



AROC COTSWOLD SECTION JULY 2018 Newsletter



THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES



As per this time last year this month's "scribbles" are mostly about CAD. Our decision, a touch motivated by the chosen venue, to go for Saturday was well received by many. We had the odd complaint, but – hey - that's life.

Yet again "the team" excelled themselves, the weather co-operated and what a wonderful day we had. The pre-planning and set up was a breeze. The entrance to our parking area looked fantastic with sail banners, signage with the AROC and Club gazebos on either side.

It wasn't too long before the first cars started to arrive and before we could blink the "Giro" runners were arriving in force. Once parked up, we had a superb display of all things Alfa from pre-war to the present. A great display not just for us but we had lots of interest from the visitors to the park as well.

A huge thank you to all involved especially our sponsors Retro Marques, Nick Wright from AROC "towers", Dave Messenger for the 156 race car and the staff at the Cotswold Wildlife Park. Of course, my heartfelt thanks to Hazel, Fran, John, Steve, Chris, Neale, Andrew, Dave, Jack and Finn. We couldn't have done it without you. See their own comments later.

Our August meeting will be our "Fun Concours" night on the village green. So, hope the weather holds and we see some really shiny Alfas on the night.

Throughout August and September, we have the Alderminster and Whichford meets with their superb selection of cars from all eras. In September the "Goodwood Revival" takes centre stage. It's very popular, I know, but get there early, stay late and you can beat the crowds.

Ciao, Alex

NATIONAL ALFA DAY 2018



This year's NAD was held at Weston Park between Shifnal and Telford. As it was only a few miles from my daughter's home, Fran and I decided to make it a full weekend away and combine family and Alfas - a great combination.

We arrived around 9.15 because I had entered the Spider in the "Show and Shine" (new for this year). This meant we had a superb parking area on the main entrance - although it wasn't intended! We parked between a well-known fully restored orange Alfasud 1.3 and an Alfa Romeo Spider "Beaute", another rare car. Once my own Spider was cleaned to perfection, with Fran directing operations, it was time to unpack the seats and open the flask of coffee and watch the cars roll in. (And roll in they did with some utterly fantastic sights and sounds as they drove past us to park up).

Before it was too hot, we decided to have a good walk around the line-up of different models.



First in line was a good selection of this year's Alfa Championship cars plus the BTCC Giulietta race car complete with transporter.



Only one vintage car was present, this being the James Young bodied 6c that graced our presence at CAD in 2017. 105 series cars were, as ever, well represented and in particular a lovely metallic blue Spider caught the eye.



A few really nice 70's Alfettas and Giulias were present. Sadly, a car that seems to be diminishing by the year is the 156, although those on show covered just about every version from 1.6 Twinny to GTA. Next in line, another favourite for me, was the 166. It was not the prettiest Alfa ever made but for me it is one that has a strange attraction. The surprise for me this year was how many Suds we had on display. A few are now being restored to superb standards, although one was very much a rolling resto including rusty and different coloured body panels. It had taken the owner three years just to get the car roadworthy and MOT'd. Dedication for sure! There was the usual amount of 916 cars i.e. a lot! As per last year, ours was the only Proteo red Phase 1 Spider. Just about every type and colour of 916 was gathered, the stand out models being

Cups and Phase Three cars, one in the lovely Brunello red not often seen. Guy Swarbrick had gathered together the biggest collection of 939 Spiders I have seen and together with the Breras it made an impressive sight.



We made some purchases at the Italian food stall. (Well you have to don't you!?). Then, we browsed the parts for sale, clothing and book/art stalls. As the temperature soared, we had lunch under the shade of a tree and made our apologies and headed home. It was far too hot in a roofless Spider with no air-con, so we were pleased we did. Memo: Must get the air con working if we have another summer like this!

Alex Payne

CHURCHILL SHOW 2018

The bi-annual Vintage and Classic show at Churchill near Chipping Norton is always one not to miss and for the last few years we have had a superb Alfa parking area near the Church.



The Alfa turnout this year was as good as ever with a lovely local 1930's 6C that not many had seen before.



According to the present owner it had been passed down through the family, it was originally purchased by his grandfather.



From a Cotswold Section point of view, we had the "usual suspects" on display – and their cars!



This included three 105 Series coupes from John Mills, Neale and Roger; Mark and Ray's lovely Spider, Dave's very pretty Fiat 850 Coupe, Chris M's 3 litre "Busso" GT (with a recent new clutch!), my own 916 Spider and a guest 916 Spider from Nick Holland. Also parked opposite us were another 105 GTV and a Series 3 Spider.



