



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter May 2017



The Secretary's Scribbles **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!**



Well, that sets the tone for this month's ramblings.....

Firstly, I have booked a space for the GWSR Classic Car Day at Toddington on the 11th of June. This promises to be a great day out, classic cars and trains - can't go wrong. You do need to register online. If you are having trouble doing this let me know - and I've been assured that all Alfa's regardless of age are most

welcome. Once registered please inform me as I need a rough idea of numbers.

Before that on Saturday 27th of May there is the "La Vita Rossa" event at Prescott. Again you must book before, however this year there is no marque parking, so the plan is for those that want to meet up at Toddington on the Saturday and convoy in, again let me know.

If you are not going to Prescott we have an invite on the same day to attend the official Alfa dealer launch at Unity in Oxford. Test drives and refreshments will be provided. They are also looking for an older Giulia for the showroom as well. So if you can help just let me know.

Lastly but most important CAD is not far away and we are looking for volunteers to help both at the start and finish areas. Just let anyone on the committee know if you can help

As ever please contact me with any ideas for something the section can do together or anything else.

Ciao! Alex Payne

(Contact me at aroccotswolds@933.me.uk)

Items and ideas for the newsletter are also welcomed at the email address above.

Cotswold Alfa Day (CAD) 2017

Sunday June 25th

**Upton House (NT), Nr. Banbury, Oxon
OX15 6HT**

Applications are flowing in for CAD and the Giro Panoramico route is done! As always, we promise you a lovely start venue with sausage or bacon roll prepared from 9.30 onwards by our regular landlord and landlady Mike and Carol at The Fox Inn, Broadwell (GL56 0UF) on the village green. The route will then guide you through the scenic Cotswolds to arrive and park within the grounds. Just a few questions to test your wits on the way and, if you get them right, we will reward you with a Giro prize!

You can go direct to Upton – as long as you don't arrive before 11.30. 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.

Of course, National Trust members will have their usual free access to house and gardens but unless they pay the £12 to display their car in the privileged designated parking along the drive, they will be asked to park in the normal public car park. Anyone with a £12 privilege parking pass, who is not a National Trust Member, for this event, will also have the advantage of free entry to gardens and house for driver and all passengers.*

*(*Equivalent to the cost of 1 adult including Gift Aid)*

Upton House has something for everyone and some special displays.

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

SO APPLY NOW!!! DON'T MISS OUT!!!

Download an application form from our website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> or request a hard copy by emailing to aroccotswolds@933.me.uk (marking the email for the attention of John Mills or contacting 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. **PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RETURN OF TICKETS.**

Spring Alfa Day
Sunday April 23rd 2017
Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Asking around at the regular Wednesday meeting, it didn't seem that many, if any would be making the two to two-and-a-half-hour trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park for Spring Alfa Day. However, with work looming the day after the show for me, I decided that it would make an ideal distraction on the last day of my two-week holiday, a treat, if you will, to immerse in my hobby - if that is what this Virus Alfa thing is!

And I'm glad I did. On the face of it, and many of us have said as much, parking in a field amongst a few hundred other Alfas of all ages, shapes and sizes can be construed as "Er,- somewhat repetitive?" after a good few years of doing it.

But there is another way to look at it. For starters, there's the journey, and for me you can't beat a really good convoy drive, especially if you



strategically position yourself behind a couple of 4C's and turn the stereo off! Lovely. So over to the M1 I went, to meet the East Mids. gang at Trowell services for 8.30am. The 6.45am start rewarded me with completely clear roads. Living where I do at the moment, I have to battle across the black country traffic if I want to go east, so it is almost surreal to drive those roads at the speed limit with no jams. Not a bad turn out either, 20 of us convoyed up to the show once a mocha-latte-frappe-chino thing had been dispensed. Cheers to John Griffiths from East Mids. for organising the run! And, yes, the show itself did follow the tried and tested format, albeit with some giraffes, lions, rhino and meerkats to go and visit at some point. I guess if you are new to Alfa ownership, that could be where these "show and shines" do get quite boring. However, get a few years under your belt and you end up finally making a break for the café perhaps an hour or more after you have arrived, such is the general friendliness of the Alfa community.



