



AROC COTSWOLD SECTION

OCTOBER 2018

NEWSLETTER



SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

An "Indian Summer"

Can't believe that over the last week or two I've driven the Spider roof down so many times! As I write this it's fairly warm and sunny and although I've just returned from a morning drive I'm sorely tempted to get the car out of the garage and do it again!!

With winter fast approaching and the clocks changing soon it's time to think of other things to do. I have provisionally booked the village hall at Longborough for the afternoon of Saturday the 9th of February for an Indian lunch together. If you wish to attend, you can show interest now. Just let me know. The cost will be the same as the Italian lunch at £15 per head and we will take bookings in January.

I have received some interest in a ten-pin bowling evening in the new year at Brize Norton. Before I book, would you all prefer an evening or weekend slot. Again, please let me know. There is a reply slip at the end of the newsletter)

I mentioned last time about preparing your Alfas for the winter and to this end have written a small guide which you can find in this newsletter.

Our Xmas lunch on the 1st of December is filling up well, again if you wish to attend please see John Mills as soon as possible so he can finalise the numbers and sort out the deposit with The Bell.

Speaking of John, both he and Hazel are standing down from the committee in February for a well-earned sabbatical (or at least I hope it's just that!) and we will be looking for a new Treasurer and newsletter/ publisher. These are both key roles for the section, indeed without a Treasurer, we, by AROC rules, cannot operate as a section. So, if you've been wanting to "put a toe in the water", so to speak, please have a chat with any committee member. Remember your club needs you!

Ciao! Alex



OUR WEBSITE HAS CHANGED!

During the last year, behind the scenes, Chris Martin, with the guidance of Mark Grimshaw and the support of the rest of the committee, has transformed the website for the AROC Cotswold Section.

It is now live!!

Try it out at

<http://aroccotswolds.co.uk>

It has a new look Home Page and familiar tabs to:

- Diary
- Newsletters
- Photos
- Giro Panoramico
- Links
- Contact us

There is also a summary of latest Facebook updates.

We hope you like the new look – if so, let us know

**– BUT PLEASE USE
OUR NEW COMMITTEE EMAIL ADDRESS:**

contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk

Watch the new web pages develop, but don't forget a huge word of thanks to Chris for his time and expertise in setting this up and taking on the role and to Mark for giving us an excellent forum to build on.

MoT Testing

We thought it might be helpful to offer some guidance and clarification regarding the recent (20th May) changes to the MoT testing regime, primarily for the Historic Vehicle category, although some considerations apply equally to post-Historic class cars.

The biggest change of course was that the MoT testing was brought in line with the ruling on eligibility for Historic Tax status which, as many of you already know, is the rolling cut-off at 40 years. This means that at present vehicles manufactured before 1977 qualify for Historic status and therefore now also qualify for MoT exemption.

The first point is that it is a legal requirement for the owner/driver to ensure their vehicle is roadworthy. If you do not, then you may be held liable! Many owners take this requirement to be covered by the annual MoT test and although a MoT test is really only good for the day it was issued, in reality, many insurers and probably even a court of law would support that claim.

The second point is that you now must declare that your vehicle is MoT exempt i.e. rather than it automatically being applied, as has been the case. This declaration is carried out either

- a) at the time of renewing tax on-line (there is a new page in the taxation process)
or
- b) by completing a Form V112 at the Post Office when taxing the vehicle.

Part of this declaration is to confirm that the vehicle is not 'substantially modified'. No need for detail here - but if you've shoe-horned a V8 into your lovely little Bertie you might want to look at this (before doing so perhaps!).

There is also an FBHVC guide to specialists who will advise on this matter if you are unsure.

It also now transpires that if you are taxing a vehicle that was already MoT exempt when the 20th May change was invoked, then you will NOT be asked for the declaration to be made! So, for owners of pre-60 vehicles this will be the case.

Equally, if you have a valid MoT test on your vehicle at the time of taxing then you will not be presented with the declaration.

It is also true that the first opportunity an owner will have to declare the vehicle MoT exempt is

when renewing the tax. This means that a test could expire now and yet you will not be declaring the exemption until (say) April 2019.

It is of course also true to say that if you wish to continue (or even re-start) MoT testing your Historic vehicle then you may do so and at any time. Indeed, I have both continued to do so (on my Coupe) and re-started on my '55 Healey as I feel it is an important part of the vehicle's history, a good additional record and usefully reflects mileage accrued etc and is of course also a testament to its roadworthiness. Not least it is an independent check of safety for the road and peace of mind!

