



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

" HEADING INTO WINTER"



For most of us the next few weeks will see us doing the annual winter prep on our beloved Alfas, whether that's just a good clean and check or a more thorough full winter storage sort out. For me, as my garage has no power, the Spider gets used during the winter, albeit on very dry "crisp" days only. One thing I have learned with Alfa ownership is they don't like salt!

As our cars are laid up for their winter break, it's time for your hard working committee to start thinking and planning for next year. To this end, we should have next year's CAD date on the calendar before Xmas and a suitable venue sorted.

This year, as a club, we didn't do much for "Drive it Day" in April. The second Bicester "Sunday Scramble" next year coincides with "Drive it Day" and I have already booked an Alfa display area. We had a nice e-mail thanking us for attending the last meet and it seems they want us back again! As already mentioned the popular Prescott " La Vita Rossa" is already booked for May. On June 10th 2018, it is the superb bi-annual Churchill Show and we have our usual space confirmed. A day not to miss!

By popular request, I have put myself forward to do another "Italian Lunch" next year. As I am away for the month of January we have pencilled in the 17th of March at Longborough. It's St. Patricks Day, so expect an Irish twist to the food. Should be fun!

By the end of the year, the two large national events, SAD and NAD should be announced and I would like to get a few of us together for another trip to the superb Dutch Spettacolo Sportivo in August.

So next year when you awake your Alfa's from their winter slumber we already have plenty planned for you and your car to enjoy.

Ciao!

Alex

Bicester Heritage Sunday Scramble Sunday 1st October 2017 Chris Martin



Jack and I went along to the latest Sunday Scramble at Bicester Heritage on the 1st October. We set off around 8.30 a.m. on a wet Sunday morning and drove through rain all the way. By the time we arrived at 9 a.m. the rain had virtually stopped, so we set up the section 'sail flag' in light drizzle. Luckily, it stayed dry after this for most of the morning.

Two Alfas were already parked in our designated parking area - a Brera V6S and John Raper's Spider. Shortly after we arrived, a very nice 1960's Giulietta Ti arrived, driven by a South African chap who brought the car with him when he moved to the UK in the summer.



By lunchtime, we also had two 4C's, a 164, a 147 GTA and a couple of Bertie's. One of these was a lovely GTV 1750 driven by a chap from Leicester who had sold his Porsche and had only recently got the Alfa in its place – he said the AROC was



much nicer than the Porsche owners club!



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



SUDELEY CASTLE CLASSIC CAR DAY

Sunday September 17th

Alex Payne



Various other Alfas were to be seen in amongst the other fantastic cars on display both in the designated parking areas and around the site itself. There are too many highlights to mention from pre-war to modern, but a Jaguar XJ220 caught my attention. Hidden away in a storage



hanger full of covered cars was an SZ, with its cover removed (See photo) plus a short

wheelbase Audi Ur Quattro.

A lot of work is underway restoring more of the original air base buildings on the site, including a brewery that is due to open in spring 2018

(The Wiggly Monkey Brewery).



There are numerous car restoration businesses on the site, including an exhaust fabricator, interior

trimmer, media blasters etc. I wish I was younger as the car restoration apprenticeships being offered looked really interesting!

The next Sunday Scramble is on the 7th January 2018 - well worth a trip if it's a sunny winters day.



(Photos also by Chris. More on the website)

On a slightly damp but pleasant September Sunday morning, a few of us gathered at Sudeley Castle near Winchcombe for their annual Classic Car Festival. Organised by the Cotswold Classic Car Club, the cars are displayed on the private north lawn adjacent to the Castle which makes for a stunning back drop.

John and I were the first on the scene and after erecting the new club sail banner, we organised the Alfas in a slight fan shape for parking. In attendance we had the two "Berties" of John and Hazel Mills and Neale Smith, John and Helen Raper in their "Beaute" Spider, Dave Townsend in his lovely Fiat 850 and a superbly restored 1959 Giulietta Spider belonging to Tony Richardson plus my own 916 Spider complete with newly painted and repaired front bumper and refurbished wheels.



