



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter June 2017



The Secretary's Scribbles **CAD 'n' Things**



The committee have been working hard on preparations for CAD, and I, for one, had no idea so much was involved! We have had a final site visit, drawn up a detailed plan, driven the "Giro" (very good it is too) and ordered new "Sail" banners - which will look stunning! We also managed to get a main Alfa dealer to attend. So, if you haven't got your name down yet -

see John Mills. We still need volunteers for both the start and Upton House, so please don't be shy in coming forward!

By the time the newsletter is read we will have attended "La Vita Rossa" at Prescott and the Toddington Classic and Steam event. Articles on both will be in our newsletters.

Early July, the 9th, sees National Alfa Day at Knebworth House in Hertfordshire. If you are going and fancy a Cotswold convoy then I'd be pleased to organise it. As usual just let me know.

Our July meeting will again feature the "Fun" Concourse" on the Green outside The Fox at Broadwell. It is always well attended and as the title says - "FUN"! Prize categories are given at the end of the newsletter.

So enjoy the heart of the summer, it should be a good one, I hope.

Ciao!

Alex

Below: Spotted at Prescott.

See no Alfa! Hear no Alfa! Speak no Alfa!



COTSWOLD ALFA DAY (CAD) 2017
Sunday June 25th
Upton House (NT), Nr. Banbury, Oxon
OX15 6HT



These were just some of our cars joining us for CAD at Upton House in 2007! How good is that!?

Upton House has something for everyone and some special displays.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house-and-gardens>



SO APPLY NOW!

WE HAVE SOME SPACES!! DON'T MISS OUT!!!

Download an application form from our website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> or email to aroccotswolds@933.me.uk (marking the email for the attention of John Mills) or contact John at the address below. Completed forms should be posted to John Mills, Section Treasurer, together with the appropriate payment. Cheques should be made out to "AROC Cotswold Section". The address for completed forms and payment is: **John Mills, AROC Cotswold Section Treasurer, Edgehill Cottage, Loxley, Warwick, CV35 9JT. Tel 01789 470071.**

LATE ENTRIES AND GIRO PANORAMICO APPLICANTS CAN PICK UP TICKETS FROM JOHN MILLS AT THE FOX INN, BROADWELL FROM 9.30 - 10.30 ON JUNE 25TH

**Will you be one of this year's CAD winners?
See all our prize categories overleaf**

CAD PRIZES GALORE!

Giro Panoramico: for the correct answers to the quiz, the Cotswold Section will be giving away a super *Carluccio's Food Hamper*. In the event of a tie, there will be a draw. This is not a timed event and we do not award prizes for least distance covered. Just enjoy!

There is also a chance to win one of our other prizes for your much loved Alfa Romeo.

Our sponsors "Retromarques Ltd" will be awarding prizes for:

- BEST MODERN ALFA
- BEST CLASSIC ALFA
- BEST "FUTURE CLASSIC" ALFA

AROC Cotswolds Section will be awarding prizes for:

- BEST VINTAGE ALFA
- CAD COMMITTEE'S CHOICE

Arriving at The Fox

There will be Marshalls to show you where to park.

Once parked, go to John Mills to register and then to Hazel Mills and Fran Payne for your food ticket, Giro Route and Giro Panoramico 2017 Window Sticker.

Late entries should also go first to John to complete a form and pay.

Departure for the Giro.

The Marshalls will set you off in small groups, once you have enjoyed Carol and Mike's Special Fox Inn Breakfast Rolls.

Not doing the Giro?

You can go direct to Upton House. Please do not arrive before 11.00. a.m.

To display your car with us within the grounds, you will need a privileged parking pass – so still need to apply for this and pay the appropriate fee, whether doing the Giro or not.

SEE YOU THERE!

