



Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

CAD 2016 IS DAYS AWAY!

Sunday June 26th 2016

See you at Ragley Hall!



Stunning venue, fantastic cars and great banter!

Thank you to all those who have already registered for this year's Giro Panoramico and applied for the CAD Privilege Pass for entry to Ragley Hall.

It's not too late to join us! However, by the time you read this, you may be too late to post an application to John Mills and also receive the tickets in the post before Sunday.

- If you want to do the Giro Panoramico – you can still do so. Come to The Bell between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m., complete a form and pay John Mills on the day (£5.50 adult and £4.00 child aged 5-12 years). This covers costs of your Giro Route, Giro Sticker and refreshments. You will also be given a **CAD ENTRY PASS** for discounted entry to Ragley Hall. You pay Ragley on entry.
- If you had planned to go direct to Ragley, we will **NOT** be giving out **CAD ENTRY PASSES** at Ragley – so if you want discounted entry – and can come to The Bell between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. John will issue you with a **CAD ENTRY PASS** for discounted entry to Ragley Hall (£10.00 per car). Ragley Hall is approximately 14 miles from The Bell going direct via Stratford on Avon.

Ragley is ready for us

We have a wonderful CAD 2016 Committee

and a brilliant bevy of volunteer marshals who will ensure you have a great day!

We are awarding prizes too!

You may be a winner!

Remember: For general enquiries and anything relating to items in the Newsletter, please first check our website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> for more information
Or email the committee on the section email aroccotswolds@933.me.uk

Please send us your news! Snippets of news/ event stories /photos etc are so welcome – so please email us with details or, if you prefer, we will ring you back for the info. Newsletter deadline is five days before monthly meetings. Don't forget we meet at the Fox Inn, Broadwell from 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month! www.foxbroadwell.co.uk . Our hosts, Carol and Mike, always do us proud in their lovely local pub on the village green!

Churchill Vintage and Classic Car Show Sunday June 5

(Fin – our youngest regular supporter of the Cotswold Section - tells us what we missed!)



On the morning of Churchill we weren't sure which car to take as there were clouds all around us. In the end we thought it might be silly not to take the new Spider. Alex Payne met us at our house. Then we were on our way to Churchill. When we got nearer to Churchill we formed a convoy of convertibles including a TVR Griffith and a few MG's. When we arrived, I was shocked at the number of classic cars that were there. We parked the Spiders in the Alfa section and went straight to the car jumble sale where we bought a model of a Dodge SRT Viper and a Porsche Boxster to add to our collection.

Alex Payne said to me: "I know what your dad brought me for!" "What?" I said. "Carrying his stuff!" was the quick-fire retort. (I smiled and laughed).

As we were going to leave the jumble sale area we came across *the shed on wheels*! My jaw dropped when I saw it because it was based on a VW Passat! (Kevin Nicks, from Great Rollright, Oxfordshire, got bored with his Volkswagen Passat and converted it into a shed on wheels. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-33951868>)



We walked back into the classic cars where I was amazed by the diversity of models. An Alpine A10 caught my eye and I had a good look round it. By now it had turned into a beautiful hot day which was made even better when we saw the 8C arrive with members of the Cotswold group around it. By midday, we were having lunch under the oak tree opposite the 8C. Alex decided he wanted an ice cream, so we went over to the stall. There was a huge queue, so we went across the road to the Chequers Inn, where we all sat down and had a lovely cold drink. On our way back we saw some old tractors and steam engines.

Later on in the day a Spitfire did a fly-past which was very good to watch. All throughout the day an extremely good jazz band was playing. All together I had a wonderful day and learnt lots of new facts thanks to Alex

Payne. My favourite car of the day was a 1967 Camaro which was honestly beautiful.

By Fin Moffatt-Davies

What did Alex think?

Late on a Friday evening, after an exhausting drive back from Cornwall, I received a phone call from Steve Davies to say that as John and Hazel couldn't attend, would I like to join him at this year's Churchill Show. After collecting the passes etc. from John, on the Saturday evening, the Spider was given a quick wash, the hamper and chairs packed, and I was all set.

