



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter August 2017



THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

"CHANGE MY WAY OF THINKING"



Sitting at the keyboard listening to Bob Dylan and thinking sometimes it's good to change your way of thinking. Which brings me nicely round to our new event organiser, Rupert, who has come up with some super ideas for the end of this year and some for next, but that would be giving the game away.

To this end Rupert is organising a CAAD, Cotswold Alfa Autumn Day for early October. Coffee, Biscotti, a run through the Malvern area and then back for Anti Pasta and Prosecco. Sound like a fine day out. So keep a look out for further details on the web site, newsletter and the Facebook page.

The Fun Concours evening went well and seems to be as popular as ever, but I think a change (there's that word again) of classes next year would be good. Any ideas, then please let me know.

Many of you I hope will have enjoyed the Silverstone Classic and many other classic shows this summer, we still have some Prescott breakfast meets coming up and in November the Classic Show at the NEC.

So keep enjoying your cars, and above all:

"Have fun!"

Ciao, Alex

(Another report on the Goodwood Festival of Speed follows on page 2).



COTSWOLD AUTUMN ALFA DAY (CAAD) SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER Rupert Organ

Subject to sufficient interest, I am organising an autumn section run, which will be a more focused driving event into the Welsh Marches, where roads are quieter and challenging for the driving enthusiast.

The plan will be to start at the Elgar Inn on the A38 at Earl's Croome. This is about two miles from Upton-On-Severn and five miles from J1 of the M50 motorway. For those who don't know this place, it is an Italian-owned establishment that specialises in Mediterranean cuisine and is well-known and frequented by a number of us members who live in the area. They are open from midday until 8pm every Sunday, but subject to numbers, I may be able to persuade them to open at 11am. Coffee, tea and biscotti will be provided by the Elgar Inn on arrival.

The route will be a circular one, with halfway destination being Hay-On-Wye, famous for its numerous second hand bookshops. The outbound route will be via Ledbury, then along the southern side of the Wye Valley to Hay. The return route will be on the north side of the Wye, before cutting across and over the Malvern Hills. Total driving distance and time will be approx. 115 miles and three hours and a quarter. There will be no observational quiz along the route, which will mostly be on A and B-class roads.

I will provide some information on interesting stop-off points along the route, as well as where to park and things to see and do when in Hay. The aim will be to arrive back at the Elgar Inn at around 5pm for a glass of Prosecco and antipasti. Those wishing to make an evening of it can then go on to eat in the restaurant.

Indicative cost of this event will be £13-15 per head, which includes morning refreshments and the Prosecco/antipasti at the end of the run.

All those interested, please contact me through the section e-mail address aroccotswolds@933.me.uk or at the August section meeting.

Goodwood Festival of Speed, Sunday 2nd July By Chris Martin

It was a very early start on a Sunday morning when I headed off to the Goodwood Festival of Speed with my son, Jack. He got the tickets for my Christmas present, but suddenly here we were in early July! The last time we went to the Festival of Speed - four years ago - we got stuck in the queues on the Chichester bypass and missed half the morning, so this time we left home soon after 4.30am and were parked at around 6.30am and in the queue for the gates to open at 7am.

If you have never been, the FoS is a great event and a mixture of hill climb, rally stage, car show, concours event etc., etc.

We spent the morning stood next to the track opposite the house to hopefully get some good photos of the cars going up the hill. After a brief shower around 7.30 a.m. the weather improved and the cars started running from 8.30. We saw everything from pre-war GP cars, the Beast of Turin, Touring cars, Endurance racers, old and new F1 cars, supercars and more.



Alfa 155 DTM



Alfa 33/2



Tyrell Cosworth

After lunch and a beer sat on the cricket pitch, we headed up the hill to the Forest Rally Stage, partly to get out of the sun as it turned really hot. The stage itself was very dry and dusty and we had problems keeping cameras and lenses clean...



There is far too much to do in a day, but I managed to find time to visit the Alfa stand and have a sit in a Stelvio – not my kind of car but very nice!



A quick walk around in paddock near the end of the day allowed us to get up close to some of the cars. This is Nick Mason's 250 GTO - I hate to think how many millions it's worth...

