



# AROC Cotswold Section. Newsletter September 2017



## **THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES** **AUTUMN "SLUMBERS"**



Well "slumbers" certainly don't apply to the Cotswold Section as we have plenty going on over the next few months.

The 1st of October is the last "Sunday Scramble" at Bicester Heritage and we have a reserved Alfa parking area. However, this is only possible with

ten or more cars. So if you intend to go please let me know a.s.a.p. A week later sees our first CAAD, Cotswold Autumn Alfa Day, which takes place on the 8th of October. Rupert put forward the idea and has done the planning for what, I hope, will become an annual event. Details are on the AROC Facebook page and in the newsletter and uptake is already looking good. One slight alteration is that the refreshments on the return to the Elgar have been changed to a generous 20% discount for all those that wish to stay and eat. This promises to be a superb day out and your support would be welcome.

Sunday 15th October sees the last Prescott Breakfast meet with Morgan Sports Car Club featuring. November the 10th-12th sees the Classic Car show at the NEC. Always a good day out.

December 2nd is our Xmas Lunch at the Three Ways. Talking of which raffle prizes are welcome and any monies generated will be going to the Myton Hospices again.

So there you go, plenty to lead us into next year and we already have a space booked on the Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for the superb "La Vita Rossa" at Prescott (over the May Bank Holiday).

Ciao. Alex

## **Meanwhile ... what about** **the ALFA ROMEO STELVIO!?!?**



An Alfa SUV? Only a few years ago, who would have thought it possible? Times change, however, and I think it's not too fine a point to say that the very future of Alfa as a brand will probably rely on the success of this.

**T.H. White**, the Alfa dealer in Swindon, invited Fran and I to the preview of the new Stelvio. If this dealership is anything to go by Alfa GB are at last starting to improve the buying/owning experience. The cars are superbly displayed, the staff attentive without being pushy and upon arrival we were greeted with coffee and a warm smile.

The Stelvio itself is basically a Giulia on stilts. It sits a fair bit higher making it very easy to get in and out. The boot floor is nice and low and although it looks a bit bigger it is the same length as the Giulia.

From the front view it's "very Alfa" and you certainly couldn't confuse it for anything else. From the rear it looks a bit more generic perhaps. On balance, it looks like an Alfa. Whereas, for example, the Jaguar F-Pace in my eyes doesn't look like a Jaguar at all.

**MITCAR 2017**  
**Ragley Hall, Warwickshire.**  
**Sunday, 20th August**



If you are familiar with the Giulia dash and fittings, then there are no real surprises. Most of it is carried over, but because the Stelvio dash top is flat to the windscreen it takes on a slightly different look. It is all very uncluttered and logical with the *infotainment* built in, making it far better than looking like an afterthought as in some other marques.

The version in the showroom was naturally loaded with some nice extras, but even in standard form you get the Alfa connect system (now with Apple Car Play); USB ports in the front and back; ambient lighting; 6-way adjustable driver and passenger seats, (very useful for my short legs!); leather steering wheel and all the modern things like lane departure warning (LDW); autonomous emergency braking (AEB); Bi-Xenon lighting etc.

Will we go for a test drive? Probably. Will we buy one? For me, on balance probably not. But Fran would: "At the drop of a hat". She loved it!



This was the 17<sup>th</sup> MITCAR which this year attracted around 400 Italian cars and an impromptu number of Cotswold Section members who legitimately came in their Alfas, Abarths or Lancias.



We didn't win any prizes, but there was a glorious array of cars on show, and an Alfa won "Car of the Day". The Camshaft MITCAR Trophy was awarded to Gary Plumb for his Alfa Romeo Spider Duetto in white. An unusual entry was an Osca (built by Maserati brothers)



This, I think, says a lot as to where the Stelvio is being marketed. Expect to see them on the school run, outside nice restaurants for "Ladies Who Lunch" and parked in Country House Hotel car parks. Arrive in style, you certainly will!

**Alex Payne**





The Abarths were out in force too – one of which shone out as the latest acquisition of our own Alec Macfie!



Alfa Romeos were the most popular marque this year according to the organisers. The prize for the organiser's choice of car also went to an Alfa – the Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint owned by David Roberts. Other special Alfas included 8C and ES30 SZ's and V8 Montreals.

However, the MITCAR "Special Award" went to this customised Fiat Multipla as owned by Lee Firmager!!



Although some of us had fallen for another gem!



Lancias were also well represented including that of David Townsend



There was plenty of interest for everyone and great to see so many of our section there. Often, we found the car first and then identified the owner. I mean who could mistake "Kermit" and friend?



