

ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB June 2011



COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER

Cotswolders have certainly been out in force enjoying a decent Spring. In the newsletter this month we feature highlights from a number of Alfa related events. Despite hose pipe bans in the offing here's hoping for a glorious sunny day for Cotswold Alfa Day on the 26th June.

Asparagus Run

Well done to everyone who attended the recent Asparagus Run. Attendance was buoyant, with around 28 people in 14 Alfas (well, actually 12 Alfas and 2 Fiats, but hey..!). We enjoyed dry weather throughout, despite the forecast, and an enjoyable drive over in several mini convoys from Moreton in Marsh to Revills Farm Shop near Pershore. There was one very elusive right hand turn around Snowhill which most of us drove straight past, but after a bit of time with the map, we were soon back on the route. Thanks to Steve-have-you-seen-my-cool-new-numberplate-Dymoke for the route :-)

Darren at Revills couldn't have been more accommodating, proudly explaining the farming techniques to us in an adjacent field. Then it was in to grab a table and eat some very tasty spargle for lunch, before raiding the shop and heading off down the road to Croome Park.

Here we set about burning the lunchtime calories with a nice walk and a look around the House, complete with some fairly questionable decorating courtesy of it's custodians from a couple of decades ago, the Hare Krishner Movement. Much disturbed by the unusual colour scheme, we were therefore forced to decamp to the Tea Rooms and recover over tea and cake!

An interesting event in the Calendar really, one that perhaps brought out some new members who wouldn't be interested in anything too 'car focussed'. It's popularity means that we will certainly try and include other, similarly diverse, club events in the future. *MW.*

Alfas gathered at Revills farm shop



Coming Up

National Alfa Day - Sunday 17th - Basildon Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 9NR

The AROC will hold its annual national gathering at Basildon Park.

Wednesday 20th July starting from the Merrymouth Inn. We will be having a "**Summer drive out**" to a pub (venue to be confirmed) leaving the Merrymouth by 7:45pm

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY

SUNDAY 26TH JUNE

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!!!

Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este

Following in the steps of a number of members who have visited before I made my first trip to the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este in Cernobbio on the banks of Lake Como.

I joined our own Richard Rees and Brian Smith of the Central Mids Section for the trip at the end of May.

Saturday was the main event at the Villa d'Este, with Sunday being the public day at Villa Erba a short drive down the lake between the two and passing our hotel!

We arrived in Cernobbio on the Friday after the indignity of the Peugeot 206 hire car and immersed ourselves in Italian vino and food at the Trattoria del Vapore. After a slow start on Saturday morning and a visit to Como, we made our way to Villa Erba to take a preview of the cars up for auction at the RM auction who had associated themselves with this years event. Amongst the true exotica including the 3.1 - 3.8 million euro guide price for the stunning 1938 Talbot Lago Teardrop Coupe sat two beautiful Alfas. A 1964 TZ that went for 627,200 euro and a 1962 Coda Tronca that failed to sell having a 300,000 euro guide price. Part of the auction featured the first batch of cars to come under the hammer from the financially troubled Carrozzeria Bertone collection. Sad to see them being sold but so special to see some of the iconic concept cars including the 1970 Lancia Stratos HF Zero that led to the Group 4 conquering Stratos rally cars.

However the evening couldn't have made for a relaxed auction given the tremendous storm that came in over the mountains, forcing us to take cover in a local bar ;-)

On a brighter morning an early breakfast on the hotel terrace allowed us a ring side view of the cars making the short distance from Villa d'Este down to Villa Erba.

This was a real highlight given many of the cars arrive via car transporter rather than under their own steam.

Then through the organised Italian queuing chaos we were able to get up close and personal with some wonderful and unique vehicles.

Villa Erba public vote winner was a stunning 1942 Bertone bodied Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 SS Coupé. One of my favourites was the 1955 1900C Super Sprint.

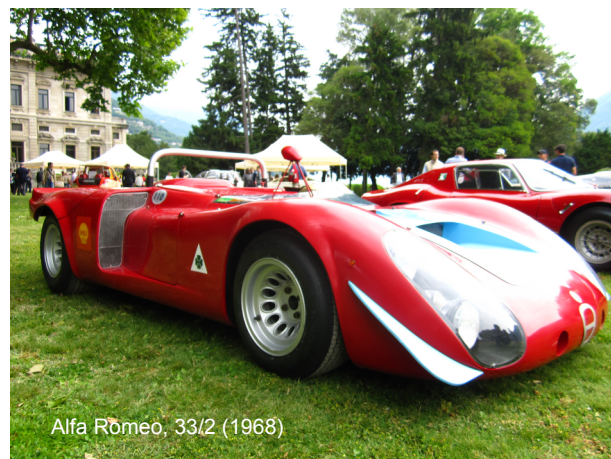
A leisurely morning around Lake Como and lunch at a local pizzeria in the hills above Cernobbio rounded off a brilliant weekend and a show well worth the effort to attend.



