

**GIRO PANORAMICO** is a planned route from **Blades in Northleach to Sudeley Castle in Winchcombe**. The route will take you along 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 answer. Answer them all correctly and you could win a prize!

The whole route is around 50 miles in length and will eventually bring you to the Sudeley Castle, the focal point of the event. **Follow the route singularly or in convoy - it is up to you.** The entire route can be completed in about 2 hours if done non-stop. But please take your time. Enjoy the scenery, have a go at the quiz, or stop en route to explore some of the beautiful and interesting places that you will find along the way. But above all else enjoy driving your Alfa!

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

## Information and questions

The building which houses Blades is a former 'house of correction' built in 1792 by the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire Sir George Onesiporus Paul. The police took over the site in 1857 and the building housed the towns police station until 1973.

### QUESTION 1

Which brewery supplies the beer to the Hare and Hounds?

The Fosse Way is one of Britain's longest Roman roads. It links Lincoln with Exeter.

The Welsh Way is an old drove road linking the head of the navigable Thames at Lechlade with South Wales via Gloucester.

There are 3 Barnsleys in England. This one, one on the Isle of Wight, and another in somewhere called Yorkshire. Guess which one Liz Hurley lives in?

### QUESTION 2

What is the full name of the pub in Barnsley?

Arlington Row was built as a Monastic sheep store in about 1380. In the 17th century it was converted into weavers cottages.

The meadow between the river and Arlington Row is called the Rack Isle and in the past cloth from the mill was dried here on large wooden racks.

## The route (all distances quoted are approximate)

**NORTHLEACH to BIBURY** *Approx. 13 miles, down the Fosse, then via a village that sounds like a northern mining town, to one of the jewels of the Cotswolds.*

- 1 Turn right out of Blades car park onto the A429 Fosse Way.
- 2 At the traffic lights go straight on.
- 3 Stay on the Fosse Way for 7 miles. It will soon straighten out.
- 4 After 3 miles you will pass through Fossebridge with it's sweeping bends and steep hill.
- 5 1 1/2 miles further on you will pass a speed camera and the Hare and Hounds pub.  
**See Question 1**
- 6 3 miles after the Hare and Hounds you will find an insignificant cross roads. The right turn is sign-posted to Perrotts Brook and North Cerney but we need the left turn which is not sign-posted at all.
- 7 Having turned left off the Fosse follow this minor road as it crosses the route of the old Midland and South Western Junction Railway on a small bridge now overgrown with vegetation. The bridge is marked by a weight restriction sign.
- 8 1/4 of a mile after the bridge there is a sharp right-hand bend.
- 9 1/2 a mile after the bend take the left-hand turn. It is not sign-posted.
- 10 This road is known as the Welsh Way. After 1 1/2 miles you will reach a crossroads. Turn right.
- 11 You will very soon reach a junction with the B4425 where you need to turn left. It is sign-posted to Bibury and Burford.
- 12 Enter the village of Barnsley. Follow the road through the village. **See Question 2**
- 13 As you leave the village there is a sharp right-hand bend.
- 14 Follow the B4425 for another 2 miles and you will come to Arlington and Bibury. Continue straight on. After the Catherine Wheel pub the road drops downhill and becomes quite narrow.
- 15 Cross the bridge over the River Coln and follow the road as it turns right in front of the Swan Hotel.
- 16 Follow the road alongside the river. Note the famous Arlington Row across the meadow to your right. As the road bends left the centre of Bibury village is on your right. Stay on the main road.

Bibury was described by William Morris as the most beautiful village in England. He obviously hadn't been here on a bank holiday weekend.

### QUESTION 3

Having turned left at the crossroads in Aldsworth what is the name of the first cottage on the right?

Lodge Park is part of the National Trust's Sherbourne estate. The Park contains a substantial hunting lodge and grandstand built for Sir John Dutton, a friend of Oliver Cromwell, for viewing deer coursing. The Lodge has been restored to its 17th century glory and is open to visitors on Sundays.

