



Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

HOW MANY CAR WASHES TO CHRISTMAS?

*Not so many activities this month
but still some good reading from section members past and
present*

DON'T FORGET!

COTSWOLD SECTION CHRISTMAS LUNCH!!!!

Saturday, December 3rd.

Arrive 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. sit down

at THREE WAYS HOUSE

(Home of World Famous Pudding Club)

Chapel Lane, Mickleton. Glos. GL55 6SB

<http://www.threewayshousehotel.com/>

Phone: 01386 438429



We have 30+ people booked in already and room for just a few more. Most people have paid at least the deposit of £5.00 per head and some have paid in full.

Choices asap please to aroccotswolds@933.me.uk or give them to John at the November meeting on Tuesday November 15th at The Fox, Broadwell from 7.00 onwards. Full payment also by the November meeting.

Cheques should be made payable to AROC Cotswold Section and can be sent to John Mills, Treasurer, AROC Cotswold Section, Edgehill Cottage, Loxley, Warwick. CV35 9JT

If you want to join us and haven't booked yet, please let Mark B. or John know asap.

Christmas Raffle. Last year's Christmas Lunch raffle prizes were all donated by section members and friends. We plan to do the same again and look forward to your donations which some will bring to the November meeting or be telling us they will bring with them on the day of the lunch. All money raised will go to The Myton Hospices, our chosen charity for 2016. **HM**

CHRISTMAS MENU

Two Courses + Coffee - £20.00

Three Courses + Coffee - £23.50

Starters

Homemade White Onion and Thyme Soup

*Smoked Haddock & Dill Fishcake with
Mustard Cream*

*Ham Hock Ballantine with Fig Puree and
Pickled Vegetables*

*Baked Brie and Cranberry in a Crispy Pastry
Basket*

Main Course

*Roast Local Turkey, Chipolata, Bacon and
Sage Stuffing with Cranberry Sauce*

*Slow Cooked Belly Pork rolled with an
Apricot and Sage Stuffing topped with
Crackling*

*Salmon Supreme with Ginger, Soy and
Sesame Roasted Bok Choi*

*Butternut Squash and Sage Risotto topped
with a Blue Cheese and Cashew Crumble*

*(All served with Roast Potatoes, Brussel
Sprouts, Carrot, Swede & Roast Parsnips)*

Pudding Club Puds

*The Pudding Club's Christmas Pudding with
Brandy Sauce*

*Very Chocolate Pudding with Lashings of
Custard!*

*Iced Nougat Parfait with Mixed Spiced
Shortbread*

*Double Gloucester and Stilton Cheese with
Homemade Chutney and Biscuits*

*(Followed by Tea or Coffee with Homemade
Petit Fours)*

The 2016 Christmas Lunch Auction!!

Last year, Alex Payne made a superb scale model Bertone Coupe which was our star lot in our very first Christmas auction.

This year he has another for auction. Look at this!!

Alex provides the details:

"The model is a Burago Diecast in 1/18th scale. It's a Phase One 916 3 litre Spider (in Proteo Red of course!). Probably a 1996 or 97 model.

I totally stripped it down to its component parts, repainted the body, chassis, suspension and interior. I textured the dash, added new gauges, seat belts and trim details."



This is an exquisite model, finished to superb standard with fine attention to detail – which is what we know and expect when we see models completed by Alex!



There will be a reserve price to reflect the work, workmanship and materials, but proceeds will once more go to The Myton Hospices.

Does anyone else have a special item which they would like to auction? Let Mark or John know. **HM**

Diary Dates

Please check the website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> and its link to our Facebook Page.

Tuesday December 20th **Regular Monthly Meeting at the Fox at Broadwell from 7pm.**

Tuesday January 17th **Regular Monthly Meeting at the Fox at Broadwell from 7pm.**

Tuesday February 21st **AGM* at 7pm PROMPT at the Fox at Broadwell. Regular meeting afterwards.**

<http://www.foxbroadwell.co.uk/>

***AGM information follows at the end of the Newsletter. More information will be circulated at least 4 weeks before the February meeting.**

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT....

From our roving reporter "Richard Morris"

Even though I'm no longer an Alfa owner I can't seem to break the habit of typing 'Alfa Romeo' into eBay every once in a while. Occasionally something surprising or interesting pops up and so it was when I hit 'search' back in early October.

The title of the listing was '1965 Alfa Romeo Giulia GTC convertible RHD with V5c PROJECT'. The 'car' was situated in Lincolnshire and the starting price for the auction was set at £1000. As a GTC is close to the top of my list of favourite Alfas, I clicked on the ad for a closer look. The written description was brief, it simply said 'Alfa Romeo Giulia GTC convertible. V5c in my name. Rhd. Engine gearbox rear diff all present. Poor condition. Telephone number supplied for more questions'.