The weather started to brighten up and around 11-ish the crowds really started to flock in.

We had never seen so many people at the event. By 12 this had transpired into a 30-minute queue just for ice cream!



As usual there was an eclectic mix of cars, motorcycles, light commercial and ex-forces machinery on display, mostly turned out to a very high standard indeed. One of the things I enjoy about Churchill is finding a car you have owned years ago and chatting to the owner of the same model now. This usually ends up with many shared memories not just about the cars but music, football and the price of beer! I think you get the picture!

I did hear a rumour that this may well be the last Churchill show (?) I hope not, because the mix of vehicles, memorabilia, classic parts for sale, food stall and live jazz music is wonderful. If it's on again in 2020 it's a "Must do!"

Alex Payne



P.S. We used to have a Fun Concours Prize for "Most unusual item in the boot"! **HM**

First Car and Bike Meet at The Bell, Alderminster.



We went along to the first Car and Bike Meet at The Bell at Alderminster on the 10th May. We had



arranged to meet some friends there in their 1940's MG TD. My slightly newer GT was the only Alfa in attendance. (*See below)

It was a fantastic sunny evening (seems to be a theme this summer) and there was a great variety of cars, with a different turn out to either Whichford or Kineton. The outside bar was open and it was a really relaxed and friendly atmosphere.



The parking was mainly on the field behind the pub, but with some parking in the rear of the car park which is where we three McLarens, a Porsche Carrera GT, a Ferrari 458, and a lovely old Porsche 911 Carrera RS.



**AUGUST Cotswold Section
FUN CONCOURS**
August 21st 7.00 p.m. onwards
Broadwell Village Green
Opposite The Fox
GL56 0UF



This year we have moved the month of the Fun Concours to August to give you even more time after CAD to prep your motors or devise some fiendish potential prizewinner for Category 8.

Just to remind you – here are the categories:

1. Best Prepared Modern Alfa
2. Cleanest Engine Bay
3. Cleanest Wheels
4. Most Bug Splats
5. Best prepared Italian Non - Alfa
6. Ladies Choice
7. Must Try Harder
8. Best Vehicle Memorabilia

Don't forget to book your meal at The Fox if you plan to dine there. Tel 01451 870909

In the field there was a really varied selection of cars including Rolls Royce, Bentley, E Type, Mini Cooper S, Lancia Integrale, Mk1 Golf GTI etc.... oh, and my GT!!



We could not go to the June meeting, unfortunately but Steve Davies went and said he really enjoyed it, so I would recommend it as a nice change from Whichford or Kineton.

*In June, several of us attended: John and myself, Dave Townsend in his Fiat 850 coupe, Roger Lewis in his "Bertie" and were joined later by Susannah and Tony Mitchell in their yellow "Bertie" and Steve and Fin in one of the 916's! July saw John and I there again with David and Angel Townsend, joined later by Steve and Fin (again in a 916) plus some other Italian cars whose owners we tried in vain to locate! At The first meeting they had 110 cars and 40 motorbikes. This month it was 140+ cars and similar numbers of bikes. There are two more meetings left on Thursday 9th August and Thursday 13th September 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. with a BBQ and outside bar. People arrive early and stay later – much to be recommended! **HM**

DID YOU DO THE GIRO PANORAMICO THIS YEAR?

Here are the answers!

- 1) Frampton Cottages (village name)
- 2) Vine House
- 3) The Inn & Brasserie at Childswickham
- 4) Worcestershire
- 5) St Eadburgha's
- 6) Architectural Heritage
- 7) Ford
- 8) Guiting Grange
- 9) Donnington Ales
- 10) The Slaughters Manor House
- 11) Bakery On The Water
- 12) St Peters
- 13) Tea Rooms
- 14) Brize Norton
- 15) Round 'Oxfordshire' sign

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY 2018
“A Great Day from Start to Finish!”



For the organising team it meant an early beginning whether setting up at Cotswold Wildlife Park near Burford or awaiting the first entrants for the Giro Panoramico at Ye Olde Hobnails Inn. Neale and Andy (above) were at the inn on cue to marshal in and park the many who, later, fortified by the breakfast rolls and coffee, chose the scenic route through Cotswold villages to Burford.

