



Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

SILVERSTONE CLASSIC 2016

As usual, the end of July weekend means three days at the wonderful Silverstone classic. Our AROC pitch this year was somewhat out of the way, for reasons unexplained Porsche had taken all the good sites, but we were in good company with Lamborghini as neighbours.

Friday is always spent taking as many photos as possible in the pit areas. Sadly, this year there was not much I hadn't seen before, but it's always a pleasure to get so close to so many iconic cars. One of the highlights for me this year was the turnout of classic racing motorcycles, along with Phil Read and Jim Redman on hand to talk about them. Superb, and they chatted for ages.



Another superb attraction was the special display to celebrate the 40 years since James Hunt was world champion. The cars were interesting but the real star was the trophy cabinet, the small and fairly tatty looking 3rd place trophy from the Japanese GP 1976 was the most significant, this



3rd place awarding him the championship itself.

Saturday and Sunday saw the main racing action under way and from an Alfa perspective the Banks in the Alfaholics GTA were the most competitive. Holly Mason drove a lovely TZ1 and there were various 105 series cars involved. The classic F1 grid this year had a record entry of over thirty cars, and, as ever, was very hard fought. The racing highlight for many though were the incredible Can-Am cars from the late 60's, with upward of seven litres and exhaust systems like drainage pipes. They sounded awesome. Three days flew by and the wait for next year starts again.

From a Cotswold point of view, we had a very good turnout over the weekend including Dave "Crasher" Hood in his motorised wheel chair. I think Rod is the best person to ask about this!

Alex Payne

"ANNUAL BATCAVE OUTING.

Dave Hood (Batman's) adventures with the - hired for the Silverstone weekend - mobility scooter added to the fun and let him see the event without setting back the still-continuing recovery of his injured knee.

Friday's scooter had quite a lively battery at first, hence the crossed-up stance in the picture I sent. By the end of the afternoon the scooter was a little tamer, as also were my legs from keeping up with it! Saturday's scooter was rather keener, to the point of uncontrollability! It pounced on Roger who had been sitting comfortably in one of Nick Wright's chairs, which collapsed. Roger subsided rather gracefully onto the grass amid great alarm. No member was harmed in the making of the story, but Roger's shirt acquired a new green stripe. Amends were made at the Fox, amid heavy-duty pulling



of Dave's other leg." **Rod Ashton (additional photo on right: Alex Payne)**

THE NORMAN KNIGHT IN AUGUST!

When the third Thursday of the month develops into a still balmy summer's evening, there can't be many more pleasurable spots for a petrol head than the village green in Whichford. So it proved in August as the regular Classic Car and Bike Night, organised by the village pub, The Norman Knight, attracted bumper numbers of cars and bike fans. A huge range of Classic Cars, from a veteran Renault to a Mk1 Golf, covered the green,



while the bikes spilled off the green onto the surrounding roads. The staff of the Norman Knight put on a BBQ and an outside bar and the atmosphere was very relaxed despite the crowds in and around the pub.

Among the 150 or so cars there were just three Alfas. Roger Lewis was present in his beautiful 2000GTV and confessed to enjoying a *spirited* drive down from Bidford - despite the pot-holes! Here is Roger's Bertie looking magnificent as always while behind it is an unknown (to me at least) dark blue P reg. Series 2 Spider. It was sandwiched between a bright orange Volvo 240 and a yellow Mk3 Cortina Estate (I told you there was a varied selection of cars!)

Also spotted a Silver GT 3.2 V6 making its Volvo neighbour look even less cool! So if the evening of the third Thursday in September is a pleasant one, get yourself along to Whichford! You'll find the village about 4 miles north of Chipping Norton between Long Compton and Hook Norton. Cars begin arriving about 5pm but in August they were still turning up at 8pm. If you



can't make September stick the third Thursday on your summer 2017 calendar and if the weather is good you won't be disappointed.



