

## CHURCHILL VINTAGE AND CLASSIC SHOW

*Richard Morris reports*

It was business as usual at Churchill. Once again this bi-annual event was blessed with sunshine, hundreds of historic vehicles and thousands of visitors. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> running of the show and it is far from just a car show. It's more like a village fete with 500 classic and vintage cars thrown in for good measure. As well as the wheeled attractions there was a jazz band, a craft tent, a book stall, a small auto-jumble, a raffle, a BBQ and the all important beer tent. All the proceeds from the event go to local charities and over the years around £150,000 has been raised.

This was the Sections 5<sup>th</sup> time of attending and we were allocated our regular patch right next to the church. This year our line up included a couple of Berties, two Sud Sprints, a 156 GTA, and Chris Savills Giulia Super. But stars of the show were definitely the 3 vintage Alfas. David Bridge's 1924 RL TF and 1930 1750 GS and Max Askew's 1930 1750 GT attracted heaps of attention, and not just from Alfa fans.

With part of the cash from the recent sale of my Alfa burning a hole in my pocket I treated the whole event as a shop window. Predictably most of the stuff I liked was way beyond my budget and within my price range there wasn't really anything that tempted me - not that the cars were for sale anyway.

A nicely patina-ed green 1937 Singer 9 Sports Roadster caught my eye as did Wayne Kelham's 1949 Lancia Ardea. Wayne who jointly runs Thornley-Kelham, a renowned paintshop and restorer near Cirencester, has owned the car for around 20 years. The Ardea which was produced by Lancia between 1939 and 1953 is powered by a 903cc V4 engine and, by the time the 3rd series was released in 1948, featured a five-speed transmission - the first mass-produced car in the world to have this. Unfortunately Wayne wasn't willing to sell and anyway the little beauty would probably blow my budget three times over!

One problem with shows like this is the number of MGs that turn up. I quite like the pre-war cars and some of the post-war cars like the TF, the Magnette and the MGA are OK. I can even tolerate Midgets in small numbers. But who in their right mind wants to look at a row of MGBs? It's about time organisers of these events put a stop to the menace of the MGB. Surely some sort of quota could be imposed. One MGB to every 20 proper cars would do it. At Churchill it seemed every third car was a bloody MGB. It has to stop!

Seriously Churchill is a great event. Even if you don't have a car to show the friendly atmosphere and beautiful surrounds make this a highlight of the Cotswold summer. Unfortunately the next one isn't until 2016.



Above: David Bridge's 1924 RL TF

Right: 1937 Singer 9 Roadster



Above: Max Askew's 1930 1750GT (left) and David Bridge's 1930 1750GS (right).



Right: Wayne Kelham's 1949 Lancia Ardea

## EVENTS

### JUNE

**Sunday 29th. COTSWOLD ALFA DAY.**

### JULY

**Thursday 3rd.** Witney Motorshow. From 6pm. Henry Box Playing Field, Ducklington Lane, Witney, Oxon. [www.witneymotorshow.co.uk/](http://www.witneymotorshow.co.uk/) Free entry for drivers of exhibiting vehicles. £1 for passengers. Viewing public £2.50 each.

**Wednesday 16th.** Regular monthly meeting at the Fox including Summer Drive. See right.

**Friday 25th - Sunday 27th.** Silverstone Classic [www.silverstone.co.uk/events/silverstone-classic/](http://www.silverstone.co.uk/events/silverstone-classic/)

### AUGUST

**Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd.** Gloucestershire Steam Extravaganza, South Cerney airfield near Cirencester. Massive event that combines a steam and vintage transport show with a countryside show. Well worth a visit. See [www.glossteamextravaganza.com](http://www.glossteamextravaganza.com) for full details.

**Saturday 2nd.** Visit to RetroMarques and Tony Williams Bodyshop. Details to be confirmed.

**Sunday 17th.** Tewkesbury Classic Vehicle Festival. Tewkesbury School, Ashchurch Road from 11am. Around 400 classic cars and bikes expected. [www.tewkesburycvf.org/](http://www.tewkesburycvf.org/)

**Wednesday 20th.** Regular monthly meeting at the Fox including our fun concours. See below.

**Sunday 24th - Monday 25th.** Blenheim Palace Classic Car Show. Sunday is the best day for classic car lovers. [www.classicshows.org](http://www.classicshows.org)

## FUNCONCOURS

As in previous years our August meet will feature a light-hearted concours competition.

Categories will include Best Classic Alfa, Best Modern Alfa, Tidiest Engine Bay, Cleanest Wheels, Best non-Alfa, Weirdest-thing-in-the-Boot and a Must Try Harder award for the scruffiest Alfa.

Lately I've been spending an inordinate amount of time trawling the internet for a new old car. I need something I can get all the family in. I spotted these beauties on ebay. However after careful consideration I decided to steer clear of all three. *RM*



Currently for sale at Black and White Garage and listed on ebay is this ultra-rare 1967 Alfa Romeo Giulia Super Giardinetta (left). Asking price? £22500.

As an alternative how about this (above right)? It's a lovely 1958 Lancia Appia Giardinetta. Currently listed at £8750.

Or this (below right)? It's a 1985 Fiat 900e Pandora. Apparently they are getting quite rare now. This one is listed at £1500. But it has a few problems; the roof leaks, the doors leak, and the, err... sink is blocked!!



# SUMMER DRIVE

## FOX-to-FOX

**Wednesday 16th July**

During our July meeting we are going for a drive! We plan to meet at the Fox as usual but then at about 7.45pm we'll head off on a short drive down the Fosse, through Bourton-on-the-Water and Little Rissington, to the other Fox - the one at Little Barrington. If the weather is good we'll be able to sit on the riverside terrace. If you prefer to go directly to Little Barrington we'll see you there about 8-ish. The postcode is OX18 4TB.

## COTSWOLD ALFA DAY SUNDAY JUNE 29 2014

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY is almost with us and tickets have been selling fast so it looks like being a good one!

If you haven't got a ticket yet don't worry you can get them on the day.

Just turn up at the Norman Knight in Whichford between 9.30am and 10.30am where an adult ticket will cost £11. For this you will receive a tea or coffee, a Giro Panoramico window sticker, the Giro Panoramico route plan including entry to the quiz, and of course entry to the grounds of Blenheim Palace.

If you haven't got a ticket yet but don't fancy going to the Norman Knight and joining in with the Giro, you can go directly to Blenheim. Unfortunately you will be expected to pay the normal Blenheim admission fee of £12.50 per adult. If you do go for this option please do not arrive at Blenheim before 11.30am.