Chats and conversations filled the day up quite nicely, including Ian Jephcott and I meeting an Italian gent who had recently purchased a 1750 Berlina from a police compound in Milan where it had been resting for nearly 40 years. It had been impounded when the getaway driver was shot dead trying to outrun the police after a bank robbery!! He said he bought it "for the story", and although the bullet hole has been repaired, you can still see evidence of it from the underside of the panel! I think that's my conclusion really. Don't rob banks! No, not that one.

Driving solo across the country to park next to other Alfa owners is quite a weird thing to do on the face of it, and you do see some



folks who hardly seem to get out of their cars all day long, but the point is, it's time spent with friends new and old that make it a very worthwhile thing to do really. Here's to the odd convoy and picnic now and again to the big shows perhaps? Oh yes, the show: Credit should go out to the Yorkshire and Lincs. guys for a well organised event. Around 700 tickets sold and 330 cars including 11 new Giulias lined up, plus a further 2 on the Pentagon Group hospitality unit / display. Prizes went to a bright blue 156 SW GTA, a very tidy silver Alfetta GTV6 and a grey 146 (which I personally took a bit of a liking to in a quirky kind of way) which has been owned by the same family for over 20 years. Turns out it's not all about cars after all. Cheers! **Matthew Wilmott. (Inc. photos)**

Stratford Festival of Motoring May Bank Holiday 2017

Despite the dodgy weather forecast for the recent Bank Holiday Monday, Lisa and I made the effort to chug up the A3400 in our old jalopy to take part in Stratford's Festival of Motoring. As we trundled along, we spotted a number of other classics all taking part in the morning treasure hunt - titled the 'Ayes and Nays Tour' in which the participants had to spot eyes and horses on pub signs. We should have been taking part ourselves but we'd been allocated a start time of 8.03am and that was far too early so we gave the tour a miss and opted for 'display only'.

On arrival in the Bard's hometown we took up a position in Bridge Street which was reserved for pre-1960 British metal and found ourselves sandwiched between a 1937 Wolseley and a 1957 Austin Westminster.

More exotic stuff was to be found in High Street and this is where I found the only two Alfas. Both were 105 Spiders, one being a bright yellow Series 2 sporting wire wheels and several Giro Panoramico stickers.



The other was a red Series 3 wearing a body kit and a hardtop.



In Sheep Street were the only other Italian cars on show, namely a Lancia Intergrale and a Ferrari 328 GTS. Down the bottom, outside Zizzi's Restaurant, were two Fiat 500s, one a Giardiniera. To be truthful this latter model, named 'Nelly', was actually one of the later Autobianchi badged models.



Henley Street was mostly given over to American muscle cars and here I found several Mustangs, a Plymouth Road Runner, a Dodge Challenger, a Chevy El Camino, a couple of Corvettes and a Pontiac Firebird. Lisa was quite taken with an outrageous 1960 Chevrolet Impala fins and all!

Jaguar was the featured marque of the event and Wood Street was full of E-Types and XK's, plus a 220, and the pink XJS from Coventry Transport Museum!

Overall turnout was apparently down on Sundays numbers, due no doubt, to the showery nature of the weather, but it was still a cracking event. For those that found the cars a bit monotonous (I include Lisa here) the shops - which were all open - the large craft/food market, the live music and the street entertainers all offered a welcome diversion. It seemed to us that the town and the event organisers had pulled out all the stops to make the festival a huge success and they triumphed. We had a great day and will hopefully be there again in 2018.

Richard Morris (Inc. photos)

Brooklands Auto Italia 2017
Saturday, April 29th



At 6.45 on a chilly but dry Saturday morning a somewhat eclectic mix of seven Alfa's met up at Pear Tree Services for the run to Weybridge. The Spiders started off all sans roof but just south of Oxford one pulled over for the roof up ritual, no names - but it was Zoe Yellow and had a cold young passenger! Motorway traffic was a bit busier than we thought for the time of day but we arrived when planned, good job too, because cars were already queuing at 8 o'clock. After a twenty-minute delay we were parked up and the main focus for four of us was a 916 Spider/GTV display organised by Andrew Maguire of the 916 Owners Club. With Spiders one side and GTVs on the other in just about every colour ever produced it was very impressive.

My favourite for the day was a beautiful re-build of a 1964 Giulia Spider in "Baby" Blue by Barkaways, truly a cost no object labour of love. All it needed was some Tuscan Leather luggage, some Ray-Bans and a Sophia Loren look alike in the passenger seat, oh and an Amalfi coast road!

