

# Alfa Romeo Owners Club COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



May 2013

## COTSWOLD ALFA DAY Sunday June 23rd

Plans for CAD 2013 are really coming together. Your committee have another site visit lined up, the route for Giro Panoramico is prepared, the stickers are printed, the tickets are on sale, and the sunshine is ordered!

You can purchase two levels of entry. You can take part in Giro Panoramico before enjoying the joys of Stanway House or you go directly to Stanway and skip the Giro. If you fancy taking part in Giro Panoramico make sure you arrive at the Green in Twynning between 9:30am and 10:30am. Here you'll receive a bacon roll, a tea or coffee, a route plan and a Giro Panoramico sticker. When you reach Stanway you'll have access to the grounds, gardens, water mill and tythe barn. Tickets that include all this are just £11 per person. The price for under 12s is £3.50. If you prefer to go to Stanway and skip Giro Panoramico you'll get access to the grounds, gardens, water mill and tythe barn for £7.50 per person. Under 12s get free entry. If you are intending to go straight to Stanway please do not arrive before 11:30am – it will not be open!

Application forms for both types of tickets will be available at all of our events and meetings leading up to CAD. They are also on our website.

Please note that the house at Stanway is not open to the public.

## THE BEER'S OFF! (but only temporarily)

We've been trying to organise a brewery tour and our first choice was the Wychwood Brewery in Witney. I did a quick tour a few weeks ago and although the tour was very enjoyable and the beer even more so, we have decided it is not suitable for a Section visit. The brewery's town centre location means car parking is very limited. Also the tours are restricted to 12 people and if we split into two groups it would mean a lot of hanging around.

As an alternative we are looking at the North Cotswold Brewery in Stretton on Fosse and should have some news for you next month. *RM*

We are  
still planning our  
weekend away in  
North Wales. More  
news next  
month.

## EVENTS

### June

**Wednesday 19th.** Regular meeting at the Feathered Nest.

**Sunday 23rd. COTSWOLD ALFA DAY.**

**Sunday 30th.** Simply Alfa Romeo at Beaulieu. We'd like to run a convoy to this event. Interested? Let us know. PTO for more details.

### July

**Thursday 4th.** Witney Motor Show. Henry Box Playing Fields, Ducklington Lane, Witney. 6pm to 9pm. Public admission is just £2 per person. Free entry for drivers of exhibiting cars and £1 for passengers.

**Wednesday 17th.** Regular monthly meeting at the Feathered Nest. Tonight we're extra keen to encourage wives, girlfriends and partners to join us.

**Saturday 20th.** Evening BBQ at Twynning with the Austin Healey Club.

**Friday 26th to Sunday 28th.** Silverstone Classic. AROC will have a dedicated display area.

### August

**Sunday 18th.** Tewkesbury Classic Car Show. Free for exhibitor drivers. £5 public entry. Under 16s free. Starts 11am at Tewkesbury School, Ashchurch Road.

**Wednesday 21st.** Regular monthly meeting at the Feathered Nest. Polish your nuts it's fun concours night!

**Sunday 25th & Monday 26th.** Blenheim Palace Festival of Transport.

**Saturday 31st.** Donington Grand Prix Collection. See below.

## DONINGTON GRAND PRIX COLLECTION

As you will have noticed from the events list we have booked a visit to the The Donington Grand Prix Collection. Our trip takes place on Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> and we have negotiated a discounted admission price of just £8 per person. This represents great value given that the collection is the largest showcase of Grand Prix racing cars in the world. There are four halls featuring over 130 exhibits including cars driven by such famous names as Nuvolari,

Moss, Fangio, Stewart, Prost and Mansell. The Collection also houses the largest collection of McLaren and Williams racing cars in the world (outside of their respective factories), and the only complete collection of Vanwalls.

We plan to arrange a convoy run, possibly from somewhere near the NEC in order that members from all over our extensive region can join in. It's a trip not to be missed. More details in due course. *RM*

The Asparagus Run on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April was our first real section event of the year and it was great to catch up with old friends. We were also joined by three couples taking part in their first Cotswold section outing; Laurence and Barbara Marks, Charlie Newman and Maggie, and Doug and Deb Lowe.