P.S. I also spotted these 2 Alfas at Blenheim Classic Car event. They were both stunners. **Richard Morris**

SPRING ALFA DAY 2016 – DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

Whilst visiting SAD at Beaulieu in April, I was admiring 3 round tailed Alfa Spiders and thought one of the registration numbers seemed familiar. Not having a camera or camera phone with me, I looked on the SAD gallery the next day. Sure enough, the blue Alfa Spider EAR 6F previously belonged to my near neighbor, Derrick Steel. The car was sold to a classic vehicle restorer from Weston on the Green near Bicester. Derrick, a Cotswold member, bought the car from a student at Oxford University, used it for a couple of years and then it stood outside his property in Witney for 30+ years. Derrick did some restoration, but at 84 years old and not in good health, he never completed this. But it has now been restored to pristine condition from white to the original colour blue. A photo of the three Alfa Spiders shown in the June edition of the AROC magazine named the three owners – but who now owns the blue one? If you know – let the committee know and they will pass on the information. **Dave Hunt**



THE BIDFORD TRIO'S SUMMER TOUR!!



Birlingham Classic Car Show, nr Pershore Friday 22nd July 2016 5.30pm. (Bi-annual)

Held at the Cricket Ground. Entrance £3 for local charity. Hot dogs, sandwiches + cakes, bar and Jazz Band! The Bidford Trio of David and Angela Townsend and Roger Lewis attended in a Lancia Fulvia and a Bertone 105. There were approx. 600 cars of various makes, in particular 3 Fulvias and 1 Beta Spider – and a 4C in red with a number plate NJS? (Answers on a postcard please!) Very well organised with a good range of food and drinks. It was a very laid back event with a very English Village atmosphere.

Classic Car Show at Webbs Garden Centre, nr Droitwich. Bank Holiday Sunday 28th August 2016

You have to apply for a place at this show. If you get an entry it is free and you get a half price English breakfast and a commemorative plaque!! The Bidford Trio attended and were joined by Steve and Linda Pitts in their Lancia Montecarlo and Figaro, respectively. We lined up next to an F355 Ferrari/Toyota! Good range of cars in particular a Lomax sports car. These were built in Cradley Heath based on a 2CV platform. From Coventry came the Cluley. This is a 1920's car and one of only 6 left in the world and driven by a descendant of the original Mr Cluley!

Classic Car Show at Pershore Plumfest Bank Holiday Monday 29th August 2016

This is held in the grounds of Pershore Abbey. You have to apply and the fee is £3, which goes to the Abbey charity. Again the Bidford Trio attended! A very large number of cars of various makes, in particular a Studebaker towing a small matching caravan, in which the owner slept when visiting shows. There was a Lancia Dedra with a Volkswagen automatic gearbox –very few of these about. A Bristol lorry together with some other interesting commercial vehicles. Mark Knight had a stand there with various cars for sale. A huge number of MGs and John D'Oyly and Andy Bourne brought theirs. Plenty of food and drink places both in the Abbey grounds and on Pershore High Street. We ate Polish Pasties for lunch and sweet ones for afternoon tea! A great show, well organised. **Angela and David Townsend with Roger Lewis**

ALFA OWNERS MEETINGS: Many of our more recent section members first met at Alfaowners meetings and



then found their way to The Fox. The meetings are from 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at "The Aviator" at Gloucester Airport between Cheltenham and Gloucester. We generally have a few 916 Spiders, GTV V6's, 156 GTA's, and the odd Mito and 159 but not many of the older Alfas. Maybe we should do a joint meet sometime? **Dave Parker**



Meanwhile, here are a couple of sunset shots! – **HM**

Diary Dates See website for other diary dates and lots more information! <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>

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



COTSWOLD SECTION CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2016

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

THREE WAYS HOUSE (Home of the World Famous Pudding Club)

Mickleton. Glos. GL55 6SB

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



The deposit has already been paid and the team are looking forward to seeing us all again. Please can we have your names and deposits of £5 per person at the October Section Meeting. John M will not be at the September meeting. Here is a reminder of the menu because we also need menu choices by October 31st.

AROC Cotswold **Section** Christmas Lunch

Two Courses and Coffee - £20.00

Three Courses and Coffee - £23.50

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



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)



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

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.

Hazel Mills

SPETTACOLO SPORTIVO ALFA ROMEO, Zandvoort AND COPPA SPETTACOLO. August 24 – 28. 2016

It was one of those club evening meetings which I missed, but where did it lead? John came home buzzing with the idea of joining in the annual Dutch Alfa Club (SCARB) event at the former F1 circuit at Zandvoort – as encouraged by Alex Payne! The rest is history. ***We have just returned from one of the most fun events in our experience with Alfa Romeo!***

What is it?

