

Information and questions

The Fosse Way is one of Britain's longest Roman roads. It runs from Lincoln to Exeter. The word 'Fosse' is derived from the Latin Fossa meaning 'ditch' and it is possible that it formed the western frontier of Roman Britain in the years following the invasion of AD43.

QUESTION 1

What is the Christian name of the proprietor of Northleach Mower Services? The answer can be found on the Fosse between Fossebridge and Northleach.

The Cotswold Ice Cream Company produces its delicious ice cream using milk from their very own herd of organic Friesian cows. If it's a warm day you'll be pleased to know that their shop is open today. They have a picnic area and toilets.

QUESTION 2

When you reach the t-junction just before Farmington (where you turn right) the sign-post pointing left points to Turkdean and where else?

The octagonal structure on Farmington's green is a pump house erected in 1899.

The Cotswold Motor Museum features around 25 vintage and classic cars mainly from the middle decades of the 20th century. It also houses a vast range of automobilia. It is also home to 'Brum' the heroic little car from children's TV. Admission to the museum is £4.10.

QUESTION 3

What colour is Brum? If you don't already know, you should find the answer displayed outside the museum.

Bourton is the most visited of Cotswold villages. Last year over 75,000 visitors passed through the doors of its visitor centre.

QUESTION 4

What is the name of the Fish & Chip shop on Bourton's High Street?

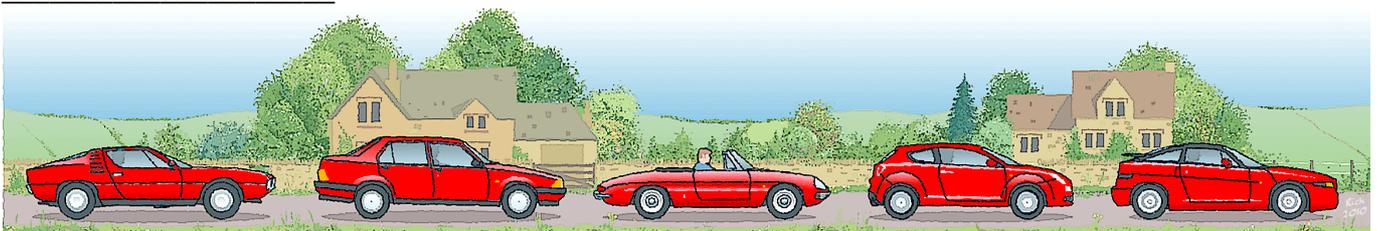
The route (all distances quoted are approximate)

FOSSEBRIDGE to BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER. Approx. 9 miles, up the Fosse and then a back lanes route to the Cotswold's busiest village.

- 1 On departure from the Inn at Fossebridge turn left onto the A429 Fosse Way. This can be quite a nasty turning so please take care. The road climbs steeply out of the Coln Valley.
- 2 Stay on the Fosse for about 3 miles. **QUESTION 1**
- 3 When you reach the traffic lights at the crossroads turn right and enter Northleach.
- 4 Follow the road into the town centre.
- 5 About 40 metres after the market square turn left into Farmington Road. It is sign-posted to Farmington. The turning is just after Keith Harding's 'World of Mechanical Music'. This road is single track in places.
- 6 After 1/2 a mile you'll pass underneath the A40 Northleach bypass. Then a little further on you'll pass Hill House Farm on the left. This is the home of the Cotswold Ice Cream Company.
- 7 Just over 1/2 a mile further on you'll come to a t-junction. Turn right. **QUESTION 2**
- 8 You will very soon enter the village of Farmington. When you reach the village green turn left opposite the bus stop and then keep straight on. It is sign-posted to Bourton-on-the-Water.
- 9 Follow this road for 2 miles.
- 10 You will eventually reach a junction. Turn left. It is sign-posted to Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold.
- 11 1 1/4 miles further on the road forks. Keep right. It is sign-posted to Bourton-on-the-Water.
- 12 Stay on this road as it drops down hill and into Bourton.
- 13 Follow the road into the centre of the village. You will soon cross Mill Bridge which spans the River Windrush. The Cotswold Motor Museum is on your left. **QUESTION 3**
- 14 Just after this, turn right into the High Street.

