

Welcome to 2011's GIRO PANORAMICO. The route will lead you through the beautiful Cotswold countryside, from The Frogmill to Buscot Park.

Clear directions of the route are given below and there is a map on page 6. Also included is a simple observational quiz for you to have a go at.

The whole route is around 50 miles in length. If driven non-stop it can be completed in about 1 ¾ hours but please take your time - it's not a race. Enjoy the scenery, have a go at the quiz but above all else enjoy driving your Alfa!

**The Alfa Romeo Owners Club expects all those 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. The Alfa Romeo Owners Club accepts no responsibility for damage to persons or property, however caused, that may occur during Cotswold Alfa Day.**

## Information & Questions

The Frogmill was once a working mill on the tiny River Coln. By the 17th Century it had become a coaching inn on the London - Gloucester route.

### Question 1

At the junction next to Withington Primary School how many miles is it to Cirencester according to the sign-post?

Our route today will involve crossing the Coln 5 times.

The River Coln runs through the garden of the Mill Inn. It is a great place to relax with a beer. The Mill is credited with creating the culinary delight 'chicken-in-a-basket' back in the 1960s. When it was dropped from the menu in 2008 there was a local outcry.

In Compton Abdale water emerges from the spring via a curious crocodile shaped conduit. The crocodile has been there for at least 150 years but no one seems to know who constructed it or why. It was restored in 2007.

## The route (all distances quoted are approximate)

FROGMILL to CIRENCESTER. Approximately 23 miles. A roundabout drive through glorious countryside and pretty villages then south to the 'capital' of the Cotswolds.

- 1 Turn left out of the Frogmill onto the A436.
- 2 After ½ a mile turn left at the crossroads. It is sign-posted to Withington.
- 3 Follow this straight road for 2 miles.
- 4 When you reach Withington follow the road into the village. The road bends right and then left (Q1), and then narrows. You'll round a sharp left hand bend adjacent to the Mill Inn.
- 5 Follow the road as it winds through the village. Ignore all the side turnings, just stay on the 'main' road. Eventually the road climbs up and out of the village.
- 6 At the top of the hill the woods of Compton Grove will be on your right.
- 7 Now the road drops down hill and enters the village of Compton Abdale.
- 8 In the centre of the village turn right. It is sign-posted to Roman Villa and Yanworth. As you turn note the unusual water spout on your right.
- 9 The road climbs quite steeply out of the Compton Abdale.

Mark & Rob:

07791 417191

01684 297698

# RetroMarques.co.uk

A traditional, trusted service for your Alfa Classic!

▲ Sourcing & Sales ▲ Repairs ▲ Maintenance ▲ Parts/Oil/Tyres ▲



## Question 2

At the crossroads at Cassey Compton how many miles is it to Cirencester according to the sign-post?

---

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 crash landed. Thankfully Steve was unhurt.

## Question 3

In Withington Woods there is a sign warning of a down gradient. What percentage does it show?

---

The River Churn rises at Seven Springs - about 5 miles north of our first crossing point - and this is the true source of the Thames, as it is 14 miles further from the mouth of the river than the official source at Thames Head.

## Question 4

On the A435 there is a sign warning of double-bends for how many miles?

---

Cirencester began life as a Roman fort at the point where the Fosse Way crossed the River Churn. It developed into the town of Corinium Dobunorum, the second largest town in Roman Britain. It is situated at the junction of 3 major Roman roads, Ermin Way, Akeman Street, and of course Fosse Way.

Our route today crosses the River Churn 4 times.

The Hospital of St. John the Evangelist in Spitalgate Lane was founded in 1133 by Henry I to provide food for passing travellers and a home for Cirencester's destitute.

## Question 5

Looking at the remains of the Hospital of St. John the Evangelist how many arches are there on the side facing the road?

