



## AROC COTSWOLD SECTION

### March 2018 NEWSLETTER



#### ***THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES***

##### ***"Springing into Action"***



With April just around the corner and hopefully some fine weather ahead of us it will be time to enjoy our cars and the many events available to us.

April 1st sees the first "Coffee and Cars Morning" at the Motor Hub at Bibury. It's free, but you have to register on their web site. [www.classicmotorhub.com](http://www.classicmotorhub.com)

As an alternative to Spring Alfa Day, which is also Drive it Day, I have reserved a slot for a minimum of ten cars at the first "Sunday Scramble" at Bicester Heritage. A fascinating place to visit. If we have enough interest, we can also organise a convoy to the event. Please let me know.

Early May on Saturday 5th sees the annual Auto Italia Italian Car Day at Brooklands. We are meeting up at 6.30 a.m. to leave at 6.45a.m. at the Pear Tree Services off the A34 for a convoy to the event. It's early I know, but well worth it. It's a great day out.

The end of May sees the third "La Vita Rossa" on Saturday the 26th. This is a wonderful day out with plenty of static cars and runs up the hill climb. This year they are reverting back to marque parking. We have space for about 25-40 cars.

On the 10th of June it's the bi-annual Churchill Classic show. Always a superb event - we have a confirmed space but again you must register with them. I will bring some booking forms along to the next meeting, so just ask if you are interested.

The big event for us in June is CAD. Final planning is now going ahead and as usual we trust we will have your valued support.

So with pot holes fixed (!?) and some warm weather on its way (!?) - it just leaves me to say "Enjoy!!"

Ciao,

Alex

#### **AROC COTSWOLD SECTION**

##### **AGM FEEDBACK**

February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

Steve Davies, Chairman, opened the meeting. **Apologies** were received from Chris Martin and Mark Grimshaw.

##### **SECTION REPORTS**

###### **Secretary's Report:**

Alex Payne expressed his enjoyment of the role. The year had been good and Cotswold Alfa Day (CAD) went particularly well despite a late start to planning. He hoped CAD 2018 would be at least as good if not better. He remarked that classic car and car events are on the increase making "Dates for the Diary" a challenge to update. To accommodate this, he planned to promote events more on Facebook. The Website and Newsletter would be retained, but he felt that the most active and interactive way forward was by Facebook. Alex reminded people that all contributions were welcome to any of the media used whether it be photographs and captions, news of events or reports on visits and events done independently.

Later on the agenda, a number of events would be highlighted where a Cotswold Section Parking Area had been booked already. Alex urged members to give him an early indication of interest, even if it was provisional. In some cases, he needed to confirm a minimum number of cars to secure the plot and in others he needed the total number of cars to help the organisers to know how much space to allocate. He drew attention to the events where we have a booking initially and we will be taking club banners and have a definite presence:

- Bicester Scramble. Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> – where he needed to confirm a minimum of 10 cars to reserve the space.
- La Vita Rossa. Prescott Hill Climb. Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> - where we have a similar area allocated to 2017.
- Churchill Vintage and Classic Car Show. Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Churchill Village

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- Cotswold Festival of Motoring. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August. Bourton on the Water. 6 spaces reserved.

Alex reminded everyone of the Italian Meal at Longborough on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He also highlighted the changed day of CAD 2018 to a Saturday (June 23<sup>rd</sup>). T.H. White car dealership, who attended last year, were keen to be at CAD 2018. He expressed thanks to Mark Knight of Retromarques for his continued interest and sponsorship and hoped that this would be ongoing.

Finally, Alex thanked everyone for their support and said he would be willing to stand again for 2018. In return, Steve thanked Alex for all his hard work and enthusiasm over the year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

John Mills circulated two documents:

- Section Annual Accounts Summary
- Income and Expenditure CAD 2017.