After a quick dash around the fantastic machinery in the Cartier Style et Luxe Concours d' Elegance, it was time to leave. We left at 7pm having been there for 12 hours - I think two days may be called for next time. My car of the day – Nigel Mansell's Williams FW14B Championship winning car from 1992. This has only just been restored having not run since that season. Great car and a great noise.



If you would like to see more photos from the day you can find them on my Flickr site - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chrim399/>

**FUN CONCOURS
Tuesday July 18th
Reported by Alex P.**

Our regular July meeting at the Fox saw our annual "Fun Concours" event on the village green at Broadwell. Despite the weather looking decidedly dodgy, we managed to get a good turnout and stay dry. Although we always say it is a "Fun Concours" with a capital F, the standard of cars presented seems to get better each year and you could see that much effort was put in by one and all. This made judging somewhat difficult, especially for the "Most Bug Splat" award as there was hardly a crushed Arthropod to be seen! Mark Grimshaw gave someone a sporting chance this year for the "Cleanest Wheels" by arriving in a lovely Maserati 3200 with Mark Knight. To add to the amusement, especially for Fin, Steve Davies took the "Must Try Harder" award, with Fin collecting the prize! As usual there was much conversation and scratching of heads before we could tot up all the results and award the prizes. As per previous years these consisted of mainly car cleaning products, except for the ladies' choice which was a more appropriate bottle of fizz.

THE WINNERS WERE:

Best Modern: Guilietta: B9 DFH

Dave Hunt

Cleanest Engine Bay: GT V6: LD55 AWA

Chris Martin

Cleanest Wheels: Fiat 850: DEY 582C

Dave Townsend

Most Bug Splats: 105 Spider: L676 XAT

John Raper

Best Non Alfa: Fiat 850 DEY 582C

Dave Townsend

Must Try Harder: 916 Spider: W311 HET

Steve Davies

Best Memorabilia: 105 Bertone GT Junior

Tony Mitchell

Ladies Choice: 105 Bertone 2000 GTV

Neale Smith

For photos go to Chris Martin's collection on:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Uuf0IjdH37fqNQL02>

NATIONAL ALFA DAY 2017

NAD, this year, was held at Knebworth House which is just off the A1 near Stevenage.

We were looking forward to going as the last time we were at Knebworth was in 1979 to see Led Zeppelin! Not quite the great rock band but the cars that turned up were every bit as exciting and some were even loud!

The morning was a touch cloudy but dry, so roof off the Spider, picnic packed and off we set. On arrival we were guided very efficiently to park up in series order which, for us, meant being amongst ninety seven other 916's!! After a coffee (oh - **and** cake!) it was time for a good look round and some retail therapy. A new fleece and a AROC formal shirt later, it was time for some pics with my new camera. Although the cars on display were little different from previous years, the standard of presentation just seems to get better each year, I would have found judging the concours very hard indeed.

As for the cars themselves, we had it all, vintage 6c's to modern 8c's and everything in between.



As you can see, a recently restored Montreal in blue with a two tone blue interior took my eye. On speaking to the owner, we heard that finding the material and colours for the interior were the hardest part of the restoration.



A car which is now being restored and cherished more and more is the Sud. For most it was their first Alfa and the owners now are

spending large amounts to return this great little car to better than new condition. Amongst the Suds on display was the lovely Sprint belonging to Mark Byatt. The best handling car I've ever owned? Not far off for sure!

Another now rare car from the 80's is the 75, and some great examples were parked up. Speaking of rare, when did we last see a 164 QV in fabulous *nick* and for sale too? I did ask, but received a firm "No!" from Fran!

One small display that attracted a lot of attention was the newly formed AROC Modified cars. Not for the purist I'm sure, but speaking to the guys who owned the cars they were Alfisti for sure and the time and effort that was put into their cars was beyond reproach. The highly modified and lowered (I mean *really* low) Brera had a stunning paint job, interior and audio system and the owner clearly was very proud.



Towards the end of the day Fran managed a look around the House itself and was a little disappointed. But there was no disappointment in the day itself. It was another well run NAD and thanks to all. It even stayed dry for the journey home.

Photos and report from Alex P.

BICESTER SCRAMBLE **Sunday October 1st**

Historic buildings, vintage vehicles, specialist businesses...and space. This 348-acre former RAF Bomber Command base is home to some fantastic events and sights. If you haven't been before – make this one you don't miss.