- 10 After a mile or so the road drops into the valley of the River Coln.
- 11 At the bottom of the hill you cross the Coln and come to a crossroads. This is Cassey Compton (Q2). Our route heads straight on up the hill.
- 12 The road soon enters Withington woods. The road here is quite narrow and bumpy.
- 13 After about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile the road leaves the cover of the trees. If you look carefully you'll spot a couple of old nissen huts. We are now on the remains of RAF Chedworth. The road bends right and then curves left.
- 14 Having crossed the old runway you'll come to a crossroads. Turn right. It is sign-posted to Withington and Andoversford.
- 15 Then turn right again. It's sign-posted to Withington and Andoversford again.
- 16 The road follows the curving line of the old airfields perimeter track and then re-enters Withington Woods. (Q3)
- 17  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile into the woods there is a sharp left-hand bend.
- 18 Stay on this road. Ignore the side turnings. You'll soon find yourself back in Withington. Stay on the 'main' road.
- 19 Eventually the road will bend sharp right in front of a row of cottages. On the bend there is a left turn sign-posted to Hilcote and Colesbourne which you need to take.
- 20 The road climbs away from the village. After  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile the road forks. Keep left following the sign-post to Colesbourne.
- 21 Follow this road for 2 miles. It's pretty bumpy as it winds through the woods. Eventually you'll round a sharp right-hander.
- 22 The road crosses the tiny river Churn and then comes to a t-junction with the A435. Turn left.
- 23 Follow the A435 for around 7 miles. (Q4) The road follows the valley of the Churn. It's a nice road with sweeping bends. You'll pass the villages of North Cerney and Perrott's Brook, and pass under the A417 Cirencester bypass.
- 24 Then you'll come to Stratton, a suburb of Cirencester, and eventually you'll reach a t-junction. Turn left. It is sign-posted to Cirencester and Swindon.
- 25  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile further on you'll come to a set of traffic lights. Turn right into Spitalgate Lane. Towards the end of Spitalgate Lane note the remains of the Hospital of St. John the Evangelist. (Q5)
- 26 At the end of Spitalgate Lane turn left into Dollar Street. Proceed down Dollar Street. It soon becomes Gosditch Street.
- 27 When you reach the traffic lights you must turn left into Market Place.

Cirencester is often referred to as the 'capital' of the Cotswolds and its parish church of St. John the Baptist is nicknamed the Cotswolds 'cathedral'. It was rebuilt and enhanced over the centuries by wealthy wool merchants and is one of many fine 'wool' churches in the area.

### Question 6

What number Market Place is Surprises?

There are 3 Barnsleys in England. There's the former mining town in Yorkshire, a village on the Isle of Wight, and this one in the Cotswolds. Guess which one Liz Hurley calls home?

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

Before the coming of the railways Akeman Street was a major turnpike road. The 'Ready Token' was an inn at the point where the Welsh Way crossed Akeman Street. The name means cash only - no credit.

The Betty of Betty's Grave was a local woman who suffered execution and burial at the crossroads for being a witch. Now her ghost seeks those who killed her and she wanders lost around the area near her grave. So keep an eye out for her!

### Question 7

At Betty's Grave there are two Stop Valve markers (small white signs marked SV). They both have the number 80 at the top. But at the bottom they have different numbers. What is the sum of these two numbers?

### Question 8

In Poulton there is a stone barn to the right of the Post Office. How many wrought iron crosses are there on the side facing the main road?

CIRENCESTER to BUSCOT. 25 miles along the imprecise border of the Cotswolds and the Thames Valley. Where the villages are still honey coloured but the Wolds have given way to the broad green pastures of the river terrace.