Finally, there is apparently no correlation between the MoT testing exemption and DVLA's taxation as declared to the police force. What this means is that their ANPR system will simply see that the vehicle is taxed and insured and MoT exempt – no matter whether MoT tested or declared exempt, or indeed not yet declared; it is simply exempt i.e. in the older than 40 years category! This makes sense when you consider that the V112 Declaration presented when taxing at the P.O. goes nowhere and is not recorded – it's on the spot check and once shown the tax will be issued!



Mark Knight: Mark@retromarques.co.uk
(Section member and CAD sponsor)

GT to the South of France with Chris Martin and family. July 2018!!



At the end of July, we set off on holiday to the South of France. It was the day after Jack's 18th birthday so he was bit jaded when we left home at 4 a.m. in the morning. After major queues at Dover, we eventually got a ferry over at two and a half hours later than we had booked, so we were late arriving at our overnight stop near Orleans.

The following day we set off early for the long drive from Orleans to the south coast. We turned on to the motorway near the hotel and the sat nav said the next turn we had to make was to leave the motorway over 300 miles later!

The route took us over the stunning Millau Bridge!



(*photo: Google/Wikipedia)

We arrived at Marseillan later that afternoon. It's a lovely small fishing port on the Etang De Thau, a 20km long salt water lagoon separated from the sea by a narrow spit of land. A lot of the lagoon is used for growing mussels and oysters. There are some great restaurants around the harbour and it's not too 'touristy'. There is a 12-mile beach around 15 minutes' drive away and it's also surrounded by vineyards...!!!

We visited some fantastic places, including the medieval walled 'Cite' at Carcassonne complete with 'modern art' as shown in the photo.



We also went to Roman aqueduct at the Pont Du Gard which was a fascinating place to visit. There is a large museum about the aqueduct showing how much of it still exists over the 50km it followed taking water to the city of Nimes.



It was very hot for the whole holiday, but this was the hottest day. The car was showing the external temperature of around 40 degrees when driving. After being parked for a few hours it was reading

53 degrees when we returned in the afternoon.

We spent another day driving the Gorge Du Vis and the stunning Cirque De Navacelles. (See left)



Having driven a fair few miles, we were getting a bit low on fuel, but were not far from a town with supermarkets and fuel stations. Unfortunately, as we got near the town, we hit a 'Route Barree' sign and were diverted off on narrow side road. There are very few roads in the area and diversion took us on single track roads that wound up and down the hills and gorges for miles (with much stressing over the low fuel level), before we finally reached another town which luckily had a petrol station. Lesson learned, I did not let the fuel level run too low again.



And from one weather extreme to another ❄️❄️❄️

WINTER CAR CARE
(A personal view from Alex Payne)



Having had a great couple of weeks in the south we headed north again over the Massif Central and stayed for two nights in Blois in the Loire Valley. While there, we visited the Chateau at Villandry with its fantastic gardens and went to a really good son-et-lumiere at the Chateau in Blois.



As many of you know I have a thing about a clean car, more of a polishing disease really. I thought I would put a few words together about preparing your car, albeit cherished classic or daily driver, so it withstands the winter weather better. First a good wash (I know: "How hard is that?!"). However, it's more involved than you think. If you can safely remove all the wheels, and give the arch areas a really good clean, pay attention to the arch lip and remove all the built-up dirt and muck. When it is dry, carefully apply a good wax inside the rim *but do not remove it*. It is also a good idea to clean the calipers while you are there.

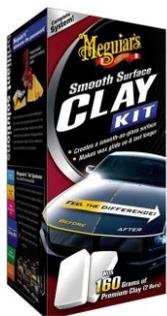
On the journey home we hit the worst traffic of the holiday, on the M25.... and state of the UK roads made the car feel like the suspension was broken after the smooth French Autoroutes.

The wheels themselves can now be cleaned inside and out and I tend to seal them with Autoglym Extra Gloss Protection, this lasts a good few months and keeps the wheels easy to clean as well.

We covered 2750 miles in 16 days at an average of 27.8mpg – not too bad for a 3.2 V6. The car made a few odd noises which I will put down to the heat (!) and I also found I had a buckled wheel which I could not feel on the rough UK roads!

