-posted to Cheltenham. Follow the road towards Winchcombe.
- 23 Continue into Winchcombe town centre and about 50 metres after the clock which hangs above the main street turn left into Castle Street. It is sign-posted to Guiting Power.

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**WINCHCOMBE to WITHINGTON** Approx. 15 miles, along an ancient highway, on narrow lanes, through a shallow ford, and pretty villages; from wooded valleys to open hilltops

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- 24 Follow the road past the gatehouse of Sudeley Castle and up the hill, passing a left turn to Ford and Cutsdean half way up the hill.
- 25 At the top of the hill is another left turn for Ford and Cutsdean but we go straight on.
- 26 200 metres further on take the right turn sign-posted to Andoversford and Brockhampton. This is the 'Salt Way' again.
- 27 Stay on this road. After 1 1/2 miles you will come to a staggered crossroads known as Roel Gate. Carry straight on, sign-posted to Naunton.
- 28 1/2 mile further on take the right turn sign-posted to Andoversford and Brockhampton.
- 29 After 1/2 mile turn right into the woods, again sign-posted to Brockhampton.
- 30 When you reach the centre of Brockhampton the road forks just before a phone box.

*You have a choice here;*

*Our route takes the left fork and then follows a narrow and bumpy road to a shallow ford. This route is only a little rougher than the road you just came along. But if you are worried about your car please take 'The Safe Option'.*

- 30a If you have decided to head for the ford take the left fork and go straight across at the crossroads. 1/2 mile will bring you to Sevenhampton. Turn right by the phone box and cross the ford. It's the River Coln by the way. Shortly after the ford you come to a t-junction. Turn left sign-posted to Andoversford and Whittington.
- 30b **THE SAFE OPTION** If you don't fancy the bumpy road and the ford, bear right and then turn right. After 1/4 mile you will come to a t-junction, turn left sign-posted to Andoversford. 1/2 mile further on you will pass the road coming up from the ford.

*We should all be back on the same road now.*

- 31 Another 3/4 mile and you will reach a t-junction in the hamlet of Syreford. Turn left sign-posted to Andoversford.
- 32 After 200 metres turn left again. It is sign-posted to Stow. You will shortly cross the disused Banbury to Cheltenham Railway again.
- 33 Soon you will reach a crossroads with the A436. Go straight on.

*Turning left here will take you back to Stow. But our route continues...*

- 34 Having crossed the A436 continue into Shipton. At the village centre take the first right and then right again by a small lynchgate. Go through Shipton until you reach the traffic lights at the crossroads of the A40 and the A436.
- 35 Go straight on (once the lights are green of course!) on to the A436.
- 36 The speed limit here is 50mph. Go past the Frog Mill Inn and a mile further on the Kilkenny Inn.
- 37 400 metres beyond the Kilkenny Inn turn left, sign-posted to Hilcot. On the left is a picnic area and ahead of you is a mobile phone mast.
- 38 Follow this road for 2 miles. It meanders through Pinchley Wood alongside Hilcot Brook.
- 39 When you reach the crossroads at Upper Hilcot turn left, sign-posted to Withington.
- 40 Follow this road for 1 1/2 miles until you come to a t-junction on top of the hill. Turn left.

The Mill Inn may look ancient but it was substantially rebuilt in 1960 using weathered stone from Northleach Gaol.

### QUESTION 7

The church in Withington is dedicated to St Michael and... what?

At Cassey Compton look to your right just after you cross the river and you will see the once stately Jacobean manor house. Now shorn of one wing it makes a fine farmhouse, although it is said to be haunted by numerous ghosts!

Chedworth Roman Villa is a National Trust property. The Villa is one of the largest in the country and contains several fine mosaics. Facilities include is a small tearoom and toilets. The villa was excavated in Victorian times after apparently being discovered in 1864 by a farm-hand attempting to dig his prize ferret out of a rabbit burrow!

### QUESTION 8

On the Fosse Way is a business establishment run by Mr Loving and his son. What is Mr Loving's first name?