### QUESTION 4

After you have turned left at the crossroads there is a farm on the left. What is it called?

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.

RAF Bibury opened in the spring of 1940. Between August and December of that year it was home to Spitfires of 92 Squadron and Hurricanes of 87 Squadron. Both Squadrons played an important part in the Battle of Britain and RAF Bibury was attacked several times by the Luftwaffe.

I'm not sure if the residents of Ablington are particularly proud of this but amongst their number is a certain Anne Robinson. Yes her off the telly!

### QUESTION 5

In Ablington just before the bridge over the Coln there is a white 'home made' sign pointing to an establishment catering for mans best friend. What does the sign say?

The 'St Dennis' part of Coln St Dennis dates from the middle ages when for over 350 years the village was owned by the abbey of St. Denis in Paris.

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**BIBURY to CHEDWORTH** Approx. 20 miles, along the valley of the Coln.

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- 17 Follow the road around a series of bends as it leaves Bibury.
- 18 Now you have a clear run of 3 miles to the village of Aldsworth.
- 19 When you reach Aldsworth turn left off of the B4425 into the village. The turning is close to some black and white chevron signs.
- 20 Follow the road into the village and after just 70 metres turn left at the crossroads. It is sign-posted to Eastington and Northleach. **See Question 3**
- 21 Follow the road through the village. As you leave the village there is a left turn to Cocklebarrow. Ignore it and stay on the 'main' road as it bears right. You will now find yourself on a very straight section of road.
- 22 At the end of the straight our route enters Larketthill Woods. The road now drops down hill. *(Just before the road enters the woods there is a right turn sign-posted to Sherborne. This road also leads to National Trust property Lodge Park.)*
- 23 As the road climbs gently there is a sharp right-hand bend and then a straight section of road with the stone wall of Lodge Park on the right.
- 24 1 mile further on you will reach a staggered crossroads. Turn left and keep left. Follow the sign-post towards Fossebridge.
- 25 Follow this fairly straight road for about 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles.
- 26 You will reach a crossroads where you should turn left. It is sign-posted to Ablington and Bibury. This roads is the Salt Way. **See Question 4**
- 27 Follow this winding road. After 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles it bends sharp right. After the bend there is a factory on the left. This is the site of the former RAF Bibury.
- 28 When you reach Ablington take the third turning on the right.
- 29 Follow this road down through the village. **See Question 5** Eventually you will cross the River Coln.
- 30 Then you come to a t-junction where you need to turn right. It is sign-posted to Winson and Fossebridge.
- 31 In Winson turn right. It is sign-posted to 'Winson Village Only'. Follow the road through the village.
- 32 Then take the right turn following the sign-post to Fossebridge and Coln Rodgers.
- 33 The road turns hard right at Winson Mill and crosses the River Coln again. Now keep left following the sign-posts to Coln Rodgers and Coln St Dennis.
- 34 In Coln Rodgers bear right just after the bridge. Ignore the left turn. Follow the sign-post towards Coln St Dennis and Fossebridge
- 35 Less than a mile after Coln Rodgers you will reach Coln St Dennis where the road bends right in front of the mill and then crosses the River Coln.
- 36 At the village centre turn left and keep left. It is sign-posted to Fosse Bridge.
- 37 The road soon bends sharp left.
- 38 1/4 mile after the bend and 100m after the red 'phone box turn left. Ignore all sign-posts. This is Fossebridge.

## QUESTION 6

When you reach the Fosse Way at Fossebridge there is a brown sign opposite the junction. What is it pointing the way to? (Or to put it simply what does it actually say?)

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Yanworth is part of the Stowell Park Estate. The 6000 acre estate is owned by Samuel Vestey, 3rd Baron Vestey, who is currently The Master of the Horse, an important official position in the Royal household.

