



Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section



NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB/MARCH 2016

Planning is well underway for 2016 with a number of old favourites as well as some new events for the diary all listed on the website and in the Diary page of this month's AROC Magazine.

Don't forget your regular Monthly Meetings at the Fox Inn, Broadwell from 7pm on the **third Tuesday** of the month! www.foxbroadwell.co.uk . A warm welcome at the Fox is assured with a pie and a pint in front of the roaring fire during these wintery months.

Belated Season's Greetings!



Christmas has been and gone and we have already booked for 2016 - again at Three Ways Hotel in Mickleton (home of The Pudding Club). The date for your diary is December 3rd! In 2015, thirty-five Alfisti once more spent a whole afternoon enjoying yet another great meal at the Section's favourite Christmas venue. This year members also donated prizes for a grand raffle and auction raising £325 for Myton Hospice in memory of colleagues who had sadly passed away recently. Thanks to all who donated, bought raffle tickets and bought the auction lots. A special thanks to Alex Payne for building a superb Bertone Coupe model which was our star lot in the auction.



SECTION AGM:

This was convened as part of the February meeting at The Fox, Broadwell. There was a good turnout and those present agreed to Mark Byatt continuing as Section Secretary and John Mills as Treasurer for the coming year. Sadly, this will be Mark's last year as Secretary because of increasing work commitments. Various members have shown interest in assisting in events and Steve Davies has volunteered and been co-opted to the committee to assist Mark and John. Mark Grimshaw will continue to manage the section website.

Main items discussed and agreed were:

- Treasurer's Report (copies circulated)
- Steve Davies to be seconded to the committee to support the Secretary and Treasurer.
- Secretary to stand down at the end of 2016. Applications for the post invited.
- To hold CAD at Ragley Hall on June 26th 2016 (See later). Event subcommittee to be formed.
- To investigate purchase of replacement publicity banners/sails
- To continue to offer activities at monthly meetings such as Fun Concours etc. Details to be discussed at future meetings and promoted on website and in newsletter.

- To continue to support non Cotswold Section Events involving Alfa Romeo/ Italian/classic cars either as a Section or individually and to publicise these via the website and/or Newsletter.
- To retain The Myton Hospices as the nominated charity for 2016
- To send contributions to Mark Byatt for the items to be discussed at the annual AROC Secretaries Meeting on the weekend of February 27th and 28th.

P.S. (Unable to attend the AGM – I have since volunteered to do the Newsletter for the near future. This one is a shared production with Mark B – Hazel Mills)

Italy comes to Longborough!

The locals might have been forgiven for looking twice as a succession of Italian cars descended on the Cotswold village of Longborough on February 27th! Jaws would have dropped if they had

ventured into the village hall around lunchtime. The sight confronting them would not have been out of place in any household in deepest Italy when the extended family gather around a long table to share a wonderful meal and great company. *La famiglia*, in this case, was the Cotswold Section who were being treated to the culinary skills of Alex Payne who prepared a special Italian meal for the gathering. The hall was transformed into a trattoria with the long table set in red, white and green, the cutlery and wine glasses sparkling in candlelight.

If you didn't make it, this is what you missed!



The event was a huge success and Alex insisted that any profits went to The Myton Hospices,

which resulted in a cracking £156.54 to donate to charity. Our thanks go to Alex and Fran Payne for the great idea and their time in putting it all together. We are indebted to John and Helen Raper as the "on the spot" coordinators by virtue of their wish to be involved and their village role in the operating of the village hall. The charity donation was further boosted by extra donations in cash and kind – including wines and chocolate from Enzo and family.

ITALIAN LUNCH AT LONGBOROUGH

ON SATURDAY 27th FEB. 2016

- **ANTIPASTO PLATTER WITH WARM CIABATTA AND BALSAMIC DIP.**
- ❖ **RICH "TUSCAN" LAMB STEW WITH PLENTY OF BREAD TO "MOP UP!"**
- ❖ **THE "CHEFS" BEEF AND PORK MEATBALLS WITH PASTA**
- ❖ **ROAST AUBERGINE, BUTTER NUT SQUASH AND SPINACH LASAGNE**
- ♥ **LEMON AND RICOTTA TART WITH A RASPBERRY COULIS**
- ♥ **RHUBARB AND GINGER TIRAMISU**
- ♥ **MARSALA POACHED PEAR FILLED WITH A CHESTNUT MOUSSE**

COFFEE AND "BISCOTTI"



A fantastic day, Alex, and a delicious meal worthy of Michelin stars! We may call on you again – or at least persuade you to give us the tiramisu recipe for the April newsletter! **HM**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

Saturday 9th April Alfaholics Trackday – Castle Combe: Over the years a number of Section members have attended the popular Alfaholics Track Day at Castle Combe mainly to watch and partake of the parade lap. This year we'll again be attending in numbers and if we have enough interest we'll arrange a couple of meeting points and convoy down to Castle Combe. Let Mark Byatt know if you'd be interested in joining us.