Now onto the bodywork: If you use a sponge, now is a good time to break the habit and throw it away! Arm yourself with a good microfibre wash mitt and a good Ph Neutral Shampoo. I recommend Autoglym HD or Chemical Guy's " Mr Pink Shampoo" (www.chemicalguysuk.co.uk). Once washed and dry - no not with a chamois leather (which is another thing to throw away) but with a microfibre drying towel, you can then, if you haven't already done so, clay the whole vehicle including the glass and headlights. If you get a good system this is easier than you think and you will be surprised what comes off the paintwork. It also leaves the bodywork lovely and smooth for the next stage.

Text and photos (except *) by Chris Martin



Recommended Clay Kits are from Autoglym, Meguiars and Bilt-Hamber, the latter being my choice as you only need soapy water to apply it.

You can know apply your favorite polish or wax. The next step is the important one, you need to apply a sealant. This will lock in your hard-earned shine and

protect for at least 2-3 months.

Again, Autoglym Extra Gloss Protection is very good and also Auto Finesse "Aqua Coat" (www.autofinesse.co.uk). This is a great product that you apply, when the car is wet, spray on and then dry off.



Next clean all the glass and rubber. Clean the wiper blades and apply a water repellent. Rain X is still good, but my choice would be Angelwax "H2 Go" (angelwax.co.uk). It is amazing stuff and you hardly need the wipers.

If you have a Spider/Convertible, it is also a good idea to arm yourself with a rubber care stick to lubricate all the door seal and hood seals. If you own a 916 series car, then also spray plenty of silicone spray in the locks to stop them freezing.

To maintain all your hard work never use a car wash, automated or hand one. And never use the local drive-in/wash-by-hand car cleaners. They can use traffic film remover which strips away all your effort in seconds. Just wash the car yourself by hand with a top-up using "Aqua Coat" or Autoglym "Aqua Wax". A bit of hard work but well worth the effort and I'm sure your car will thank you!

So, there you have it, most of these products are available to AROC members at Halfords using your AROC discount. See www.members.aroc-uk.com Benefits link.

Alex

(Products named are Alex's personal favourites and this is not an AROC UK promotion. But you should see his cars when done! Take your shades!!)



TIME TO BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS MEAL!!!

We have reserved 35 spaces and they are filling up well!!

Saturday December 1st.

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

at

The Bell at Alderminster,

Shipston Road,
Alderminster,
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 8NY

<http://www.thebellald.co.uk/>



Secure your place:

Let us have your deposit of £5.00 pp by or at the October meeting (16th October)

Cheques payable to:
"AROC Cotswold Section"

to go to John Mills, Section Treasurer,
AROC Cotswold Section,
Edgehill Cottage,
Loxley. Warwick CV35 9JT

Menu choices /balance by November 20

Use Menu Choice form at end of newsletter or download from

<http://aroccotswolds.co.uk>

- **Complete hard copy and give/post to John Mills at above address**
- **Download form from website and send as an attachment to mills9jt@btinternet.com**

Queries to John by email or telephone 01789 470071

All enquiries re Cotswold Section or articles for newsletter to contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk

SECTION MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT!

The Townsends “Le Tour Panoramique” Sunday, September 9th

Steve Dymoke, a Cotswold Section member, notified us all of “Le Tour Panoramique”, a leisurely trip of nearly 60 miles around the Cotswolds, organised by The Friends of Prescott. It is an opportunity to drive your classic car with friends or family in the company of other classic cars and enthusiasts in idyllic Cotswold settings.

David and Angela Townsend decided to join in and had a wonderful day.

The starting point was the Classic Motor Hub at the old RAF Bibury site in Ablington, near Bibury. The Hub was open from 9 a.m., where it was possible to enjoy a light breakfast and visit the showrooms. The finish was at Stanway House, a magnificent Jacobean manor house, where the gardens and fountain were open and it was possible to have a homemade Cream Tea served from 2pm.



After registration, everyone collected a route plan and rally plaque and set off at their leisure, taking advantage of the available time to stop and enjoy the scenery and visit places of interest en-route. The travel time was about 2 hours, which gave about a further 2-3 hours to visit places such as Bibury, Cheddington Roman Villa, Belas Knapp, Sudeley Castle, Hailes Abbey or Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Railway at Toddington.

Wearing clothing that is period to the car was encouraged and there were prizes for the ‘best dressed team’ and a fun concours that everyone could take part in. There is also a quiz related to sights along the route.