The Cotswold Section Committee has a new member:



We are pleased to tell you that Rupert Organ has been co-opted on to the Committee as Events Co-ordinator. Rupert has been keen to become more involved with the Section activities for a while, but was not able to firm up his commitment at the time of the AGM. Rupert has been

active recently in arranging our CAD Giro and helping with the rest of CAD 2017. Welcome aboard!

Other committee changes:

We are sorry to tell you that we will be losing Mark Grimshaw as our Web Manager at the end of the year. Mark, the founder member and former Chair of the Section, has given many years of hard work and enthusiasm to the section and we have benefitted greatly from all he has done. Amongst other achievements, Mark was instrumental in setting up the excellent website which we all enjoy today. During the remainder of the year he will be handing over the Web Manager responsibility to Chris Martin, already elected to the committee at the AGM. Thank you for all you have contributed to make the Cotswold Section a success, Mark. We look forward to continuing to see you at our meetings and events.



Pictured above is Mark Grimshaw (left) receiving his "Fun Concourse" certificate 2016 from previous Secretary, Mark Byatt. The category was "Cleanest Wheels"

**Joining the AROC Bristol Section for
A VISIT TO A' BECKETTS VINEYARD
Devizes, Wilts**

<https://www.abecketts.co.uk/>

Back in February (I think it was) Nick Grange from the Bristol Section AROC gave notice of a visit to a'Becketts Vineyard near Devizes.

This immediately caught my interest because the owners are long standing friends of both Fran and myself - we've known them that long that they used to babysit the boys!

So on a fine Sunday morning in May, we dusted down the Spider and had a great drive via Marlborough and over the Wiltshire downs to Littleton Panell.



Paul the owner is not only a friend but a true Alfisti, currently running a 3.2 166 in menacing black. He and Nick also persuaded TH White from Swindon to attend with a new Giulia Super and 4c for us to look around.

Speaking of new Giulias - our good friend Matt Willmott was there in his new steed. It looked fabulous in Grey with red interior. See below:



Cars also in attendance were very varied, from a 156 GTA/SW, Nick's 33, two new Giuliettas and very nice Abarth Spider in blue.



The icing on the cake was a Maserati GranTurismo.



After a leisurely coffee, a good chat, a sit in the 4C (easy to get in - but getting out was a struggle....!) Paul suggested a drive out before lunch across the Wiltshire plains. This was all good fun!! We followed Matt's new Giulia and boy did that thing accelerate!!!! the Maserati which was also ahead of us sounding stunning!

On return, we gathered together for a superb roast lunch at a local pub. On leaving, after lunch, the heavens opened but this didn't dampen a great day out, especially as Paul then opened the vineyard shop for us.

Paul is keen to repeat the day, so next year how about a section visit?

Alex Payne

WALLINGFORD CLASSIC CAR SHOW AND PARADE

May 7th

One of my favourite events of the early part of the season is the Wallingford Classic Car Show and Parade which this year took place on May 7th.

For the third year running I took the Rover along and once again I experienced a thoroughly enjoyable day. I convoyed to the start point of the parade with my father and my nephew, who were in their Morris 8 and Mini respectively. We lined up with around 350 other classics at 10am. My dad introduced me to a friend of his who collects Ferraris (and he has the polo-shirt, jacket, baseball cap and flag to prove it!). Today he'd brought along an F430 which he was kind enough to let me sit in.



This car, apparently, was the very final Ferrari to feature a conventional gear lever only. After this car, all Ferrari's had 'flappy paddles'. I hope I've got that right! I think it's

what I was told by the owner? Anyway, with or without 'flappy paddles', he wasn't interested in a straight swap for the Rover!

At 11am the parade got underway and all 350 cars trundled through the centre of Wallingford (or Causton as fans of Midsomer Murders refer to it) where local residents lined the streets and packed the market square to wave and applaud at the rolling display of diverse vehicles. As I wrestled the Rover around the square I heard a shout of 'Richard!' and there, close to the Town Hall, were Cotswold Section stalwarts John and Helen Raper waving frantically! Good to see you both!