Villa Erba from Lake Como



TZ in RM auction



Alfa Romeo, 33/2 (1968)



1962 Giulietta Sprint Zagato 'Coda Tronca'



Lancia Stratos HF Zero



Alfa Romeo, 1900C Super Sprint (1955)



1968 Alfa Romeo, 33 Stradale



Alfa Romeo, 6C 2500 SS, Coupé, Bertone, 1942

KW at Donington

As I mentioned last month the Alfa 155 KW took to the track for the first time at Donington on Sat 4th June.

With 3 members of the Scuderia at Donny we attended the sign on and briefing whilst looking with a little concern at some of the other track day weaponry arriving. Ariel Atoms, Porsche 911s and an obviously race prepared nemesis in the shape of a 3 series B*W!

A sighting lap with Matt's 90 and Brian's Brera in formation, the lights went green and the KW was left for its first lap at speed on the circuit.

After my initial stint Brian took the car out and returned with an equally large smile in his face. It was then over to the not so tame racing driver Stig Willmott! With the tales of what he had done to Mrs Willmott's 156 we were keen to see how he got on. No surprises he was quickest by the unofficial lap timing that we didn't take ;-)

As the morning went on the tyres warmed and Matt certainly brought on the initial phase of wear on the toyos, and just before lunch I went round as a passenger with him.

Suffice to say I was a little green after that experience but it confirmed how good the brakes were! It also showed me how much more I could push the car (took 6 secs of my lap time after lunch).

A heavy shower thinned the field out later in the afternoon and made for a great end of the session. And what a brilliant day, my first track day and I'm officially hooked! Although not the fastest car on the circuit the smiles per mile were by far the greatest and all whilst flying the flag for Alfa!
Look out Silverstone here we come! - MB



Scuderia Kontz @ Donington.



A little tyre wear!!!!

***"At least this way I'll still see her
occasionally!"***

Matt Willmott gives us a few words about the recent change of ownership of his beloved 90.

From the moment C92 SLY came trundling over the grass at MITCAR 2010 with what looked like a 'For Sale' sticker attached to the bronze tinted window, I was hooked. Owning an Alfa is a pretty special experience anyway, but owning a rare one takes it that stage further again. And so it came to pass that the total amount of Willmott money amassed at that point towards a new kitchen was spent instead, on a car!

Strangely though, Mrs W and family quite took to the thing, laughing at the way the inside glowed an interesting 'radioactive' green from the courtesy lights at night. And switching the digital display from mph to kph whilst on the go was always worth a laugh! But the kids bikes aren't getting any smaller, and the Spider interior has seen better days, so for reasons of space and money (the usual, then), I came around to the idea of stepping back to 'just' the one classic car this year.

And it turns out that finding a buyer was relatively straightforward. I approached the 3 or 4 people who had always shown a real amount of interest in the car, and received offers very near my asking price from 2 of them. No contest though, as one of the two is our own Rod Ashton from the Section, and I am delighted that the car is going to such capable hands. Rod drove away about an hour ago, as I write this, and no doubt will have cured the slight squeak from the clutch pedal by the end of the day!!

I haven't had the car that long really, just 18 months, but am very glad that I have had some time with a 90. Pretty cars they aint, and many won't really see the appeal, but for sheer quirkiness and character they score very highly, and with just 2 or 3 legal one's in the UK now, you do feel 'individual'! Highlight of ownership was probably getting the personal invite to drive up Shelsley Walsh in the Special Vehicle Display at the Centenary N.A.D., and mixing it with some very prized Alfas indeed. All the best Rod, and bring her out to play often please, so I can see the old girl from time to time still. - MW

***Pink Ribbon Walk
Hazel Mills***

Hazel Mills would like to say thanks to everyone who sponsored her in her recent walk for Breast Cancer.

"Can you please send a "Thank you" to all who donated to Breast Cancer Care for my first charity walk on May 21st. I have raised nearly £400. There is still time for donations until July. This is what the money can provide: £10 pays to provide a comprehensive, easy-to-understand pack of information for someone newly diagnosed with breast cancer; £23 pays for an expert helpline team to talk with a caller in confidence about any questions or worries they may have; £132 pays for someone to receive regular support from a specially trained volunteer who has had a similar experience and understand what they're going through.

This is what we have helped to provide and I really appreciate the support given by Cotswold AROC members"

Well done Hazel and an excellent amount of money raised - MB



Rod Ashton with his 'new' 90'



Hazel striding out on the Pink Ribbon Walk