



# AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter December 2017



## THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES



### " TEMPUS FUGIT"

*Well where has this year gone?  
They say the older you get time  
goes by more quickly. That's  
certainly the case for me this  
year.*

*The annual Xmas do at the  
Three Ways Hotel was as usual  
a great success and we raised  
some more funds for Myton*

*Hospice. Thank you all.*

*As most of you know, in February 2018, we are saying farewell to our hosts, Mike and Carol at the Fox. We will continue to plan for meetings as usual and if anything changes you will be notified asap.*

*For 2018 we have plenty planned, I will post a full list of dates in plenty of time when they are confirmed. The big news is that Cotswold Alfa Day is confirmed for **Saturday, 23rd June 2018**. The venue is Cotswold Wildlife Park. We have superb dedicated parking and have moved the day to a Saturday to make it more family friendly and visiting Alfa owners can make the event a full weekend away. More details to follow.*

*I will be away for the month of January but please feel free to mail the committee with anything of interest to add to the events calendar, or anything else for that matter. For those hardy souls The Motor Hub Bibury have a New Year's Day meet between 12 midday and 3pm and the first Bicester Sunday Scramble is on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> January.*

*I have attached my editorial for the current edition of Alfa Driver at the end of this month's hard copy newsletter. It will also be on the website.*

*It just remains to wish you all Seasons Greetings and thanks for your support this year!*

*Ciao!*

Alex

### Cotswold Section celebrates Christmas!

The first Saturday in December saw 36 of us gather at The Pudding Club in the Cotswold village of Mickleton to celebrate Christmas together. We had some new faces this year and all were agreed that the meal was as scrumptious as ever and everyone was well looked after. Thank you to the staff at The Three Ways Hotel!



As well as masterminding the auction, our Chairman managed to do a couple of his famous impersonations including the one above of Tommy Cooper!

Other committee members marvelled at the wonders of the perennial UFO's. These proved more challenging this year, but -



to Phil Champ they were "a piece of cake" – or should I say pudding!



I take total responsibility for the mystery with the missing raffle tickets and promise that I have something different up my sleeve for 2018!



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Thank you to everyone who donated the raffle and auction prizes and to "Team Gardiner" for dutifully folding all the ticket stubs. They tell me they look forward to the job!



We had a number of lucky winners. Rod Ashton

was delighted that there were two copies of the Murray Walker Autobiography and he secured the last one!

Alex had again made a superb model for the auction and wisely put a personal reserve on the item.



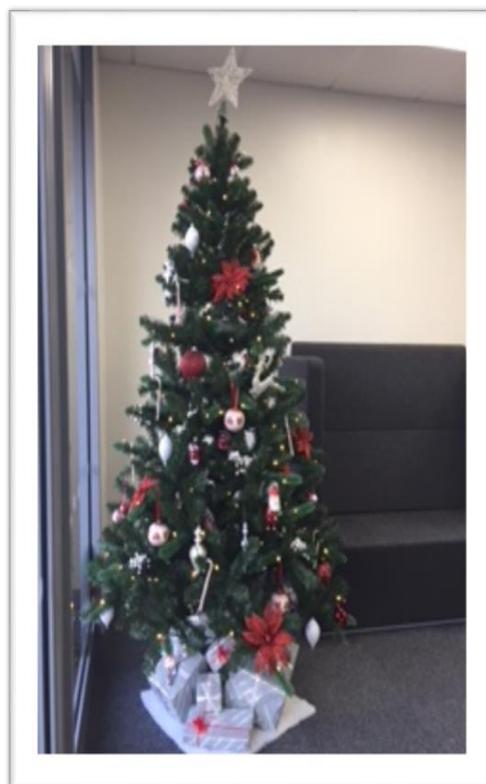
It did not meet the reserve, but will be auctioned elsewhere and the monies will still be donated to the Myton Hospices at a later date.