That seemed a bit vague to me and 'poor condition' could mean just about anything. But it was the photos that really told the sorry story of this GTC and they are reproduced here



I think you'll agree 'poor condition' is an entirely over optimistic way of describing the car's state. A day later, in response to a question, the seller added another paragraph, 'It is a factory Touring GTC not a home conversion. One of 98 produced. I can put the buyer in touch with a contact who has an NOS rear wing. It's a start at least'

Within a week or so of the listing appearing online it was suddenly removed. No one had bid on it at this point so being a nosey sort of chap I gave the seller a call. He confirmed that the car was now sold. I asked 'Does the buyer intend to restore it?' and he replied (with a laugh) 'Yes!'.



Now I admit I'm not the most knowledgeable when it comes to classic car restoration but even I can see there is very little here that is salvageable. Anyone brave enough to attempt a restoration would effectively be building a new car around the existing chassis number. Surely the cost would make the project unviable. But then thinking about it good GTCs are fetching upwards of £75k (there are currently two listed on carandclassic.co.uk at £84k and £102k), so perhaps the buyer isn't as unwise as I first imagined. Might it have been purchased by one of the

well-known Alfa restorers? Or has some ambitious individual take it on?

Personally I applaud the buyer. It might not be easy but just attempting to bring a GTC back from the brink (or in this case beyond it!) to grace the roads of Britain once more, is definitely something to celebrate isn't it?

Richard Morris

TRAVELS WITH OUR SPIDER

As the year draws to a close and Autumn sets in, I thought a few words about our Alfa year would be of interest. After very little mileage in 2015 (and a fair bit of expenditure) we decided last year that 2016 would be a year that the Spider had some miles put on her and we would attend as many events as we could.

The year kicked off with Spring Alfa Day at Beaulieu, but not a good start as the Spider was still at Enzo's having a new clutch fitted, so we hitched a lift with Steve in his 156 GTA. It was a shame after all the winter planning but we had a great day out.

The first proper outing for the car was the "La Vita Rosso" event at Prescott over the end of May Bank Holiday. The sun shone, all the Alfa's looked splendid and the sheer variety of cars on and off course was amazing. A must-do for next year, for sure! The day after Prescott we then travelled to Cornwall for a four-day break, via a superb lunch at the Perry's Cider Museum near Ilminster. (Thanks for the tip, Hazel). Over the four days we visited Falmouth, Land's End and most parts in between. The weather was great, the roof was down and we ate the pasties and racked up the miles. The Spider was going great guns. Thanks, Enzo!



The day we returned from Cornwall, we had a last minute invite to the Churchill Classic on the Sunday, so a quick wash and vac on the Saturday; supper with John and Hazel to collect the invite; hamper packed and we were ready. Fran couldn't make it but I met up with Steve in his newly acquired "Zoe" yellow 916 and again the weather gods shone and we had a wonderful day.



At the start of June, we met up with AROC members from Kent and Somerset for a VIP tour of the newly re-vamped Haynes Museum. So, another roof-off drive over the Marlborough Downs, past Stonehenge followed by a superb



day out with a guided tour and lunch - all for a bargain £20 per head. Something we could do as section, perhaps?

The end of the month saw another memorable Cotswold Alfa Day with a superb venue that Fran and I hadn't been to before, Ragley Hall (left). Although we didn't do the "Giro" on the day, we have since gone back and followed the whole route.

July started with NAD at Chatsworth House (right). We chose to convoy up on the Saturday with four other cars. After a good night's rest at a local pub, we were ready for a great day out. However, the journey home was very showery and we spent the trip playing "roof roulette".



The end of July was my annual trip to the Silverstone Classic, three wonderful days, and, as ever, it exceeded expectations.

August saw the long awaited trip to Holland over the bank holiday weekend for the Coppa Spettacolo Sportivo. So this time a full clean and wax, oil change, new brake pads and we were set for what turned out to be the most amazing week and one I highly recommend to you all. A thousand and a bit miles and not a missed beat.



Throw in the usual monthly "meets" we attend, the odd weekend away, drives out just to enjoy the sunshine and we ended the year with just over five thousand miles covered, very little oil consumed and not a single issue. "So unreliable - these Alfa's!!"

Alex Payne

THE STORY BEHIND THE "NEW" CAR AT COTSWOLD SECTION AUTUMN WALK

The story of my recent purchase of a 1965 Fiat 850 S Coupe and why early in 2016 I bought a Lancia Fulvia 1.3 S Coupe which needed very little work! I wanted a part project! On 'Car and Classic' I found this Fiat 850.