At the end of the parade the cars are directed into a green space close to the town centre known as the Kincroft and the event becomes a traditional *Park-Up And Picnic* classic car show. As the sun was shining today, large numbers of the public enjoyed an afternoon out looking at old cars, and the ice-cream vans and the Coach and Horses did a roaring trade.

I spotted 5 Alfas on display. At the start of the parade there was a 916 GTV, but he wasn't on the Kincroft, so I hope he was in an overflow area somewhere and not at the side of the road with his bonnet in the air! There was also a 2008 2.0 Brera Spider, a 1991 2.0 75 and a silver 1750 Kamm tail Spider from 1971.



I also spotted a car I'd seen many times at Cotswold Alfa Days of the past in John Haynes's fine 1987 1.7 litre 33 which featured no less than 6 Giro Panoramico stickers on its windscreen. I chatted to John for a while and he said how much he always enjoys CAD but unfortunately this year he will be unable to attend due to other commitments. (However, he has since applied!)

I know you're not interested in a beautiful green 1939 Triumph Dolomite or a freshly restored 1962 Vauxhall Victor FB or even a stunning 1976 Ford Granada Ghia, so I'll skip over those and move onto the Italian stuff! As well as the F430 mentioned earlier, there were three other products of Maranello, namely a 1974 Dino 246 GT, a 1998 F355 F1 GTS and a 2011 California.



Lamborghini was represented by a 2007 Gallardo and a so 'ugly it is beautiful' 1970

Espada. This latter model drew quite a lot of

attention. There was a single 'Masser', a GranTurismo and two Lancia Fulvias, one a coupe, the other a Zagato fastback. Fiats were present too of course. Firstly, there was a delightful and newly restored pale blue 500. Then came two more Fiats, a Panda and a Tempra, which to my mind stretched the term 'classic car' to its absolute limit.

Other cars did the same: Vauxhall Carlton Estate, a Rover 800, a Mk 2 Golf, a Focus RS and several Toyota Supras to name but a few. They were just a few out of 350 - and



before this develops into that perennial debate of what is and what isn't a classic car, I'll end by saying that Wallingford is a cracking event. The range of vehicles is staggering and certainly wider than most other shows. The parade is great fun and makes the show a bit different.

I'm already looking forward to 2018!

Richard Morris (inc photos)

TODDINGTON CLASSIC AND STEAM.
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway
June 12th

Well what a great fun day this turned out to be! The weather held for us and despite a slightly lower Alfa turnout than expected, we were made most welcome.

From our section we had Chris Martin and family, Steve and Fin, myself and Fran, and Geoff and Doreen Poyner in there splendid S4 Spider. We also spotted a rather nice 1300 Junior GTV in the car park, complete with some tasty Alfaholics additions.



Once parked up and refreshed at the cafe we purchased our rail tickets and enjoyed the short run north which terminated just short of Broadway and on return

crossed platforms and took the trip to Cheltenham race course. It was enjoyable to sit in an 50/60's 1st class carriage with the gentle motion of steam pulling us along.



On return, we set about looking at the very diverse collection of vehicles on display. Everything from E Type Jaguars to Messerschmitt "Bubble" cars. It's always good to see cars from your youth in splendid condition, so the MK1 Austin A40, my first car, a concourse Austin 1100, and a rare Sunbeam Imp Sport were amongst some of the highlights for me.

The collection of early commercial vehicles was also good to see, a three wheel Scammell tow truck, and original Morris Commercial Lorry and a Jowett van stood out, especially as my father had one in the 50's.



After the usual picnic taken behind the Alfas it was time for a final look at the cars and this time a fab Sunbeam Alpine Tiger hit the spot! Lovely - and it sounded even better!! All in all - a good day out and one I would recommend to all.