Sunday 24th April - Drive it Day Scramble at Bicester Heritage We plan to meet up and head across to Bicester Heritage for *The Scramble* which falls on **Drive it Day**. Tickets are available on the Bicester Heritage site now. www.bicesterheritage.co.uk/events . Popularity of the event is growing, so please do purchase a ticket early (Mark B has registered AROC as a club, attracting a discount on ticket prices). Let Mark Byatt know if you register. Parking will be at a premium, so we'll aim to arrive together and hopefully manage to get an Italian parking area.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 28th May and Sunday 29th May

Prescott Hill Climbs, Gotherington, Gloucestershire www.prescott-hillclimb.com

La Vie en Bleu incorporating La Vita Rossa French and Italian Motoring Festival - a celebration of French and Italian cars, music and entertainment. The tenth annual pageant is the first to combine a celebration of all things Italian with the focus for Italian cars on Saturday. Mark Byatt has registered a presence for the Alfa Romeo Owners Club and a dedicated reference code **AROC16** when you book - which offers a *buy one get one free ticket* option. Prescott have asked for an idea of numbers to make sure we have sufficient space. So if you do intend coming along please let John Mills or Mark B know as we'll keep a running total of numbers and keep Prescott informed. For more general information, see the Prescott website.

Sunday 5th June 2016. The Churchill Vintage and Classic Car Show. This is a biennial event that we have attended for a number of years and this year it will be held on Sunday 5th June. It has a wonderful village fete atmosphere so get your applications in directly with the organisers. For further information or to book a place for your car, contact Dave Chambers on dhc@freezezone.co.uk. Let Mark Byatt know if you are attending and we will try and get an area together as in previous years (details of the applications will also be on our website once they are released). See also: <http://www.churchillsarsden.com/vintage--classic-car-show.html>

Saturday September 17th and Sunday September 18th 2016

Kop Hill Climb. Princes Risborough, Bucks. www.kophillclimb.org.uk

Kop Hill is a steep climb just outside Princes Risborough. It rises 304 feet in 3,848 feet, with a gradient of 1 in 4 at its steepest. The revival of this climb started in 2009, with the aim of raising funds for charities. Pre-1976 cars can enter for the hill climb and cut off date is 1988 for the static and club displays. There is a charge for registering. We are not planning to enter as a section display, but, if you wish to attend, individual members have been invited to join the Ley Hill Classic Car Club. Details will be on the Kop Hill website by end of March. Earlier enquiries should go to andy.burfield@kophillclimb.org.uk.

**COTSWOLD ALFA DAY. SUNDAY JUNE 26TH 2016.
RAGLEY HALL, ALCESTER, WARWICKSHIRE.**

On the outskirts of Alcester in Warwickshire is the elegant home of the 9th Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford and family. Ragley Hall is one of the earliest and finest Palladian mansions with a fine collection of art, porcelain and furniture. The house and parklands provide a superb setting for our day with 10 hectares of Capability Brown gardens, a boating lake, a 3D maze, an adventure playground, woodland walk, sweeping vistas and lots more. See <http://www.ragley.co.uk/>.



Guided tours of the house are included. The Terrace Café can provide brunch, lunch or afternoon tea and the Lakeside Lodge serves snacks and drinks. There is also plenty of room to picnic. CAD 2016 sub-committee to help John Mills, Mark Byatt and Steve Davies will be supported by Rupert Organ and Dave Parker

leading on site management and parking. The Giro Panoramico gurus are Dave and Angela Townsend with Roger Lewis. The start will be The Bell, Alderminster <http://www.thebellald.co.uk/>. We know that many of you will also rally round to help us as the day approaches. Mark Knight of Retromarques Ltd <http://www.retromarques.co.uk/> has kindly agreed to sponsor us once more. **More information (including costs and how to apply) will be on the website by late March and also in the April Newsletter - available by April 19th.**

Remember: For general enquiries and anything relating to the above, please first check our website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> or email the committee on the section email aroccotswolds@933.me.uk.

Also – please let us know any snippets/ photos you would like us to include in future newsletters by chatting to us at meetings or by sending text/photos to the section email. **HM**