- 28 Drive along Market Place. (Q6) When you pass the Fleece Hotel Market Place becomes Dyer Street.
- 29 At the end of Dyer street you'll come to a set of traffic lights. Go straight across into London Road.
- 30 200 metres after the traffic lights go straight on at the roundabout following signs for the A429 and Burford and Stow.
- 31 ½ a mile further on brings you to a large intersection above the A417 Cirencester bypass. Go straight on at both roundabouts. There is a service station with toilets accessed from the second roundabout
- 32 200 metres after the intersection you'll come to a set a traffic lights. Our route continues straight on and joins the B4425. Follow the signs for Burford and you can't go wrong.
- 33 After 2½ miles you'll reach Barnsley. Drive carefully through the village.
- 34 As you leave the village the road curves right. Barnsley Park is on the left.
- 35 Just 300 metres after the right curve the main road starts to curve left. There is a right turn on the bend. Take it. It is not sign-posted.
- 36 This minor road is known as the 'Welsh Way' Follow it for 1½ miles.
- 37 This will bring you to the hamlet of Ready Token on the Roman road Akeman Street. Turn left.
- 38 Then 50m later turn right. The right turn is sign-posted to Poulton.
- 39 Follow this road for 1½ miles.
- 40 This will bring you to crossroads called Betty's Grave where you need to turn right. (Q7)
- 41 1 mile further on you will arrive at a t-junction with the A417. Turn left. Note the disused Red Lion on your left.
- 42 Now stay on this road for 4 miles. After 1 mile you'll pass through the village of Poulton. (Q8)
- 43 A further 3 miles will bring you to Fairford.

**MITCHELL**  
**VEHICLE DISMANTLING**  
Mitchell Vehicle Dismantling Ltd  
74 Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve,  
Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 8SA  
Tel 01242 672811

- Quality recycled components
- Computerized inventoried warehouse
- 90 day guarantee on all parts
- Mail order or over the counter sales
- MOT failures and insurance write-offs purchased
- Delivery and collection service
- Credit/debit cards accepted

Specialists in late model  
**ALFA ROMEOS**



[www.mitchelldismantling.co.uk](http://www.mitchelldismantling.co.uk)

Fairford Park Estate is owned and managed by the Ernest Cook Trust. Cook was the Grandson of travel agent Thomas Cook.

In the early 1970s when Concorde was being tested at RAF Fairford there were concerns that 'booms and turbulence' might damage the stained glass of Fairford church. This was speedily dispelled when scientists discovered that the church organ created more vibration than Concorde!

### Question 9

As you wait to turn right opposite Milton Farm you'll notice a Fire Hydrant marker (a small yellow sign marked with an H) Inside the H are two numbers. What is the sum of these two numbers?

John Keble, poet and churchman, was born in Fairford in 1792. He had a brilliant academic career at Oxford University before taking Holy Orders and becoming curate first at Coln St Aldwyns where his father was vicar, and then later at Eastleach Martin and Southrop. In 1827 he wrote 'The Christian Year' and in 1831 he was appointed Chair of Poetry at Oxford. He died in 1866. Keble College, Oxford, was established in 1870, having been built as a monument to John Keble.

Today Hatherop Castle is a prep-school. But during the Second World War it was a training school for agents who were dropped into Nazi-occupied Europe.

The Hatherop Estate, like Fairford, is owned and managed by the Ernest Cook Trust. The Trust was set up in 1952 by Cook when he and his brother Frank sold the Thomas Cook travel company. The Trust is one of the UK's leading educational charities. Each year it distributes more than £1.25m in educational grants to benefit children and young people. As well as Fairford and Hatherop the Trust also owns the Cotswold estates of Barnsley and Filkins.