This was my first attendance at Churchill, so I met up with Steve in Stow. The sun shone and we had a great drive over with both Spiders "topless". We had a good section turnout of Alfa's and the icing on the cake was Matt Spitzley, arriving in his wonderful 30's 8c. Our old friend, Richard Morris, also arrived in his lovely Rover. Lunch was taken in true Cotswold Section style, together under a tree for shade. After another look around the amazing variety of vehicles it was sadly time to go home. The day fairly shot by.

By Alex Payne (inc. photos)



LA VIE EN BLEU INCORPORATING LA VITA ROSSA
Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29.
Prescott Hill Climb, Gotherington. Gloucestershire

At the first ever combined Italian/French weekend at Prescott, up to 30 cars graced the AROC stage. They just kept arriving and more space was kindly allocated as the day unfolded. There were some rarities to be seen around the site. Here is a flavour. HM



Q. Why did John Gardiner say he had not had so much fun in ages after buying this Gendarme's hat at Prescott?

DID YOU KNOW? The Carabinieri has taken delivery of a special Alfa! The Alfa Romeo Giulia QV (503hp, twin-turbo V6 engine; 0 - 62 in 3.9 seconds and a top speed of 191mph! (Italia magazine July 2016) HM

A VISIT TO THE HAYNES MUSEUM WITH AROC SOMERSET SECTION

June 5th

In late April, I noticed a message from John Third of the Somerset AROC section for a day at the newly revamped Haynes Motor Museum. The visit would include dedicated Alfa Romeo parking, coffee and biscuits on arrival, a two course lunch and a guided tour all for a very reasonable cost.

Fran and I duly set off across the Wiltshire Downs, past Stonehenge and on to Sparkford services where we all met. The weather was dry, but a touch chilly. Nevertheless, with our newly fitted wind deflector and jackets on - it was top

down for the whole journey. On arrival at Sparkford, the selection of Alfa's included Bertie's, early and late Spiders and not one but three 4C's. The museum staff made us all welcome and the guided tour was very informative and witty with some great stories about the cars and owners. We even got to sit in a few!! After a lovely lunch we were then free to spend as much time looking around on our own. If you haven't been to the Haynes Museum before, or since the revamp it's well worth it. Perhaps we could do a section visit?

By Alex Payne



THE GRIMSHAW'S' SORRENTO EXPERIENCE!

May 29th



We popped into town and came across a huge rally organised by the FIAT 500 Club of Italia.

They parked a variety of Fiat 500's together with the odd other marque, including a Ford Capri and one Alfa - all along the Corso Italia

- for just over a quarter of a mile, from the Piazza Tasso to the Piazza Andrea Veniero. Quite a sight.

By Mark Grimshaw



DID YOU KNOW? GIOCATTOLO - Italian for toy!

Chatting with an Australian petrol head the conversation obviously turned to all things Alfa and in turn the Alfasud Sprint. He told me about the **Giocattolo** and its origins from the Sprint and starting life as a recreation of the 6C Sprint prototype which ran with a rear mounted V6 (his local tame mechanic had a Giocattolo). There were a few prototypes of 2.5 V6 rear mounted engine rear wheel drive Sprints built by Autodelta but this vehicle never made full serial production.

I wonder what would happen if my Sprint were to visit the skunkworks at the Batcave !!!!!???????

Wikipedia states :- Giocattolo Motori Pty Ltd was a short-lived Australian car company, founded in 1986 by sports car enthusiast Paul Halstead and Formula One designer Barry Lock. The company's name comes from the Italian word for "toy". The Giocattolo was originally based on a heavily modified Alfa Romeo Sprint with a mid-mounted Alfa V6 engine. By the fourth prototype, the V6 engine had proved to be too difficult and expensive to import and install in the car, so the company instead used a Sprint 4-cylinder body shell. The V6 was replaced by a rear-mounted Holden V8 engine built by Holden Special Vehicles. As well as being cheaper, these engines had more power than the Alfa engines they had originally intended to use; the reported top speed of the V8-powered Giocattolo was 160 mph (260 km/h). It is unknown what happened to the factory Sprint engines and gearboxes that were taken from the cars. Including the Alfa-powered third prototype (which was rebuilt and re-fitted with the Holden V8 after an accident with a police car almost destroyed the vehicle); just fifteen Giocattolos were built before the company folded in 1989. Thirteen of the fifteen cars are believed to still be in existence and one is unaccounted for. The other - Build No. 007 - was infamously destroyed in a fiery high-speed crash at Eastern Creek Raceway in February 2001. **Mark Byatt**

