

ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER

Aug 2010



August already and NAD is looming large. And whilst it seems as though the New Year dawned only yesterday we are fast approaching the BIG ONE **Cotswold Alfa Day** at Blenheim Palace! Last month saw blag-a-ride at BWG and I also took a trip to the Silverstone Classic. Don't forget we have Section parking at NAD on the Sunday only. So if anyone was getting post centenary blues there is plenty to offer a much needed Alfa fix. - MB

The Cotswold Section does Italy 2010

Friday 18th June saw a number of Cotswold members depart for distant shores to enjoy the Alfa Romeo Centenary events in Milan. Dave Hood, Richard Rees, Rod Ashton, Brian Smith, Pete & Jane Wood and myself met for breakfast and a spirited blast down to Dover, meeting up with Matthew Willmott, Tim Roberts, John Gardiner and Dave Robinson. The plan was to join Ken Carrington's Andiamo a Milano for the trip down and to then see us return in separate groups. We aimed to catch up with Mark & Jane Grimshaw and Steve & Angela Dymoke at Arese and Rho. And what an adventure ensued! Perhaps a much over used cliché but for me it was more about the journey than arriving.

From high jinks and high passes, to the founding of Scuderia Kontz, rush hour in Milan, Batman's 60th birthday parties, queues and chaos at Rho. Cars, cake and demonstrations at Arese and a brush with the law in central Milan, this certainly was a classic road trip and adventure. The cars did us proud with nothing more than a few minor issues which considering the 2000+ miles, mountain passes and temperatures in the high 30's certainly tested them beyond the norm.

The journey down for the main trip took us from Dover, through Belgium, Luxemburg and Switzerland via the Susten, Grimsel, Furka and St Gottardo passes and along the busy autostrade arriving in Milan at the peak of rush hour, what an experience that was. With a number of very frazzled people parking up and hitting the bar for a cold beer it was reminiscent of the final scene from Ice Cold in Alex!

Milan was then our base until the following Monday morning, with a number of err...‘Organised’ events. Arese & Monza on Thursday, Rho on Saturday and the hug of Milan on Sunday which following the organised chaos and long queues into and out of the exhibition centre at Rho few of us ventured out to. A visit to the 100 X 100 Exhibition at Nevegro was a real highlight, and with all the wonders of Milan to experience it was a busy week. Mrs B joined us for the weekend and our final evening saw a party to celebrate Dave Hood's 60th with us enjoying a meal and the odd glass of wine in a lovely local Italian restaurant.

Monday was time for group farewells with different routes home, fast blast through France, journey back with Ken's tour, or the slightly extended version that I took, including Maranello, Cernobbio, the Stelvio, Fuorn and Fluela passes, Zeppelin Museum at Friedrichshafen, Nurburgring and the final leg back to home via the always busy M25. As I said earlier the cars performed brilliantly and the confidence in them grew and grew, which really is a testament to both the design and TLC that they receive. I think this may be the start of yet further Italian escapades.... - MB

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY 2010

100 years of Alfa Romeo

Sunday September 5



Tickets On Sale Now !



A few more Italy 2010 memories - Photos MB

Don't forget NAD Section parking on Sun 22nd Aug. Passes will be issued so if you wish to attend please let us know so we can get a pass to you.

Blag -a-Ride

This year's blag-a-ride saw us join up with the Thames Valley section at James Wheeler's Black & White garage at Cold Ash near Newbury.

Eight cars met at our regular haunt of the Merrymouth Inn, collecting squadron leader Morris in Burford and four other stragglers en-route to Lechlade.

Our route took us over the Ridgeway and across the downs for a very spirited run into Cold Ash. With twin cams screaming and V6s roaring a few of the more colourful Milano convoys sprang to mind (a few of the moderns were also being pushed hard to keep up with a certain lead Bertie!).

With a number of other Cotswolders meeting us there we had about 20 members, so along with the Thames Valley guys the garage was alive. And what a treat, BWG really is an Aladdin's cave of goodies housing James's collection with the familiar Orange Montreal, beautiful Sud TI, Romeo 2 Furgone van, Matta, a newly acquired 1750 and a liberal sprinkling of interesting motorbikes including his Maserati L125T2 Turismo Lusso. If you could tear yourself away from the garage then a steady stream of blag-a-rides were going on outside. SZ, Sud, GTC, 1750 Bertie and Andrew Stevens's replacement vehicle for the night, a Ferrari 356GT (as the water pump on his bertie had failed), were very popular indeed. James also had a fine array of cars for sale on the forecourt. A number of 916 spiders caught the attention of a few prospective buyers.

Thanks again to James for his kind offer to host the evening, for putting on the refreshments and for allowing us to empty his coffee machine! I know we've already suggested running next year's blag-a-ride with James at BWG. — MB



Silverstone Classic 2010



The Weekend of 23rd/24th/25th July saw this year's Silverstone Classic event, rocking and racing at the home of British motorsport. After my first visit last year I again signed up to camp for part of the weekend, to obviously be on circuit nice and early, nothing to do with the opportunity for a few beers I can assure you.

The Classic gives a great opportunity to wander along the pit lane and take a look in the pits. How fantastic to stand alongside an 80's F1 car with its bodywork removed exposing the pure engineering art below, walk into a garage containing 3 million pounds worth of Ferrari's and chat to mechanics as they change the gear ratios on a Lotus GP car. Not to mention the chance to walk around the various Owners Club displays including our own AROC gathering.

The racing was varied and none other than our own John Dobson was racing. The event is so open that I wandered by and had a quick chat as he lined up in the pit lane before quali on the Friday. I also bumped into many of the Cotswold Crew on Friday and Saturday, and know it's a popular event with many of you. The rocking aspect of this year's event was mixed to say the least, The Yardbirds and Dr Feelgood were entertaining on Friday but fortunately I had to leave before Jedward took to the stage on Saturday !!!!!!!!

There were many highlights such as Roz Shaw's freshly prepared GTAm in a very eye catching orange/yellow Jagermeister design developing some 195bhp. However the absolute high point for me was the 1934 P3 owned and driven by Umberto Rossi.

Having loitered on the Friday in the Hall & Hall pit area and being given the opportunity for plenty of photos and the chance to give the car a push start on the Saturday we duly turned up Saturday afternoon hoping to hear the car fire up.

As the race was a little late starting the guys introduced me to Umberto who asked if I'd like to sit in the P3 whilst he took a few pictures, well what can I say, I think the stupid grin on my face says it all. What an opportunity and what a gentleman who certainly shares a huge passion for the marque and has been present at many classic racing events this year both in the UK and on the classic GP circuit. A huge thank you Umberto. If you get the chance I'd highly recommend a visit to the classic next year, we are considering a Section run down if there is sufficient interest. — MB



Blag - a - ride @ Black & White Garage 2010 -
Photos - Mark Grimshaw & Matthew-Willmott.