- 44 Once in the town you'll pass the Vortex Inn on your left. 300m further on you will cross over the River Coln and round a right-hand bend. Then the road narrows.
- 45 Immediately after the narrow section turn left into the High Street. There are toilets on the left hand side half way up the High Street but you will need 20 pence to use them.
- 46 At the end of the High Street turn left into Mill Lane. As you wait to turn St Mary's Church with its famous stained glass is on your left and the South Lodge of the Fairford Park Estate is ahead of you.
- 47 Follow Mill Lane as it crosses the Coln and weaves between dry stone walling.
- 48 When you reach the t-junction opposite Milton Farm (Q9) please turn right.
- 49 After about 1¾ miles you'll reach the village of Quenington.
- 50 Follow the 'main' road as it passes the village green. It is sign-posted to Coln St Aldwyns and Bibury.
- 51 250m beyond the green continue to follow the 'main' road. Again it is sign-posted to Coln St Aldwyns and Bibury.
- 52 The road curves left and right and drops down to cross the Coln.
- 53 200m later the road crosses the mill stream, bends left, and enters Coln St Aldwyns. You'll soon pass the New Inn on your right.
- 54 When you reach the village centre which is marked by a small roundabout affair beneath a Horse Chestnut tree, you need to turn right. The village shop and post office is on your left. The turning is sign-posted to Hatherop and Lechlade.
- 55 As you drive the short distance between Coln St Aldwyns and Hatherop you can see Hatherop Castle above the trees ahead of you.
- 56 Follow the road up hill into Hatherop. You'll pass the entrance to Hatherop Castle School.
- 57 When you reach the t-junction close to the village primary school turn left. It is sign-posted to Westwell and Burford.
- 58 Now stay on this road for 2½ miles. You'll notice it's pretty straight. That's because it's a section of the Roman road Akeman Street.
- 59 After 2½ miles the road forks. Take the right hand fork. It is sign-posted to Eastleach and Fairford.

If you've enjoyed *Giro Panoramico* today you may like to know that copies of previous years routes are available on the Cotswold Section website.

For news and pictures of Club and Section events, including Cotswold Alfa Day, visit

[www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds](http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds)

Eastleach is actually two villages. Eastleach Turville and Eastleach Martin. The churches of the two villages - St Andrew's in Eastleach Turville and St Michael and St Martin's in Eastleach Martin - are only 200m apart. If you care to stop there is a lovely walk over 'Keble's Bridge', a stone clapper bridge, between the two churches.

### Question 10

In Eastleach as you turn right next to the Church of St Michael and St Martin how many miles is it to Holwell according to the sign-post?

Our route today crosses the River Leach 3 times.

In 2010 the Swan at Southrop was named 'restaurant of the year' by readers of Which? Good Food Guide.

### Question 11

At the crossroads where we turn left how many miles is it to Hatherop according to the sign-post?

Lechlade has for centuries been an inland port being the highest navigable town on the Thames. It was from Lechlade that Cotswold stone for Blenheim Palace, the Oxford Colleges and many fine buildings in London, including St Paul's, was dispatched.

The Rivers Leach and Coln join the Thames at Lechlade.

### Question 12

On Burford Street in Lechlade there is just one red brick building. How many pigs does it have on the roof of its porch?

It was the churchyard at Lechlade that stirred Shelly to write 'A Summer Evening Churchyard' The view of St Lawrence's spire from St John's bridge inspired the lines 'Clothing in hues of heaven thy dim and distant spire. Around whose lessening and invisible height. Gather among the stars the clouds of night'.

- 60 300m further on turn right at the t-junction. Again it is sign-posted to Eastleach and Fairford.
- 61 Just over 1/2 a mile later turn left. It is sign-posted to Eastleach and Southrop.
- 62 After 1/2 a mile you will enter Eastleach.
- 63 Follow the road through the village. It falls very gently and curves left and then right before crossing the River Leach.
- 64 Just after the bridge turn right. It is sign-posted to Southrop and Lechlade. (Q10) The Church of St Michael and St Martin's on your right.
- 65 Follow this narrow road as it wanders along next to the Leach.
- 66 After a mile you will reach a junction where you need to keep right. It is sign-posted to Southrop and Lechlade. This is the hamlet of Fyfield.
- 67 1/2 a mile further on turn right at the t-junction. It is sign-posted to Southrop
- 68 This will take you into the village of Southrop where you'll cross the Leach again. Follow the road through the village. You'll pass the Swan and the Village Hall on your right.
- 69 200m beyond the Village Hall turn left. It is sign-posted to Lechlade.
- 70 This road will take you through several 90 degree bends as it follows the field boundaries.
- 71 Eventually you'll reach a crossroads where you should turn left. It is sign-posted to Lechlade. (Q11)
- 72 You'll cross the route of the old Fairford to Oxford railway.
- 73 You'll soon enter Lechlade. 1/2 a mile after the old railway bridge you'll arrive at a t-junction where you need to turn right on to the A361.
- 74 Follow the road into the town. It starts out as Oak Street but soon becomes Burford Street. (Q12)
- 75 Just as you reach the Market Square you'll need to turn left into St John's Street. It is the A417 and it is sign-posted to Faringdon. St John's Street is quite narrow and there are usually lots of parked cars.
- 76 Stay on this road as you leave Lechlade behind.
- 77 You'll soon reach the Trout Inn next to St John's Bridge. Cross the Thames and enter Oxfordshire.