As you can imagine just about every Italian brand of car and motorcycle is represented, when did you last see a 1950's Lancia Appia van, two Lancia Gamma's parked together, a full race spec Fiat Abarth 850 etc., you get the picture. Also plenty of traders to "flex" your credit card.



After a much needed breakfast it was time to feast the eyes on the amazing collection of cars gathered for the day. Everything from pre-war classics to modern day supercars and of course plenty of Alfa's.

This event does get busy and yes it does attract some show offs in Lamborghinis with loud exhausts, but don't let that put you off. Pack some lunch, arrive early and soak up the atmosphere. With the history of the venue, cars parked on the old banking and the museum to visit Brooklands comes alive again.

This year in the "expensive" car section saw three Montreal's together in Yellow, Blue and Red; two modern 8c's; one Coupe; one Spider and a stunning Zagato Giulia.

Alex Payne (Photos: Chris Martin – see our website for more)

Drive it Day (DiD) Visit to Bicester Heritage Sunday April 23rd

David Townsend and I decided that a visit to Bicester Heritage would be appropriate for DiD. We departed Bidford at 7.45 a.m. David was in his Fiat 850 coupe and I was in my Alfa 2000 GTV.

David needed to deliver a parcel to his daughter, Charlotte, who lives in Bicester, so we parked in a pub car park and the parcel was duly delivered. We prepared to continue our journey; David started up and moved off. However, when I tried the starter, unfortunately, the starter solenoid jammed and I was stranded! If this had been a "B movie", you would have seen Dave's car as just a speck on the highway ahead and the titles rolling as the camera panned back to me marooned by my red Bertie, with the vultures already beginning to wheel overhead! But, as we were not on Route 66 and I, for once, had my mobile phone with me – help was at hand. The AA were called and a very enthusiastic patrolman arrived within 10 minutes. After a few moments admiring the car and the engine bay – he knew exactly what to do, having with him a suitable metal bar and hammer. A quick tap and the car started and he waved me on my way!

Arriving at the venue, I drove around and found a parking spot. David was contacted and we met up for the traditional cuppa and bacon bap. Fuelled up, we set off on a circuit, viewing cars and the various businesses who provide services to classic car owners. We noted 5 Alfa 105 GTVs parked in various positions around the area. Also, a number of old buildings are being renovated, which is good news for the future.

After lunch, we located the Lancia Montecarlo pitch and David, having owned one, was soon meeting old friends. We chatted about classic cars and of course, Lancias in particular. By this time people were leaving and a queue had formed to the exit. We noticed an immaculate silver 916 V6 GTV and then realised it was Nigel Carter, a fellow member of the Cotswold Section. We only had time for a quick chat as he was heading to Brooklands for another meeting.

It was by then about 4 o' clock and time for our departure with the "cliff-hanger" of whether my 105 would behave. The Alfa started without trouble and the journey home was, thankfully, uneventful!

Roger Lewis



Roll Up! Roll up! Roll up!

LA VIE EN BLEU

(INCORPORATING LA VITA ROSSA)

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 May 2017

PRESCOTT FRENCH AND ITALIAN MOTORING FESTIVAL

See the March newsletter and website for more. We want to arrange a meet somewhere near Prescott on the "Italian" day (**Saturday**) for those of you who are attending, so we can arrive in convoy and park together as a Cotswold Section.

Let Alex know you are coming by email on aroccotswolds@933.me.uk and he will confirm the meeting place and time.

Remember to prebook your own ticket at £15 per day (per person). Members of the Cotswold Alfa Romeo Owners Club can use the promotional code: **ITA17** when purchasing tickets, this will entitle them to a car display pass. (NB new code). You can either purchase online:

<https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/events/tickets/la-vie-en-bleu-2017>

or call the Bugatti owners Club on Tel: 01242 673136 and quote the promo code and the tickets you require. Prescott can take a debit/credit card number and sort it over the phone. **The deadline for this is Sunday 21 May.**

Classic Vehicle Day

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway **SUNDAY JUNE 11**

Modern cars also invited and we are formally invited to represent the Cotswold Section

Alex needs a few more names (**by email please!**) to this June event which is primarily for Car Clubs and is organized jointly with the **Prescott Breakfast Club**. Individual participants are also welcome.