After a breakfast bap (a very large breakfast bap!) in the lovely castle tea room, it was time to look at the collection of cars which by now filled

the lawn, the sun started to shine so cameras at the ready and a good look around.



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



The diversity of vehicles on display ranged from Austin "Champ" jeeps, the Chrysler Crossfire owners club (no I don't get it either!), a mass of Mazda MX5s and on to the good stuff. There was a concours E type, a genuine Shelby Mustang, a sole Ferrari 550m and not one but two early Bristols, one of which took the car of the day award. Lady Ashcombe, the owner of the castle chose the E type as the vehicle she would like to drive home in.

Of special interest to me was a red Sunbeam Tiger, it was fully restored by the TV show Car SOS. As a big fan of the show it was good to see their work close up and boy do they do a good job. The owner's wife told me that the deadlines are not staged for the show and after the handover the car was taken back to be MOT'd!

All in all, a good day out at a lovely setting and one to which I hope we will return.



CAAD – Cotswold Autumn Alfa Drive Sunday October 8th Hazel Mills



This was a new venture for the Cotswold Section, thanks to Rupert Organ who was the mastermind behind it all! Over several weeks, he planned and plotted a beautiful route from the Malverns to Hay on Wye and back again, starting and finishing at The Elgar Inn at Earls Croome <http://www.elgarinn.co.uk/>. For many of us this was new territory and for me – a new experience as navigator! Nothing to fear, the directions were perfect and had been checked not only by Rupert, but by Mark Grimshaw before he disappeared to Italy.

There were nine Alfas taking part. Rod Ashton bravely arrived without a co-pilot, but we managed to stay close in convoy and only lost 3 in Hay on Wye itself at the turn into the Cattle Market car park!

The day began with coffee and biscotti at The Elgar Inn whilst Rupert distributed the route, street plans and maps. As we set off, the weather picked up and we were treated to a glorious Autumn Day as we wound our way through Upton On Severn and then out along the many B roads around Ledbury heading in the direction of Hay on Wye. The views were spectacular across to Wales and "Sugar Loaf" mountain.

On Rupert's advice, we parked up in The Cattle Market Car park, lined up with the back-drop of the church. In total, we were three 916 GTVs, two 159's, Steve's bright yellow 916 Spider, two 105 Spiders and a GT. The paparazzi began their usual task of capturing the moment, with Chris Martin even climbing what appeared to an ancient burial mound (more likely a spoil heap!) to get a drone's eye view of those assembled. It was like "herding kittens" trying to get everyone to smile/wave at the camera – but the results will appear on the website soon. Tania from Wales was also quietly snapping away and we look forward to seeing her shots too.

(Photos by Alex Payne and Hazel Mills)



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



Armed with our maps of Hay on Wye, we then set off, with many of us thinking that we would be dipping into the various book and curio shops. Somehow, we all seemed to gravitate towards Kilvert's Inn in the centre and took up position in the beer garden at the back. Two hours later, we were still there! The bar snacks were popular as was the chatter and how nice it was to be able to still be sitting out in the warm sunshine in October! Be prepared for some candid shots on the website! So, just as we were thinking it was mooching time, someone announced we had better be getting back as we had 50 miles to go and the Elgar Inn were expecting us at 5.30 for our evening meal! So, off we went, back to the waiting Alfas and after prepping for the journey, we were on our way.



Rupert had designed the return route to be faster and less tortuous but with a good fast climb back into the Malverns. Much of the day's route had tapped into The Elgar Trail too. Before we left Hay, however, we all took the option of driving over a wooden toll bridge and startled some walkers about to negotiate it only to be confronted with 9 Alfas of varying hue trundling over.