There were a good many Alfa 4C's and here is the winning Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint whose engine was rebuilt by Dave Hood our section techno – wizard!



Roll on next MITCAR!!

### Hazel Mills

(Photos by John Mills and Rupert Organ)

## OUT AND ABOUT!

### PRESCOTT VSCC SPEED HILL CLIMB AUGUST 6 2017



Taking heed of the weather forecast for the weekend, John and I decided to go to this event on the Sunday and were well rewarded with a dry day and lots to see both on the hill and up close in the paddocks. We were met by Roger Lewis and with us was a first time Hillclimb novice, our friend Allison, who was there for the photography. The results being that she ran away with most of the photographic prizes in her local competition and the overall winner prize!

Not many Italian cars on show, but lots of action and interesting cars. Not everyone made it up the hill, but enjoyed watching the rest from a good vantage point! Look very closely and you may spot two Cotswold Alfisti too!



There were a few Lancias cruising around, as is their wont, and some fine specimens parked up on the terraces.



As usual, the car park is just as interesting and we found some familiar marques, before leaving.



**Hazel Mills** (photos by Hazel and John Mills)



We spent most of the morning on the hill before heading down to the clubhouse and stalls for lunch. The paddocks provided a wealth of entertainment and noise to add to the atmosphere.

## What a find!

### South Cerney Vintage Steam Fair August 4<sup>th</sup>

You may well ask! But we were amused to see that the reason for all the gleaming showman's engines lay in the use of a product familiar to owners of cherished Italian cars!



## 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, September 19th from 7.p.m. onwards**  
Regular monthly meeting

### **Sunday, October 8th – Cotswold Alfa Autumn Drive**

(See Alex's Secretary's Scribbles, also website and feature in August newsletter)  
Drive out and meal.

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

### **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Cotswold Section Christmas Lunch at Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton.

The menu will be circulated soon and information on deposits and choices will be released as soon as known.

Raffle prize donations are most welcome on the day or at the November meeting.

## **Don't forget!!!** **BICESTER SCRAMBLE** **Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Historic buildings, vintage vehicles, specialist businesses...and space. This 348-acre former RAF Bomber Command base is home to some fantastic events and sights. If you haven't been before – make this one you don't miss.

*"The UK's best-preserved WW2 RAF Bomber Station turned national centre for historic motoring has changed a great deal since the start of 2017. Now, with the fourth phase of meticulous restoration works drawing to a close, another ten historic buildings totalling some 30,000 square feet of workshop, office and showroom space will soon be unveiled. From The Motor Transport Yard to The Field Force Motor Transport Shed and more, the new units are fully pre-let or under offer from a plethora of new specialist businesses, all active in the historic motoring industry."*

Lots of classic car clubs are registered and Alex has registered the AROC Cotswold Section. **You have to buy your own tickets individually and club ticket sales close midnight on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September (subject to availability).**

**We need a minimum of 10 vehicles to secure a club display area – so please let Alex know when you have purchased your tickets.**

Tickets are available at:

<http://bicesterheritage.co.uk/events/>

<http://bicesterheritage.co.uk/event/sunday-scramble-tickets/>

When you arrive at the booking page go to the 'Buy Club Member Vehicle tickets' option. This not only enables you to purchase advance discounted tickets but allows BH to see how many club vehicles to expect when planning the space for a club parking display area.

Let Alex know when you have booked. **HM**

## **PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UP AND COMING ACTIVITIES.**

Please send in any items for the next newsletter by October 12th. They can be emailed to the committee email marked "Newsletter" or sent direct to me at [mills9jt@btinternet.com](mailto:mills9jt@btinternet.com)

I am hopeful for a report on the trip to Monza by some of our lucky section members! Hint! Hint!

**Hazel Mills**

## STOP PRESS!

In next month's newsletter, Alex is giving a report on the Sudeley Castle Classic Car Show held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. We had 6 cars representing the AROC Cotswold Section and here is a taster:



*Let's finish on another "High Note"!*

*Congratulations to our three times winner so far this year!*

David Townsend, a regular at our Cotswold meetings, not only did he win a Fun Concours prize for "Cleanest Wheels" on his Fiat this July (see David on left being presented with his prize!), but he had also already been awarded two even more prestigious prizes at the Lancia Motor Club AGM earlier in the same month! Below is a photo taken at the AGM of David's immaculate Lancia Fulvia and the prizes of the Fulvia Consortium Shield and the Buckle Plate awarded to him as overall runner up!