The Fosse Way is one of Britains longest Roman roads. It links Lincoln with Exeter.

### QUESTION 9

What is the name of the road that leads from the Fosse Way into Bourton on the Water? It's the road you drive along immediately after you turn off the Fosse.

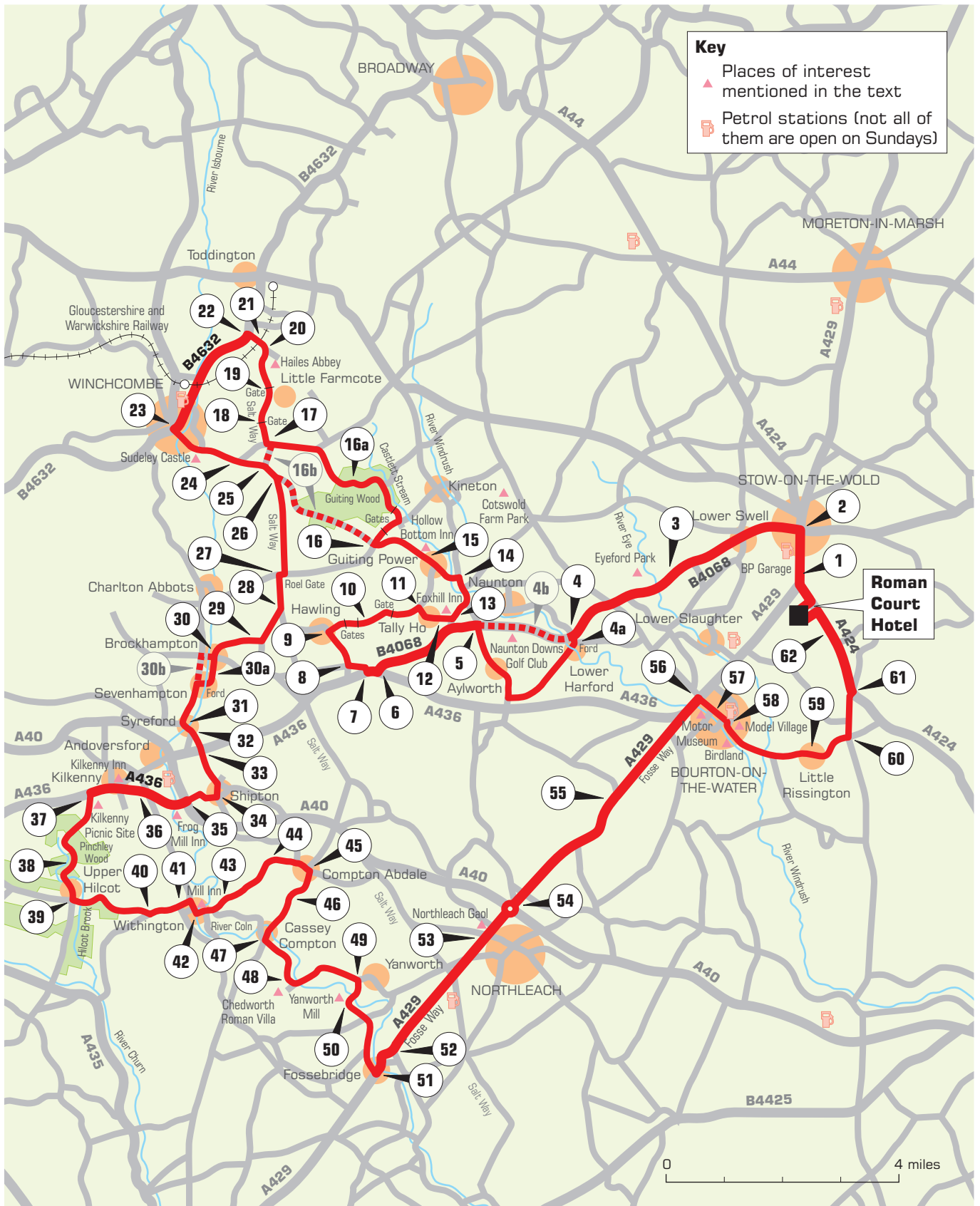
Bourton-on-the-Water is the most visited village in the Cotswolds and is almost completely given over to tourism. Attractions include a Model Village, Birdland, a Model Railway, Perfumery, the inevitable gift shops, and best of all the Motor Museum.