Back at The Elgar Inn, they had reserved a long table for us and fourteen of us raised our glasses to Rupert before enjoying the excellent cuisine! It was great to see Tania and Mike, Pam and Keith and the Baxters as part of our retinue. We were unanimous in our praise of the day and hope that this longer Autumn drive will become a feature of our future programmes.

(Photos by John Mills – but photos from Rupert, Chris and Tania we hope to see on the website)

The Inaugural Cotswold Festival of Motoring Sunday 12th August 2018

The committee received this email recently of an exciting new event for 2018 and would like you all to take note:

"With your help we aim to make this inaugural "Cotswold Festival of Motoring" an annual event attracting a wide selection of vintage, classic and sports vehicles that will be a huge visitor attraction to an area that is already a prime tourist destination.

Organised by the Rotary Club of the North Cotswolds all proceeds will be going to charity and The Cotswold School in whose grounds the event is being held - so it's all for good causes.

Festival Atmosphere

As well as the vehicle displays for visitors to enjoy, there will be fun for all the family with food and beverages served from classic vehicles, traditional stalls in a Village Fete area, merchandise and music.

Within this festival we can comfortably exhibit some 250 interesting vehicles. Already confirmed are a superbly original 1920 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, a "factory fresh" 1959 Mini and a currently campaigned D Type Jaguar race car.

Location

The Cotswold School is a stone's throw from Bourton-on-the-Water's 18th Century Church in the heart of the village. Bourton-on-the-Water, often described as the "Little Venice of the Cotswolds", is one of the most popular tourist destinations in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You'll only be a short walk from the Motor Museum, Model Village, Maze, Perfumery, Birdland and Greystones Nature Reserve should you wish to explore more widely.

Concours Competition

No Festival of Motoring would be complete without a Concours Competition and we will be no different with awards ranging from best in show to the ever popular and often surprising People's Choice.

Vehicle Exhibits

We are looking to show an interesting cross section of vehicles so the number of entries from each club may be restricted to no more than 10. However, exceptions will be made, by arrangement, for special anniversaries etc. If your Club has a significant date to celebrate next year, please let us know. As this is in aid of good causes we would also appreciate a contribution of just £6 per car which also entitles free entry for drivers and passengers in exhibiting vehicles.

If you feel that this signature charity event will appeal to your members please, in the first instance, reply to this email giving us a contact and an idea of how many vehicles you would like to exhibit and we will keep you informed about future developments.

John Barber
Chairman of the Cotswold Festival of Motoring Committee



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



Monza trip for the F1 Grand Prix 2017 Alan Finch

This was all planned about 9-10 months ago - a road trip to Italy to encompass the F1 at Monza, the Alfa Romeo Museum at Arese and the Swiss mountain passes. The members of this trip were "The Staverton 5" - Nigel Carter, Ian Rowley, Gareth Cavaciuti, Dave Parker and Alan Finch. So, over the next few months, the route was planned. The crossing was Portsmouth – Le Havre, then to Nancy for an overnight stay followed by a drive to Lucerne in Switzerland and over the passes to our destination at the villa that was rented in Lecco.

Day 0. We all met up in Sainsbury's car park in Portsmouth to join the ferry at 2300hrs for the crossing to Le Havre (due in at 0830hrs French time). Once on board, we all set our stuff down in the cabin, then met up in the bar, forgetting that France was an hour ahead!! We got to bed at 0139hrs French time! We were then up at 0730hrs for breakfast (which wasn't that great!)

Day 1. Drove off the ferry and out of Le Havre and on to the route. Well, that was the plan. It started well enough. We got out of Le Havre and then got lost!! After a quick stop in a garden centre, we picked the correct route and were soon on to Nancy. We did stop in Reims for the Circuit de Reims - the old circuit Start/Finish line and pits. <http://www.circuitsofthepast.nl/en-US/reims> This is a great place to visit and we got a few nice photos here of the 4 cars together in the pit lane.