LAST MINUTE IMPORTANT DATES

NATIONAL ALFA DAY 2016 Sunday 10th July

Chatsworth House Derbyshire DE45 1PP

- See more at: <http://www.aroc-uk.com/>

AROC Member Advance Ticket £8.00* per car; Non-member Advance Ticket £10.00* per car; Price on gate £10 per car (member & non-member) * No booking fees on advance tickets. Tickets may be purchased online via EventBrite or, to buy by telephone or email, please contact Nick Wright, Club Manager on 07753 857029 or manager@aroc-uk.com. Chatsworth is offering a discounted entrance fee of just £13 per person for people with a National Alfa Day ticket (Usual entrance fee is £20 per person).

BIKERSNITE AT THE FOX BROADWELL!

Wednesday June 22nd!

Scores – nay hundreds of bikers meet weekly on Wednesdays at different Cotswold pubs between April and September from 7.00 p.m. onwards. On June 22nd it is the turn of the village green and our meeting place, The Fox at Broadwell. Further information contact Steph Shaw. 07974 860624. bikersnite@hotmail.com. There are bound to be some Italian bikes there! The link for info is <http://www.bikersnite.com/> and look at the “Contact us” link. The gathering is free, but they do collect for Midlands Air Ambulance.

FUTURE EVENTS

A WALK – We have a date! John and Helen Raper are organising an Autumn walk for **Sunday October 2nd**. Venue and details soon! We will start taking names after CAD – but if interested – also tell us at the June meeting.

GIRO NEL AUTONNO. Don't forget that Rupert Organ is starting to plan a brilliant day drive- out on a weekend at the end of September.

Start at Twynning for bacon butties and coffee at 9.30-10.00 a.m. and driving to Hay on Wye to arrive around lunchtime. The return route would go a bit further around and over the Malvern Hills, finishing back at the Elgar Inn, Earls Croome, famous for their Italian restaurant.

We will start taking names after CAD – but if interested – also tell us at the June meeting.

FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND.



Many of us will remember Peter Wood of Wood Restorations not only for his wizardry at transforming their treasured Alfas but for the friendship and camaraderie we shared with him. Sadly, Peter passed away on May 27th.

One of his proudest moments was restoring this Alfa Romeo 1750 GTV Bertone Coupe. It arrived on the back of a scrap dealer's lorry at the end of the drive to



his workshop. The car was a wreck and Peter was asked whether he wanted it. The rest is history. He personally restored it to Concours d' Elegance condition – as you can see! It won him the well-deserved Retromarques Award at the Sudeley Castle CAD in 2012. Here are two memories of the day: on the left is Peter being presented with the trophy by Mark Knight of Retromarques and on the right, we see Peter and Jane admiring their lovely car, before he heard he had won!



Rod Ashton supplied this super shot of proud Peter and Jane in 2010 outside The Merrymouth with “l'Amante”, Jane's nickname for the car – the Italian name for “the mistress”! Dave Hood sent us this memory of a great day with Dave, Peter, Rod and Mark B. celebrating Dave's 60th in Cernobbio, Italy in 2010.

Our condolences go especially to Jane and also his family and to all who knew and loved him.



(Funeral service at Rainsbrook Crematorium, Rugby at 11.00 a.m. on 30th June. 2016.

Donations if desired to: "Friends of St Cross" and/or Northamptonshire/Warwickshire Air Ambulance via funeral directors: Wilf Smith & Son, 25 Main Street, Bilton CV22 7NQ. Tel: 01788 814157.)

HM