



# AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter March 2017



## Annual General Meeting 2017 Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. 7.00 p.m.



**Here they are! The newly elected AROC Cotswold Section Committee! From left to right: John Mills (Treasurer); Alex Payne (Secretary); Steve Davies (Chairman); Chris Martin (Committee member)**

The room at The Fox was “packed to the gunnels” for the 2017 AGM, many members having arrived early to enjoy a tasty meal first! Mark Byatt, retiring Secretary, gave a resume of the year’s events for the Cotswold Section and said how much he had enjoyed his role and the support from members which made the Section activities a success. A special vote of thanks went to John Mills, as Treasurer and more in the absence of a full committee; to Mark Grimshaw for continuing to manage the website and Facebook; to Hazel Mills for stepping in to collate the newsletter in 2016 and to all who helped and led events.



Before giving his Annual Financial Report, John Mills responded to the Vote of Thanks by presenting Mark with a voucher for “Baileys Fishing Tackle” in recognition of his years of input to the committee. (A hint of his non - Alfa interests). A hearty round of applause followed.

John then gave the Treasurer’s Report, explaining the rationale of maintaining a healthy balance in the accounts to allow for pre-booking fees for events and unforeseen purchases. This year had seen fewer claims from AROC UK and the Section had also raised a generous amount to their named charity “The Myton Hospices”.

The Section were delighted that 3 members had put themselves forward to stand for vacant posts in the Section Committee. An enthusiastic show of hands



voted in Steve as Chair, Alex as Secretary, John as Treasurer and Chris Martin as the fourth and much needed committee member. Continuing with their roles, but not

as committee members, will be Mark Grimshaw and Hazel Mills.

Discussion then followed on possible events for 2017 and ideas for the chosen charity for the year. The Section had also been invited to consider taking part in “Find it, Fix it, Flog it” if they had any *barn finds*! The meeting closed and all adjourned to the bar!

The new Committee planned an early meeting to begin organising the 2017 calendar and to firm up arrangements for this year’s Cotswold Alfa Day. Section members will again be invited to suggest, lead on and help with events as in previous years. A formula which worked really well.

Photos: Matt Wilmott and Hazel Mills

## Una Festa di Febbraio!



While a lucky few were preparing to set off for Longborough Village Hall for the Section Italian Meal for 2017, our virtuoso chef, Alex, was already busy in the kitchen.



Likewise, John and Helen Raper were rewarded for their work behind the scenes – and granddaughter Ella got in on the act too!

Alex's wife, Fran, was setting up for "I dolci" and "caffè con biscotti", before work began in earnest arranging the antipasti



Neale Smith was in charge of symmetry! Time flew by and soon everyone had arrived and 34 of us tucked into a fabulous 3 course meal



So did the day live up to expectations? You bet!!  
**Thank you Alex!**



Photos: Hazel and John Mills



John and Helen Raper had done an excellent job booking and preparing the venue for the day – with many others performing an impromptu

role of *cameriere* between courses!

A raffle was held which raised £55 for the 2017 section charity.

John presented Alex and Fran with a bottle of Prosecco for their stirring work producing another magnificent feast!



### **ITALIAN MEAL - THE CHEFS VIEW!**

***Well I just couldn't believe how relaxed and easy the day went. I really enjoyed cooking for you all again and my view across the "hatch" when you were all together was just fab, seeing you all enjoying yourselves.***

***My warmest thanks to all my helpers without whom etc. Hazel, Fran, John M, John R, (What a Paella burner!) and Neale. And all those who helped clear up at the end.***

***Here's to the next one.***

***Alex.***

## COTSWOLD ALFA DAY

JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> 2017  
at UPTON HOUSE, (National Trust)  
NEAR BANBURY  
WARWICKSHIRE. OX15 6HT

The Cotswold Section will once again host Cotswold Alfa Day on the last Sunday in June this year with the ever popular format of meeting together for coffee and light refreshments to collect directions for the Giro Panoramico, before heading for another super stately home to display the cars.

This year we are returning to Upton House, National Trust Treasure, standing imposingly on the hillside on the borders of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

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

We again have permission to line our treasured Italian cars along the drive leading to the house, giving a lovely backdrop to the event. Upton's gardens are superb. A lawn, with huge cedars sweeps gently down from the house and below is an extensive terraced garden. This is

not visible from the house – but opens up as a jaw-dropping vista as you approach the end of the lawn. Designed by a female gardener,



Upton has the National Collection of Asters and a kitchen garden, also a wilderness garden and a secluded and rare bog garden on the site of medieval fish ponds. Upton boasts a wonderful art collection in the main house, which itself will also be transformed this year to March 1927 when the house was sold to Lord Bearsted. Visitors can peep behind the scenes to view the *before* and *after* scenes as it was renovated by this family who are descended from the co - founders of the Shell Oil company and known to be great philanthropists.

