



# Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016



*How did we get to Autumn and countdown to Christmas? The Section members have still been busy with lots to report including:*

### **THE AUTUMN WALK ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> .**

Waking to a glorious autumn morning and after a cup of tea, I set off down The Fosse Way in the 916 GTV to meet up with a contingent of other Cotswold Section members

at The Cotswold Food Store and Café near Longborough. We were due to meet at 10.00 a.m. for breakfast and then depart on the walk around 11.00 a.m. I arrived about 10 minutes before 10.00 a.m., but already in the car park were Roger Lewis and David and Angela Townsend. Roger was in his 2000 GTV, whilst David had brought out his latest acquisition for its first run in his ownership. It is a Fiat 850 Coupe in lovely condition which had recently been imported from Italy. Angela had brought her Fiat Panda as support vehicle, for insurance, in case David had any problems (which of course he didn't!).

After a short while, we were joined by other members, Helen and John Raper (who had organized the event) in their 105 Series Spider, Neale Smith in his 147 and Gwen and Robin McConnachie in their Giulietta. Of course, the most important part of the event was breakfast! It was my first visit to the Food Store and they have an excellent café serving breakfasts, lunches and afternoon teas. The menu is excellent too and several members decided on "The Full English" – or should it have been "Full Cotswold" breakfast? Downing breakfasts and chatting took a full leisurely 60 minutes, during which we were joined by Mark and Rayanne Byatt and their friend Cheryl who had driven down in their GT.



It was then time to get the boots on and enjoy the Autumn sun and Cotswold scenery. We headed down into Longborough village through a wooded area, which had been a quarry supplying local building stone. We then cut across to the west of the village, along footpaths, until reaching another road and back into the village. From the south of the village, we headed across fields towards Donnington village. We paused for a while at a memorial to "The Battle of Stow" which took place in 1646 during the English Civil War. Upon reaching the edge of



Donnington village, we continued around farm buildings (noting a Series III long wheel-based Land Rover ripe for restoration!).



The walk then took us west and then north back towards Longborough across fields with beautiful sunny views across the surrounding countryside. On re-entering the village, we passed close to the famous Longborough Festival Opera House before coming to a halt outside the village pub. As it was lunchtime, decisions had to be made. Should we stop at the pub for lunch or continue back to The Cotswold Food Store for lunch? As the majority of us were driving, the wise decision was taken to return to the Food Store.

On arrival back at the café, we were able to sit outside on the terrace, enjoy the sunshine and select some lunch from the varied and interesting menu. Again, lunch was a leisurely affair and afterwards, several members made purchases from the range of food, drink and gift items on offer in the shop. So, in the early afternoon, we said our farewells and made our return home after enjoying an excellent walk, good company and good food. The Cotswold Food Store and Cafe is an excellent venue and will be included in some of our future events as a start or finish point. <http://www.cotswoldfoodstore.com/>

It just now requires me to thank John and Helen for organizing an excellent event. The only issue is, that you know what happens when you organize such an enjoyable event.....!? **JOHN MILLS**

### **Silverstone Classic – the Sequel!**



Mr Hood presenting a lovely Arese Museum book to Roger Lewis after the scooter incident! (Added to our Facebook page by Mark B) Full report from Rod Ashton in September Newsletter!

## GOODWOOD REVIVAL – SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016



Six of us teamed up to go, Steve & Angela Dymoke, two friends of theirs, Bruce & Jane Payne, Jane & I. Our outfits this year were all based around the 1940s, Steve in his immaculate RAF uniform, Jane G in a Land Girl outfit, me as a Spiv together with watches and stockings, Jane P and Angela in fab forties frocks and Bruce in a hastily cobbled together country gent outfit! Bruce had left his proper outfit in their car at the Dymokes' and had a mad dash round the shops of Fareham on Friday night to get something for the morning.



I suppose it had to happen one day, it chucked it down with rain for most of the day. Luckily, this is the first year since we started attending this event that we have really had to cope with the rain. As a result, we actually saw more of the racing and due to the slick track conditions it was a lot more exciting. Despite the weather we had a cracking day!