**RetroMarques**.co.uk  
A traditional, trusted service for your Alfa Classic!

▲ Sourcing & Sales ▲ Repairs ▲ Maintenance ▲ Parts/Oil/Tyres ▲

Mark & Rob:  
07791 417191  
01684 297698  
Strensham - 5 mins  
off the M5/M50 Jct

## Question 13

What is the maximum advised speed limit, in mph of course, through the Horse Chestnut lined bends?

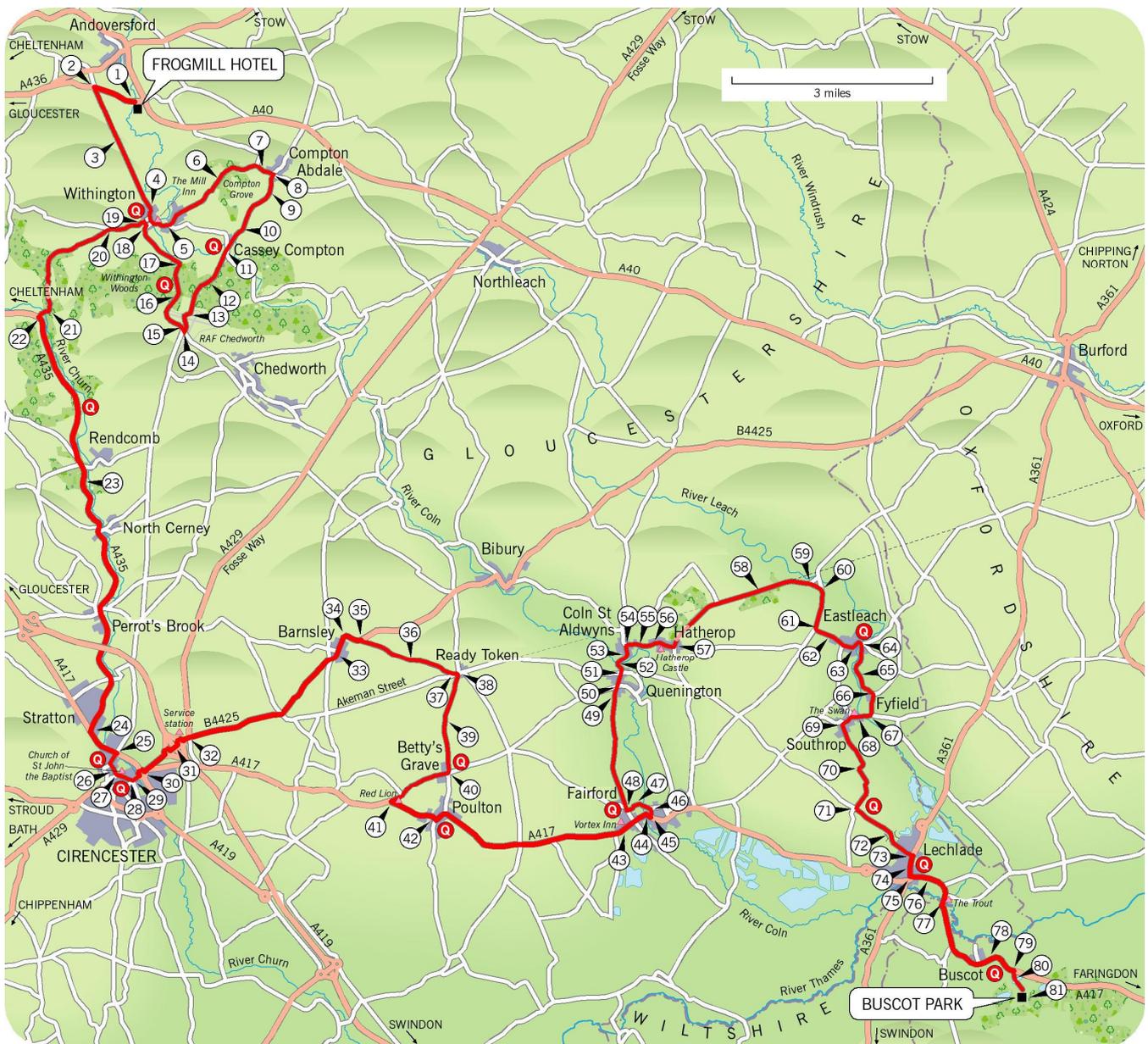
From Buscot village there is a nice walk to St John's Lock, the highest lock on the Thames. A statue of Old Father Thames sits beside the river watching the boats come and go.