Finally, after a good day's driving, we got to the Nancy Hotel (Logis: Cottage Hotel). We decided to go into the hotel restaurant for our evening meal and most of us chose a lamb dish which was fantastic!! The sweetie was even better! Well, Gareth went with the waiter recommendation and had a rum sweet. It even came with a bottle of rum!!

Day 2. Well, we all felt fairly relaxed and rested after the 341 mile drive the day before, breakfast in the hotel, then onto the road at about 0900hrs. It was raining - so set off in the spider with the roof up - a bit different from the trip down as Gareth and I had the

roof down most of the way. We were off down the road for a quick fuel up, then on to Switzerland. It was a fairly uneventful drive down and we got to the Hotel (Schwendelberg Inn) at about 1400hrs to rain, low cloud and not much of a view over Lake Lucerne. The weather wasn't looking good the next day either. Nigel's younger brother, James, was at the Hotel too doing a motorbike tour of Switzerland!



Cars in the wet car park at Schwendelberg Inn

Now, the Schwendelberg Inn was really nice, but as we were the only guests, it had bit of a feel of "The Shining" about it- a deserted hotel in the mountains! One of the owners looked like the lead singer in Right Said Fred!! Very nice place, great view! Well, it would have been if it wasn't b***y raining! After settling in, downloading all the dashcam footage and pictures taken, we all went down for an evening meal at about 1830hrs or thereabouts. Dave & I had a pork schnitzel and the others had a chicken & chips in a basket (Yes - **a whole chicken!!**) and we all had a few drinks. If you want to know how the day ended – ask one of us....!

Day 3

Well - plans change! Because the weather was looking rubbish for the passes, we decided to head straight for Arese and the Alfa Romeo Museum, then do the passes on Monday as the weather looked great then. We also got to do the drive through the 16km Gotthard tunnel!! That is an experience on its own. Once through the tunnel, the weather was warm and sunny, so we made a quick stop at a service station and it was roof down all the way to Arese!! No real issue on the way, but we did lose Gareth just before the Museum, but he said he would meet us there. (In fact, he got there before we did!!) We still didn't see any other 916's on the road, but we did get lot of positive reaction from the locals!!



AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



Alfa Romeo Museum. What can I say about the museum? It's fantastic and every Alfa Romeo fan should go!! What's more - for only €12, it's well worth a visit.

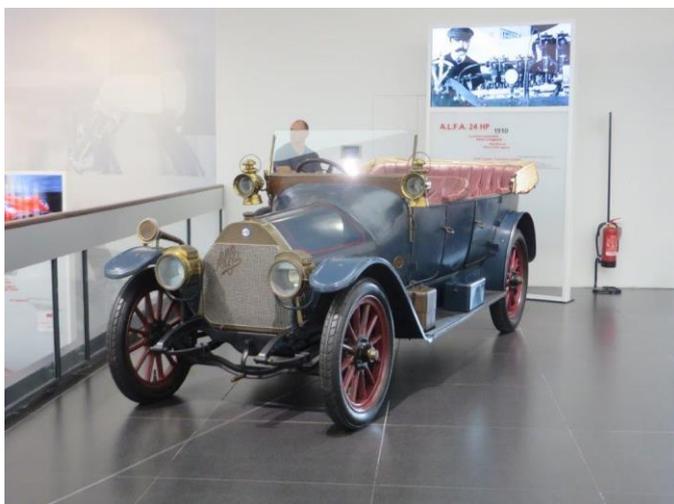
I'll add this which just sums up Alfa Romeo museum:

"Alfa Romeo is more than a mere car factory; its products are more than conventionally built automobiles. It's a kind of fever, this enthusiasm for a means of transport. It's a way of life, a very particular conception of the motor vehicle. Something that resists definition. Its component parts are like those irrational traits of the human spirit that cannot be explained with logical terminology"

Orazio Satta Puliga 1969



The Museum is spread over 3 floors and covers from the earliest vehicles up to the latest Alfa 8c. A few pictures are included below. There will be more on the section website.



