



## AROC COTSWOLD SECTION

### FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



#### SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

##### **"YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU"**



*With the AGM just around the corner and the events list already filling up it's time for me to bang my imaginary drum - so to speak.*

*However hard the committee works in organising events, the club is, above all, for you - its members - to enjoy and make the most of. I realise that when I give out information or book an event in January/ February for the*

*summer months it seems a long way off. However, the car event season is so busy that booking a slot for the key events has to be done early.*

*I also realise that with our busy lives these days it's not easy to commit to things too early. However, the take up so far for the early events: Bicester Heritage in April and La Vita Rossa in May has been somewhat disappointing. So if you think you might like to go or are just interested in these or anything else that has been suggested, even if it's just a maybe, please let me know.*

*As regards the AGM, with Rupert departing, we could really do with another enthusiastic "volunteer" on the committee to help with the running of events and CAD particularly. So don't be shy in coming forward. It doesn't take too much of your time and can be fun. Honest!*

*So Spring will soon be upon us and I for one can't wait for the "Season" to begin. It should be a good one.*

*Ciao!*

*Alex*

#### **COTSWOLD SECTION AGM 2018**

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

**7.00 p.m.(PROMPT)**

The Fox Inn, Broadwell.

Looking forward to seeing you all and hearing your ideas for the coming year. We hope we will be voting in another super committee with faces old and new, but equally important - getting feedback and ideas for our super section. Can't make it, but want to raise something? Let the committee know on [aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk) The AGM doesn't take up all of the evening, but we do have use of the private dining room. We aim to be finished in good time for you to get a bar meal or catch up over a drink. It will be Carol and Mike's last meeting as landlords too! We will so miss them! See you there! HM

#### ALFAHOLICS 17TH ANNUAL TRACK DAY

**for Classic Alfa Romeos**

at Castle Combe Circuit on

**Saturday 21st April 2018.**

Info below taken from website

<https://www.alfaholics.com/news/alfaholics-17th-track-day-castle-combe/>

##### **All 105 series owners welcome!**

We would once again like to welcome owners of all 105 series Alfas to take part in our 2018 track day. Every year there is a fantastic international flavour to the weekend with customers travelling from Europe and far beyond to attend the event! The atmosphere and camaraderie is always fantastic so we are looking forward to another thoroughly enjoyable day. Additional drivers in any cars entered are also welcome. Those wishing to attend the day as spectators will be warmly welcomed and can take part in a 4 lap circuit parade over the lunch hour.

##### **Format**

Signing on will take place at 8.00am sharp in the Howard Strawford Centre, followed by a compulsory drivers' briefing. Familiarisation laps with instructors will begin at 9.00am when the circuit opens. There will be a 1 hour break for lunch from 12.30 to 1.30pm. The afternoon session concludes at 5.00pm when the circuit closes.

Castle Combe is well known for its technical and challenging layout, combining chicanes and fast corners that make for very exciting driving. With 12 cars permitted on the circuit at once, there will be virtually unlimited track time all day!

##### **Refreshments**

The Tavern Restaurant situated in the paddock will be open all day serving food and drinks for the benefit of all.

**Full details on the website** – or if you want to know more or even enter rather than just spectate – get costs etc. contact Andrew Banks asap – especially if you want to drive! [andrew.banks@alfaholics.com](mailto:andrew.banks@alfaholics.com)  
Alternatively, telephone 01275 349449

There is usually an informal meeting up of Cotswold section stalwarts at this event.

#### ALSO - CLASSIC ALFA TRACKDAY 2018

June 16<sup>th</sup> at Goodwood Circuit

Classic Alfa have hired Goodwood Circuit for the day again to give you the chance to pay to drive your own Alfa on this historic circuit or just spectate for free! The restaurant and snack van will be open the entire time. There will also be 2 free parade laps for anyone who turns up in an Alfa (classic or modern) at about 1.30pm allowing you to drive this historic circuit behind a Marshall's safety car.

See <https://classicalfa.com/pages.php?pageid=59>

## **ITALIAN LUNCH (OUR THIRD!!!) SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 2018. 1.00 p.m. AT LONGBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL**



We still have some places at our Italian Meal Event at the Village Hall in Longborough. We are delighted to be able to offer this again, courtesy of Alex and Fran, together with Helen and John Raper, custodians of the hall.

