



AROC COTSWOLD SECTION

December Newsletter 2018



THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES "TEMPUS FUGIT!"

Like many of my generation, we briefly flirted with Latin lessons at high school and at the time I thought what a waste of time! Move forward fifty or so years and time really has flown!

As a section, 2019 is just around the corner and we are already planning our key event, Cotswold Alfa Day. I am pleased to announce that next year's date is Sunday the 16th of June which is Father's Day.

We will start the Giro at The Bell, Alderminster, for breakfast baps and coffee and finish at the lovely Compton Verney. This is a fabulous setting and we will park our Alfa's directly in front of the main house. For those who haven't been to Compton Verney before it has plenty to offer with stunning walks containing statues and large sculptures, to the main house with its art gallery and museum. Also, on the day there is a special Father's Day exhibition to enjoy, and of course a lovely cafe.

In the new year I will register with the popular La Vita Rossa at Prescott on the late May Bank Holiday weekend for a section parking area. I will also, naturally, keep you all informed of the many events on the horizon as and when I'm notified.

On the national Alfa front, Spring Alfa Day is back at Beaulieu Motor Museum on Sunday the 14th of April. (It is always a great venue and one well worth the visit).

As I write this, National Alfa Day has not been announced but I have some insider news that the proposed venue is exciting and fairly local to us! The large AROC club presence events, Silverstone Classic and Festival Italia at Brands Hatch are also firm favourites and tickets are now on sale. As ever, it promises to be a busy year and hopefully we can find events to suite you all.

As I had to cancel the proposed Curry Meal, it has been suggested we might like a Sunday lunch run-out to the Three Ways at Mickleton in March. It is always good to start the year with a social event. So, if you fancy going then please let me know.

It just remains to say that I hope you all have a restful and peaceful Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Ciao. Alex



DON'T FORGET.....! OUR WEBSITE HAS CHANGED! It is now live!!

Try it out at

<http://aroccotswolds.co.uk>

*New committee email address contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk

(*Contributions for website, ideas for meetings and activities, nominations for AGM in February can be sent here)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Cotswold Section Meetings at The Fox, Broadwell every third Tuesday of the month 7.00 p.m. onwards.

N.B. Meeting on the February 19th will be the AGM and will start promptly at 7 p.m. The committee welcomes extra members as there will be some changes in 2019. They will be voting in a replacement Treasurer and be reviewing the newsletter and ways to communicate with members and prospective members. Alex is also looking for extra help with his role. So, have a chat with any of the committee if you would enjoy becoming one of the team. In case you are not sure, we have Steve Davies (Chair), Alex Payne (Secretary), John Mills (Treasurer – retiring Feb 2019), Chris Martin (Web Manager and Photography) and Neale Smith. All committee members currently support each other across the roles which means they are a great team. If you would like to be part of the fun – let them know!

6th January Bicester Heritage Sunday Scramble. 9 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

www.bicesterheritage.co.uk/

Advance, discounted tickets for the January Scramble are now available.

January 15th Monthly meeting at The Fox Broadwell.



February 14th-17th
London Classic Car Show

Excel London

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

February 19th Cotswold Section AGM
at The Fox, (Followed by regular social meeting)

February 22nd-24th
Race Retro
Stoneleigh Warwickshire.
<https://www.raceretro.com>

April 14th
Spring Alfa Day
National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire.
250+ vehicles in the museum also palace house, Abbey, gardens, monorail etc. Tickets will be available from the AROC website in the near future. Discounts to AROC members.
<https://www.aroc-uk.com/news/2018/spring-alfa-day-2019>

May 4th
Auto Italia. Italian Car Day. Brooklands
<https://auto-italia.co.uk/events.asp>

May 12th
Classics at Prescott
Cheltenham Cleeve Vale Rotary Club
<https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/>

May 25th - 26th
La Vita Rossa. Prescott.
A weekend celebration of all things French and Italian. An eclectic mix of motor cars spanning the last 100 years plus entertainment off track to keep all the family entertained. Celebrating 90 years of the formation of the Bugatti Owners' Club there will be an array of priceless Bugatti's and some very special cars both on and off the track. The Saturday is usually the Italian themed day
<https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/>

Sunday June 16th
THE BIG ONE! CAD (COTSWOLD ALFA DAY)
Compton Verney, Warwickshire CV35 9HZ
Art Gallery and Parkland and much more!
<https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/>

August 3rd-4th
VSCC Weekend Prescott
<https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/>

REGULARS:
Prescott Breakfast Meets. All on Sunday. 14th April/14th July/ 1st September/ 13th October

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

The annual pre-Christmas bash took on new colours this year as we followed the vote of the people and had a change of venue!



We are no strangers to The Bell at Alderminster as we have started a number of drives from there, but this was our first Christmas with them. Many thanks go to Ness Staite, Events Manager and the team on the day for giving us a superb meal in festive surroundings – even if some needed persuading to wear their Santa hats!



What a shame we didn't have a Fun Concours for the Best dressed Santa Hat wearer!!



I wonder who would have won??



See if you can spot our treasurer as you have never seen him before!



Alex and John gave a heartfelt thanks to the members for all their support and goodwill over the year and praise to The Bell for providing everyone with a super meal. Alex asked people to bear with him as for personal reasons, he would be able to do a little



less in the early part of 2019 but thanked everyone for being so supportive to himself and the committee.

Finally, in place of the usual raffle and auction there was a surprise for six people who had a lucky Italian car ticket in their goodie bags!



They were rewarded with a genuine Carluccio's mini panettone to put under their "albero di Natale"

So, what will 2019 bring? The committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year and the chance to see Andy in yet another hat! (HM)



" A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE "

Back in October, Fran said to me: "Can you keep the weekend before your birthday free?" "Sure" sez I (thinking: - maybe a nice weekend with family or friends? - maybe a nice country hotel thrown in the mix with warming fires and good malt whiskey?) I had no idea what she was planning. So, very early on a Thursday morning, we found ourselves being driven to Heathrow by our son. It wasn't until we were at the British Airways desk that the penny dropped - the flight number was for Milan! Could it be we were off to Arese? Yes, we were and I could hardly contain myself! It was like being eight years of age all over again!



Fran had booked a fabulous hotel in Milan centre, the original main station hotel but very modern and Italian-chic inside. After checking in, we had a time to walk to the Duomo and do some sightseeing. The next day, Friday, was all for the Museo Storico and it couldn't come soon enough!

The museum is a 15k drive from Milan and the hotel laid on a driver and car for us. It was a good job as it was a bit tricky to get to by public transport.

On arrival what can I say, from the red sculpted entrance walkway to the reception area and the museum itself - all truly breathtaking.



The way the history, not just of the cars, but the race wins, the history of the famous badge, the drivers and the engineering are laid out is captivating. I probably spent just as long reading the story boards as I did looking at the cars themselves. Because it is the old factory the cars are spread out over different levels with lots of light and space between them.



This means that photo opportunities are varied and easy. And boy did I take a few, over three hundred, I think!



I won't say anymore. I could go on forever, and I don't want to spoil the magic if you haven't been. So, I will just let a few pictures do the talking.



BEFORE MY VISIT I WAS TOLD IT WAS A MUST SEE. IT ISN'T, IT'S ESSENTIAL FOR ANY ALFISTI!
Alex Payne