Neale (the one above without the hat) in his first year as Section Committee Member, comments: **“A fantastic weekend marshalling 2018 CAD. The weather was the best I have experienced on this event. There was some trepidation that holding things on a Saturday this year might deplete numbers. However, we need not have worried as over 70 Alfas old and new turned up with Busso V6 cars noticeably prevalent.**

I had the good fortune to test-run the Giro route a month previously and so did not miss out through the car parking duties. Suitably fuelled with bacon butties, participants enjoyed a journey through some of the Cotswolds most iconic locations – Broadway, Bourton-on-the-Water, Naunton, etc.

It was then great to catch up with numerous Alfa enthusiasts at the Cotswold Wildlife Park.”



We were reluctant to relieve Andy B. from traffic duty. His comments were: **“There was a lovely genuine enthusiastic warmth at the CAD this year. What a great big turnout.**

This is what true car owners’ clubs do best and the Cotswold AROC is certainly full of passionate people. However, not enough dressing up and a little too much polishing. Don’t forget to clean the engine bay as well!”



The Registration Team of Fran, John and Hazel had everyone dispatched in good time, even those who got lost finding the “Hobnails”!

John, who has been involved “man and boy” with CAD since the rebirth of the Cotswold Section, under the guiding hand of Mark Grimshaw, has this to say: **“Those of us who were involved in the running of Spring Alfa Day at the Cotswold Wildlife Park in 2012 were hoping that lightning would not strike twice. A report from Dave Smith that year said: “It must have been very disappointing for the organisers as they watched the rain continue to fall with some force driven by a wind which wrote off many an umbrella, (no doubt improving the sales of AROC brollies no end.”. When Hazel and I arrived at the “Hobnails” to arrange the start of the Giro Panoramico, the weather could not have been a greater contrast – a glorious morning.**

As the participants arrived, Neale and Andy dealt with the traffic and parking arrangements with Fran and Hazel taking care of the registrations. The sun was shining, the smell of sausages and bacon cooking wafted across to the arrivals – what could be better!

There was plenty of time for people to chat and to double up in short convoys where lone drivers had no navigator. By 11.15 a.m. all 32 cars were on their way and the Bacon Butty Bill was paid, leaving Hazel and I time for a pleasant drive direct to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. When we got there, the site was already

filled with Alfas as many had driven direct to be welcomed and parked by other members of the CAD team who had also been out early that day to set up. Soon the Giro participants started to arrive with people saying how much they enjoyed the run. So “Well Done” to Chris and Alex for sorting the Giro Route this year.

As far as I was concerned, the rest of the day was enjoyed meeting and chatting to other Alfa owners and relaxing, knowing that we had overcome the “Spring Alfa Day 2012 Weather Jinx”!

This year, the Giro had taken a route through lesser known villages and the honey pots of The Slaughters, Stow, Broadway and Bourton on the Water.



Meanwhile at Burford, work had been underway to prepare for Alfas arriving direct from places far and near – even The Channel Islands! Dave Parker, one of our constantly helpful members can be seen perusing the AROC stand and chatting with Nick Wright before it all got too busy



Dave's slant on the day was:

“The Cotswold Wildlife Park proved to be an excellent venue for this year's Cotswold Alfa Day and this time we were blessed with the weather that we were hoping for. We had lots of good feedback on the move to a Saturday and with people travelling for quite a distance

and taking the opportunity to make a weekend break out of it. The giro route put together by Alex and Chris proved to be popular again. “Thanks, Gents”. Also, the occupants of the cars were all smiling and in good humour. Alex, who put in a lot of work on this, should be very proud of the outcome and we should also say thanks to Dave Messenger, Mark Knight and Dave Bridges who by their contribution made the day a little more special.”

Our sponsor, Mark Knight, was able to join us and promote RetroMarques Ltd. at the event.

It wasn't long before the field was filling and two very long lines of Italian cars from different eras stood glinting in the sun.



As much as seeing familiar models grouped together was the contrast of models over time



...and the similarities. Spot the difference!



The wildlife provided a nice backdrop too!



The prizewinners this year were:

RetroMarques Award. Best Classic Alfa

Gary Plumb. 1600cc Duetto Spider. 1967

RetroMarques Award. Best Modern Alfa

Ian Boundy. Giulia Veloce. 2017

RetroMarques Award. Best Future Classic Alfa

Jason Adderley. 3.0L GTV V6. 2000

Cotswold Section Award. Best Vintage Alfa

David Bridges. 1750cc 6C Gran Sport. 1930

Cotswold Section Committee's Choice Award.

Glen Moffatt. 1.3L Alfasud Super. 1979



Picture: Mark Knight presenting RetroMarques Award. Best Classic Alfa

to Gary Plumb for his beautiful Alfa Duetto Spider.