The owners of this Bentley won the 'Best Period Dress' prize and the Jaguar was voted 'Most like to go home in!' and guess who won the Tour Quiz? – David and Angela!
(Tour Panoramique 2019 - a Section outing next year maybe?)

Prescott Breakfast Club – September

Many of us congregate informally at this event and the September meeting was no exception. There is no need to register that you plan to attend, so it is always a nice surprise to see familiar faces and cars.



On arrival, David and Angela spied and photographed this jewel, which I am sure our regulars will recognise! Staggering back from a “Full English”, A and D then spotted the Mitchells taking a photograph of their own prize Italian specimen! Touche!

HM/AT/DT

The last Prescott Breakfast Club this year

Sunday October 21st - Prescott Clubhouse from 09.00 to 12.00 hours featuring the Morgan Sports Car Club (Spotmog), the Porsche Club (UK) and the XKEC Western Shires Region.

A number of the Cotswold section hope to be there and are looking forward to seeing you!!

<https://www.prescott-hillclimb.com/>

There's More Than One Vintage in the Alsace!

A late holiday in September was full of surprises for us. The plan was to have a gentle drive down to the valley of the river Bruche in the Vosges region of the Alsace and immerse ourselves in the scenery on the way and in the forests. Well, we did all of that, but a few surprises added to the adventure!



The first sidled up to us in the Eurotunnel queue in the form of this MGA. The story was that the intrepid Australian couple who were towing it had brought it over from Australia to compete in the UK and had been told of an event in Angouleme, France. On a whim, they were off to enter!

The weather in the UK was grey, but one hour out of Calais and the sun broke through and stayed out for the next 10 days, with temperatures reaching 31 degrees! This also brought out some real vintage car owners too and at one point we encountered a number of vintage and classic Bentleys and "Rollers" emerging from side roads bearing plaques for their own "Tour Panoramique". It was a bizarre site on a busy N road in France! Further along, a most beautiful gleaming black Citroen DS pulled out at a crossroads and we followed it for miles – failing to keep up with it in our feisty Abarth as we hurtled along in the otherwise empty roads!

Our goal was a restored farmhouse in the Alsace, recommended by Sawday's and visited earlier in the year by ourselves. It is called Les Bluets et Brimbelles .

<https://www.bluetsetbrimbelles.fr/>

There are several attractions here.



For the sake of the newsletter, I will say that the first attraction is the fact that Thierry Habersetzer, who is our host, is a classic car fan and owns 2 CV's and a Traction Avant! Part of the holiday, for a reasonable price, can include a short or long trip in one of the

2CV's into the nearby countryside to learn about the heritage and history. Of the latter there is a lot as this area changed hands between Germany and France several times. We took this "2CV Balade" and marvelled at the comfort of the little car and the fun of the drive. Could we be changing allegiance?



The equal first attraction is Thierry's wife, the delightful Catherine Habersetzer, who is much prettier than their logo suggests and is a supremely good patisserie baker and chef. Alongside the B and B, Catherine offers cookery workshops for small groups.



The third attraction is their wonderful accommodation and friendly welcome.

Part of the holiday involved a visit to the preserved forest steam railway at Abreschwiller. When we mentioned this to Thierry, his eyes lit up and he strongly recommended calling in on the local 2CV museum on the way. "It has a few 2CV's." he said, with an apologetic smile in my direction. It was actually housed in a small factory and had 3 halls full of these "little ducks", including a 2CV boat and a 2CV sea plane!



All enquiries re Cotswold Section or articles for newsletter to contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk

Outside, the local 2CV Club had parked in formation.



There were some rarities and some beauties amongst his works in progress and clients' cars.

At one point I was seriously worried as he had just taken delivery of two Giulia saloons which he was selling at 12,000 Euros and would deliver one to us in the UK if interested!



Nestling in the background was this beautiful Wartburg



Alongside our own was this well-kept Citroën Ami.

Later in the week, when we went to the amazing Abbey of Mont St Odile, perched on the Alsace range above the Rhine Valley, John decided we would take "the scenic route". (Have I heard this before?). After I had negotiated a few valleys and some good hill climbs with John navigating, John's head suddenly swung right and he was calling out "Alfa Giulia!" "Fiat 500!" "Turn around!!". We were in narrow streets in a small but long village and turning around took us about another 2 miles before we trundled back and found an Aladdin's Cave of Italian classic cars.