BOURTON to SWINBROOK Approx. 14 miles, across the Windrush again, into Oxfordshire and through one of the Cotswold's 'gateway towns'.

- 15 Follow Bourton's High Street until you reach the junction at its end. **QUESTION 4** You should have the Post Office on your right. Now turn right.



Little Rissington Airfield opened in 1938 with a simple grass airstrip. In 1942 the airfield was extended and 3 asphalt runways were laid. Throughout the Second World War Little Rissington was home to No. 6 Service Flying Training School. In 1964 the Red Arrows were formed and based at Rissington and their first ever public display was performed here on 6 May 1965.

Remember those scenes in the James Bond movie *Die Another Day*, when Bond's Aston Martin is chased by the villain's Jaguar across a frozen lake? Well a lot of it was filmed on Rissington's runway.

Barrington Park is a palladian manor house built by Lord Charles Talbot in 1737. Talbot was Chancellor to George I. The property has been at the centre of a long running planning dispute. In recent times the house has fallen into disrepair. It's owner wished to demolish the Victorian wings and return the house to it's more manageable Georgian proportions. Eventually he got his way much to the dismay of English Heritage and the Victorian Society.

QUESTION 5

What is the name of the lane opposite the Lamb?

In April 2009 Burford was ranked the 6th 'most idyllic place in Europe to live' by US business magazine Forbes. The article stated that Burford is situated in 'a mountainous region' in southern England. It went on to say that Burford was the most expensive of the top 10. Rome also featured on the list - in a lowly 9th place!

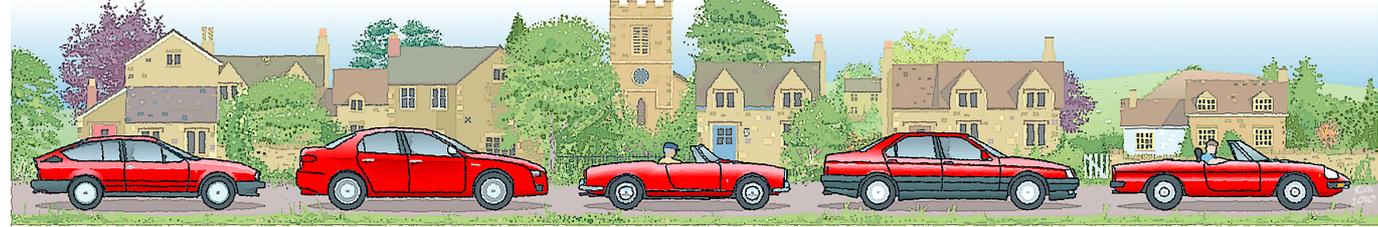
The black and white timber fronted 'Tolsey' was the medieval meeting point for wealthy wool merchants who also paid their taxes, or tolls, here. It now houses a collection of local artefacts depicting the social and industrial heritage of Burford.

QUESTION 6

As you wait to turn left at the crossroads you'll notice a pub opposite. What is it's name? (ignore the 'The')

The hamlet of Widford was, until 1844, an exclave of Gloucestershire. That is a little island of Gloucestershire entirely within and surrounded by Oxfordshire.