Thank you to all of you for your contributions and your purchases. Together with funds raised at Alex's Italian meal earlier in the year, we have now been able to send a cheque for £361 to our chosen charity. This is all resulting from donations from yourselves enabling us to send all proceeds from the raffle and auction to our chosen charity and also Alex's wish that surplus monies from the Italian meal are used for this same worthy cause.



**Hazel Mills**

**Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year  
from us all at**



**autocasa**

Vincenzo Licata, family and staff are sharing with you that Autocasa has moved! They are now in much larger premises just across the road from the original. It is business as usual in the New Year.

<http://autocasa.co.uk/>

Autocasa Ltd, Jackson Road, Coventry, CV6 4BT |  
TEL: 024 7767 8535



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*And now  
a Tale for Christmas!!*



*It is traditional to gather round at Christmas time and hear a tale of times gone by and mysteries unsolved. Gather round the log fire at The Fox at the December meeting and if you are very good, Tony and Susanna Mitchell will tell you more of this fantastic saga! You never know what may come back to haunt you...! Maybe you have stories to share too!*

*Susanna tells us:*

“On 7<sup>th</sup> October, Tony and I were at Castle Combe to support our son, Westie, who was racing his Formula Junior de Tomaso (ex Clay Ragazzoni)

We were admiring Chris Mann’s cars, the Alfas Disco Volante and RL SSTF and I was reminded that some time ago (probably twenty years!) I was reading an article by Peter Hall about the RL SSTF in the VSCC magazine. To my amazement, he said that the one he was talking about was registered shortly after the war to one John Godrich, who was my father!

I know that we had all sorts of odd and interesting cars at that time, but I certainly didn’t remember that one and I am sure I would have done – even at quite a young age. There were certainly no photos of it anywhere and he was a super enthusiastic photographer. He was no longer with us, so I couldn’t ask him. My mother, when asked, had no knowledge of it at all!

However, my uncle, Rolf Moore, was still alive and when I phoned him, he laughed and said that yes, he remembered it! It related to a time when he was going to London to see a dealer called Wincop and my father met up with him. Rolf bought the ex Prince Bira Bentley 3 ½ and my father (not to be outdone, I suspect) bought the said Alfa which was also there.



Apparently it was shipped by train to Shenstone, near Lichfield in Staffordshire, where we lived and for some reason was taken to my grandmother’s house and hidden in the coach house!

What the rest of the story is we will never know as all concerned are no longer with us. I suspect that he didn’t have it very long. He probably realised he had bitten off more than he could chew as, although he was an engineer, he definitely was not a mechanic. Anyway, what would he do with such a car? He wasn’t into racing and had a growing family. Maybe, because of my mother’s ignorance, there were other reasons about which one can only speculate!

Chris Mann seemed quite specific that the car in question was “the Crowley-Milling car” \*! Who knows? I have included some photos of his lovely cars. Understandably, it was difficult to get near enough for a clear view. Photos by Tony – I am a duff with a camera.

**Susanna**



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## *A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN!*



*\*Mr Crowley-Milling, who was born in St Asaph, Denbighshire, divided his time between homes in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Switzerland. Nuclear physicist Michael Crowley-Milling played key roles in developing particle acceleration and the touchscreen technology that paved the way for smartphones and tablets. He was an avid vintage car collector and expert, who for 70 years owned a rare 1931 Alfa Romeo 1931 8C, worth £2 million. He was given the vehicle as a 21st birthday present by his father and sold it to a friend a few years before his death. Mr Crowley-Milling died childless, leaving behind a £2.1m fortune, mostly made up of the £2m he made from selling his vintage Alfa Romeo sports car.*

<http://www.kidston.com/kidston-cars/2484/1924-Alfa-Romeo-RL-Targa-Florio>

<http://www.automotivemasterpieces.com/1924alfaromeortargafloriosntf11.html>

**See You All at Our Next Meetings On**

**Tuesday December 19th**

**Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup>**

**From 7 P.M. At The Fox, Broadwell. G156 0UF**

**Check Our Website**

**<http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>**

Contact the committee [aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk)

*“I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and many more events for us to enjoy together in 2018!!”*

*Steve Davies*