Alex Payne (Inc. photos)

PRACTICAL CLASSICS EVENING
Charingworth Manor. May 8th



A few of the Cotswold Section got to hear at the last minute about a special evening offered by Practical Classics

It was the halfway point of their epic nationwide tour of the UK and efforts to choose Britain's best classic café with Footman James Classic Insurance. Classic car owners were invited to join them for an evening at the Charingworth Manor Hotel near Chipping Campden. As well as the chance to see some classics new and different to us, they were also offering a buffet and a classic pub quiz with prizes!



(HM)



Tuesday July 18th Section Meeting
FUN CONCOURSE
at The Fox Inn, Broadwell
7.00 p.m. onwards

Everyone Welcome!
 The categories are:

- Best Prepared Modern Alfa
- Cleanest Engine Bay
- Cleanest Wheels
- Most Bug Splats
- Best prepared Italian Non - Alfa
- Ladies Choice
- Must Try Harder
- Best Vehicle Memorabilia

We have had some cracking entries every year – so “Get your thinking caps on!” and “Let Battle Commence” on Broadwell Village Green in front of The Fox Inn for what promises to be another fun evening!

VISIT TO THE CLASSIC MOTOR HUB, BIBURY Sunday June 4th

<http://www.cotswoldcars.com/motorhub/>

The Classic Motor Hub, on the site of former RAF Bibury, is home to Cotswold Collectors Cars and on the first Sunday of the summer months they open their doors from 9am 'til midday for 'Coffee and Classics'.

The event attracts a wide variety of vintage and classic cars and bikes, and the atmosphere is very relaxed. Cotswold Collectors Cars main showroom is housed in a restored WW2 hangar which is decorated with a wonderful collection of motoring signage and art. Several other buildings act as further showrooms and each contains a wealth of machinery from across the motoring decades.

Visitors to Coffee and Classics are asked to park in a large paddock at the rear of the complex and this car park itself soon fills with a diverse array of classic vehicles, including, on Sunday 4th June, my old Rover.

The predominant marque on that day was Ferrari. There were numerous modern models dotted around the car park and the display in front of the buildings. But inside is where the real gems lay. First up was a glorious and rare 1969 365 GTS. Ferrari only made 20 of these 4.4 litre V12 convertibles. Squatting alongside this red beauty was an even rarer 1952 225 S Vignale Berlinetta. Only 6 of these models were built and this one was finished in silver over deep navy blue. Close by was a red 225 S Vignale Barchetta also from 1952. All of these were stunning, but for me they were outshone by a fantastic 1953 166MM Vignale Barchetta which has been in the same ownership since 1960.

Lamborghini, Lancia and Fiat were well represented too. A Countach LP500 S sat just inside the hangar with it's outrageous doors pointing at the structure's roof trusses. Looking far more understated, despite its lime green paintwork, was a 1968 Miura. In the same room as the Miura was one of three Intergrales this one priced at £79k. In the car park was a 1974 Fulvia and close by was what must now be a rare car, a 1974 Fiat 124 Sport Coupe, this one finished in a tasteful metallic green.

Now the Alfas: In the same room as the Ferraris, looking quite mean in deep gloss black with red wheels, was a long wheelbase 1934 8C 2300 with coachwork by Brianza. What a stunner!



As if that wasn't special enough in the main hangar was the star of the day, a 1934 P3. This one had recently been sold but the buyer and the price were a closely guarded secret.

These two models kind of overshadowed the other Alfas, which included a 1964 Giulia Spider competition-finished in blue and priced at £70k and a white 1975 Montreal priced at £75k.

There were two Alfas out in car park too, firstly a bright yellow 1972 1750 Bertone Coupe and secondly a 2009 8C Competizione.