- 16 You will soon pass the Model Village on your left and 'Birdland' and a public car park on your right. There are public toilets in the car park but you'll need 20p!
- 17 Now stay on this road for 2 1/4 miles. It winds it's way up hill passing through the village of Little Rissington.
- 18 At the top of the hill turn right at the t-junction. It is sign-posted to Great Rissington and The Barringtons.
- 19 Now stay on this road for 4 1/2 miles. The road straightens out. Little Rissington Airfield is on your left.
- 20 When you reach Great Barrington you'll pass the wrought iron gates of Barrington Park on your right. 200 metres further on keep right in front of the War Memorial. The road drops gently downhill with the wall of Barrington Park on the right. Soon you'll cross the Windrush again.
- 21 Follow the road as it passes the Fox Inn. The road curves left then passes the entrance to the pub's car park and enters Little Barrington.
- 22 Go straight through the village and continue for just under 1/2 a mile until you reach the A40.
- 23 Turn left onto the A40. It is sign-posted to Oxford and Burford.
- 24 After 1 3/4 miles take the left turn sign-posted to Upton.
- 25 Follow this road.
- 26 After 1 mile you will reach Burford. You'll soon pass The Lamb **QUESTION 5** and a little further on The Bay Tree.
- 27 You will soon reach a t-junction with the High Street. You need to turn left. As you wait to turn, notice the building on your right built on pillars. It's the Tolsey.
- 28 Go through the traffic lights of the pedestrian crossing (if the lights are green of course), and pass the Cotswolds Arms on your left.
- 29 Then take the next right, into Church Lane. The Staffordshire Pottery shop is on the corner.
- 30 Follow this road. It passes through three 90 degree bends. If you want to explore Burford further there is a car park on the left adjacent to the final 90 degree bend.
- 31 You will eventually reach a crossroads where you need to turn left. **QUESTION 6**
- 32 Follow this road out of the town.
- 33 After about 1 mile turn left. It is sign-posted to Swinbrook and Widford.
- 34 1/2 mile further on you'll pass Widford Mill.



Four of the six notorious Mitford sisters, Nancy, Diana, Unity and Pamela, are buried at St Mary's Church in Swinbrook. Nancy Mitford was an author and one of her novels 'Pursuit of love' is set in and around the village. Diana was married to British fascist Oswald Moseley and was interned for much of the 2nd World War. Unity was also a fascist, and a personal friend of Adolf Hitler. At the outbreak of the war she shot herself in the head with a pistol given to her by Hitler. She survived and Hitler paid her hospital bill and arranged for her to be sent home. On landing in England she said 'it's nice to be home even though I'm not on your side' Unity died in 1948. After her death there were rumours that she'd given birth to Hitler's love child!

The River Windrush flows for 36 miles from it's source near Cutsdean to it's confluence with the Thames at Newbridge. Once a wonderful river for anglers it has in recent times suffered a dramatic reduction in fish stocks. This is despite an improvement in water quality over the last two decades. Amongst the possible causes for dwindling fish stocks are the return of Otters to the river and the introduction of the Signal Crayfish.

The B4437 between Burford and Charlbury features reguarly on Top Gear. (JC lives in nearby Chipping Norton so it's convenient for him.) It's also been voted the best driving road in Oxfordshire by the Audi TT forum. And in a list of the 189 best driving roads in Britain compiled by scooby.net (a website for Subaru drivers) it came in at number 138. Enjoy!

Wychwood Forest once stretched from the Cotswolds to the Thames covering over 50,000 acres of Oxfordshire. Nowadays it covers just 2150 acres.

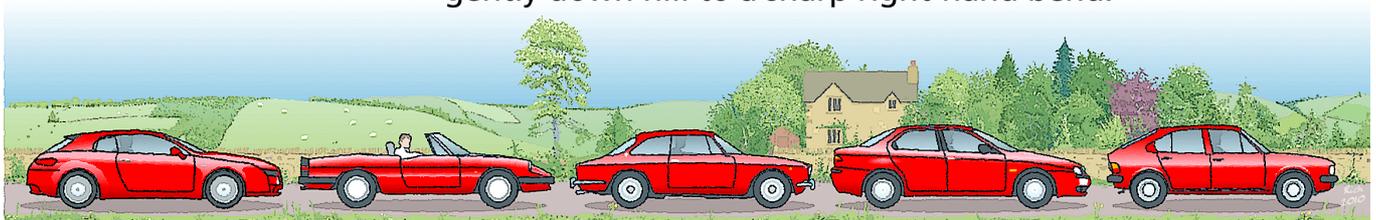
In 1778 the navy bought 500 trees from Wychwood and Nelson's flagship HMS Victory was constructed from oaks felled on Charlbury Common.

Leaffield is 650 feet above sea level. Until 1974 it was the highest point in Oxfordshire. No it hasn't sunk! In that year the county boundaries were altered and White Horse Hill, formerly in Berkshire, now takes the honours at 850 feet.