We all took too many pictures to include all here. After a fantastic afternoon in the Museum, it was time to go to the villa in Lecco. This took about an hour - the Milan rush hour is just as bad as in any other cities!

The villa was great and we had a few good evenings there. On our first night, we went out to a local restaurant, Taverna Al Poggi, for an evening meal which was great. Then we had a quiet night ready for the practice session at Monza in the morning.

Saturday F1 Practice Session at Monza.

Roger, the villa owner, had offered us a pizza for the evening meal, so that was sorted. Weather wasn't great in Lecco for the F1 Practice Day (but at least it wasn't raining). We all walked into Lecco to catch the train to Monza. There was a shuttle bus to the circuit (€5) so we all caught that. It's worth mentioning at this point it was raining hard, and to be honest then didn't stop all day!!! So we went to the circuit and all purchased a plastic poncho - but still got soaked!! We got to our stand (Stand 16), and spent most of the time looking at an empty wet circuit!!

Well, after half a day of getting wetter & wetter ("Honest - a dolphin's swimming trunks were drier!!!) three of us gave up waiting for the practice session to start and headed back to the Villa. This left Ian & Gareth to wait it out and apparently, they did start at around 1630hrs. Nigel, Dave and myself went back to the villa via a supermarket for some much-needed supplies. Well, remember the villa owner had said he would give us a pizza for tea?? Well how about a 1.5 metre pizza - with 4 different toppings!!! Yeah! You can see it above.





AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



We had a great evening with Roger. He gave us some red sparkling wine from the local area (it was like a merlot and really nice) and a few liqueurs. The orange one was fantastic and about 60% proof!! It was an entertaining evening and the pizza was great.

Monza F1 Sunday Race Day!! Blue sky and warm - that's how Sunday started. A great day for the F1 race. So we went down to the station onto the train and onto the shuttle bus to the circuit, finally walking from the bus stop into the circuit itself with its longer queue than for practice session. Once inside, we walked down to Stand 16 in glorious sunshine and temperatures at about 24 degrees.

A great day and great memories!!



Again Roger, offered to cook us a meal for Monday evening, this time on the wood fired grill at the villa. Another evening meal sorted!!

Monday and the Swiss passes.

Once more, it was another great day out and weather was again with us. The only issue was that I got separated from the others soon after leaving the villa (morning traffic !!). But thanks to the wonders of Google Earth and being able to send my location, I was soon back with the guys. Gareth decided not to continue as he didn't feel up to driving all day. But Nigel, Dave, Ian and myself carried on and I'm glad I did. The passes were fantastic!! We even found the James Bond "Goldfinger section" on the Furka pass!! A fantastic day's driving and will remember it for a long time!! The Passes we did were the Susten Pass, the Furka Pass, the Grimsel Pass and the Nufenen Pass. We even managed to take time out to visit a glacier and walk inside it! On the passes, you did have to look out for sheep. Yes, I said "SHEEP"! Nigel had a very close encounter with some!



This was the crew at the circuit (Dave took the picture)

The atmosphere was really great with a real buzz in the air, with the whole of Monza obviously being a sea of red and hoping for a Ferrari win!! Unfortunately, Lewis Hamilton had other plans and he won, which was great to see!! Seb Vettel did get onto the podium but in third place. (Added to which, I even got onto the start/ finish grid for the podium!!)

So it was a great day and sunny. We all got onto the old circuit too this is Ian on the banked section!!





AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



After a few hours' drive back to the villa for tea we were faced with a meat feast of epic proportions!! There were 4 courses of meat! The first was pork and potato slices, then a sausage which was cut in half lengthways and spread like a burger, very nice!! This was then followed by the steak. Well, what can I say? It was huge, about an inch thick and must have been near a Kilo in weight! The plate was a standard size dinner plate about 11 inches wide and the steak dwarfed it!

Roger also opened a rather nice 1995 bottle of red and brought a few other local drinks along. Really great evening! I did have to finish Ian's steak as he only ate half of his and the meat tasted so good! (Roger ended up giving me the nickname of "Two Steaks"). Needless to say, we didn't really want to leave on Tuesday for the drive back to Nancy.