The Netherlands is known for its *passione* for Alfa Romeo and in 2006 we experienced it first hand when we entertained scores of SCARB members and their cars at our summer barbecue at The Roman Court at Stow! We knew of their annual meet at Zandvoort which could profess to be “the greatest show on earth” (to Alfa lovers!). Nick Clancy, a regular AROC tour organiser, was going yet again to their event in 2016, but generously promoted and offered the SCARB option of a preliminary two-day tour for non-Netherlands visitors. This was known as the Coppa Spettacolo! What a great opportunity!

The SCARB committee had organised overnight accommodation and meals at Bergen, Delft and Zaandam before we drove to Zandvoort for the weekend for the spectacular of Alfas in numbers which you could never imagine in your wildest dreams!



What happened next?

“Team 916 GB” was formed! We met at the Folkestone Tunnel Terminal with Alex and Fran, plus Steve and Sue (new colleagues from South Wales). Miraculously, we stayed together on the motorway and drove in convoy to our first overnight at Bergen Op Zoom near the border with the sun beating down and tensions high. At the hotel, folk in Alfa tops, who were already enjoying prosecco and beers on the terrace, waved us in to join them. Rene van der Snoek, the SCARB Events Commissioner, bounced over and was the first to greet us and make us feel instantly welcome.

THE TOURS

At dinner, Rene provided us with a ring-bound course book for the days ahead and the more zealous of us (no names) spent some time with a calculator converting the kilometres to miles. No need to worry; we could do the trips in small groups – always with a SCARB member. We were a mixed bag of Europeans but the language of Alfas was international. It was all so relaxed and well organised. We even believe they organised the sunshine!



Day 1

After breakfast followed the ceremony of the stickers! Various techniques were discussed and deployed to apply the Coppa Spettacolo Sportivo 2016 sticker or placard in a strategic place on the car so there was no mistaking our arrival! Cars had to be wiped down or polished too! The first challenge was to get used to the cycle

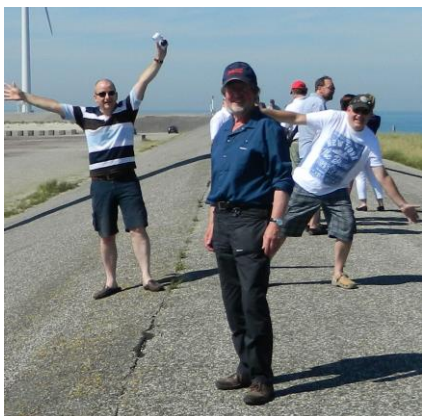


lanes and the cyclists! They were everywhere and often had priorities unknown to us Brits! Luckily, we were setting off behind the 75 of Gerrit Mobach, SCARB Club President, who showed us the ropes! A bird's eye view would have seen an unlikely procession of Alfa 105 spiders, Giulia Supers, 916 Spiders and GTVs, Junior

Zagatos, a Sprint Speciale, a Sud Sprint, a GTC, a 75, an RZ, a 4C, a 33 and a Scottish Mito winding their way across dykes, alongside canals, down cobbled side streets, through picturesque villages and out to lakes and lagoons. Along the way we stopped to get a distant view of the 5km long Oosterschelde bridge – Zeelandbrug, once the longest in Europe and stretching over a vast expanse of water. I was quite relieved that we later chose another crossing at the Delta Works.

We were heading for lunch and stepped on the gas a little to make our booking at the fantastic Restaurant and Hotel Campveerse Toren <http://www.campveersetoren.nl/>. It dates from the year 1400 and was reached by driving through the narrow cobbled streets of the town and out to the harbour car park. This fortified town used to import Scottish wool for the whole of Europe and the building where we ate is a centuries old inn on the harbourside, the oldest in the country. The morning had taken us past the historic aromatic Yerseke oysterbeds, for which Zeeland is famous, then the ancient centre of Middelburg once a rival to Amsterdam for sea trade. The afternoon brought us into modern times.

