



AROC COTSWOLD

Section Newsletter - July 2019

aroccotswolds.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

date per il tuo diario

20 Aug - monthly Section meet at
The Fox GL56 OUF spilling onto the village
green for our annual 'FUN CONCOURS'

7 Dec - COTSWOLD Section Christmas Lunch -
The Bell, Alderminster CV37 8NY

Breakfast at Twynning - sponsored by
The Austin Healy Club Southwestern
in support of the charity: **fly2help**
Remaining dates for Summer 2019 - Sunday, Sep 8
@ 10.00. Also BBQ evening on Sat Aug 3 @ 16.00
All details at: info@ahc-southwestern.co.uk

OTHER EVENTS - *altri eventi*

26 - 28 July - Silverstone Classic NN12 8TN
Discount code on AROC forum

18 Aug - Festival Italia Brands Hatch DA3 8NG
13 Oct - Auto Italia Autumn Motorsport
Festival Brooklands KT13 0QN

31 Aug - MITCAR - Midlands Italian Car Day
Jaguar Land Rover Classic Works CV8 3LR
Advance tickets ONLY mitcar.co.uk

8 - 10 Nov - Classic Car Show NEC B'Ham

THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

gli scarabocchi del segretario

" THE MONTHS FLY BY "

Well, June certainly did, that's for sure. I am
pleased, no make that delighted to report that
despite some inclement weather Cotswold Alfa
Day was a fantastic success. We have had so many
comments, more than I can remember, about what
a great day everyone had.

Of course the success of any event is down to
many things, good planning, a great venue, a
"Giro" with lots of interest, but above all it's down
to people.

The wonderful committee and volunteers who
approached everything with an infectious
enthusiasm, Ness and all the staff at the Bell,
Emily and the staff at Compton Verney, Nick
Wright, Mark Knight for continued support and
most importantly the people who put their trust
in us and turned up on the day.

I have spoken to many since and it appears that
CAD is the event they enjoy most. This of course is
not only down to the present committee but those
that started it all and made it the event it has
become today, thank you all.

CAD of course was swiftly followed by National
Alfa Day at Bicester. We were co-hosting the event
with the Thames Valley section and for those of us
that marshalled on the day it was amazing. I have
a report in this issue of the newsletter but just to
say it was another overwhelming success, two in
two weeks and it all got a touch "heady" to say the
least. We were all exhausted at the end of the
day, but what a day!

Moving on we have our Fun Concours evening
next month (August 20), usually a good turnout
with plenty of banter and fun! We will be having
a Malvern Tour in late Autumn to Retro Marques
followed by an Italian meal at the Elgar Inn near
Bideford.

As I mentioned last month that if we have enough
interest then I will also organise a trip to The
British Motor Museum at Gaydon.

Well that's it for now, so enjoy the rest of the
summer and above all enjoy your Alfa's.

Ciao, Alex

COTSWOLD ALFA DAY - 16 June

Being *Alfisti* and by definition car enthusiasts, I'm sure many of us have spent time during our English summers praying to the weather gods.

On the run up to this year's CAD, with all the planning in place, the Giro run four times and fine tuned, the route typed out, the breakfasts on standby and marshals briefed it poured down!

Will we have to cancel, even worse will the venue cancel? We even did a **geological survey** to see how the proposed parking area drained! These and more thoughts were crossing my mind on the Friday night before the day itself. Well guess what, it turned out to be a fantastic day and one of the best CAD's of recent times.

The Compton Verney venue and staff were so supportive on the day, Nick Wright as ever was there with the Alfa Club "Van of Joy", the section banners, sail flags and gazebo were in place, although we did lose the gazebo to a very strong sudden gust, and all was ready to meet and greet a fantastic mixture of Alfa's.



Vista panoramica - photo Phil Alton

Dave Parker our new section treasurer, Neale Smith, David Slorach and Fran Payne were up and about early to get the Giro on its way from The Bell at Alderminster. So after a relaxed breakfast and the route maps handed out forty or so cars headed off on the fifty mile trip and the collection even included an 8C!



The rest of the crew, Chris and Jack Martin, Nigel Carter, Steve Davies, Nicola Gadd and myself headed for the finishing venue.

Once set up at Compton cars started to arrive from about 10.30 onwards with the majority, having run the Giro, arriving from around midday. The short drive in from the main gate to the front of the house certainly made an impact and I was greeted with many a comment on what a superb place it was. This year's entry fee included admission to the wonderful art gallery and many took advantage of the special Fathers Day paintings on show.

By early afternoon, and only a couple of small showers which did not dampen the fun, we had seventy three wonderful Alfa's on display. At the front of the house we parked the stunning black 8C and the most wonderful green Montreal, what a sight they made. The variety of cars on show made for wonderful photo opportunities and many folk were deep in conversation about their "Bella's".