The theme for the event was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1966 England v Germany football match, not sure why, but it was entertaining with a replica of the ground created near the Goodwood Mess.

Lamborghini was the featured marque in the Earls Court exhibition with everything from a tractor to not one but three Miuras, stunning cars!

There are eight races on the Saturday: Goodwood Trophy, Madgwick Cup, Barry Sheene Memorial Trophy, St Mary's Trophy, Lavant Cup, Whitsun Trophy, Freddie March Memorial Trophy and the Settrington Cup.

The St Mary's Trophy this year saw 30 mechanically identical Austin A35's on track. Saturday was the celebrity driver day and it proved to be great fun on the very wet track, cars were sliding and pirouetting all over the place. I saw later on the Sunday one of the cars rolled very badly end over end but fortunately no-one was hurt.

The Settrington Cup, a race for replica Austin J40 pedal cars, was a hoot with some very grumpy posh children not happy in the rain.



There was a great motorbike race as well. Given the conditions, the Barry Sheene Memorial Trophy race – in the spirit of the original Goodwood Saturday motorcycle meeting - proved to be a lot more interesting than normal. All I can say is anyone racing in the wet on a 60 year old motorbike must be barking mad!



I hope this and the photos gives you a flavour of the day. I could go on and on but it might be better to experience it for yourself next year?

Cheers

**Mark Grimshaw**



## COTSWOLD SECTION CHRISTMAS LUNCH, SATURDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>. 2016

**THREE WAYS HOUSE. (Home of World Famous Pudding Club)**  
**Mickleton. Glos. GL55 6SB** <http://www.threewayshousehotel.com/>

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. John will be issuing receipts to those who gave their money to Mark B at the next meeting.

Choices now please to [aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk) or give them to John at the October meeting or no later than the November Meeting.

Please now can you also pay the balance 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. More details will be available soon.

### Christmas Raffle.

Last year's raffle was a great success and prizes were all donated by section members and friends. I am planning to hold one again this year and wondered if we could raise the prizes by donation again. Please let me know by the November meeting if you would like to give something and will bring it to the lunch – or bring your item to the Fox in November.

### Christmas 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 car for auction and we will have a preview picture in the November Newsletter. The idea of an auction also sparked interest and one or two others brought in prized items which they felt would raise more money than as raffle prizes. So if you have anything stashed away which would be someone else's treasure if they won the bid – let us know.

### Where does the money go?

The section voted that this year's charity would be The Myton Hospices of which there are now three. The decision was in memory of Robin Hales and Jo Coulter, strong supporters of the Cotswold Section. We also gave a donation from Section Funds to Friends of St Cross, Rugby in memory of Peter Woods, a much missed friend and artisan. At the AGM in February, the Section will be asked for proposals for their preferred 2017 charity. **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)*

## COTSWOLD SECTION RETRO TIME 2016

As the nights draw in and some of the car activities start to slow down, it's good to think back at what we have been up to since January. Not only have we enjoyed some great monthly meetings with a chance to swap tales over a pie and a pint at The Fox, but we have spread the net far and wide and this seemed a good time to share the story.

### WHAT DID WE ORGANISE?

#### Italy comes to Longborough!! February 27

A top class Italian meal for our members in February! This was all down to the expertise and hard work of Alex and Fran Payne at the ideal venue of Longborough Village Hall (courtesy of John and Helen Raper who set up the venue and were ace helpers on the day)

**CAD RAGLEY HALL. JUNE 26** - our main event with a whole host of new volunteers – see the July newsletter!

**The Fun Concours. July 19.** We were lucky with a stunning evening at the July meeting with Mark B at the helm.

#### Autumn Walk. October 2

as organised by John and Helen Raper and reported here.

On the right, I have listed the other ones we know about or which were reported in the newsletters!

But if you missed them – check them out for next year!

