

COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



24th June 1910, a momentous day in the history of Alfa Romeo. I know some of us are joining the celebrations in Milano but each of us I'm sure will celebrate the day in one way or another. Also on 24th June, this time in 1911, Juan Manuel Fangio was born, and with his 1951 World Championship title win at the helm of the Supercharged Alfa Romeo 1.5 L8 the 24th seems an even more significant day in history ! Churchill Classic was another excellent show and there is our Blag-a-ride evening to look forward to in July. *MB*

Churchill Show - June 2010

Churchill Vintage and Classic Car show is another firm favourite with the section. With over 400 vehicles at this years event ranging from the recreation of a Buggati GP T35A (created from 1928 Bugatti and modern parts) to a Morris traveller, the show really has something for everyone.

The Cotswold section again secured a prime spot with All Saints church providing the backdrop for our line up of 11 Alfas: five Berties, three Spiders, Chris Savill's Giulia Nuova Super, and Dave Townsend's Alfasud. Having been talked into attending by a Morgan racing friend we also had a late entry with Matt Spitzley's superb vintage 8C. The Alfa line up drew much attention and smiling faces. Dave Messenger also joined us with his stunning original Fiat 500 in dark blue.

With the mix of cars in the show it really does bring home the differences in the Italian offerings compared to some of the traditional British cars of a similar era. Dare I say it but had it not been an Alfa a signal red TR4A would have been on my shopping list (only a momentary lapse of reason I promise).



Having bagged a shaded area under the trees adjacent to the cars and narrowly avoiding being mown down by the Bentley owners club, we enjoyed a picnic lunch before a few circuits of the assembled vintage and classic cars. It is strange how different cars provoke reactions, from the Morris Traveller I knew as a kid, to the Bentley one stropky teenager named Dymoke once spannered for in Italy. *MB*



Alfa presence at Churchill Vintage and Classic Car Show.

Blag - A - Ride

Wednesday 21st July is Blag-a-ride night. This year we will join with the Thames Valley Section at James Wheeler's Black & White garage near Newbury at 7.30pm. We will meet at 6.00pm at Stow-on-the-wold and 6.30pm at Witney. Either meet us en route or at Black & White Garage Postcode for the Sat Nav RG18 9JN. Come along and experience someone else's Alfa and let others enjoy yours. Anyone not wanting to come along will be welcomed as usual at the Merrymouth.

Last months Section Meeting

Pete Wood's beautiful 1969 MK1 1750 made its first public debut at our May meeting, adding to the growing number of stunning Berties owned by Section members. Some two years of hard work with a slide show to demonstrate all his efforts brought home how much went into restoring this car. And while we won't even start to consider the costs involved I think Pete's wife naming the car 'L'amante' says it all !!!!! - *MB*



Pete Wood's 'L'amante' (Mistress)

Giulietta - Preview Birmingham ICC

It was with a fair amount of excitement that I made my way to the Birmingham ICC, with a personal invitation asking me to release my Alfa Ego (think I'm past needing to be convinced of the Alfa way!). So it was into the conference hall housing the only two Giuliettas in the UK. First the official Alfa promo video with a passing reference to the previous Iconic Giulietta Sprint and Spider, next the car configurator, which you just had to have a play on, strangely starting with a Green Cloverleaf in Profondo Blue hitting 28k! Evo magazine recently tested the QV and Veloce (235bhp & 170bhp respectively) back to back and it seems as though the Veloce wins overall taking performance and cost into account. Both the promo video and configurator are on the Alfa Romeo UK website.

Finally to the two cars on display, one in 8C style red (£1750 option) in veloce spec, and a white Green Cloverleaf, both with full leather interior with red piping, brushed metal effect dash, hi-gloss black satin inserts, integrated sat nav and 8C style alloys (no turbine alloys fitted, but personally I do like the 8C style wheels).

Daytime driving lights and integrated indicators in the headlight cluster are a nice touch, and for me is a better package than the bug eyes of the Mito. Reasonable head and rear leg room, but dark head lining made it feel a little gloomy in the cabin. Masculine styling of the front grille and air intake, along with the floating grille being of particular note, sets it apart from its competitors.

I loved it and must say that whilst in my personal opinion it doesn't quite have the GT or Brera presence, it will turn heads and offers the 4 door practicality with that all-important Alfa styling. The flair it carries even static will win hearts for sure.

With the promise of 7 new Alfa models in the Fiat Group 5 year plan, this is clearly a key model. With its pricing aimed at challenging the Golf range this is potentially the car to define the future of Alfa Romeo. - MB

Classic Transport Show, Ragley Hall, Sunday May 30th 2009. Richard Morris reports.

Richard Rees, in his Duetto, and me in the Bertie, rolled up at this large gathering of classic vehicles at Ragley Hall near Alcester, where we were very soon joined by Mike Jordan in his Bertie. We managed to park together and for a while it looked like we were the only Italian cars present. There were dozens of MGs and a horrifying amount of Triumph Stags but tucked away amongst the hum-drum were some very interesting cars. We spotted a lovely Alvis TD21, a mint Capri 280 Brooklands, an immaculate Dolomite Sprint, and a very tidy Riley Elf which the owner let me sit in, and an outrageous Citroen DS 21 Cabrio. The brightest spectacle of the day was a collection of around a dozen Nash Metropolitans. They're not the prettiest cars ever are they? But seeing so many together was certainly an impressive sight. One thing we didn't see, which was a huge disappointment to Rich R, was a Marina. And no I'm not being sarcastic, the poor man has a genuine desire to own one! Today he had to make do with seeing a Vanden Plas Allegro and a Wolsley Princess! Eventually we did find some more Italian cars. On the far side of the field, sandwiched between the Alvis and a Ford Prefect, was a rather neat Fiat 600. And then back on our side of the field a very stylish Fiat 1500 Cabriolet had pulled in. It was a white 1965 car and the current owner is only the second. It wasn't mint and would benefit from a bit of attention here and there, but it's quite a rare car these days and it was nice to see it.

Shows like this are always dominated by MGs, Jags, Triumphs, Healeys, and the like, but just occasionally there are gems like the Citroen and the Fiat Cabriolet to be found. And for me it's seeing cars like this that make these shows worth going to. RM



Shelsley Walsh National Alfa Day - Aug 21st/22nd

As outlined in this month club magazine, it is intended that there will be dedicated Section parking available on site this year at the Shelsley Walsh National Alfa Day. We have asked to reserve space for the Cotswold Section on both the Saturday & Sunday. To finalise the amount of space would appreciate an indication of who will attend and on what day. If you could let one of us know at one of our meetings, or via the website we will use that to secure an allocation with the events team.

MB



Alfas and Nash
Metropolitans
Ragley Hall
Photos - Richard
Morris