The Delta works were fascinating. We were travelling towards the Eighth Wonder of the World, the Oosterscheldekering. It is a movable storm surge barrier where 45 metre-wide steel doors can be closed to prevent masses of water coming into the estuary and avoid the devastation of the flooding of 1953. *A must to visit – a must to have seen!* A pause to walk up on to the dike for a better view and more shots of Alfas and Alfisti resulted in a photobombing session by Gerrit (left) and Steve (right)!! Unfortunately, Gerrit then had to get out water and scraper after a seagull had used his 75 as target practice. He would not smile for the camera. Who can blame him? So I have left this photo out!



We were not too far from Rotterdam when the GTC in our convoy developed problems and Gerrit stayed behind to arrange help. Steve and Sue, of Team 916 GB, found themselves at the helm in their 916 Spider as we sped off to The Hook of Holland in their wake! We drove 10km down a spit

between two huge canals passing another Delta Works phenomenon – the Maesklantering – two enormous sliding doors which can close the waterway as a flood defence. At the end we were treated to a constant parade of tankers, cargo vessels, barges and ferry boats on both sides. So we joined the other Alfas already parked, grabbed an ice cream and took even more photos of cars and cargo ships before we headed off to the car ferry to Rotterdam Harbour. We then were immediately snaking through tiny villages full of chicanes and narrow streets heading for Delft, our destination for the night.



Before dinner, John and I found time to walk into the old square and enjoy the late sun on the old buildings and churches. A bonus was sharing time over our meal with Nancy and Rolf from S'Hertogenbosch, who are compiling an archive of the Junior Zagato www.hetjuniorzagatoarchief.com. Their enthusiasm and passion for Alfa Romeos and the preservation of its history had led to a strong friendship with Elvira Ruocco, former archivist from Alfa Romeo and in turn Sebastiano Capri, test driver for Alfa for 30 years! We were thrilled to meet both at the circuit on the following day.



Photo with Sebastiano by: Nancy Hendriks

Day 2

Another hot day, so Spiders were again topless and lashings of sun bloc applied to drivers and navigators! Steve had developed a worrying rattle in the 916, but after a general multi-national session of “Bonnet-bonding”, it was decided that it was not critical and tour threatening. Today, Theo Mattaar, SCARB member, invited us to follow him and daughter Julia in his spider, for another tour through “the green heart of Holland”. Lots of surprises – The Netherlands is also home for classic cars fans of other marques – hidden away in the gardens of rural houses! Was this a coincidence or another bonus of the route? We were also skirting Amsterdam but found the route took us through a huge manmade forest SW of the city, Amsterdam Bos, which boasts a lake world famous for rowing events. After negotiating a tunnel (fun for the Spiders!) we headed for some lovely fishing villages with wooden waterfront houses to lunch at the Eetcafe de Zeilhoek <http://www.eetcafedezeilhoek.nl/fotos/> beautifully situated on the waterside.



A brief stop to look across to Amsterdam and we were on our way to Zaanse Schans open air museum where original windmills used for flour, spices and oil production had been lovingly restored and preserved. Yet another series of narrow cobbled streets to negotiate and we parked up to take the tiny passenger boat across the river Zaan to the museum. Twelve people max and cars left behind, the ferryman kindly did a pirouette on water with our boat as “One free round” for the Scottish couple in our group!! Hang on folks! What a super place, despite the numbers of tourists. Did you know that the flour mills are distinctive because they are covered in reed (thatched)? Did you know that they didn’t simply pump water or grind for flour?

The Zaan District is the oldest industrial area of Western Europe and there were once 600 windmills active in the region. <https://www.dezaanseschans.nl/?lang=en>

If we thought that was amazing, what about Hotel Zaandam, described as *an eclectic structure made of 70 stacked houses!* They represent five distinct types of Zaan houses from labourer’s cottages to town houses, in four shades of green except one which is blue - a tribute to Monet’s stay in the region. The whole hotel is a celebration of the history of local trade and industry with wonderful murals and memorabilia! With cars safely stowed in an underground garage, we met up with the rest of the group and also Nick Clancy whose tour were staying at the hotel for the weekend. The town is packed with restaurants of every cuisine and whilst some went off to enjoy a Mexican feast, others went with Nick to share something more traditional to the area. We stayed to enjoy the delights of the hotel restaurant and watched the others stagger back later!

Zandvoort aspetta!