## Question 14

One last question. Look back at how many times we crossed the rivers Churn, Coln and Leach. Add them up. What is the total?

- 78 We're almost there. Just follow this road. A mile after St John's Bridge you'll pass through Buscot village. (Q13) Then you'll find the road curves right and then left through an avenue of Horse Chestnut trees.
- 79 As the Horse Chestnut trees come to an end you'll find the entrance to Buscot Park on the right.
- 80 Having entered the Park follow the drive as it crosses the bridge and then allow the marshals to guide you to a parking slot.
- 81 You made it. (Q14) We hope you enjoyed Giro Panoramico. Don't forget to enter the quiz by filling in the answer sheet on page 8 and posting it in the box in the gazebo.

Enjoy the rest of the day!





# MEET GIULIETTA

AT BRISTOL STREET MOTORS,  
PROUD SPONSORS OF  
COTSWOLD ALFA DAY



FROM JUST £16,995 OTR.

Introducing the new Giulietta from Alfa Romeo. Designed with Pre-Fill braking system and Alfa D.N.A. to make your drive even more dynamic. Developed to deliver lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions\* with superior fuel economy. Evolved Euro NCAP 5-star rated safety technology, making it best in its class.

WITHOUT HEART WE WOULD BE MERE MACHINES.

**BRISTOL STREET MOTORS ALFA ROMEO**  
COSGROVE CLOSE  
BLACKPOLE  
WORCESTER  
WR3 8UA  
01905 343434  
[www.bristolstreet.co.uk](http://www.bristolstreet.co.uk)

*Giulietta*



**Model shown: Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120bhp Turismo at £17,945 OTR including optional Ghiaccio White special paint at £490.00.** Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 51.4 mpg (10.8 – 5.5 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.4 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 177 – 114 g/km. \*When compared to the Alfa 147 range. Prices correct at time of going to press.

# ANSWER SHEET

Your name ..... Your cars reg. no. ....

If you've had a go at the quiz you should have 14 numerical answers.

Please write them below in the appropriate space.

Answer to Q1

Answer to Q2

Answer to Q3

Answer to Q4

Answer to Q5

Answer to Q6

Answer to Q7

Answer to Q8

Answer to Q9

Answer to Q10

Answer to Q11

Answer to Q12

Answer to Q13

Answer to Q14

Now add them together.

Total

**What's the total? You should find that it's an Alfa Model.**

If you've got all 14 answers, plus the Alfa model, please detach this sheet and post it in the box provided beneath the Cotswold Section gazebo by 2.30pm.

One sheet containing all 15 correct answers will be drawn at 3.00pm.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR NAME AT THE TOP**