“The UK's best-preserved WW2 RAF Bomber Station turned national centre for historic motoring has changed a great deal since the start of 2017. Now, with the fourth phase of meticulous restoration works drawing to a close, another ten historic buildings totalling some 30,000 square feet of workshop, office and showroom space will soon be unveiled. From The Motor Transport Yard to The Field Force Motor Transport Shed and more, the new units are fully pre-let or under offer from a plethora of new specialist businesses, all active in the historic motoring industry.”

Lots of classic car clubs are registered and Alex has registered the AROC Cotswold Section. You have to buy your own tickets individually and club ticket sales close midnight on Sunday 24th September (subject to availability).

We need a minimum of 10 vehicles to secure a club display area – so please let Alex know when you have purchased your tickets.

Tickets are available at:

<http://bicesterheritage.co.uk/events/>

<http://bicesterheritage.co.uk/event/sunday-scramble-tickets/>

When you arrive at the booking page go to the 'Buy Club Member Vehicle tickets' option. This not only enables you to purchase advance discounted tickets but allows BH to see how many club vehicles to expect when planning the space for a club parking display area.

Let Alex know when you have booked. **HM**

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Section Meetings are on the third Tuesday in every month of the year at The Fox in Broadwell. GL56 0UF
<http://foxbroadwell.co.uk/>

Tuesday, August 15th From 7.p.m. onwards
Regular monthly meeting

Sunday, August 20th
MITCAR at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
<http://www.aroc-uk.com/eastmids/mitcar2017.html>

Sunday, September 17
Classic Car Rally Sudeley Castle. £5 entry per car

<https://www.sudeleycastle.co.uk/event/classic-car-rally/>

Let Alex P. know if you are going re a possible club parking. Three section members already booked in.

Tuesday, September 19 from 7 p.m. onwards
Regular monthly meeting

Sunday, October 8th – Cotswold Alfa Autumn Drive (see feature on first page of newsletter)
Drive out and meal.

Tuesday, October 17 from 7 p.m. onwards
Regular monthly meeting

Saturday, December 2nd
Cotswold Section Christmas Lunch at Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton.

Please watch our website too for up and coming activities.

Please send in any items for the next newsletter by September 12th. They can be emailed to the committee email marked "Newsletter" or sent direct to me at mills9jt@btinternet.com

Hazel Mills



The Prescott Gold Cup Race Meeting 15th September at 7.00pm

The 'Final Push' to raise funds for the new Club Pavilion frontage is underway. We have a way to go – a few furlongs perhaps! So, we have organised a different kind of race meeting, with lots of competition, excitement and fun; with dinner included. It is not a four-wheeled event, but a four-legged event! An evening of horse racing, where you can take part by taking a chance on the horse that gets to the winning post first.

How will it work? There will be films of actual horse races shown at random, both flat and national hunt. You place your bets with the Bookie for the horse that you fancy, the film is selected, the lights go down, and... they're off! All winning bets get a proportion of the race takings.

Sponsorship of races is invited, which will allow you to choose the names of the horses and trainers for a race. This includes the cost of 8 tickets. A Race Card with all horses and trainers will be printed for the event.

This promises to be a fabulous evening with race commentary by Clare Balding, Jim McGrath and Derek Thompson. Don't be a nay-sayer or wait until the horse has bolted. Come along for the ride at the inaugural Prescott Gold Cup race meeting!

*Cost: £20.00 per person. £200 per Race Sponsorship with 8 tickets.
Maximum of 12 tickets per table*

To book or for further information please call 01242 673136

The event will comply with the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976.

Bugatti Owners' Club, Prescott Hill, Gotherington, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 9RD.

The "Flyer" above is from Bugatti Owner's Club to all interested in supporting and has been submitted via Steve Dymoke.

COMPETITION TIME

SPOTTED AT SILVERSTONE CLASSIC - AND RIPE FOR COMMENT! CAPTIONS PLEASE!!

Alex will buy a drink for the winner(s) at the September meeting. Secretary will have the casting vote!

Please send your witty captions to the section email arocotswolds@933.me.uk – entitled "Some Silverstone Classics!" - or give your idea to Alex at the August meeting!

ANY OFFERS FOR "STEVIE WONDER"????



OR "TEAM GRIMSHAW"??

