



AROC COTSWOLD SECTION

February 2019

NEWSLETTER



THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

"A WINTERS TALE"

No. Don't worry. I'm not getting all "Shakespearean", it's just that this time of year there's not much to TALE (Ouch!)

The good bit, however, is that Spring, we hope, is just around the corner and already there are plenty of events being planned.



If you are going to **Spring Alfa Day at Beaulieu** and fancy a convoy run, then a few of us will meet up just outside Abingdon by the A34.

In May, we also normally have a small convoy down to Brooklands for the **Auto Italia Day**. If you haven't been to this one, it's a great value day out with plenty to see and do. Both meet up points for these will be announced the week before the event.

Speaking of May we have the excellent "**La Vita Rossa**" at Prescott where I hope to have an AROC parking area for us. Again, it is another superb day and one not to be missed.

June of course is "The Big One" for us and **CAD - Cotswold Alfa Day - June 16th** is already taking shape nicely. We have a lovely destination venue, Compton Verney, with the start of the "Giro" at The Bell in Alderminster.

At the end of June, **National Alfa Day** is local to us at Bicester Heritage and we are assisting the Thames Valley Section with marshalling on the day. So, nearer the time if you fancy getting a different perspective on the day and watching all those lovely Alfa's arrive then please step forward. It should be fun.

Speaking of events, we have the regulars through the year:

Breakfast at Prescott - very informal and always plenty of interesting cars.

Coffee and Classics at the Classic Motor Hub Bibury

Sunday Scrambles at Bicester. (The entry rules for a pitch at the Sunday Scramble have changed. We need a minimum of ten cars and at

least 50% must be pre-90's). The last time (2017) I organised a pitch, we did not have enough cars turning up from the members. The majority that did were spur of the moment Alfa owners whom we invited to join us. Bearing in mind the new rules and that we might not get enough cars of the age to fit in, I will not book a slot. But, of course, you are more than welcome to attend individually.

As always, there are also plenty of motorsport events on. These start with **Race Retro** at the end of February followed by the **Donington Historic** in May and, of course, the **Silverstone Classic** in July - amongst many others.

One thing the committee (the "new look" committee after February 19th) is keen to do this year is organise a couple of "**drive out**" monthly meetings. To this end we have organised the first one at "**Caffeine and Machine**" at **Ettington** for our May meeting. We will hopefully follow this up with an Autumn drive out.

So, as ever, plenty to do already this year and lots more to come.

Ciao, Alex

COTSWOLD SECTION MEETING

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

The Fox. Broadwell. GL56 0UF
<https://www.thefoxinnbroadwell.com/>

This meeting will be the AGM
and will start promptly at 7 p.m.

Agenda has been circulated

There will be time afterwards for the usual social gathering in the bar.

Many of our regulars enjoy a meal as well as a drink and a natter! See the website for the menu!



2018 - DIDN'T WE DO WELL!!

With a full and "up and running" committee in 2018 plus lots of support from our keen regulars and newbies, we flew the Alfa Romeo banner far and wide! Here is a selection of where we roamed as a Section or individuals. This was in addition to our well attended monthly meetings every third Tuesday at The Fox!

JANUARY

Alfas in New Zealand



January saw our Secretary, Alex, on a mammoth Antipodean journey - but he still managed to find Alfas in New Zealand!

The rest of us were recovering from Christmas and preparing for the February AGM.

FEBRUARY

The AGM saw a new committee voted in:

Steve Davies as Chair, Alex Payne as Secretary, John Mills as Treasurer and Chris Martin (not present) as Committee Member and Web Manager. Neale Smith volunteered to replace the post previously held by Rupert Organ and I (Hazel Mills, non-committee) continued in her temporary role to produce the newsletter. We said "Goodbye" to our landlord and landlady Mike and Carol who had welcomed us into The Fox as our new home for monthly meetings.

Race Retro at Stoneleigh drew a few likely suspects to browse the exhibits for a walk back in time for all sorts of motor racing. There was no shortage of Italian cars of interest.



MARCH

Una Festa Meravigliosa! The 3rd Cotswold Section Italian Lunch



hosted once more at the Village Hall at Longborough saw the regulars tucking into another excellent meal courtesy of the skill of our resident chef Alex and the co-ordination of the hall custodians John and Helen Raper.

Meanwhile at The Fox, we welcomed and were welcomed by our new landlords, Edward and Mrs Simpson.