- 35** Another 1/2 mile will bring you to a crossroads next to Swinbrook's cricket pitch. Turn left.
- 36** The road crosses the Windrush (our 3rd and final crossing of this river), passes the Swan Inn and enters Swinbrook.

SWINBROOK to LEAFIELD Approx. 10 miles, through the inevitable (albeit rather feeble) ford, then along the Evenlode valley and through Wychwood Forest.

- 37** The road narrows and bends left and then right.
- 38** When you reach the village green, which is ringed with little white posts, *you have a choice*:
If you fancy going the ford which is very shallow but quite bumpy turn right. *Go to point 39.*
If you'd prefer to give the ford a miss keep left and stay on the 'main' road. *Go to point 40.*
- 39** You'll soon see a stream on your left. After about 100 metres you'll come to a shallow ford. The bottom is uneven concrete. The exit is especially bumpy so go carefully. Just after the ford you need to turn right and rejoin the 'main' road.
- 40** We should all be back on the same road now and proceeding through Swinbrook.
- 41** After 3/4 mile the road bends left. It is sign-posted to Shipton-under-Wychwood.
- 42** Now follow the road for a further 2 miles.
- 43** This will bring you to a crossroads with the B4437 where you need to turn right. It is sign-posted to Ascott-under-Wychwood and Charlbury.
- 44** Stay on the B4437 for 3 1/2 miles. It's a lovely undulating road with good views across the Evenlode Valley.
- 45** After 3 1/2 miles you will round a tight right-hander followed closely by a left-hand bend in a dip.
- 46** 1/2 mile later turn right at a crossroads. It is sign-posted to Leaffield.
- 47** 1/4 mile further on turn right again.
- 48** Now stay on this road as it skirts the edge of Wychwood Forest.
- 49** After about 1 3/4 miles there is a shallow dip in the road under a canopy of trees, followed by a straight section of road that is quite bumpy. At the end of the straight the road bends left. Once around the bend you should be able to see the spire of Leaffield Church. The road bends sharp left again and drops gently down hill to a sharp right-hand bend.



QUESTION 7

As you leave Leafield there is a disused pub. What is its name? (ignore the 'The')

Since this question was written the pub's sign has been removed. Its name was The **Navy Oak**.

Hidden away on the eastern edge of Wychwood Forest is Cornbury Park, with its huge Manor House. Until the building of Blenheim Palace, Cornbury was the largest private house in England.

Finstock has its own railway station on the 'Cotswold Line' from Worcester to Oxford. It was opened by the Great Western Railway in 1934 and remains in use despite being only 1 mile from Charlbury station. In the whole of 2009 only 1022 passengers joined the train at Finstock. At Charlbury the figure was 238,918.

QUESTION 8

When you reach the t-junction with the A44 (where you turn right) the green sign-post pointing left points to Chipping Norton and where else?

The dry stone wall surrounding Blenheim's park is over 8 miles long. The park itself covers 2400 acres, with the whole estate covering almost 12,000 acres. 20 tenant farmers share 5500 acres and a further 4000 acres are farmed by the estate itself. There are 1500 acres of woodland and 128 cottages and houses on the estate. The Bear Hotel in Woodstock is also owned by the Blenheim Estate.

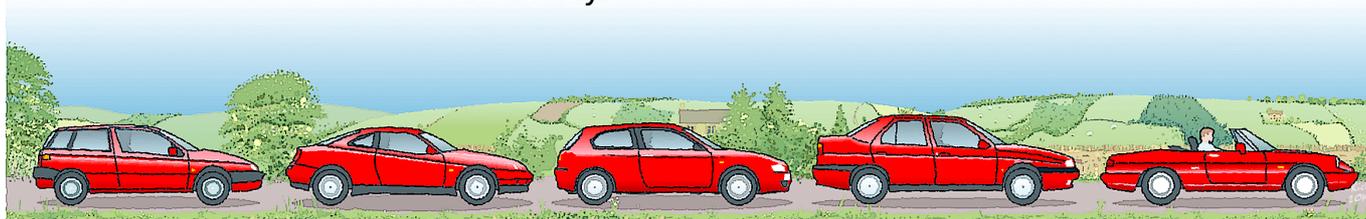
QUESTION 9

What do they sell at numbers 14 and 18 Market Place, Woodstock? It may help you to know that the NatWest bank can be found at number 16.