Soon it was time to present well-deserved prizes and accolades. So the winners were:

- Giro Hamper: Keith Williams and Family. 145 Cloverleaf in Zoe yellow
- Committee's Choice: Andy Bray. With his lovely Sud TI.
- Most admired. Phil Lawrence. With his stunning green Montreal



One very lucky car to have such an appreciative and knowledgeable owner - and one very lucky owner to have an Alfa such as this! - "automotive kiwi fruit was what came to my mind" (Ed comment) - photo Dave Parker

....CAD winners - continued...

- Retro Marques Best Classic . Peter Burke. Giulia Sprint
- Retro Marques Best Modern. David Slorach. Giulia Veloce.
- Retro Marques Future Classic. A stunning blue GT 3.2 V6. Sorry we didn't get your name but congratulations anyway.

Sincere thanks to Emily and all the staff at Compton Verney, Nick Wright of AROC for support and sage advice, Mark Knight and Retro Marques for his continued support of the section - and - Ness and all the crew at The Bell, Alderminster.



Volunteer marshals have more fun - a little bit of pleasant work but a lot of satisfaction! Indisputable fact! Try it next time, you'll see! Photo - Nick Wright



Marshals obviously enjoying themselves.... capturing the moment. Photo - Fran Payne.

To my wonderful team, you made it happen,
Thanks guys! Ciao, Alex

COTSWOLD NEWS

My previous section news was written when the weather was unseasonably cold, this time it's being written when we are about to get very warm indeed thanks to a wind from Africa I believe!

The big news for us as a section was another successful Cotswold Alfa Day, in fact we have never had so many thanks and compliments during and after the event. A full write up of the day is in this copy of Alfa Driver so please enjoy.

The other big news is, along with Thames Valley section, we provided marshals and support for National Alfa Day at Bicester Heritage. Indeed it was our very own Nina Martin who first suggested the venue, great idea Nina as over 1,500 people also thought it was superb! And what a day we had. As a section we volunteered to marshal the main gate and ticket sales and entrance. On arrival we set up our gazebo, section flags and tables, Alfa UK then lined the drive with black and silver Alfa flags and it looked fab.

A good decision? Well it was truly amazing how we managed to see in over 900, yes 900! Alfa's with barely a problem. Yes there were one or two moaners, "I got lost" was popular, as if it's the marshals' fault! But on a whole every single car was greeted with a smile by myself, my better half Fran, Neville Guibarrd and Warren from the Midlands section. (A big thanks, Warren)

On the ticket entrance Matt Wilmott, Chris Martin, Neville Guibarrd(he was every where!), Dave Parker and Nick Suiter from Thames Valley were absolute hero's. So many decided to pay on the day that the usual cash float was put under pressure but did they panic? Of course not! A very calm Matt could be heard on our radios requesting more cash from Nick Wright as they just kept on moving the traffic forward.

David Slorach and the Thames Valley marshals then did a wonderful job of parking up the pre-94 cars among the atmospheric old airbase buildings.



"You've rarely if ever seen such a display of red Spiders - and virtually every other conceivable Alfa model - at this year's NAD. Many, many of these gorgeous machines were maintained and presented to incredibly high standards. We continually ran out of allocated parking space on tarmac areas - but they just kept on coming! It's such a delight when it's like that." See lots of photos from both CAD and NAD on the respective web sites." (Ed comment) Photos - Neale Smith

These displays truly looked stunning in the sunshine and judging by the volume of photos doing the rounds many others also thought so.

The presence of Alfa UK this year was also very welcome especially as the first 300 cars through the gate received vouchers for complimentary pizza and gelato! (Courtesy of Alfa UK)



When it came to presentation time it was an absolute delight to see our own Rod Ashton win his class with his sensational 2000 GTV. The look on his face said it all. Photo - Alex Payne

Moving on, as we head into late summer and autumn we still have our **Fun Concours** evening to come and also a drive out to **Mark Knight's Retro Marques** with either lunch or supper depending on the timing of the day. I am also looking into a group visit to the **British Motor Museum at Gaydon** in October.

As ever a warm welcome awaits at 'The Fox' on the third Tuesday of the month.

Ciao, Alex.

TELL US your ALFA STORY...in words, drawings or photos

- How do you celebrate your Alfa-ness?
- What does it mean to you to be an Alfista?
- Any and all Alfa or Italian snippets - holidays, meals, cities, culture, antiquities...
- Maybe a bit of Alfa artiness?



Here's a 164 rendition my little daughter created as a homemade birthday card for me (Ed) ...over 30 years ago!

Please send your news and all other interesting snippets for publication FAO 'The Newsletter Editor' at least 3 days before regular monthly Section meetings:

contact@arocotswolds.co.uk