Regarding "income", he reminded the members that each Section could claim up to £50.00 per month from AROC UK against invoiced expenses. In 2017, his aim was to reduce the amount claimed as, if every section made regular claims, it would drain central funds. In 2017, £200.00 was claimed, in comparison to £234.50 in 2016. Included in "Other Income" was the contribution from Mark Knight of Retromarques for event sponsorship, specifically CAD. On behalf of the committee, he noted their appreciation of Mark's continuing support.

For CAD 2017 at Upton House, the entry fees in 2017 for 93 cars were £12 per car. Monies were collected by the section and Upton was reimbursed. The venue management was so pleased with how well the event had been organised that they reduced the cost by 10%! This gave the event £268.48 profit, which without the 10% discount would have been nearer £150.00.

The aim of the Section and John, as Treasurer, is to keep the balance held to around £500. This ensured that the cost of any advance payments for events or material items could be met. For example, in 2018, Alex has advised that the printer needs replacing.

The meeting approved and agreed the accounts and Steve thanked John for his work over the year and the report.

### **Committee Nominations and Elections**

Each existing member was willing to stand again and, in turn, Steve was voted in as Chair, Alex Payne as Secretary, John Mills as Treasurer and Chris Martin (not present) as Committee Member and Web Manager. The committee also needed someone to replace Rupert Organ who had been co-opted as Events Manager and took the lead in CAD in 2017, but work events had taken him out of the country and he could no longer participate. Neale Smith volunteered and was voted on. Hazel Mills (non-committee) who had temporarily taken on the newsletter – also offered out the role, but was voted back in. Mark Grimshaw has said that he will continue to help with the online information until Chris Martin finalises the new website, but he will be stepping down entirely in the near future.

### **FUTURE MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS**

Steve explained that we are losing our pub hosts, Carol and Mike East, who are retiring from The Fox. A new landlord has been appointed and, as yet, we anticipate no changes to the arrangements with The Fox. It was felt that the Section should remain with The Fox for the time being, but if change meant that it no longer served the purpose, that a new venue would be sought. Ideas were aired and noted. There was also a discussion on a "moveable" location for meetings, especially in the summer and "drive-outs" from a regular base.

### **2018 EVENTS**

#### ***AROC/ NATIONAL EVENTS WERE LISTED ON THE AGENDA AND DISCUSSED***

#### ***COTSWOLD SECTION ORGANISED EVENTS:***

**Italian lunch** Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>

**Cotswold Alfa Day.** Cotswold Wildlife Park. Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Initial publicity is already in the Newsletters.
- Alex and Hazel would be preparing a half page ad to go into the next edition of Alfa Owner.
- Steve had investigated The Hobnails Inn at Little Washbourne, near Tewkesbury, who had a sizeable car park, good access and ample seating inside and out and who would be willing to accommodate the start of the Giro Panoramico as well as provide hot drinks

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and bacon/sausage baps at a similar price to last year. It is likely that this will be confirmed.

- Prices and payment methods are being firmed up and details of costs and how and when to apply will be on the website and Facebook from a date to be agreed by the committee.
- Some sponsorship has been confirmed and more is being researched.

### **Christmas Lunch:**

Steve explained that there had been suggestions from some members that although the quality of venue, food and service was consistently excellent at Three Ways Hotel, that some were wondering about a change of venue for a different experience. To that end, he and John Mills had been looking at venues known to them for comparison. Information and menus (where available) were shared with those present. The attendance at the meeting (17 including the committee and two new members) did not reflect the numbers/individuals who come to the Christmas meal, but each was invited in turn to say whether they wanted a change or not and if so what their alternative choice would be.

The general consensus was that people wanted the meal to be at a venue which felt special and made it an occasion, so a "pub" atmosphere was not generally favoured. Many did not favour a carvery and also would not be averse to paying a little more provided the standards all round were at least as good as "Three Ways".

Many were open to change but not because the regular venue was not coming up to standard. There was no majority for any of the other venues suggested.

Travel distance also influenced choice, although for a "one-off" occasion to a good venue this may not have deterred people.