Blenheim is the residence of the Duke of Marlborough. His eldest son the Marquess of Blandford, or Jamie Blandford, has been jailed several times for driving and drugs offences. In 1993 he went on the run from police for five days and in the following year he was disowned by his father. He will no longer inherit the Blenheim Palace Estate.

LEAFIELD to BLENHEIM Approx. 12 miles, across the Evenlode then south to England's greatest stately home.

- 50 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile later you'll reach a t-junction in the village of Leafield where you need to turn left. It is sign-posted to Finstock and Charlbury. **QUESTION 7**
- 51 As the road leaves the village there is a speed hump.
- 52 Follow the road for 2 miles.
- 53 Eventually you'll reach a crossroads where you need to turn left onto the B4022. It is sign-posted to Charlbury and Chipping Norton.
- 54 The road skirts the village of Finstock and then drops down into the valley of the river Evenlode. It crosses the railway, the river, and the mill stream, and then bends sharp left.
- 55 1 mile further on you'll reach a junction on the outskirts of Charlbury where you need to turn right onto the B4437. It is sign-posted to Woodstock.
- 56 Now stay on this road for roughly 4 miles.
- 57 Eventually you'll see some wrought iron gates directly in front of you and the road will bend sharp left. This is the Ditchley Gate and is one of many entrances to Blenheim.
- 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile further on you'll come to a junction on the A44, turn right. It's sign-posted to Oxford and Woodstock. **QUESTION 8**
- 59 After $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles you'll enter Woodstock. Note the speed camera. The road crosses the tiny River Glyme and then climbs gently up into the town centre.
- 60 About 40 metres before the pedestrian crossing turn right into Market Street.
- 61 After 200 metres Market Street becomes Market Place and the Town Hall is on your left. **QUESTION 9** Then Sheep Street merges from the left. There are no road markings so take care. The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene is on your left and the Oxfordshire Museum is on your right.
- 62 Continue straight on. You are now in Park Street. You will soon come to a sort of walled courtyard with a gateway in it. This is the Town Gate and it is our entrance to Blenheim. Have your red pass on display and the Blenheim staff will wave you through.
- 63 Once through the gate look right and you'll see the Palace across the lake.
- 64 Continue along the drive and allow the marshalls to guide you to your parking spot. You made it. Well done! Enjoy the rest of the day.





ANSWER FORM

Your name

Car reg no. Model

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 _____

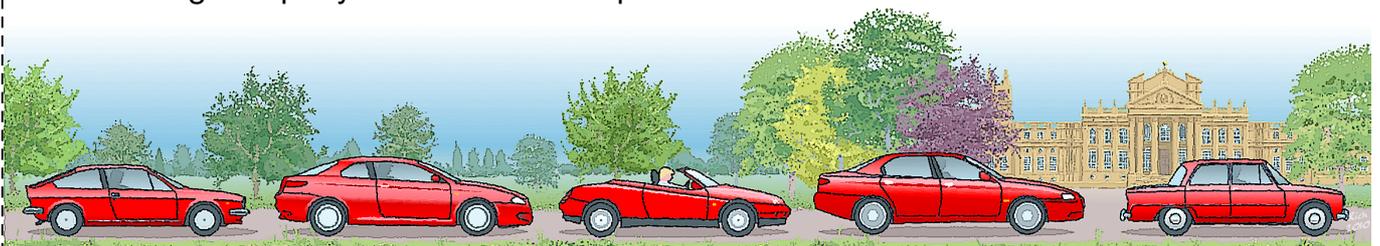
9 _____

Now take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to form a word that is associated with Alfa Romeo in 2010. 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.



For photos of COTSWOLD DAY and other Cotswold Section events visit

www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds

Thank you to Fish Brothers

Printed by

PRINT DESIGN FOCUS

12 Langdale Gate, Witney, Oxon, OX28 6RG

T 01993 774543 E enquiries@printdesignfocus.co.uk W printdesignfocus.co.uk

Artwork by Richard Morris