

Alfa Romeo Owners Club COTSWOLD SECTION NEWSLETTER



November 2013

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY



BLENHEIM PALACE



June 29th 2014

Yes we're returning to the Palace! We were last there to celebrate Alfa's centenary in 2010 and with another landmark anniversary in 2014 - namely the Clubs 50th - we thought it was fitting to return to one of the country's premier stately homes.

Cotswold Alfa Day 2014 will follow the well known format of morning coffee and scenic drive, followed by a gathering at our main venue.

And what a venue!

Entry cost is yet to be confirmed but it will include the park, gardens, pleasure gardens, maze, butterfly house, adventure playground, etc. Entry to the Palace itself will be extra. Some of you may have Blenheim Passes and of course those will be valid on the day.

We have arranged a prominent parking area directly in front of the Palace where we will be very visible to the visiting public. We'll have the Palace as a backdrop and a stunning view across the lake in front of us.

Tickets will go on sale in the New Year and more news will be released as and when we have it. *RM*

Our Christmas Lunch at Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton, is on Saturday 7th December. Please aim to arrive around 12 noon. We sit down at 1pm.

EVENTS

December

Saturday 7th. Christmas Lunch at Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton. Fully booked.

January

Date TBC. Skittles at the Coach and Horses Inn, Longborough. This may take place during our regular January meeting on Wednesday 15th or we may opt for a Saturday lunchtime. Details soon.

February

Wednesday 19th. Regular meet and Section AGM.

AUTUMN WALK Sunday November 10th

11 Cotswolders met in the middle of nowhere on a bright, clear Autumnal day for a ramble. This being Remembrance Sunday we observed a minutes silence before setting off through Guiting Woods and alongside the Castlett stream. Then we turned east and strode over the hill to Kinton where we had a quick one at the Halfway House. Then it as down to



the Windrush fords for a paddle (for those of us who were suitably attired, or young and daft enough to go barefoot). At one point our play was interrupted by a 1980s Land Rover

that insisted on tackling the second ford three times! Actually it was quite entertaining to watch. Then we headed up the hill to be greeted by an angry and very vocal ram sporting an impressive set of horns. Thankfully he decided to stand his ground rather launch a full assault! We then marched over the hill to Castlett Farm where the youngsters were shocked to see pheasants hanging. We briefly stopped to talk to some horses, and yours truly got zapped by the electric fence, before moving on to enjoy a lovely view over the lake. We descended to yet another ford which marked the start of the final leg and we were soon back at the cars, back into comfortable (and dry) footwear and heading for home. A very enjoyable day made even more so by the pleasant company and the glorious weather. *RM*



Photos: John Mills

Mark Grimshaw reports on our visit to the North Cotswold Brewery which took place on Saturday 19th October.



Above: Cotswold members sample the breweries products

North Cotswold Brewery is a family run craft brewery situated on the Fosseway a few miles outside Moreton-in-Marsh near Shipston-on-Stour. The brewery was established in 1999. Producing award winning 'Fine Ales from the Fosse' the brewery has a core range of four beers, Windrush Ale, Cotswold Best, Shagweaver and Hung, Drawn 'n' Portered.

The Brewery is run by husband and wife team Guy and Sandra Holiday. 20 members of the section came along in a mix of classic and modern cars and after negotiating the very rough track to the brewery with the exhaust scraping on the 'sleeping policemen' we started the day with a talk by Guy in the courtyard, in fact to be fair we actually started with a beer. Guy dished out pint mugs and Sandra went round with a tray of nibbles, plus jugs of beer refilling the glasses as soon as they became empty. Sadly most of us were driving so couldn't take full advantage of their generosity.

We then moved into the Brewery to see the process of brewing where Guy also explained how some of the beers got their names, not least of which is the Shagweaver, my favourite. Shag is the local name for a wool fleece and weaving is what you do with wool!

After the tour there was the opportunity to buy some of the beers which most of us did. We then moved on for lunch at the Halford Bridge Inn and a good day was had by all.

For more information about the brewery please see their website at www.northcotswoldbrewery.co.uk MG



Steve Dymoke considers diving in (photos by Wendy Conway)

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO MONTHLY GATHERING IN DECEMBER

Alfa 4x4 development



From the weird and wonderful world that is the internet how about this for the winter months? No need to bother about winter tyres and no worrying about getting stuck in snowdrifts!

I'm sure Fiat/Chrysler are looking at some of the shared SUV platforms for the new Alfa 4x4 but why bother? Just bring back the Matta halftrack. MB

Mark Byatt dropped in on the AlfaOwner Boxer Meet at Cadwell Park at the end of last month.

Sunday 27th October saw a return to Cadwell Park almost a year on since my last visit when the 155 KW expired on track with Captain Fast Willmott at the wheel.

The event was once again the AlfaOwner Boxer meet where a number of trackday Suds and 33s took to the track which was decidedly slippery following overnight rain and the addition of fallen leaves deposited by a gusting wind.

Jamie Porter was also present in his trackday 75, sporting SZ adjustable suspension, which looked really balanced and quick through the twisty bits of the Cadwell circuit.



Ted Pearson's Sud looking as good as it did when Ted campaigned the car back in the 80s

Another quick and well set-up car was Ted Pearson's stunning Alfasud sporting Trofeo arches blended into the bodywork. Whilst it was out dragged by some of the more modern stuff on the straights, little could live with Ted and the Sud through the corners. I think it would have consistently lapped as one of the quickest cars had timing and a clear circuit allowed.

A Fiat coupe clearly wasn't as planted and got it very wrong heading towards the Forest area where it ended up head on into the Armco, bringing yet another red flag (8 red flags before I left illustrated a combination of slippery surface, and speed v ability!). Nobody was hurt but that was one car that was heading home on a recovery vehicle.

Another casualty was Kev Plowman in his Sud, not the beauty he restored that now resides with James Wheeler at Black and White Garage, but his trackday monster running a 1.7 16v motor. The slicks ran out of grip and he ended up on the grass and then in the Armco with a restyled the passenger side the result. Thankfully there were



Kev Plowman's Sud after his off. The rear quarter took the worst of the impact.

no injuries to Kev or his passenger. I was next up for a passenger lap with Kev but unfortunately I had to leave before the hammer work was complete! A good chance to catch up with the boxer lads and with three Suds, three 33s and a 75 on-track, along with GTV6, 164 Greenclough leaf plus 166s, 156s, GTs and another 33 amongst the spectators drives, it was a good Alfa gathering.

I'm not convinced Cadwell is a happy hunting ground for me so I think the 155 KW will stay a little more local in 2014, with both Donington and Silverstone currently on the list. MB