APRIL

The first Sunday in April heralded the first meeting at The Classic Motor Hub near Bibury for the beginning of their "Coffee and Classics" events.

Various section members have patronised these events throughout the



year and Tony and Susanna Mitchell are regulars. Later in the month several of us were down at Castle Combe for the **Alfaholics Track Day**.



Those keen enough were at Bicester Heritage the following day with the Cotswold flag flying for the **Sunday Scramble!**



THE SEASON IS UNDER WAY FROM MAY!

Alfa owners were spoilt for choice with the plethora of events locally, nationally and internationally as we moved into Summer!

MAY

The monthly **Car and Bike Meet** started at **The Bell Inn, Alderminster** on the second Thursday evening of the month and ran successfully for 5 summer months attracting over 100 cars at each event! Several of us attended. Regulars include Steve Davies, the Townsends, John and Hazel Mills, the Mitchells, Chris Martin and Roger Lewis. It is on again for 2019! Put it in your diaries!



In early May, a small convoy enjoyed a sunsoaked day at **Auto Italia at Brooklands**.

Prescott Hill Climb played host once more to **La Vita Rossa** and we enjoyed a pitch with other beautiful Italian cars and ignored the rain!



A star of the day (not shown) was the 1948 Cisitalia 202 SMM Nuvolari Spider which had been driven that day from Surrey!

The monthly Car and Bike meetings at **The Norman Knight, Whichford** were gathering the crowds once more on the third Thursday of the month as was the **Kinton Classic Gathering** on the first Thursday of every month. You can guarantee there will be at least a couple of section members at these get togethers. We have even talked about having a Section "pitch"!

Hazel and John Mills returned from a touring holiday to Lake Garda and Venice extolling not only the virtues of "La Serenissima" but also a fabulous museum called "Museo Nicolis" full of rare and beautiful Italian cars. You can find it at Villafranca near Verona.



JUNE



For us this was the month for our own **Cotswold Alfa Day**, held this year at The



Cotswold Wildlife Park and the Giro Panoramico starting at Ye Olde Hobnails Inn. A great turnout of over 100 cars, good weather and a superb drive through the Cotswold lanes for those who did the Giro. The marshalling was in safe hands!

National Alfa Day was at Weston Park this year and was blessed with good weather as reported by Alex in the July Newsletter.



2018 was the year for the biennial **Churchill Vintage and Classic Car Show** and we enjoyed our usual Cotswold Section location under the trees by the church. This is a firm favourite with the section. Roll on 2020 for the next!



JULY



The Cotswold section were on hand at **The Stow on the Wold Classic Car Show** on a very hot day at the Stow cricket ground.

At the end of July, Chris Martin and family (and Alfa!) took a brilliant holiday in France. "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 (!)" CM



AUGUST

The summer weather was ideal for our Fun Concours on the village green at Broadwell.



A scene stealer was the Mitchell's memorabilia entry. See our September newsletter for full details.



Guests at the **Lancia Owners Club AGM** weekend in Kenilworth were Roger Lewis with Hazel and John Mills who joined the Licata family (Autocasa Ltd) and David and Angela Townsend for the evening dinner on the Saturday. See David's Lancia Fulvia below:



SEPTEMBER



(We launched our new website – courtesy of Chris Martin, supported by Mark Grimshaw).

Prescott Hill Climb ran “**Le Tour Panoramique**”, a leisurely trip of nearly 60 miles around the Cotswolds, organised by The Friends of Prescott. David and Angela Townsend were amongst those who took part on the drive from The Classic Motor Hub to Stanway House and won the tour quiz to boot!! More of us should try this in 2019!

Hazel and John Mills on holiday in the Alsace with their Abarth 595 found a piece of Italian car lover's heaven in a remote village called Grendelbuch. It was a garage full of classic Alfas and other Italian cars undergoing restoration or repair and John nearly bought a second-hand Alfa Giulia Saloon from this man!



OCTOBER

Prescott Hill Climb Breakfast meetings which are held once a month through the better weather were holding their last one in October. About a dozen cars from our section turned up. The star of the show was Rod Ashton and his first public appearance with the long-awaited restored Alfa Romeo 2000 GTV



Another “last of the season” attended was **Bicester Heritage Sunday Scramble** with its variety of cars.



Remember that National Alfa Day is here this year on Sunday 30th June and should not be missed!

NOVEMBER

Alex had a dream birthday gift of a trip to Milan and the museum at Arese!



DECEMBER

A good time was had by all at The Bell, Alderminster!



Let's hear it for 2019!