Did you spot the church in Yanworth? No? That's because it is about 1/2 a mile from the village because Yanworth was relocated and rebuilt in the 14th century after the ravages of the Black Death.

In 1824 the River Coln supported 11 mills in the 20 mile stretch between its source and Bibury. Stowell Mill, which ceased operation in 1946, was the last working mill on the Coln.

The Seven Tuns dates from 1610 and is said to take its name from its seven chimney pots.

RAF Chedworth became operational in August 1942. It's first residents were No. 52 Operational Training Unit flying Spitfires. Just days after they arrived an American pilot flew very low over the field and dropped his Mae West with a note attached. It said 'Wheels don't work. Radio don't work. Love Steve'. His plane then struck a parked aircraft and eventually crash landed at Aston Down. Thankfully Steve was unhurt.

## QUESTION 7

What is the name of the narrow lane that you have just driven along? It was quite wooded and there was a bridge!

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This section of the Midland and South Western Junction Railway ran from Cheltenham to Cirencester and then on to Swindon. The line was opened in 1891 and closed in 1961.

The Mill Inn may look ancient but it was substantially rebuilt in 1960 using weathered stone left over from alterations made to Northleach Gaol. The Coln runs through the pub's garden. It is a great place to relax with a beer.

- 39 Follow this road down to the t-junction. This is the Fosse Way again and you need to turn left. This is quite a nasty turning so please take care. **See Question 6**
  - 40 After just 200 metres turn right. It is sign-posted to Yanworth.
  - 41 Stay on this road. Once you've left Fossebridge behind you will pass a left turn to Lower Chedworth and Chedworth.
  - 42 1/2 a mile later you come to a crossroads. Keep straight on.
  - 43 About 1/2 a mile after the crossroads you will pass Yanworth Mill and cross the River Coln again.
  - 44 1/2 mile after the mill you will come to a t-junction. You need to turn right here, sign-posted to Northleach, and enter the estate village of Yanworth. (*If you'd like to visit the Roman Villa turn left here. The Roman Villa is a National Trust property and is about 1 mile away.*)
  - 45 As you leave the village the road drops gently downhill. At the bottom the road curves left.
  - 46 Then there is turning on the right, sign-posted to Chedworth and Fossebridge, which you need to take.
  - 47 This road crosses the River Coln at Stowell Mill.
  - 48 After about a 1/3 of a mile you come to a crossroads. Go straight on. It is sign-posted to Chedworth and is marked as 'Unsuitable for coaches'.
  - 49 Stay on this road.
  - 50 After about 1 1/4 miles, as you approach Chedworth, you will come to a sharp right-hand bend. Then the road starts to descend and there is an even sharper left-hand bend.
  - 51 Follow the road into the village. You will soon pass the Seven Tuns pub on your left.
  - 52 At the t-junction just past the Seven Tuns turn right. It is sign-posted to Withington.
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- CHEDWORTH to WINCHCOMBE** Approx. 15 miles, including a watersplash (or two), then across the Wolds, to our final destination.
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- 53 You will soon reach another t-junction. Turn right towards Withington and Andoversford.
  - 54 1/2 a mile later you will find yourself crossing the remains of RAF Chedworth. At the crossroads go straight on and then turn right.
  - 55 The road follows the line of the old airfields perimeter track and then enters Withington Woods.
  - 56 3/4 of a mile into the woods there is a sharp left-hand bend.
  - 57 200 metres later turn right onto the minor road marked as 'Unsuitable for heavy vehicles'. The stream you crossed on the humped-back bridge is the Coln again. On your right is the embankment of the old Midland and South Western Junction Railway.
  - 58 The railway used to cross this road and you'll notice the road bends right then left where the bridge used to be.
  - 59 When you reach the t-junction turn left. **See Question 7**
  - 60 As you enter Withington you will pass the brickwork of another old railway bridge. Then you will pass the Mill Inn on your right. There is a very sharp right-hand bend next to the pub and, although you probably won't notice it, you will cross the Coln again.
  - 61 Continue on this road. Pass the school on your left and the church on your right. As you leave the village there is a right-hander followed by a left-hander.
  - 62 Then the road straightens and you have a nice clear run of 2 miles.