*We are a Section of many interests when it comes to Alfas, Italian cars and classic vehicles, so there are often times when we just end up at the same place by word of mouth or coincidence.*

*Occasionally, the committee or one of the members rounds up a group of us to go to represent The Cotswold Section in dedicated parking and liaises with the event organisers. These times are listed in red.*

- **Race Retro.** Stoneleigh Showground. February 26-28
- **Alfaholics Open Day.** Trackday at Castle Combe April 9
- **Breakfast Meeting. Prescott Hill Climb. Sunday April 10.** (Alfa Romeo marque featured)
- **Corinium Run.** Sunday April 10.
- **Spring Alfa Day.** Beaulieu Motor Museum. Sunday April 17
- **Bristol Italian Automoto Festival.** April 23
- **Drive it Day (DiD) 2016 – Bicester Heritage. Sunday April 24**
- **The “Alternative” Drive it Day.** National Trust HQ Swindon
- **Brooklands Auto Italia Day.** April 30
- **A visit to the Haynes Museum** with AROC Somerset Section on May 14
- **Mille Miglia.** May 16-23
- **Villa D’Este.** May 21 and 22
- **FIAT 500 Club of Italia Rally.** Sorrento May 29
- **Scottish Italian Car Day (AROC).** Sunday May 29
- **La Vie en Bleu incorporating La Vita Rossa. Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29. Prescott Hill Climb**
- **Churchill Vintage and Classic Car Show. Sunday June 5**
- **Le Mans Classic.** July 8-10
- **National Alfa Day.** Chatsworth House. July 10
- **Witney Motor Show.** July 21
- **Birlingham Classic Car Show** (nr Pershore). Friday July 22
- **Silverstone Classic.** July 29 -31
- **The Ennstal Classic** - Austria 2016. July 26 – 29
- **The Cowley Classic Car Show,** Oxford. August 14
- **Webb’s Garden Centre Classic Car Show** (nr. Droitwich). Sunday August 28
- **Spettacolo Sportivo Alfa Romeo,** Zandvoort and **Coppa Spettacolo.** August 24 – 28.
- **Pershore Plumfest Classic Car Show.** Monday August 29
- **Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway Classic Vehicle Day.** September 11
- **Aero Club Open Day.** Leicester. (AROC East Mids) Sept 11
- **Goodwood Revival.** September 9-12
- **Prescott Breakfast Meeting.** October 16
- Also monthly meetings at Kineton Classic Car Nights and The Norman Knight at Whichford.

## PRESCOTT BREAKFAST MEETING. SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

Where were you? Despite a grim weather forecast, Prescott was bathed in Autumn sunshine for the October Breakfast Meet. At least 50 cars turned up during the morning including three stalwarts from the Cotswold Section: Gareth Cavaciuti, Dave Parker and John Mills. Granted, we had driven through a short squall, but once we neared Prescott, the skies cleared, turned blue and the rest of the morning was fantastic. Dave had a friend, Chris, with him and we four had an entertaining "Full English" breakfast.



Gareth joined us later and we spent a good while admiring an amazing variety of cars, with a lot of interest shown in a brand new Fiat Spider 124 in which we were invited to sit.



Another Italian interest which turned up was a 750cc Laverda motorbike. It was well worth the early start! **HM**



### **WINTER PREP! (JOBS FOR THE WEEKENDS FROM MARK KNIGHT!)**

Days are getting shorter and there is a hint of frost in the air already so Winter must be on its way! That also means we ought to be thinking about preparations for our cars – some of which is equally applicable to classic and modern vehicles – and also planning ahead for those 'I'll get it done tomorrow' jobs, otherwise 'tomorrow' will be the start of the 2017 season!

You could usefully start with a thorough clean. Take a bit of extra time on the exterior, as if you remove the wheels and get up into the arches you can remove mud and dirt

in there and elsewhere which is potentially going to trap moisture during the winter and therefore increase the risk of corrosion! A good clean will also show up stone chips and other areas which may need attention now before corrosion can start, also where any earlier waxoyling (or stoneguard protection) has worn through and needs touching up.