The Drive Back: All the cars had performed faultlessly until the drive back....! However, in actual fact, the failure was just Gareth's undercarriage (under tray) falling off and needing some fixing with a few cable ties!!! After that we had no further problems.

We had an overnight in Beauvais, then drove on to Caen for the 1630hrs ferry back to UK, arriving at 2230hrs UK time.

It was the end of a very exciting road trip and a good time was had by all!!



Here we are – left to right!

Alan Finch (Red Phase 1 Spider T Spark), Gareth Cavaciuti (Red Phase 1 Spider T Spark), Nigel Carter (Silver Phase 2 GTV V6 24V), Ian Rowley and Dave Parker (Black Phase 1 GTV V6 24V).

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

Tuesday November 21st from 7 p.m. onwards
Regular monthly meeting. Christmas raffle prize donations are most welcome on the day or at this November meeting.

Saturday, December 2nd from 7 p.m. onwards
Cotswold Section Christmas Lunch at Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton.

Tuesday December 19th from 7p.m. onwards
Regular monthly meeting



We called in again at Reims circuit, where we met the Mini Italian Job convoy who were on their charity run down to Turin!!





AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter October 2017



Cotswold Section Christmas Lunch!!!!

December 2nd.

Arrive 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. dining.



We are returning to **THREE**

WAYS HOUSE (Home of World Famous Pudding Club) Chapel Lane, Mickleton. Glos. GL55 6SB
<http://www.threewayshousehotel.com/> Phone: 01386 438429.

WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS

The cost per person is £23.50 (children half price)
The deposit has already been paid to secure the Section's booking and the team are looking forward to seeing us all again. **Please can we have your names and deposits of £5 per person ASAP.**

The balance and choices will be needed by our November meeting (Nov 21st) at the very latest.
Numbers may be limited to 30- 35, so apply soon.

Raffle!

We will again have a Christmas Raffle. Last year's Christmas Lunch raffle prizes were all donated by section members and friends. We plan to do the same again and look forward to your donations which some will bring to the November meeting or be telling us they will bring with them on the day of the lunch.

All money raised will go to The Myton Hospices, our chosen charity for 2017. Three Ways House are also donating a prize of a voucher for a Sunday Lunch for two at their famous restaurant.

How to Pay

Please give the deposit or send a cheque for the amount (made payable to "AROC Cotswold Section") to John Mills, Section Treasurer, AROC Cotswold Section, Edgehill Cottage, Loxley, Warwick CV35 9JT. **The final balance and your menu choices will be needed by NOVEMBER 21ST which is the date of our regular meeting.** Please give the balance and choices to John as described above.

(Choices can also be emailed to mills9jt@btinternet.com)

Christmas Menu 2017

Starters

- Homemade Spiced Parsnip Soup
- Mackerel Pate, with Horseradish Crème Fraiche and crispy toast
- Fried Halloumi, rocket salad and a shallot and chilli jam
- Chicken, Apricot and Sage ballotine with homemade chutney



Mains

- Roast Local Turkey with all the Trimmings
- Slow cooked pork belly with black pudding mash and sage gravy
- Fillet of Cod with a Tarragon & prawn butter
- Bubble and squeak cake, poached duck egg, crispy rocket and grain mustard sauce



Puddings

- The Pudding Club's Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
- Syrup Sponge pudding with lashings of custard
- Dark Chocolate and Cointreau Pave with orange shortbread

Or

- Double Gloucester and Stilton Cheese with Homemade Chutney and biscuits

COST £23.25 PER PERSON (CHILDREN HALF PRICE)

DEPOSIT OF £5.00 PER PERSON WILL BE REQUIRED

(See booking sheet for details)

Please send your choices. You can also use the booking sheet on the website.

Remember to advise on special dietary requirements.

All information is on our website.