Picnics will be possible and there is also a restaurant for light snacks and meals. Lots to do for all ages! The Giro Panoramico will begin at The Fox, Broadwell, Moreton in Marsh. GL56 0UF. This is the home of The Cotswold Section monthly meetings. [www.foxbroadwell.co.uk](http://www.foxbroadwell.co.uk)

**More information (including costs and how to apply) will be on the section website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> by the beginning of April.**

## THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

*Well here I am with somewhat loose reins to control!*

*The big news of course is that CAD is sorted! Alfa Driver will feature a half page ad and we will feature on the AROC Facebook page as well as our own. I will also post on Alfa Owner.*

*By the time you read this, the committee will have*

*made our initial site visit to Upton and be raring to go with recruiting for this special event in the Cotswold year!*

*With Spring around the corner it will soon be time to dust the Alfas down, plenty of events planned to enjoy and more to come. News is already flowing in from other sections including advice on and an invitation to Southern Alfa Day which is this year at Hever Castle in Kent. See <http://www.aroc-uk.com/news/2017/kent-east-sussex-section-hever-castle>*

*DRIVE IT DAY is on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and traditionally a chance for all classic car owners to raise awareness of the classic vehicle movement in the UK. So, Cotswold Owners, send us some ideas of what you'd like to do for a drive out or a meet to celebrate with the rest and the best!*

*As I'm new at this if I've missed an event or you think of anything to add, please let me know.*

*Ciao, Alex*



**LA VIE EN BLEU**  
**INCORPORATING LA VITA ROSSA**

**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 May**

**2017**



**Prescott Hill Climbs**  
**FRENCH AND ITALIAN**  
**MOTORING FESTIVAL**



*This year sees the 11th annual pageant of French motoring excellence – La Vie en Bleu – at Prescott Hill Climb, Gotherington in Gloucestershire – home of the Bugatti Owners' Club. Last year 'La Vita Rossa' was introduced to also celebrate everything Italian!*

*2017 will see more French and Italian content on the track with special competition classes available for French and Italian marques. A round of the Ferrari Hillclimb Championship is one of the stars on the Saturday. Fans of British cars will also be well catered for with a special class for ERA cars. There will also be non-competitive runs by a LaFerrari and a Bugatti Veyron, plus the new Bugatti Chiron will hopefully make an appearance! First car on the track approx. 8.30am both days. Scheduled finish time around 5.30pm. Full details: <https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/events/la-vie-en-bleu-2017>*



**WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COTSWOLD SECTION GATHERING AT LA VITA ROSSA AND NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU WANT TO COME!**

*Because Prescott have restructured the Orchard Car Displays, so that visiting vehicles are displayed in rows of French, Italian or "Other marques", they will not be providing dedicated car club signage areas. They suggest that groups wanting to park together should arrange a rendezvous point and drive in as a convoy. **So please let the committee know in good time if you want to come.***

***You will have to prebook your own ticket at £15 per day (per person). But once you have done so let the committee know. Members of the Cotswold Alfa Romeo Owners Club can use the promotional code: GEN17 when purchasing tickets, this will entitle them to a car display pass. Owners can either purchase online: <https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/events/tickets/la-vie-en-bleu-2017> or calling the Bugatti Owners Club office on Tel: 01242 673136 and quoting the reference code. Last year it was useful for the committee to keep a list of all those who had purchased tickets and were attending, so please can you confirm with Alex Payne, Section Secretary. Tel 01993 845673 or by committee email address [aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk) - marked for the attention of Alex.***

**Race Retro at Stoneleigh  
February 24-26, 2017**



*Alfa Romeo Giulia Sprint Speciale – standing proud at this year’s event!*

The first day of Race Retro is traditionally the quietest but this year was buzzing with more enthusiasts than ever! This included familiar faces from the Cotswold Section. I met up with Roger Lewis and David Townsend and we later rounded up Rod Ashton and Alec Macfie who were also enjoying the yesteryear event. There was plenty to see in the main halls and a good selection of Italian cars and bikes. But the day began with the traditional breakfast sausage batch in the restaurant to fortify us for the many tours of vehicles, products and autojumble.



*Roger and David T. admiring a race prepared Alfa Romeo GTV6*

As we know, one of the “Bidford Trio” (David, Angela and Roger) is also a keen Lancia man and here we spot David T. admiring a Lancia Fulvia 1600 HF.



Motor Sport Magazine were also displaying a selection of iconic machines. Here we see the 1973 F1 Surtees TS14A as driven by Mike Hailwood.



Little did we realise at the time that we were to lose a familiar and much loved figure of the racing world, but many of us will be saddened to learn that John Surtees passed away on March 10<sup>th</sup>. In the words of Autosport magazine “*John Surtees, who has died at the age of 83, will be remembered quite simply as one of the true greats of motor racing history.*” For a full record of his amazing and wonderful life see:

<http://www.autosport.com/news/report.php/id/128455>

**John Mills**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7 p.m. at The Fox, Broadwell. GL56 0UF  
<http://www.foxbroadwell.co.uk/>

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Check our website:

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

where you will find all our latest news and links and a direct link to our Facebook page. We welcome contributions to the site – including photos.

**THE COMMITTEE EMAIL ADDRESS IS**

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

Items for newsletter can also be sent to this email address.