A good coat of wax will then re-seal the paintwork and give it a degree of protection over the winter. Your chrome, alloy or painted steel wheels also need cleaning and protecting so give those a coat of wax too. Rubber seals dry and go brittle and whilst there are many specialist products on the market, a simple smear of Vaseline will 'feed' the rubber quite adequately!

Glass also needs cleaning and whilst a little spirit will often remove glue or similar, don't be afraid to use a very fine wire wool as that will remove more stubborn tar and paint overspray spots very well! Perhaps more for your modern (whether an Alfa or not!) I recommend using 'Duxback' on your windscreen. This works like the old

RainX but is much longer lasting and more effective – an application twice a year will most likely suffice. Duxback bonds to the glass and bead water which is then streamed off the glass with the airflow and vibration of the car, typically at anything over about 20-30mph. It is also true that removing frost is quicker and, of course, that as you rarely need to use your wipers, you are saving on wiper replacement and windscreen wash!

Now you have a clean car so let's keep it clean! A good quality automotive car cover is typically circa £150 and will last for many years so put one on the Christmas present list! Do not use an old sheet please, the cotton holds in moisture and traps it against the paint and the chances are you'll need a respray to cure the bubbling and/or staining that often results!

Finally, if your car is going to be unused for a period of time over the winter then do consider using a good quality trickle charger as this will ensure your battery stays in good condition (particularly important if you have anything draining it when stationary such as a clock or immobiliser). You might also consider a fuel treatment to prevent modern unleaded fuel losing its volatility which often leads to starting problems in the Spring! **Mark Knight**

### **CRACKED DASHBOARDS!**

Many of the classic Spiders and Bertone Coupes have dashboards split after years of heat from the sun and generally weathering and ageing. Conscious that right-hand drive dashboards are not available to purchase (and the LHD dashes are circa Eu1000 to buy!), RetroMarques has developed and trialled a scheme to repair dashboards - with the first 'prototype' repaired item now fitted to a Coupe. If such a repair service would be of interest to you, please let us know as we'd like to gauge the level of interest in such a service.

**Mark Knight.**

**Retromarques.co.uk.** <http://www.retromarques.co.uk/>

**Address:** Unit 8, Strensham Business Park, Strensham, Worcs, WR8 9JZ

**Workshop:** +44 (0) 1684 297698 **Car Sales:** +44 (0) 7791 417256

### **IT'S WORTH HOW MUCH..?!**

By and large classic car values have risen considerably over the past few years and seem likely to continue to rise further. Whilst for many this is good news it can also lead to bad news. Unless your car is accurately valued for insurance purposes, then if the worst was to happen you could be caught with an insurer offering you a settlement well below the cost of a replacement vehicle! It would be wise to review your agreed valuation as if it is more than a couple of years old it will almost certainly need updating! By way of an example, Spider and Bertone Coupe values have risen from circa £5-10k to £15-25k. **Mark Knight**

### **FINALLY - JUST A REMINDER OF THE AGM AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING IN FEBRUARY**

*As you know, our AGM will once again give us the opportunity to look at how we manage the Cotswold Section by volunteering for or voting for membership of the Section Committee. We currently have Mark Byatt as Secretary, John Mills as Treasurer and Steve Davies as the third Committee Member to support Mark and John. Also Mark Grimshaw has kindly been continuing to look after our website and link to our Facebook page. I took on the newsletter this year and many more of you took a real frontline role in the events and club meetings and have featured often in the newsletters. It has been a great year but the Committee has been creaking a bit. The AGM is a time to plan for the next year. The Secretary Post is going to be vacant, as, sadly, Mark Byatt has to hand over to someone else after fulfilling a great stint on the committee. AROC requires a committee of a minimum of 3 officers: Chairman, Secretary and one other. One of the 3 must also take on Treasurer duties.*

**We will be sending you more information before the AGM, but please have a chat with the committee over the next few weeks, if you are interested in being a new member to take the Section forward. HM**

**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](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk) or follow us on <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>