That just about covers the Italian machinery. However, there was plenty more to whet the appetite of any petrol-head. A Type 23 Bugatti in lovely used condition caught

the eye, as did a huge V12 Delage that, with Rene Thomas at the wheel, claimed a Land Speed Record of 143.24mph in 1924. A D-type Jaguar looked very purposeful covered in a layer of mud and grime from a recent outing and so did a Frazer-Nash with its exposed chain driven gearbox. There were several Aston Martins including a DB4 priced at £575k. But if you can't stretch to that, how about a mint Ford XR3 Cabriolet for £21k? As well as the cars, the collection of motoring art, prints and photos hanging on the walls of the showrooms, is well worth a look too. 'Coffee and Classics' offers a wonderful opportunity to get up close to some superb cars and to chat to people who love them, own them and work on them. I'd definitely go again. The event is free and there is no need to book in advance. There is also no need to arrive early, people were still turning up as I left at 11.30am. The venue is quite hard to find unless you're familiar with the back lanes of the Cotswolds. You can approach it from the south via Bibury and Ablington or from the north from the Fosse Way and Northleach. (Some of our old hands might remember that the route of Giro Panoramico 2009 went right past RAF Bibury, but back then it was just a farm store.) The full postal address is Classic Motor Hub, Old Walls, Ablington, Bibury GL7 5NX. There is a map on their website at www.cotswoldcars.com/



Richard Morris (Inc. Photos – more on website)

Mille Miglia 2017 by Mark Grimshaw

This year saw the 90th anniversary of the Mille Miglia. For those who may not know what the Mille Miglia is, it was an open-road endurance race which took place in Italy twenty-four times from 1927 to 1957 (thirteen before the war, eleven from 1947).

Since 1977, the "Mille Miglia" has been reborn as a regularity race for classic and vintage cars. Participation is limited to cars produced no later than 1957 which had attended (or were registered to) the original race. The route (Brescia-Rome round trip) is similar to that of the original race, maintaining the original start and finish in the Viale Venezia in Brescia.

Stirling Moss still holds the record for completing the course in the shortest time. In 1955 he and his navigator Denis Jenkinson completed the 992 mile course in 10 hours, 7 minutes and 48 seconds at an average speed of 99 mph in a Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR. He beat fellow works driver Juan Manuel Fangio by 32 minutes.

As a manufacturer, Alfa Romeo had the most wins of the MM when the race was run 'in anger'. There was no shortage of Alfas in this year's race with 47 Alfas taking part, the oldest a 1928 6C 1500 MM and the newest a 1957 Giulietta Berlina.

The 2017 race was the thirty-fifth re-evocation of the Mille Miglia, ninety years after the first of the 24 speed races.

This year was extra special for us because Mark Knight from Retromarques had put in an entry with his Austin Healey 100/4 and was on the reserve list for a place. This turns out to be quite a cruel process as Mark had to turn up on the day with his car prepped at the starting venue, along with the other 19 people on the reserve list. Then if any cars dropped out the organisers chose the corresponding number of cars from the reserve. Sadly, this year, only 2 cars dropped out and Mark did not get a place.

We had decided to go along with a 4-seat modern car in case Mark was lucky and to act as back-up in case anything should go wrong. As a consequence we got to see all 440 cars in the hangar at Fiera di Brescia where they were scrutineered.

We drove down separately, Mark leaving a day ahead of us in the Healey and met up in the hotel

where we were staying in Desenzano del Garda on the Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday was an early start with Mark required to be at Fiera by 8:30am about a 40-minute drive from where we were staying.



Photo - Mark's Healey in the collecting hangar at Fiera

We were able to wander around amongst all the participating cars with absolutely no-one checking if we were supposed to be there. Can't see that happening at an event in the UK !



Photo – 1931 Alfa 6C 1750 Gran Sport in the collecting hangar at Fiera

As I said, sadly, Mark did not get a place so we headed off into Brescia for a look around and to watch the cars assemble for the start - again typically Italian with no-one stopping you going anywhere and extremely relaxed and laid back.



Photo – Ex F1 driver Arturo Merzario & Jean-Pierre Jarier in a 1938 Alfa 6C 2300 Mille Miglia.