Conclusion: "The Three Ways Hotel" provisional booking for 2018 would not be cancelled until the other options discussed had been explored further. The decision would rest with the committee. In the event of The Three Ways Hotel not being used for Christmas lunch, Mark Byatt suggested having a Sunday drive ending there for their famed Sunday lunches.

***Events Where Cotswold Section Attendance has been booked:*** (See Secretary's Report above).

***Further Events to be discussed:*** Several people suggested new ones and these will be added to our section Calendar and shared on the website, in the Newsletter and on Facebook.

### **Nominated Charity for 2018**

For the last three years we have supported The Myton Hospices and this is reviewed annually. For 2018, it was recommended that Mark Grimshaw is asked to name a charity of his choosing. Steve would contact Mark.

### **Any Other Business**

Steve invited the two new members Simon and Derek to introduce themselves and it seems that we have Simon, from Cheltenham, whose interests span Alfas and Motorbikes and Derek, from Bourton, who has a whole collection of vehicles – mainly projects - with an Alfa being one of them. Both are engineers and were warmly welcomed.

### **Presentation to Carol and Mike East**



The meeting ended with a presentation by Steve to Carol and Mike of a cheque and card, signed by the committee, as heartfelt thanks for the support and camaraderie they had given from the first day the Section arrived on spec, through to being welcomed for regular meetings and facilitating in the display of the cars on the green every summer. The culmination was starting last year's CAD Giro from The Fox with breakfast provided by the pub. Steve thanked them on behalf of everyone and they left to several rounds of impromptu applause in recognition of their time with us.

HM. 21.02.18

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**Race Retro.**  
**Stoneleigh Exhibition Centre.**  
**February 24<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Over the weekend of this now regular event in the calendar, a number of the Cotswold Section converged on Stoneleigh to celebrate the history of motor racing and rallying with other enthusiasts. John, Dave Townsend and myself were there on Sunday morning, braving the icy winds on the trek from the field where the non- VIP's were parked. I hadn't been to the event for some years and was well impressed at the improvements in facilities such as catering and coffee outlets, widely spaced exhibition areas and a general relaxed air with plenty of opportunity to enjoy the exhibits. So, replete with breakfast bag and coffee we headed into the halls. We were on a mission to spot as many Italian cars as possible, but also to enjoy the many other marques on show.



First to catch our attention was an amazing array of replica poster memorabilia, which nearly had the men parting with cash!



But it wasn't long before we caught up with two others who had headed straight for

sustenance.

However, there was a serious search ahead and we went our separate ways soon to be rewarded by this Lancia Stratos.



This was swiftly followed by a couple of rather nice Alfas heavily disguised. At least one is a 156! Much debate was held by the two Alfisti as to the other!



We were aware that members of our Cotswold Section, Tony Mitchell and family, had a couple of vehicles on the HSCC stand and were hoping to meet up with them (The cars and the owners). The cars came first:



The first was the Merlyn 1971 Mk20 driven and raced most recently by Ben Mitchell in 2017, who is planning some championship racing with it in 2018.

The second was a stunning Chevron B8 on loan from Westie Mitchell – seen here in the background on the HSCC stand.





By this time, we needed to move on to another hall, calling on the way to order some oil to pick up later. It didn't take us long to actually

find the Mitchells themselves in the form of Tony and Susanna. Not far away, we were again spotted by the ubiquitous colleagues Dave Hood and Rod Ashton!



Before we arrived at the Motorsport area surrounding the stage, we spotted a very desirable Alfa



And a project for sale that even Dave Hood would not take on!



