

Alfa Romeo Owners Club COTSWOLD SECTION

NEWSLETTER

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January 2014

Firstly let me apologise for the lack of a Newsletter last month. Although there was no meeting last month it was my intention to produce a Newsletter for Mark G to put on the website. But with carol services, nativity plays and nights out with colleagues in the run up to Christmas, and then illness during that strange week between Christmas and New Year, I never got further than writing an introduction. The introduction was supposed to lead into a look back at the Sections activities and events of 2013. I feel I've missed the boat now, so rather than look back we'll look ahead to what 2014 has in store. Oh and before I go any further I better say... Happy New Year! *RM*

Before your committee commits itself to planning an event it is important to know if that event is of interest to our members. On this list those events where we would like to gauge interest before proceeding are high-lighted in yellow. Please let us know either way.

2014

January

Wednesday 15th. Regular meet at the Feathered Nest. We had hoped to organise a **skittles match** to take place during the meet but we've left it a bit late. It is still our intention to hold one at some point and as soon as we have sorted out a date we'll let you know.

February

Wednesday 19th. Regular meet and Section AGM. This is your chance to have a say about how the Section is run. We'll chat over how the Section is doing and what we expect from it in the year to come. Do you have an idea for an event? Is there something that you think the Section should be doing? Do you like the way the Section operates? Could it be improved? Share your opinion with the Section Committee, we welcome your input.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mark G and Steve as they step down from the Committee. So far no one has come forward to join Mark B and John M on the committee. **YOUR SECTION NEEDS YOU.** For the future of the Section it is important that at least one other person joins the Committee. If you feel you can offer practical support to help the Section run smoothly we would love to hear from you.

March

Wednesday 19th. Regular meet. Fancy a curry? For one night only we are considering swapping the Feathered Nest for an Indian Restaurant possibly in Moreton-in-Marsh. What do you think? Everyone loves a curry, don't they?

Another event we thought of for March was a clay pigeon shoot. We haven't really looked at costs yet, we just wanted to get an idea of whether it was the sort of thing that you'd enjoy. Let us know what you think.

April

Saturday 5th. Alfaholics Trackday at Castle Combe. The Section has no plans to attend *en masse*.

Sunday 6th. Our season-opener. We plan to attend the Shelsley Walsh Breakfast Club. We will meet near Worcester and then convoy to the historic Hill Climb venue. At Shelsley there is no entry fee, the gates open at 9am and close at 12pm with breakfast served in the Stratstone Restaurant for a very reasonable price. This is a very popular event attended by many car clubs and there is always a wide variety of cars old and new on show. Does this sound like something you would enjoy? Let us know.

Wednesday 16th. Regular monthly meet.

Sunday 27th. Drive-it-Day. The annual event organised by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs. If there is enough interest from our members we will organise a drive and pub lunch possibly in the Brecon Beacons. Open to all Alfas, modern and classic. Let us know if you are interested.

May

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th. AROC 50th celebration weekend at Boughton House.

Wednesday 21st. Regular monthly meet.

June

Sunday 8th. Churchill Classic Car Show. Entry form available on our website or from committee members. Don't delay spaces are limited. Pre-1990 cars only (unless it's something special like an SZ or an 8C).

Wednesday 18th. Regular monthly meet.

Saturday 21st. Classic Alfa trackday at Goodwood. If there is enough interest we might arrange a convoy down to West Sussex to spectate.

Sunday 29th. COTSWOLD ALFA DAY. Start point for Giro Panoramico will be the Norman Knight in Whichford, Warwickshire, near Long Compton which is on the A3400 between Shipston-on-Stour and Chipping Norton. The main venue is Blenheim Palace. Ticketing details to be announced very soon.

July

Thursday 10th. Witney Motor Show.

Wednesday 16th. Regular monthly meet including Summer Drive. We'll meet as usual and then drive out in convoy to an alternative pub.

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th. Silvestone Classic. The Club normally has a presence at this event.

August

Sunday 17th. Tewkesbury Classic Car Show. Details here <http://www.tewkesburycvf.org/>

Wednesday 20th. Regular monthly meet and Fun Concours.

Sunday 24th and Monday 25th. Blenheim Palace Festival of Transport.

September

Wednesday 17th. Regular monthly meet.

October

Wednesday 15th. Regular monthly meet.

November

Wednesday 19th. Regular monthly meet.

December

Saturday 6th. Christmas meal. Date and venue to be confirmed.

No doubt some of the information surrounding these events will change as details are confirmed and final planning takes place. The best place to keep up to date is our website. Mark G will continue to maintain the website which includes details of our events and future plans. It also features a copy of our monthly newsletter so if you can't get along to a meeting you can always read it online. Go to www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds.

YOUR SECTION NEEDS YOU

After next months AGM the Section will have a committee of just two, namely John Mills (treasurer) and Mark Byatt (secretary). In the past the Section has generally operated with four committee members sharing the workload. It will be difficult for a committee of two to keep the Section running at the level of previous years. Certainly a lengthy list of events (as seen above for 2014) will be very difficult to achieve in 2015. The committee have always been brilliantly supported by our members but now it is the turn of those members to step forward if they wish to keep their Section alive. *RM*

Christmas came early for the Section with a return to the Three Ways Hotel at Mickleton for our Christmas meal which certainly seemed to kick start the festive season.

An early start meant time to visit the excellent butcher in Mickleton and time for a pre meal drink as everyone gathered in the bar before moving through to the restaurant.

Our group of almost 40 seemed to be the only booking and it was said that our high jinks and balloon battles of previous years had scared the locals off!

The meal was again well received and probably one of the best we've had. The beauty of the Three Ways is that they seem to be able to cope with large groups without any real problems and still maintain a good standard of food.



Another balloon salvo ready for launch. Take cover!!

As the wine flowed so did the inter-table balloon wars with some ex RAF influence leading to a 'shock and awe' style launch by one table, which shall remain nameless (Mark Knight)!

Once pudding was dispatched Mark G said a few words thanking members for their support during the year and the current committee with a personalised bottle of Prosecco which was very gratefully received (thanks again Mr G). Mark also thanked the committee member's wives for the support that they give mostly unseen in the background but recognised all the same.



Section Chair Mark Grimshaw presents Matthew Willmott with a plaque commemorating Matt's 8 years of hard work on the Section Committee

And finally a special thank you to Matthew Willmott for his longstanding support and Committee membership, from the reforming of the section in 2005 through to this

year. Mark presented Matt with a token of thanks from us all.

After that it was time for coffee, chocolates and the end to another thoroughly enjoyable Christmas meal, with a few calls for a return in 2014. *MB*