

**NEW EVENT**

## **DRIVE-IT-DAY**

### **Sunday April 27th**

The Cotswold Section has decided to organise a run for Drive It Day for those of you who are not already joining with any other events. Both classic and modern Alfas are welcome to partake in an informal drive to The Motor Heritage Museum at Gaydon.

The arrangements are to meet at the car park of the Stratford Garden Centre (postcode CV37 8LW) at 10.30am (the garden centre opens at 10.30am) [www.stratfordgardencentre.co.uk/](http://www.stratfordgardencentre.co.uk/) It is situated on the B4632 about 2 miles to the south of Stratford through the village of Clifford Chambers.

We will depart from the garden centre at approximately 10.45am for a 'follow my leader' journey through various villages to The Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon which is one of the centres for Drive It Day.

At Gaydon there is reserved parking for classic cars and free access to the grounds, café and toilets, and also reduced museum entry of £5.00 for classic car owners. Drivers of modern Alfas will unfortunately need to pay the standard museum admission price of £12.00 for adults and £10.00 for concessions.

Mark Byatt contacted Gaydon just to clarify what constitutes a classic car. Their official line is that classics must be over 30 years old. However they will waive this rule for Series 3 and 4 Spiders. If we all arrive together at Gaydon they may also make exceptions for things like 75s, SZs, 33s, Alfettas and GTVs (116) and Sud Sprints.

You can find out more at the following web addresses:

[www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/](http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/)

[www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/event/drive-it-day/](http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/event/drive-it-day/)

For general information on Drive it Day see [www.fbhvc.co.uk](http://www.fbhvc.co.uk)

For added interest, there is also a Toy and Collectors Fair taking place at Gaydon on the same day.

Members wishing to take part should let the Cotswold Section Committee know during our April meeting or by dropping an email to the committee email address [aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk) by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

JM

**EVENTS****APRIL**

**Saturday 19th.** Bristol Italian Auto Moto Festival. Great show on the streets of Bristol's Old Town. Fabulous cars and bikes, and a wonderful atmosphere (if the weather is OK).

**Monday 21st** (Easter Monday). Coleford Carnival of Transport. The town centre of Coleford in the Forest of Dean is closed off so that vehicles of all types and periods can be displayed side by side. It is probably too late to enter a vehicle now but you never know. Full details here; [www.colefordcarnivaloftransport.org](http://www.colefordcarnivaloftransport.org)

**Sunday 27th Drive-it-Day.** See left for Section plans and pto for further events.

**MAY**

**Saturday 3rd.** Auto Italia Spring Italian Car Day at Brooklands. For further details please visit; [www.auto-italia.co.uk/events.asp](http://www.auto-italia.co.uk/events.asp) and here; [www.brooklandsmuseum.com/index.php?/events/details/auto-italia-italian-car-day2/](http://www.brooklandsmuseum.com/index.php?/events/details/auto-italia-italian-car-day2/)

**Sunday 4th - Monday 5th.** Stratford Festival of Motoring. Around 300 classic cars will be taking part in runs around the Warwickshire and Gloucestershire countryside on both days and then parking up on closed streets in the town centre. Details here; [www.theopenroad.co.uk](http://www.theopenroad.co.uk)

**Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th.** AROC 50th Anniversary Weekend at Boughton House and Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground. Full details in Club Magazine and on the Club website.

**Sunday 18th.** Breakfast at Twynning. Meet on the Green from 10.00am.

**Wednesday 21st.** Regular monthly meeting at the Fox.

**Sunday 25th - Monday 26th.** Ragley Hall Classic Car and Transport Show. Over 600 vehicles in a beautiful setting near Alcester, Warwickshire. For more information please visit [www.transtar-promotions.co.uk/home/ragley-hall/](http://www.transtar-promotions.co.uk/home/ragley-hall/)

[www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds](http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds)

## More **DRIVE-IT-DAY** events

If you really don't fancy joining us for our own Section event on the 27<sup>th</sup> (see page 1) here are details of a few others.

Hagerty Classic Car Run. Start point is Silverstone Racing Club between 8.30am and 9.30am. Planned route to Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon.

Around 150 classic cars and bikes are expected to descend on the Royal Oak in Bishopstone between Wantage and Swindon. Cars will be coming and going all day with the first arriving around 10.00am.

The Cotswold Motor Museum in Bourton-on-the-Water are expecting around 60 MGs and other classics to arrive from 11.00am. Some will be parked outside the museum others will be located nearby at the British Legion.