- 41 Go down the hill and at the next junction turn left, actually it's more like straight on, sign-posted for Cheltenham and Andoversford. This is Withington. A few yards further on notice the ancient petrol pump on the left.

**WITHINGTON to STOW** Approx. 17 miles, along the Coln Valley, past a Roman Villa, and a quick blast up the Fosse Way, to one of the Cotswolds honeypots.

- 42 At the next junction turn right, signposted to Compton Abdale. Follow this road down and around the sharp left hand corner by the Mill Inn.
- 43 Pass the abutments of the disused railway bridge and continue along this road as it winds through the village. As you leave the village the road starts up hill.
- 44 Stay on this road for about 2 miles and you will come to Compton Abdale.
- 45 At the village centre, note the 'Crocodile Spring' on the right. Bear right here, sign-posted to Yanworth.
- 46 The road climbs steeply out of Compton Abdale. and then falls towards the hamlet of Cassey Compton. At the bottom of the hill the road crosses the River Coln.
- 47 You then come to a crossroads and you need to turn left, sign-posted to Yanworth.
- 48 Follow this road for 1 mile and you reach the entrance, on the right, to Chedworth Roman Villa. Ahead of you is a private road. Our route continues left.
- 49 After another 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles turn right sign-posted to Fossebridge.
- 50 Cross the River Coln again at Yanworth Mill and stay on this road for 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles until you reach Fossebridge.
- 51 At the junction with the A429 Fosse Way turn left. Take care this is a busy junction.
- 52 Follow the Fosse Way as it sweeps up the hill out of the Coln Valley and then straightens out. You now have quite a fast run for roughly 3 miles.
- 53 After 3 miles you will come to a crossroads controlled by traffic lights. Our route continues straight on. Note the former gaol on the left. Until recently it was housed the Cotswold Heritage Centre.
- 54 You will soon reach a roundabout where the A40 crosses the Fosse Way. Again our route continues straight on.
- 55 Stay on the Fosse Way for about 5 miles.
- 56 Pass the junction with the A436 (sign-posted to Cheltenham) and then turn right sign-posted to Bourton-on-the-Water.  
*Staying on the Fosse Way will return you to Stow. But our route continues...*
- 57 That's the River Windrush on the right. Follow this road into the village. When you reach the High Street please watch out for pedestrians.
- 58 At the end of the High Street turn right into Rissington Road. Follow this road out of the village. You will pass Birdland and a car park on your right.
- 59 Stay on this road as it winds up hill through the village of Little Rissington.
- 60 When you reach the junction at the top of the hill take the first left, sign-posted to Stow.
- 61 Just under a mile will bring you to a crossroads with the A424. Turn left, sign-posted to Stow.
- 62 Follow this road for 2 miles. At the bottom of Wyck Hill, just before the traffic lights, you will find the Roman Court Hotel on the left. If you've done the whole route get yourself a drink - you've earned it!

**If you've had a go at the quiz turn to page 6**



Just in case you get lost or breakdown or (heaven forbid) get stuck in a river(!), here are a few phone numbers that may be useful;

The Roman Court Hotel 01451 870539

**The Cotswold Section committee members**

Mark Grimshaw 07770 931759

Matthew Willmott 07740 595793

Richard Morris 07773 257671

Richard Rees 07791 325103

# ANSWER FORM

Your name .....

Did you answer every question? If you did you'll have 9 answers. Write those answers down here;

Answer to question number;

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

8 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_

Now take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to form a word associated with Alfa Romeo. Write the solution to this anagram below;

10 \_\_\_\_\_

You now have 10 answers.

Hand your completed answer form to Richard Morris before 3pm. Forms containing 10 correct answers will be entered into a prize draw. One lucky winner will be drawn 'out of the hat' and will receive a prize!