

COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



Well I'm not sure if I missed the summer but it's been more a case of making use of the few better days to get out and enjoy some hood down motoring.

Having just spent the day in the Spider blasting around the Cotswold's in bright post gale sunshine, things do seem pretty good in the Alfa world though ! - MB

The Loxley Re-run

After a highly successful Loxley run in 2009 to celebrate John and Hazel Mills Giallo Ochra Bertone Coupe taking to the road again after a little fettling, a 2011 re-run was planned.

The gathered collection of cars met at The Bell at Alderminster for coffee and a briefing from John along with route directions and groupings for the day (unfortunately Mark Grimshaw and myself missed most of the briefing refitting my wayward number plate!). Our ultimate destination was Compton Verney for the traditional picnic lunch via some stunning parts of Warwickshire and the Hollybush Inn at Priors Marston for a pit stop en route. The pub also had The Spice Traders present, purveyors of fine quality dried herbs & spices and a brisk trade was done.

The cars included 8 Alfa Romeos, 2 Fiats, a Mercedes, MG Midget, Triumph GT6 (on its maiden journey after restoration), Mazda MR5 and a Mini Cooper doubling as a recovery vehicle for David (not Dave Hood by the way) who was cycling the entire 60 mile route and who had been given a head start!

The GT6 overheated and retired part way along the route, but has since fully recovered and is doing well.

After a quick re-group following the loss of the Triumph, we headed off on a more rural set of roads dodging the odd shower with Spider hoods going up and coming down more than once. After a good shake down on some more rural roads (number plate survived) we were greeted by a combine harvester actually driving with both wheels on the verge rather than the road!

John and Hazel had arranged a brilliant parking spot directly in front of Compton Verney with the beautiful parkland in front of us. Picnic time and true to form the English summer didn't fail to disappoint, but brollies up we braved the showers and in an instant had glorious sunshine. Picnic of the day was a close run thing but Rod's fish terrine was a joy to behold

A massive thank you to John and Hazel for all their hard work in organising a great day, the route planning and arranging entrance to Compton Verney.

Loxley run take 3 in 2013 perhaps? - MB



John & Hazel's Bertie at Compton Verney.

Oxfordshire Classic Car Show

Richard Morris was out and about again this time at Blenheim.

I went along to the 6th Oxfordshire Classic Car Show at Blenheim Palace on the Monday of the August Bank holiday weekend (with the whole family squashed into the car) and upon arrival I was pleased to find a parking slot alongside another Bertone Coupe. It was John Graham's automatic 2000 GTV and as I hadn't seen John for a while it was nice to catch up. He's promised to try and get along to more of our meetings but as he works late on Wednesdays it's difficult for him. My parents and my nephew were also in attendance in Dad's 1946 Morris 8 and thankfully my Mum took the children off my hands for most of the day. Thanks Mum!

As well as my and John's cars there were two other Bertone's both equipped for the track. I also spotted two Spiders; a tidy looking Series 4 that was for sale and a Duetto, sporting (what to me seemed entirely inappropriate) Alfaholics alloy wheels.

There were many car clubs in attendance including the Bristol Owners and Drivers Association and their collection of cars were very impressive. I do like Bristols (oo-er Mrs!). A lovely deep blue Facel Vega caught my eye, as did a very black Dodge Charger. I didn't enter the Alfa in the concours (its concours day are long gone) but Will (my 10 year old son) and I did grab the Morris when Dad wasn't looking and entered that. Unfortunately we didn't win a prize. *RM*



Duetto with suspect wheels and race ready Bertie !



Walk in the forest Sunday 23rd October

We are arranging a walk in the Forest of Dean around the Sculpture trail, parking at Beechenhurst, we will then walk the Sculpture Trail (weather permitting) followed by a picnic or a visit to a local pub. The walk should take around an hour and a half to two hours and is not overly strenuous, there are shortcuts back to the car park should anyone feel the need.

If you are interested in joining us please get in touch stating if you would prefer a picnic or a pub lunch.

For details have a look here <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/ourwoods.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/EnglandGloucestershireNoForestForestOfDeanBeechenhurstLodgeSculptureTrail> - *MB*



Photo's - Richard Morris

Caption Competition

Steve Dymoke did not have such a good day at the Brands Hatch round of this year's ARCA championship. A mechanical failure led to the bonnet on his 156 flipping backwards restyling the windscreen and roof in the process.

Steve has sportingly allowed me to publish this picture from the day and we are inviting your captions.

The winning caption will be announced in the November Newsletter. - *MB*



Photo courtesy of Steve Dymoke