If you are near Stroud you are in luck as the town is playing host to two classic car meets. The first takes place on the Masons Road Playing Fields, Bisley Old Road, GL5 1NL from 11am and is being supported by the Cotswold Classic Car Club. The second is based at St. Rose's School, Stratford Lawn, GL4 5PA. It is an annual show, entitled 'Wheel Nuts', and attracts around 400 vehicles. Full details here [www.stroses.org.uk/wheelnuts.html](http://www.stroses.org.uk/wheelnuts.html)

Hazel Mills reports on last months

## Curry Night

At the AGM in our new 'home' at The Fox, we warmed to the idea of a Curry Night for the first social meeting to start off the year's programme. So on March 19<sup>th</sup>, sixteen Cotswold members sat down to a choice of two delicious curries, saffron rice, naan bread, poppadoms and chutney, served buffet style and regularly replenished. For those who preferred more traditional fayre there was the vast choice from the regular pub menu all served equally with a smile. Even Dave Hood and Rod Ashton had not felt the need to eat elsewhere on route, but were seen tucking in! Johnny Hulme, one of our newer members, first seen at the AGM, had a great time picking up contacts and tips for his newly acquired Duetto. The Fox, a traditional pub with a roaring log fire in the colder months, is ideal for a natter, drink in hand. We even have the benefit of our own meeting room, which that night doubled as the Indian restaurant! As the evening progressed the buzz of conversation grew louder and louder, even drowning out the roars from the darts teams next door! I have not experienced such a relaxed and lively meeting from this hot bed of 'like minds' when at previous venues. There were a number of comments overheard about the success of the club being down to the friendliness of its members and the fact that events arranged went that 'extra mile' to offer something different. Well, Curry Night was certainly a success – even for Emma and myself outnumbered by the males, but who had a great time discussing – would you believe – cars – but Fiats and Mini's (the Issigonis version of course!). HM

Mark Byatt found this snippet of 'news' in the Metro (the newspaper not the car).

### Italy is hell on wheels, British drivers reveal.

IT WON'T surprise any British driver to learn that Italy is officially the world's worst country to drive in. Erratic and speed-mad drivers, bustling city centres and bad roads all drive us around the bend when we go there. A poll of 2,000 drivers who have driven abroad put Italy ahead of France and Spain. 'It's always best to just keep your cool,' advised a spokesman for Carrentals.co.uk.

### Mark Byatt on the Shelsley Walsh Breakfast Club.

A new event for us in early April was the Shelsley Walsh Breakfast club which is an informal gathering of classic car owners, car clubs, and motoring enthusiasts of all persuasions held each month at the historic hill climb venue in Worcestershire.



Following some early spring sunshine it looked as if Sunday was set to return to the more familiar deluge. Fortunately although cloudy the weather held and we had a good turn out. We had Mark Grimshaw's S3 Spider, Geoff and Doreen Poyner's S4 Spider, a brace of 916 GTV's, a 156 GTA SW, a GT, Alec's 500 Abarth, and letting the side down the Bidford contingent in a B\*W!

Once we were parked up in the Paddock area the first thing needed was breakfast. Everyone else had the same idea so a fair sized queue developed. Thankfully the team in the restaurant were clearly well prepared

and the wait didn't turn out to be too long. Anyway the very hearty breakfast, including fried bread (!!!), was well worth the wait.

Then it was time for a wander around the eclectic mix of cars, ranging from a stunning SZ to of all things an Rover Metro (not one of



Longbridge's finest, but car ownership is a broad church as they say!).

A new Jaguar F Type Coupe rubbed shoulders with two dark blue E-Type's and I know where my money would have gone had I had a lottery win. The E-Type wins hands down in my book. Most of us then had a post breakfast stroll up the hill climb course which is

deceptively steep in the initial section but was a good way to burn off the fry-up. A final circuit of the gathered cars and we were just about the last to leave.

Despite the slightly gloomy weather there was a real mix of cars and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. With Breakfast at Twyning, and Prescott also doing a Breakfast Club Meeting, we will be sure to attend further early morning gatherings as the summer arrives. And no doubt a return to Shelsley will also be on the cards some time in the coming months. MB



Photos by Mark Byatt

Top left: A line up of Alfas with Mark G's S3 to the fore.

Centre: MG VA

Bottom right: A 1989 Metro. Rover had stopped using the Austin name in 1987. From then until 1990 Metros were simply badged as Metro, as on this example, with no manufacturers name displayed. In 1990 Rover stuck their own badges on Metro's and they became Rover Metros. Then in 1995 Rover dropped the Metro name and they became Rover 100s. From 1982 until 1990 Metros also carried the MG name and from 1982 until 1989 the Metro could also be seen wearing Vanden Plas badges. The Morris name was only ever applied to Metro vans. All Metro production ceased in 1998. Did you know the Metro, in all it's guises, is the seventh best selling car in Britain ever? Not a lot of people know that. And not a lot of people care!