At last, the day Alex had dreamed of since a boy – visiting Zandvoort, home of racing legends and historic moments. But there were more surprises in store! With Theo now an unofficial member of “Team 916 GB”, we made our way past the North Sea Channel and into an affluent area of the city with castle ruins and A HILL.....!! Alfas were challenged in low gear at times until we crested a long narrow cobbled wooded hill near Haarlem!! Soon we were back on the flat and driving the promenade, famous sand dunes to one side and sea to the other, with our hotel in view. We quickly left our baggage securely in the lobby and drove across to park on the circuit for the two days of the event. Our hotel was just a 5-minute walk away with views of the Racetrack entrance and also of the miles of sandy beach!! Heaven!



Spettacolo Sportivo begins!

The atmosphere was magical as we joined the lines of Alfas driving on to the circuit with the grandstands and track buildings sitting waiting for us among the dunes. Were we impatient to join the event? Of course, of course, but not before the AG (no advertising needed) and microfibre cloths came out and all three 916's were polished to be left with pride for other enthusiasts to see!

What a weekend! There cannot be another event in the world which attracts so many Alfa Romeos! There cannot be another event in the world where the "Surround Sound" is totally Alfa! The future classics and moderns all park up in the main car park and you are dazzled by the rows of 916 Spiders and GTVs and after walking past scores of these, you came across the Alfasuds, 2600s, Giuliettas old and new, 33s, 75s, 155s, 156s, 147s, 159s, Breras, SZ/RZs, GTs, Mitos, 145s and 146s. Drawing you on is the commentary coming from the track and the banners taking you in to the display areas, the paddock and the pits. As you wander across, the entry is lined with the names of past winners at Zandvoort, legends, some in their own lifetime.

Both days are filled with events on the track – timed drives, demo runs, training, qualifying and actual races. Ahead of you are some beautiful exhibits spanning the years of Alfa Romeo, some privately owned and some brought by Scuderia del Portello. Alfa Romeo had also brought some brand new cars, including the Giulietta. Form a queue for a sit inside! The flat roof of the track buildings gives you a panorama of the site and your ears are filled with the sound of Alfa engines as cars roar past and round on the track or play to the gallery of spectators in the paddock. Everyone seemed to be smiling – even our organisers as they hurtled by on the site mopeds, keeping the show on the road.

I know why they don't ask you "Which car do you want to take home?" Impossible. Team 916 GB would have hired a few transporters and included the most bizarre choices. There were Alfa Romeo Romeos, Jolly Club Racing GTV, Nicola Larini's AR 155V6 Ti P4; 1900C Sprint Speciale Superleggera, Nikki Lauda Special Edition Spider (350 built in 1978); Giulietta Sprint Zagato, Original 8C, Sprint Speciale (more than one!); 6C 2500 Sport Freccia d'Oro and an 8C 2300 Monza (thankfully not over restored!). There was even an Arna! The list goes on and photos will be on our website!!



What we were not prepared for was the staggering sight beyond the paddock of the hundreds of older Alfas, the 105's, the Bertones, the Spiders and especially the Giulia Supers! These were flanked by the Junior Zagatos and 3 Montreals! Not just "Heaven" but "Alfa Heaven"! As if that was not enough, we had all the trade stands and the SCARB hospitality area to enjoy!

Alex even had a drive around the circuit in the parade celebrating the 50 years of the 105 spider. What a spectacle – both the 100+ cars forming on the grid – and Alex's face when he returned from 4 laps of the circuit with Theo! A further bonus was to listen to a presentation given by Elvira Ruocco, whose passion for Alfa Romeo led to her founding

the archives for the company in the face of many challenges and from Sebastiano Capri who had many anecdotes of his time as test driver for Alfa Romeo. While we were enjoying this, Steve and Sue were experiencing the thrills of the track in their 916 Spider.

Would we do it again?

You bet! Why would you miss the chance to spend days with so many lovely people as the members of SCARB and their followers from the continent – including Germany, Poland, Switzerland – and, of course, a smattering of Brits? The SCARB annual dinner on Saturday was a great chance to make even more contacts. The hospitality, the organisation and the warm welcome ensured we all had a great time. The preparation and care taken to show us all the beautiful countryside and culture is second to none. Last but not least – where did ALL those Alfas come from????? Wow! Thank you SCARB!! **Text and photos: Hazel and John Mills**

Photos – see Cotswold Section website and also <http://www.alfaclub.nl/> for link to videos and photos