Maximum seating is around 30. The cost will be £15 per adult for a 3 course meal with coffee and "biscotti". We will provide mineral water, but bring your own alcohol.

Send your cheques, to John Mills, Cotswold Section Treasurer, Edgehill Cottage, Loxley, Warwick CV35 9JT. Please make them payable to AROC Cotswold Section. In the meantime, tell the committee you are interested by mailing

[aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk)



No need to send menu choices. Details of the menu are on the website and in previous two newsletters. We look forward to seeing you there: The Village Hall, High Street, Longborough, Gloucestershire GL56 0QE.

We will be sitting down to eat at 1.00 p.m. – so please do not arrive later than 12.40 p.m.

## **OUR CHARITY FUNDRAISING 2017**

We received a heartfelt "Thank you" from Charlotte Ingram of the Myton Hospices for our donation of £361.00 raised over the year and included profits from the 2017 Italian meal: "Your recent donation, along with other generous donations you have made in the past, will enable us to continue providing the best possible care and support to our patients and their loved ones. On Behalf of everyone at Myton – thank you so much". (**Myton Hospices are our chosen charity for 2018**) HM

## **GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL!**

### **ALFAS IN NEW ZEALAND**

Although I promised Fran that the holiday would be devoid of anything Alfa-related, you all know true "Alfisti" just can't help themselves. So what did I see? It was a surprising amount, actually. In the North Island around Auckland mainly the more modern cars, a few new Giulias of various models including a stunning blue Quadrifoglio and more Stelvios than I have seen in the UK!

As we travelled south, the more expensive models were replaced by new Giuliettas and the odd Mito. However, I didn't expect to see more than one 33, a tatty but still used 75 and various 156 and 159 models, mostly in Sportwagon form. On the South Island, Alfa spotting was more limited; smaller population so fewer cars in general.



However, when we checked in to our Hotel in Te Anau, at the foot of the Island, a black 159 Lusso was parked up. When I asked in reception about it, the owner said it belonged to his cousin, but in his own words "It's fabulous to drive". I then asked would he be buying one. "Oh no." came the answer. Was it the reputation etc. that was worrying him? "Oh no. I can use that one for free!" was the beaming answer. The best though, was later that evening when we wandered into town for something to eat. The local "Italian" was highly recommended. Upon arrival, parked in front of the restaurant door was a used but obviously loved 70's Spider, S3 I think. When I asked at the bar about the car, it actually belonged to the owner of the restaurant and we spent a good 15 minutes talking about all things Alfa - and I even blagged a free beer! So, to sum up, more Alfies than I thought and an understanding wife for letting me indulge without too many "raised eyebrow moments"! **Alex**



## COTSWOLD ALFA DAY 2018

Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bradwell Grove,  
Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4JP.

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

This year we are hosting Cotswold Alfa Day on a Saturday!!

We know that we have a band of loyal followers from outside the Cotswolds and that the day is popular to families too, so we are experimenting with holding the event on a Saturday, instead of the usual Sunday. This may work better for those who want to spend more time at leisure both at the event and in our lovely Cotswolds. It is still happening on the penultimate weekend in June – so we have kept to that tradition.



We have secured the venue and, as I write, we are confirming the start for the ever popular Giro Panoramico and ensuring we have refreshments to set you on your way. Chris Martin and Alex have volunteered to do the Giro Route this year.

**Application details and costs will be available in the next Newsletter for March or on the website if finalised earlier.**



Cotswold Wildlife Park is home to one of the UK's largest zoological collections and hosts some magnificent gardens. They are a key player in fundraising for the conservation of species.

The parking area allocated has plenty of space to display your treasured cars and picnic, if you wish.

Of course, your main aim will be to come and see the scores of Alfias and Italian cars which turn up year after year and to catch up on news and events in the Alfa world.



The Cotswold Wildlife Park will also draw the attention of your (dare I say “non-car-enthusiast”) passengers as it has something for everyone. The gardens are stunning and the wildlife collection fantastic. There is even a narrow gauge railway to take you around the whole park and an adventure playground for the children. You may even not need to bring a picnic because of all the refreshment outlets and the restaurant. Access is brilliant for all and you can even bring your dogs if on a lead.

Cotswold Alfa Day has traditionally attracted cars from all eras and we look forward to getting the ball rolling with applications as soon as possible.  
**HM**

