

COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



Will we get a proper summer or was Cotswold Alfa Day the fleeting glimpse for the year? However we have managed a few reasonable days and had a good attendance for our Summer drive out last month. Looking at the remainder of the year we have a number of events planned and will keep you posted as things take shape - MB

Summer Drive out to The Feathered Nest Inn

Our regular section meeting last month was our Summer drive out. We took a scenic drive along the Stow Road towards Burford and on to Shipton-Under-Wychwood, and then through the lanes towards Foscot and finally Nether Westcote.

Steve Dymoke led the way at a decent pace that let us take in the scenery and the beautiful villages on route.

Our route culminated at The Feathered Nest Inn some 1.35 miles as the crow flies from our starting point! But what a warm welcome with some signs welcoming us for the evening and a decent selection of beers to tempt the non drivers.

The method behind our route madness was to introduce The Feathered Nest Inn as a potential alternative venue for our regular monthly meetings following the feedback we took from the membership earlier in the year. With such a warm welcome and the setting with the Cotswolds dropping away in the background and an ideal outside area to enjoy the summer evenings (when we get any!) we felt this was a good alternative venue.

We hope that this will encourage people to attend future meetings and encourage partners along as well to enjoy the location and the food for which they focus on in a more restaurant style in addition to some recommended tapas.

Many thanks to Esperancia who looks after the events side of things at The Feathered Nest and who helped to make us feel so welcome on the evening.

Following Mark Grimshaw's email seeking feedback, the consensus of opinion is to adopt this as our new regular meeting place from the August meeting onwards and we hope to see members old and new at this and future meetings as the Cotswold Section comes home to roost at The Feathered Nest Inn. - MB



The view from The Feathered Nest Garden.

Coming up.....

Motorsport Fest!

October 1st we are planning to visit Silverstone to watch Steve Dymoke compete in a round of the ARCA AlfaRacer, BRSCC Alfa Romeo Championship, more details to follow.

If you don't fancy Silverstone then on the same day at Castle Combe there is a classic race organised in part by John Dobson.

From John... "After the success of the classic race at Mallory which seemed to have been enjoyed by spectators and drivers alike, there is to be another race this time at Castle Combe on October 1st. And to add a bit of extra fun we have invited similar spec MGs to give a bit of Italy v England competition. It will be great fun for one and all with also a promise from Combe that if it is a success it will become an annual event." - MB

Newbury Classic Vehicle Show

Richard Morris takes up the report from the Newbury Classic Car show which featured a good array of Alfas and Fiats including some of our section members.

An eclectic range of around 700 vehicles congregated at Newbury Racecourse on Sunday 7 August for the 19th Annual **Classic Vehicle Show** organised by West Berkshire Classic Vehicle Club. The usual mix of MGs, Triumphs, and Jags dominated of course but there were also some rarer motors on show such as an extremely handsome 1956 Tickford bodied Lagonda and an enormous 1931 Lancia Dilambda once owned by an Indian Maharajah. Other cars that caught my eye were a very tidy Vauxhall VX4/90 and a stunning GT40 replica in the famous Gulf livery. Talking of Fords I've never seen so many classic Mustangs. And they weren't the only American muscle on show either. I spotted a GTO, several Challengers and Chargers (one done up as the General Lee) and a couple of Firebirds. The Italian section featured several Fiats, including Mike Rysiecki's 124 Spider and a lovely little Fiat 500 Gardiniere, while a series 2 Spider, a Montreal and a brace of Berties, including my own, represented the Alfa marque. Elsewhere on the showground were a very smart silver GTV6 and a black series 4 Spider. On the far side of the showground the large motorcycle section featured the most outrageous vehicle of the day, namely an 8-litre V10 Dodge Viper engined bike! Scary.

This was my first visit to the Newbury show and I have to say I was thoroughly impressed with the event itself and the organisation that went into it. All proceeds from the day went to the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research Fund which makes the high attendance figures very pleasing to see.

My only criticism of the event is that it showed me that I must be getting old. When Austin Montegos and Ford Sierras start appearing as classic cars there is no denying that middle age really has set in!

The next Classic Car event for me is the Blenheim Show on the Bank Holiday weekend. If you'd like to join me it's not too late, closing date for applications is Friday 19th. You'll find a booking form here http://classicshows.org/BookingForms/2011_car_booking_form.pdf

RM



Hand built GT40 replica - Not a kit car !

1971 Fiat 500 Gardiniere



The Alfa section of the Italian contingent - Photos Richard Morris.

Alfa Art



A friend spotted an exhibition at the Mailbox in Birmingham (pre riots) and as I work in the town centre I had a wander over for a look. The exhibition included both the artwork and transfer of the artwork to the MiTo above. The exhibition was promoted as :

'Beyond the Canvas'

a partnership between Castle Galleries, acclaimed artist, Louise Dear and Alfa Romeo in which Louise has created a body of work inspired by the style and vivacity of the Alfa Romeo MiTo.

The collection also includes a unique art installation which has seen Louise apply her signature style to the body work of an Alfa Romeo MiTo.

I know a car that sports a fairly iconic set of decals (our 155 KW), but I'll leave you to make your own mind up on this particular design. - MB

Arnageddon @ NEC

For those of you who missed the Arna at National Alfa Day, plans are afoot to feature the Arna on the AROC stand at the NEC Classic Car Show, running from **Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November**. With the 40th Anniversary of the Alfasud what better way to complete a display of all things boxer!- MB

Prescott Hill Climb 2012

The ever popular Cleeve Vale Rotary Club event at Prescott Hill has been announced already. The weekend of the **12th/13th May 2012**. A date for your diaries ! - MB