Photo - Cars on display around the streets of Brescia

We were aware that the route took the cars through the town we were staying in, so after a bit of lunch we headed back to Desenzano and found a bar next to the lake and along the route the cars were taking, sat back with a beer or two and watched all 440 cars go by.



Photo- The view from the bar - 1955 Alfa 1900 C Super Sprint Touring

Friday and Saturday were taken up with leisurely visits to Bardolino, Parma and Cremona before back to the action on Sunday.

Sunday morning, we headed back to Brescia and took a leisurely wander round the town. We had allegedly the finest pizza in Brescia for lunch and then heading for the finish in the Viale Venezia to watch the cars arriving back. We found a great spot right by the finish and watched all the surviving cars return, some looking a little the worse for wear after their 1000 mile trip round Italy.



Attilio Bonetti & Corrado Zobbio and their 1955 Giulietta Sprint waiting to cross the finish line.



Photo - Toto Wolff Mercedes F1 team boss at the finish.

We travelled 2260 miles, visiting many places along the way through France, Switzerland, Italy, Luxembourg and Belgium, spending our final night in Ypres to see the Menin Gate ceremony, which is held every night at 8 p.m.

The highlight for me, apart the from the Mille Miglia, has to be driving over the Gotthard Pass which had opened only just the day before we got there !



Photo – Gotthard Pass.

“This write up does not really do justice to the experience. I will put a selection of photos from the Mille Miglia on the Cotswold Section website”.
Mark G.

**PRESCOTT "LA VITA ROSSA"
Saturday May 27th**

On a slightly damp Saturday morning, six assorted Alfas rendezvoused at the car park of the Royal Oak Inn at Gretton to prepare for the short drive to Prescott. On arrival we all managed to park together and form a small Alfa enclave.



After the ceremonial cleaning we headed for a much needed coffee and then went on to explore the wonderful cars on display.

Building on from last year's event we were really spoilt for choice - a line of pre-war Bugatti's, three modern Bugatti's including the new Chiron plus a large assortment of Citroen and Renault cars including my all-time favourite - a Citroen SM Maserati. (Speaking of which, we also had the pleasure of hearing a Maserati 250F fire up from a few feet away).



On the Italian side a genuine Ferrari 250 GTO ! WOW!

There were examples of Lamborghini Jota and Miura, more Ferrari's from the 60's through to the

present day and a good selection of Lancias including a rather lovely Appia saloon which I would have gladly driven home.

Some superb Alfas were scattered through the "Orchard", including three Montreals, Spiders from every era, a superb 70's Alfetta, a few 2600's, 105's a-plenty and several race prepared cars.

We were pleased to see this included our own Steve Dymoke in his recently restored Sud. He later chanced his arm on the hill. I have to say it looked fabulous and sounded even better.



As Saturday was the day when Italian cars were celebrated, we saw again the wonderful "Beast of Turin" both up close and roaring up the hill! No marks for guessing which is the beast in the next photo!



Lunch time saw a typical Cotswold picnic behind our cars, where much banter was exchanged and a few risqué photo opportunities presented themselves - no names, no pack drill, but the owner of a certain Zoe



Yellow Spider was involved! (See website!)

We all thought the event was more relaxed than last year, it was better organised and seems to grow in stature each year.



By the standard of the cars on display, the hillclimb racing and the traders and entertainers it felt like a "Cotswold" Goodwood.

If you haven't been before then it's a must. It will certainly feature on our calendar next year.

Alex/ Hazel/John M

Chris Martin has some superb photos of the event. See some overleaf. They will be on the website or see: <https://goo.gl/photos/aVXramjBK2eJ6L8P6>.

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS!

Snippets of news/ event stories /photos?

Send to aroccotswolds@933.me.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS

on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7 p.m. at The Fox, Broadwell. GL56 0UF

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

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

La Vita Rossa – Prescott
Images by Chris Martin



See our website for more!
<http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>