

ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB

Sep 2010

COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



Cotswold Alfa Day 2010, what can I say, not even the wet start or fallen trees could stop people enjoying this year's event. With people joining us from as far afield as Liverpool, Doncaster, East Anglia and Kent we are all pleased that CAD was enjoyed by so many. A really fitting close to the Centenary year's events. But that's not it for the Cotswold calendar with some Autumn colour at Westonbirt Arboretum and the Christmas meal still to look forward to. - MB

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY 2010

100 years of Alfa Romeo

Sunday September 5



Cotswold Alfa Day 2010



Cotswold Alfa Day this year saw us run from the Fossebridge Inn to Blenheim Palace along another much congratulated Giro Panoramico route devised by Richard Morris, featuring the compulsory ford!

Not that the ford was necessarily needed with the heavy rain we were subjected to Sunday morning just as the bulk of people started to arrive at Fossebridge. We had a fine array of Spiders joined by a GTC, Matta, Giulietta sprint, Mike's Fiat 124, vintage Alfa and Lancia along with many others keen to enjoy the day.

Clearly the downpour wasn't expected with a number of sandals and shorts being worn! But with a coffee, route plan and Giro Panoramico sticker people started to venture out for a damp drive across to Blenheim. However not even the weather could dampen the enthusiasm for the route. A near miss with some falling branches couldn't stop the Alfas getting through and the route was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It was a similar story at Blenheim itself with plenty of umbrellas on display including Roger's fetching Le Frog (spot him in the pictures). Thankfully the rain cleared and a glorious sunny afternoon lifted sprits and dried out soggy feet.

With many taking the opportunity to explore the grounds and palace it was soon time to announce the winners of the raffle, most desirable Alfa and route quiz. Most desirable Alfa went to the stunning Giulietta SS. Malcolm Whitehouse and his brother won the route quiz and were presented with a special box of Alfa wine transported back from the Milan celebrations.

Resident Blenheim petrol head Tim Long took some excellent photos and with some 130 cars present a fine array of Alfas and other interesting Italian cars made for an impressive display. A group of visiting Japanese tourists were particularly taken by the Blue Junior Z, and I think the wide and varied cars attending made for a wonderful day all round.

We have received many messages of thanks and it is really pleasing to hear that Cotswold Alfa Day was enjoyed by so many. Special thanks to all those who helped on the day and in the planning of the event - we are looking forward to next years CAD already - MB



Photos by Phil Gotts, Richard Rees, Mark Byatt, Matt Foley, Steve Dymoke, Rich Morris, Matt Willmott, Tim Long, Mark & Jane Grimshaw, Hazel & John Mills.

National Alfa Weekend 2010

This year's National Alfa Day developed into a full weekend to celebrate the centenary year. Shelsley Walsh hosted the weekend along with rounds of the MSA Hill climb championship and included in the racing was an invitation category for Alfa Romeo entries. Our own Steve Dymoke was racing in the Alfasud and James Wheeler in his Giulia Spider. Both gained honours in their specific categories and Steve fastest production based car in the Alfa line-up, only beaten to fastest overall by the 145 boxer engine based Kudos Coupe.

The full event on the hill had a whole host of cars from the premier league to home built 6 wheeled monsters. With an open pit area you were able to get up close and personal with the cars, able to wander around and take a close look at the T33 Daytona whose soundtrack really was spectacular as it attacked the hill on a Sunday afternoon run.

Saturday was damp alternating between light and heavy showers so a roaring trade on umbrellas was had at the club shop. Despite the weather there was a good turnout of Section and AROC members on both days. On Saturday evening AROC hosted a post race get together with a bite to eat and the chance to mingle and catch up with friends from around the country.

Sunday dawned brighter and AROC members soon helped to fill the areas set aside for section parking at Shelsley. It was also Concours day. Matthew entered his 90 into a small group of 4 cars, pitted against some very stiff opposition in the shape of Ian Osborne's 164, narrowly missing second to take a very creditable third. Cleaning Saturday's sheep muck off wheels and wheel arches at 10.00pm by head torch shows dedication.....or something like that!

Also in the concours was Pete Wood's 1750 Bertie which picked up 2nd overall along with the Malcolm Morris trophy and the Chris Saville award. An excellent showing once again and I think Pete will soon need a bigger mantelpiece!

We were also treated to a cavalcade of Alfas during the lunch time break, Matt in the 90, Steve in the 156 he's campaigning this year, James in the A12 car transporter on Saturday and the TZ that was being raced by Ed McD on Sunday.

A good weekend overall and great to see the Cotswolders doing so well in the various competitions on and off the hill. - MB



Pete Wood and his haul of trophies, James in the TZ, Steve at the start of the hill in the 156, and photos from the day - Photos Rod Ashton & Mark Byatt

Cotswolders in print

After a murmur of needing a S2 Spider for a magazine shoot all seemed a little quiet until I had a call from Graeme Hurst of C&SC, following a tip off by our own Mike Rysiecki.

Things took shape with an early start to meet at Crickhowell near Abergavenny. The article is about 70s twin cams and the line-up for the shoot out contained Mike's Fiat 124 spider, a Lotus Elan SE, a Jenson Healy and my Spider.

Refueled with bacon butties and coffee we took a short drive to the hills above Crickhowell for an array of static and 'action' shots. If you've ever wondered how they manage to gain such brilliant photos then try hanging out of the rear of an estate car with a pair of cars driving 3 foot off the rear bumper. Makes you concentrate and hope no wayward sheep decide they want to get in on the act! As we were a driver down Mike took the wheel as I drove alongside the Jenson and thankfully no sudden breaking was necessary.

This was followed by a set of individual shots of us driving past the static photographer, a group shot, interior and wheel shots (one for Matt 'the wheels' Willmott that one!!!!). One final shot of the owner in car and time for lunch.

After lunch it was a chance for Graeme to drive each of the cars to form some opinions and words for the article. As he had owned a GT Junior back in his native South Africa I hope the drive rekindled the desire for another Alfa someday soon. Although not strictly a Britain v Italy shoot out I think it should be a 2-1 win to Italy, but we'll have to wait and see in the November edition. In addition to that a third Cotswolders car is being featured in the November edition of Practical Classic. Richard Rees's beautiful Duetto is coming up with a full studio shoot. Having seen some prints at CAD it will be well worth a read. - MB



WESTONBIRT
THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Our Autumn walk this year will be at **Westonbirt Arboretum on Sunday 31st October at 10.30am**. They have offered us a separate parking area so we can all park together, a reduced group rate of **£6** per person and the option to use the picnic area if the weather is good. If not so good there is a Bistro/Café on site.

If there is interest we will arrange a convoy to the event for those that wish to travel together.

Just let Matthew Willmott know if you are interested so we can let the Arboretum know numbers in advance. - MB



Christmas Meal

We are still trying to sort out the Christmas Meal - so far those that have responded to Mark G's questions in last months email seem happy with the Three Ways Hotel in Mickleton as the venue with the evening dinner (probably on Friday 3rd December) as the preferred option. If you have a view please let us know because we will need to make a booking soon.

- MB