## QUESTION 8

At the junction of the A436 and the A40 the east bound sign-post points to Oxford, Stow, Bourton, Burford, and where else?

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Shipton Solers and Shipton Oliffe were until 1871 two separate parishes. Today they form one parish known simply as Shipton. But originally there were five separate Shipton estates; Shipton Champfleur, Shipton Tyrel, Shipton Pelye, plus Shipton Solers and Shipton Oliffe.

There is still an active quarry at Syreford. It is currently supplying stone for restoration work on Truro Cathedral, Windsor Castle, and 4 Oxford Colleges.

In 1824 Syreford Mill was the highest mill on the Coln. But there had been several mills further upstream at both Sevenhampton and Brockhampton.

The River Coln rises near Sevenhampton at about 200m above sea-level and flows in a general south-westerly direction. to join the Thames at Lechlade at around 75m above sea-level.

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

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 9

The church in Winchcombe is dedicated to which Saint? We just want his name. Ignore the St.

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- 63 At the end of the straight turn right onto the A436.
- 64 After  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile you will reach a crossroads controlled by traffic lights. Go straight on. **See Question 8**
- 65 This road will lead you into Shipton Solers.
- 66 Turn right immediately in front of the red phone box.
- 67 This narrow road passes through a very shallow ford. Continue until you reach the dual carriageway of the A40.
- 68 Turn left onto the dual carriageway. Take care this is a nasty junction.
- 69 200 metres after the end of the dual carriageway turn left, sign-posted to Shipton. It's quite a tight turn so give yourself room to swing around.
- 70 Follow the road 1 mile. When you come to the village of Shipton Oliffe the road crosses a stream. You can use the bridge but the ford is more fun!
- 71 Having crossed the stream take the turning on the right.
- 72 After  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile you will come to a crossroads. Our route continues straight on. It is sign-posted to Brockhampton.
- 73 You will cross a bridge over the disused Banbury and Cheltenham Direct Railway and then you need to turn right, sign-posted to Brockhampton, Charlton Abbots, and Sevenhampton, and enter Syreford.
- 74 400 metres further on take the right turn, again it is sign-posted to Brockhampton, Charlton Abbots, and Sevenhampton. Just before the turning we cross the Coln for the 13th and final time.
- 75 Now stay on this road. Ignore all the side turnings. You will pass turnings to Sevenhampton, Brockhampton, and Charlton Abbots.
- 76 After about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles you will see the signs for Belas Knap long barrow. The road then turns sharp right and descends steeply for 1 mile.
- 77 At the bottom of the hill cross the small bridge over the River Isbourne and turn right and then right again, opposite the hospital, on to the B4632 and enter Winchcombe.
- 78 The road narrows just before the Church near the Railway Museum. **See Question 9**
- 79 Just after the church turn right into Vineyard Street.
- 80 Pass the pretty cottages. You'll soon come to the entrance to Sudeley Castle on the left. Drive past the gate house and follow the drive across the bridge. Allow the marshals to guide you to the Alfa parking area. Enjoy your day!

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



Just in case you get lost here are the phone numbers of the Cotswold Section committee members

Mark Grimshaw 07770 931759

Matthew Willmott 07740 595793

Richard Morris 07773 257671

# 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 piece of Alfa terminology that owners ought to recognise - especially those whose cars date from the late 1980s to the present day. Write the solution to this anagram below;

10 \_\_\_\_\_

You now have 10 answers.

Place your completed answer sheet in the box in the red gazebo before 2.30pm. Please only post your answer sheet if you've got 10 answers. One sheet containing 10 correct answers will be drawn from the box at 3pm. If it's your answer sheet you'll receive a prize! So please don't forget to put your name at the top.