All in all, "A Grand Day Out!"  
Hazel Mills

## EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Please see the website for the latest full list

[www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/](http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/)

## CLASSIC VEHICLE DAYS - 17TH JUNE AND 9TH SEPTEMBER

*Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway· Toddington GL54 5DT·  
Twice each year the GWSR have a Classic Vehicle Day in June and September· The June event is primarily for Car Clubs and is organized jointly with the Prescott Breakfast Club· Individual participants are welcome· The September event is primarily for individual classic car owners·*

*Please note that for visitors wishing only to visit the classic car display but not travel on the railway, there will be an entry charge of £3 for adults; children under 12 are free· For those visitors travelling on the railway, entry is free to the classic cars upon display of your train tickets·*

*Normal fares apply to this event·*

*For more information, telephone 01242 621405 or email [info@gwsr.com](mailto:info@gwsr.com)*

*If you are interested in attending as a Section - please let Alex Payne know·*

## 2018 CHOSEN CHARITY

Mark Grimshaw, founder member and former Section Chairman has chosen **Friends of Pershore Hospital** as the chosen charity for 2018 in recognition of the care and support afforded his late mother and his family in recent times.

**Cotswold Alfa Day CAD 2018**

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**Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Cotswold Wildlife Park**



**CAD this year is on a SATURDAY!**

This year we will be at Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bradwell Grove, Burford, Oxfordshire. OX18 4JP. ([www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk)).

We hope the change of day will enable those who travel to spend more time at CAD and maybe even stay over with friends and family.

**The Wildlife Park**

The day's main venue has something for everyone. Cotswold Wildlife Park has not only a fantastic collection of species but also stunning gardens. The Park was started in 1970 and has grown to become one of the largest zoological collections in the UK. In 2013, the Cotswold Park Wildlife Conservation Trust was founded and registered as a charity. It was formed to raise funds for the conservation of animal species and endangered environments and to educate and inform others of the needs. There is a Victorian Manor House at the hub, a large walled garden and a wonderful collection of mature trees which form the backbone of the landscape. Much of the clever planting of the gardens is in and around the animal exhibits. There is a fully licensed restaurant and refreshment kiosks are also on site. Picnics (but no barbecues) are also allowed. There is an adventure playground for the children and a narrow gauge railway which tours the acreage.

**CAD at Cotswolds Wildlife Park**

The parking will be on a grassed area amidst parkland trees and will be ideal to display the cars for all to see and for meeting up with some of the regular CAD folk and new faces. There will be prizes awarded for the Giro and various individual car categories.

**The Giro Panoramico**

This will start at *Ye Olde Hobnails Inn*, Little Washbourne, nr. Tewkesbury. GL20 8NQ where there will be hot drinks and breakfast snacks. The Giro Route for the 50-mile tour of the Cotswolds,

which culminates at The Cotswold Wildlife Park, will also be issued.

**How to apply. You all need a ticket!**

The Cotswold Section will require everyone to complete an application for entry to the park even if not doing the Giro. For the application form see Cotswold Section website (<http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>).

**Entry cost to Cotswold Wildlife Park**

For those going direct to Cotswold Wildlife Park and those arriving after doing the Giro, the entry cost will be taken on the day by the Cotswold Wildlife Park staff and applicants will be provided with a CAD Windscreen Sticker to show on arrival to ensure the following CAD discounted entry:

**CAD driver and car FREE**

**Passengers discounted rate:**

- **£11.50 per adult**
- **£8.00 per senior**
- **£8.00 per child (aged 3-16).**

**PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 10.30 A.M. FOR CAD PARKING AT COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK**

***GIRO PARTICIPANTS - ADDITIONAL COST.***

There will be a charge for the route and refreshments at the earlier start. **This will be £6.00 for adults and £4.00 per child (5 -12 years).** This will cover a breakfast bag and a hot drink as well as hard copy of the route per car and a Giro sticker to say you have done it!



Please arrive between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

**Payment for Giro participants.** Details will be on the application form. Payment for this must be in advance by cash (or cheque to made payable to "AROC Cotswold Section") and given or sent to John Mills. Section Treasurer. (See Application Form) (<http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>).

**APPLY NOW TO SECURE A PLACE.**

**CAD WINDSCREEN STICKERS AND GIRO TICKETS, IF APPLICABLE, WILL BE DESPATCHED ASAP BUT NOTE THAT THOSE FOR LATER APPLICANTS WILL BE ISSUED NO EARLIER THAN THE END OF MAY.**

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