Many stayed on well beyond the prizegiving to enjoy the wildlife park or simply the company of fellow Alfa enthusiasts and the wonderful weather.

Chris Martin as CAD team member and Section Committee Member was heavily involved this year and had this to say: *I thoroughly enjoyed CAD this year, from planning the Giro route with Alex to marshalling on the day itself.*

Alex and I had great fun putting the Giro route together. The first time we set out from the Olde Hobnails Inn to plan the route we both had an idea of where we wanted the route to go and it fell into place from there on the first drive through. We drove the route twice more to check the directions and add the questions.

Neil and John & Hazel also then drove the route to check the directions etc.....

Pictured:

Alex Payne awarding the Carluccio's Hamper to Steve Geary as a reward for completing the Giro Panoramico and finding all the clues. Steve did the route in a 916 Spider 2003.



Chris goes on to say: *On the day itself, the weather was fantastic which was a real help. We met at around 9am at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, setting up the gazebo and planning the parking – we had a huge area to use which made parking easy. A few cars arrived quite early and then the cars that had done the Giro route started arriving. I was really interested in the feedback on the route and this was very positive, with just the odd comment about bumpy road or potholes. A few people thought it was the best Giro yet!*

The whole day seemed to go very smoothly and seemed less stressful than last year at Upton House. I chatted to some great people during the day and met up with some people I see at CAD every year.

At the end of the day the committee and helpers wound down with a drink at The Fox at The Barringtons, followed by a meal at the Cotswold Gateway in Burford, which was good fun. All in all, a really good day that I hope everyone enjoyed.

The final word must go to our Section Chair, Steve Davies who, with the team, worked hard to achieve a great day: *"I would like to firstly thank all the people who travelled from far and near to join us at CAD 2018. It was good to see familiar faces supporting us and meet new Alfa owners and those new to us. The venue attracted a lot of interest from members of the public. It never surprises me how often you hear that many people, somewhere in their life, have owned an Alfa and rue the day they ever parted with it! So, I would like to thank Cotswold Wildlife Park for hosting us so well and the "Hobnails" for a good spread at the start to the Giro. The whole event could not have happened without the Cotswold Section Committee, the CAD team and our wider section membership. Therefore, finally, I would like to give a huge "Thank you" to all of you!*



The 'BAT'

'Breakfast at Twynning'

Sunday 29th July at 10:00

Our first BAT for this season and back by popular demand!

The first of 3 planned BATs this season, next one on August BH Sunday and then 23rd September; dates for the diary!

All classic and vintage cars and bikes (and supporters) are welcome!

To help plan catering, please let me know if you plan to attend.

Sponsored by: The Austin-Healey Club Southwestern

Information: Mark Knight 07791 417256 or Info@ahc-southwestern.co.uk



Events (see also website and May/ June newsletters)

CLASSIC NOSTALGIA at Shelsley Walsh Sunday 29th July

Alex received this email and sent it out to members:
"It was suggested the above event at the historic hill climb venue would be a great one with a different array of iconic sporting vehicles such as Formula 1, Rally group A and of course the fabled Group B monsters as well as concours and many clubs making a presence. I have had a direct AROC booking link created for us with a discounted rate from the gate price and shall aim to make an Alfa presence felt on Sunday 29th July. Some owners are already booked and tickets being sent direct to them. If you wish to attend this event and be part of the display area, please let me know along with what vehicle you intend bringing and book on the link below as soon as possible to get tickets out to you in time which will also guide how much room we need allocating for Alfa Romeo cars."

<https://www.shelsleywalsh.com/aroc>. Please book direct with Shelsley Walsh.



Tewkesbury Classic Vehicle Festival – Sunday 19 August 2018.

Bookings are now actively being taken for display vehicles. Please book direct.

For further details, please visit: <http://tewkesburycvf.org/>

Defford Charity Air Day



In aid of the charity:

Mission Aviation Fellowship (Serving in many needy countries)

11.00 till 18.00, Saturday 21st July 2018

The Croft Farm, Defford, WR8 9BN
On the A4104 west of Defford

Displays by the **Large Model Aircraft Club**

Variety of interesting Aircraft.
Range of Classic and Vintage cars. Defford Airfield Heritage Group.
Various exhibits. Come and go when you like, or bring a picnic.
Some refreshments available.

FREE PARKING - FREE ENTRY

We rely on your generous donations

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Items for the newsletter should be sent to aroccotswolds@933.me.uk