We gathered at 12 noon at Revill's Farm shop which has undergone a recent expansion and is well worth a visit if you are in the area. I'm happy to report that despite the prolonged and very cold winter, the asparagus crop is growing strongly, although it is nowhere near the level it should be for this time of year. However the crop had progressed sufficiently for us to be treated to a delicious lunch of fresh asparagus as planned.

After lunch, and the opportunity to buy lots of fresh asparagus (picked specially for us), we took a leisurely drive via Ankerdine Hill and Martley, and enjoyed fantastic views over the Worcestershire countryside, to the spectacular ruins of Witley Court.

Having enjoyed the ruins and the gardens, including the two immense fountains, and the neighbouring church with its splendid baroque interior, we congregated in the warmth of the tearoom where more food was devoured! In all, a great day out. *MG*



## Cheltenham Cleeve Vale Rotary Club Event at **PRESCOTT HILL**

A fine selection of Alfas turned up at Prescott to support this popular event, 10 in our club parking which unlike previous years the was not held in the Orchard but was moved to the hill above the paddock. This gave a great view over most of the track, was on a graveled surface rather than grass, and gave easy access to the paddock and facilities. However, there was a slightly less included feel to it and less of the spectators appeared to be making the trek up the hill to look at the cars. There were a further 6 Alfas in the paddock to try their luck on the hill and they were joined by Mike Rysiecki in his pristine Fiat 124 Spider. Another half dozen or so Alfas were spotted in the spectator car park.

As has become customary over the last few years Sir Stirling Moss attended the event and a dinner was held on the Saturday evening in the newly refurbished Bugatti Owners Clubhouse. Section members John and Hazel Mills and Roger Lewis went along for the evening and had a great time with Stirling, see Hazel's report right.

As ever this event was an eclectic mix of marques with everything from a 3 wheeled single seater based on a Citroen 2CV to hot off the production line a brand new Jaguar F type.

The morning session was held in decent enough weather and the track was dry enough for a few to 'really give it a go' but as the morning wore on the air got damper and the track started to get a bit greasy. The rain started just in time for our luncheon picnic which in true Brit spirit was held in deckchairs under umbrellas!

The weather put a bit of a dampener on the afternoon session with only around a third of the cars risking the now wet track. Nevertheless everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves and Prescott remains a popular and well attended event.



Right: Hazel with Sir Stirling and Lady Susie Moss



The dinner was held in the superbly renovated Prescott Hill Clubhouse and John, Roger and I can thoroughly recommend it. Sir Stirling and Lady Susie Moss were seated at a table central to the restaurant so that everyone had a fine view when it came to the after dinner question and answer session. There was a very generous 4 course meal, including carvery, served by very many and able staff. The highlight of the evening was that members of each table of guests were invited to write down questions which they would like to ask Sir Stirling and these were fielded with great wit and wisdom during coffee. Questions ranged from 'Have you ever been blue flagged?', 'What was your

most challenging competitive event?', 'Which was the most challenging car?' (Can you believe BRM?), 'What is your latest gadget?', to questions asking for comparisons of drivers and racing in the past with those of today. I am not giving away any of the answers, because I hope more of us have the chance to meet him at the next Cheltenham Cleeve Vale Rotary Club Dinner next year! *HM*

## Simply Alfa Romeo @ Beaulieu

Owners of Alfa Romeos are invited to the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June for an Alfa only event - Simply Alfa Romeo. All models, whether classic or modern, are welcome. There will be a dedicated parking area, plus a cavalcade and display on the main arena of 20 cars chosen by participants on the day, and one of these cars will receive the People's

Choice Award and The Beaulieu Trophy.

Admission is £10 per person (£5 for children). This includes entry to all of Beaulieu's other attractions. Gates open at 9.30.

So that we can park together we plan to arrive together. Our convoy will depart from Chieveley Services at Junction 13 of the M4 at 9.00am for the run down the A34 to Hampshire.