WHEN REGISTERING ON THE GWSR WEB SITE IT DOES STATE CARS MUST BE PRE 1980 BUT **MORE MODERN CARS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED**

Club Secretaries have to confirm attendance with Barrie at friends@bugatti.co.uk or 0780 388 7811 and ask members to register using the GWSR registration page on their website at: - http://www.gwsr.com/planning_your_visit/visiting_gwsr/cvdfom.html

Register direct as advised and tell Alex Payne on aroccotswolds@933.me.uk that you have registered so we can plan parking.

CLASSIC GATHERING

Sunday June 4 2017

12.00 to 16.00

Wellesbourne Sports Field CV35 9JL (between Stratford on Avon and Warwick)

Wellesbourne and District Lions, Warwickshire are proud to announce their first ever Classic Gathering which will include classic cars, traction engines, vintage bikes, displays and much more. Free entry for visitors. £5.00 for display vehicles. More info:

Simonoram17@gmail.com or telephone Simon on 01789 840704

Put your thinking caps on for the July Cotswold Section meeting! We are planning

THE FUN CONCOURSE for TUESDAY JULY 18TH at THE FOX INN

For the newcomers to the section – you may not know that most summers we have had some fun by displaying our Italian cars and competing for prizes such as “Shiniest wheels”, “Strangest item in the Boot” and many more. Prizes are awarded and a good time is had by all! Look out for the June newsletter to see which categories the committee has in store!

GT Travels

I've owned my GT 3.2 V6 for four years on the 28th April, and this got me thinking about some of the trips we have made in that time. It's a 2005 car and had approximately 38,000 miles when I bought it in 2013. During the four years I have covered 36,000 miles (and don't want to think about the fuel cost at 23mpg....). It's my fifth Alfa and so far has been the best and most reliable – hopefully not famous last words!

In those four years, amongst others we have been to Cornwall three times, numerous trips to Dorset, North Devon, Yorkshire, the Lake District and France twice – Plus various away matches supporting Oxford United....

In 2015 we spent three weeks in France and covered around 2,500 miles, travelling to Marseillan in the Languedoc via an overnight stop in Orleans. Unfortunately, we travelled south on 'Black Saturday' which is busiest day of the year on French motorways – never again. However, the journey did take us over the magnificent Millau Bridge (designed by a Brit – Norman Foster).

We spent a fantastic couple of weeks in Marseillan which is a small port on the Thau Lagoon near Sete on the south coast. Driving a bit inland takes you to some fantastic roads through the gorges.



Here is a picture of Jack in the GT at The Gorge du Vis. We travelled back up to Millau on one really hot day (40 degrees according to the car display) and stopped to take photos under the

bridge. I stopped on a dead end road near the bridge to take a photo of the GT when a very nice Dutch GT driver turned up with the same idea and we had a lovely conversation about our cars and the travels.



We stayed for three days in Blois on the way back to Calais and revisited the Loire Valley, which we had not been to for a number of years. We stayed in the area on our honeymoon in 1997 and went to the Le Mans 24 Hour race.

In 2016 we spent another three weeks in France, this time visiting Brittany and stopped

en-route to visit the D-Day beaches in Normandy. We stopped in Lion-sur-Mer on the Normandy coast (Sword Beach) and visited Pegasus Bridge and the British Cemetery nearby, and Arromanches where you can still see parts of the Mulberry harbour on the beach and in the sea.

We then spent two weeks in Brittany, one on the north coast, and one in the far south west near Pointe Du Raz, which is the 'Land's End' of France. We had lovely cottages to stay in but the weather was somewhat mixed. On the way back we spent a couple of nights in Bayeux, taking in Omaha beach and the American cemetery, plus the famous tapestry.

Having covered over 2000 miles during the trip, the GT decided to break down on the way home in the Cite Europe car park in Calais and refused to start (obviously did not want to come back to the rubbish UK roads)! Luckily it was only a dead battery and a very nice recovery chap got the car started with a remote battery and took us to the French version of Halfords who fitted a new battery. I don't think they had seen a V6 Alfa engine before and were all having a good look!

This year we are having 'staycation' holidays and giving the car a break from really long journeys. We have recently been to the Lake District and are going back to Porthleven in Cornwall in the summer. There is talk of a return to the South of France next year and a trip to Italy and the Alfa museum is something I would like to do.

Happy Alfa Travels! **Chris Martin (Inc. photos)**