John appeared to be having a serious discussion!



Jean Pierre is a charming man with an obvious enthusiasm for his homeland and Italian cars. By the time we left we had learnt so much. Our own Abarth attracted loads of attention too and on one of our hiking days, the owner of a stunning Lotus came over in full long-distance walking gear and armed with lots of questions about the 595. Since exchanging emails, he has now sent us details of some amazing alpine routes in Italy and Switzerland. That's for another day.....!

Hazel Mills (aided and abetted by John and his photos!)



We were in the village of Grendelbuch and we had found Jean Pierre (or Gio Petro) Castagna who hails from Lake Como, although he has lived in the Alsace for many years and even spent time working at Stoneleigh for Jaguar! He regularly restores cars for clients and also buys to restore and sell on.

All enquiries re Cotswold Section or articles for newsletter to contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk



Booking form

To secure a place at our Christmas lunch, WE NEED A DEPOSIT OF £5.00 PER PERSON ASAP ideally by October 20th.

Note: The final balance and your menu choices (see over) will be needed by NOVEMBER 20th which is the date of our regular meeting.

COST £23.00 PER PERSON for 2 courses

COST £26.00 PER PERSON for 3 courses

Coffee/tea, mince pies and Santa hats are included in the price, as is a donation of £1.00 per person to our charity “

Please give 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.

Menu Choices:

Please give the balance/total and completed booking form with your choices to John in person, by post to the address above or as an email attachment to mills9jt@btinternet.com .

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU PRE-ORDER 2018

Group Name ...**AROC COTSWOLD SECTION.** Date of Function ...**December 1st, 2018**

Please put your name in the top column and then a cross (X) against a choice from each course, (guidance below if already allergen free). Please indicate whether you need:

GF **Gluten free** **DF** **Dairy Free** **V** **Vegetarian** **VGN** **Vegan**

Menu	Guest names and choices (see example in red)				
	Salvo				
Starter					
Squash Soup, Feta Cheese & Pumpkin Seeds with Artisan Bread (Can be GF) (Can be DF)					
Confit Chicken Leg Terrine, Sweetcorn Puree, Corn Crisp & Watercress (GF) (DF)	X GF				
Hot Smoked Salmon, Beetroot Panna Cotta & Pea Shoot Salad (GF) (Can be DF)					
Grilled Halloumi, Confit Cherry Tomatoes & Basil Pesto (V) (GF)					
Main					
Pan-Seared Whitchurch Farm Brown Turkey Breast, Braised Crispy Leg, Fondant ,Potato & Pickled Red Cabbage (GF) (Can be DF)					
Braised Beef Brisket, Parsley Mash, Beef Dripping Confit Carrots & Red Wine Jus (GF) (Can be DF)					
Baked Smoked Haddock, Lemon Confit Potato, Spinach Salad & Saffron Sauce (GF) (Can be DF)	X GF				
Mushroom & Chestnut Pie with Braised Leeks (V) (VGN) (GF) (Can be DF)					
Puddings					
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Ice Cream					
Chocolate Marquise, Passionfruit Ice Cream & Chocolate Soil (Can be GF)					
Lime Glazed Panna Cotta, Sable Biscuit & Poached Pineapple	X				
Three Cheeses (Cheddar, Brie & Blue) with Biscuits, Grapes & Chilli Jam (Can be GF)					
Mince pies ?	X GF				

I ENCLOSE PAYMENT TOTAL FOR £ NAME

CONTACT TEL OR EMAIL.....

Cotswold Section 2019

TEN PIN BOWLING AT BRIZE NORTON



Alex is organising a Section Ten Pin Bowling social in March.

Please help him assess interest and plan by completing this and returning it to him by the November 20th meeting

Would you join in? Yes/ No

Would you prefer:

- Weekday during day? Yes/No
- Weekday during evening? Yes/No
- Weekend during day? Yes/No
- Weekend during evening? Yes/No

How many in your party would attend?

This is not a firm booking just an expression of interest. More details in the New Year according to numbers interested.



CURRY LUNCH

Saturday 9th February at Longborough Village Hall

An exciting development after the successful Italian lunches

£ 15.00 per head for 3 courses and coffee

Would you like to know more?

Yes/No

Name :

Contact Tel No or email.....

Please give this to Alex Payne or communicate your reply by email to contact@arocotswolds.co.uk , marked for the attention of Alex Payne, by November 20th meeting