In Italy the bodywork, paintwork and engine had been restored and the interior re-trimmed in red leather. However, closer investigation revealed the need for further improvements! Hooray!

The car, in general, has survived very well and the first job was to Waxoyl the wings, sills and all cavities underneath. The list then goes on: - door rubbers and trim replaced; new courtesy door light switches fitted; door cards removed and all moving parts lubricated – and good old Waxoyl!. Brakes and suspension have all been renewed. In 1965 seat belts were not compulsory, but mounting points (6) had been built into the bodywork, so 3-point harness belts have now been fitted.

Now to answer the question "WHY?" Italian, of course! The design and shape. Lovely to drive. The size was important –to fit in the garage and workshop. On inspection I found that the build quality was good. (Will report again in 2017, as work progresses!)

David Townsend

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, ring to talk it through. Deadline is five days before monthly meetings which are at The Fox, Broadwell, nr Stow on the Wold on the third Tuesday of every month from 7.00 p.m. onwards. <http://www.foxbroadwell.co.uk/> You can contact the committee at aroccotswolds@933.me.uk or follow us on <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>

COTSWOLD SECTION AGM
7.00 p.m. February 21st 2017. The Fox Inn

Before the AGM, a brief reminder of what is expected of an AROC Section affiliated to AROC UK who expect and actively encourage certain activities in return for the benefits of affiliation.

WHAT DOES THE SECTION COMMITTEE DO?

The activities recommended by AROC UK are organized, communicated and overseen by the committee who, in the case of the Cotswold Section, are supported by members who take a very active part. Historically, the committee has consisted of four or five paid-up AROC Members. The committee has recently been running the section with two officers and latterly three. The AGM 2017 hopes to recruit a new Secretary and also expand the Committee.

AROC UK requires a minimum of 3: Chairman, Secretary and one other. One of the 3 must also take on Treasurer duties

The **Chairman** *should be primarily responsible for ensuring that the Section Committee works as a cohesive team, responsive to the needs of the local membership and for the longer term planning for the Section.* (quote from AROC Rules). However, it is also a "hands on" committee member role, sharing functions. The **Secretary** is the key contact and organizer, responsible for communications and activities, although, in practice, some of this could be agreed to be shared with a Committee Member or Section Member. The Chairman can deputise for the Secretary. The **Treasurer** maintains a clear and accurate record of the Section's funds, earnings and expenditure which is available for inspection at any time.

THE ACTIVITIES

In AROC Rules (June 2013) Sections are asked to:

1. Appoint a Committee annually.
2. Hold Section Funds (whose records should be auditworthy) and be self-funding wherever possible.
3. Hold monthly meetings.
4. Provide a monthly newsletter.
5. Create a website.
6. Hold and publicise a regular calendar of events.
7. Provide the AROC national magazine with Section News and Diary Dates 6 times in a year.
8. Raise the AROC Profile at Section Events and when attending other events during the year.

AROC UK BENEFITS

In return AROC UK supports us amongst other things with guidelines on conduct and also with Health and Safety Risk Assessment procedures for events. Correspondence is corporate and covered by a disclaimer. Sections can claim up to £50 per month towards material expenses, subject to the approval of the AROC UK Manager. The national forum and media ensure a two-way flow of information on local and national issues and events.

THE COTSWOLD SECTION COMMITTEE 2017: In February, we will be losing Mark Byatt as Secretary. At The AGM, we will be looking to form a 2017 committee of ideally five members to which you can volunteer or be nominated. We will look for volunteers or nominations for Chairman and Secretary and 3 others to support and occasionally lead on activities. (One of the five committee members will also agree to take on the Treasurer responsibilities). I am happy to continue for another term as Treasurer, unless someone else has a burning desire to take on the role.

WHAT WOULD IT INVOLVE?

Being a committee member is not time consuming and can be a lot of fun when planning how best to deliver events to help our members enjoy their Alfas. The Committee can decide how many events to run which fit in with how much time they can give. AROC UK has certain protocols, but sections have a relatively free hand in how they operate. Ideally, the committee would meet separately from the monthly meetings to review the activities. The frequency can be agreed by the committee. *Regulars at our meetings enjoy the social aspect of a really friendly group. Similarly, communication is a big part of the Committee role whether written or verbal when organizing events, encouraging and meeting new members, or simply sharing updates with each other. We keep members and future members informed on the internet, by social media but also by hard copy. We also recognize that some members prefer not to text or use email and not all have access to IT. Equally, we have members who prefer social media as their main communication. We know that, amongst us, we have members who could pool their knowledge and experience and join a committee to help with this. Those of you who have already volunteered know the rewards of organizing successful events for our members.* **Please have a chat with Mark Byatt, myself (John Mills) or Steve Davies if you want to play a role in the Cotswold Section in 2017.**