



# AROC COTSWOLD

## Section Newsletter - June 2019

[aroccotswolds.co.uk](http://aroccotswolds.co.uk)



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*date per il tuo diario*

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30 Jun - AROC NATIONAL ALFA DAY  
Bicester Heritage - OX26 5HA  
Tickets available at [aroc-uk.com](http://aroc-uk.com)

16 Jul - regular monthly Section meet  
The Fox Inn, Broadwell GL56 0UF

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

7 Dec - COTSWOLD Section Christmas Lunch -  
The Bell, Alderminster

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**Breakfast at Twynning** - sponsored by  
The Austin Healy Club Southwestern  
in support of the charity: **fly2help**  
Dates for Summer 2019 - Sundays - Jul 7 and Sep 8  
@ 10.00. Also BBQ evening on Sat Aug 3 @ 16.00  
[info@ahc-southwestern.co.uk](mailto:info@ahc-southwestern.co.uk)

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### OTHER EVENTS - *altri eventi*

29 June - Kirklington Fete & Classic Vehicle  
[kirklingtonfete.co.uk](http://kirklingtonfete.co.uk)

26 - 28 July - Silverstone Classic NN12 8TN Dis-  
count 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](http://mitcar.co.uk)

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

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### *un po' di Italiano*

one *panino*, two *panini*, three *panini*, four....  
similarly....  
one *alfista*, two *alfisti*, three *alfisti*, four...or....  
*un'alfista*, *due alfisti*, *tre alfisti*, *quattro*..

### THE SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

*gli scarabocchi del segretario*

#### " A GLORIOUS SUMMER"

Oh I do hope so; having said that, I'm sitting writ-  
ing this in the middle of June with the heating on!

By the time you read this, **Cotswold Alfa Day**  
will have been and gone, time goes go quickly,  
and we (the Committee) will have hoped it was  
another good one. A full write up will appear in  
the next newsletter.

We still have **National Alfa Day** on our doorstep  
at Bicester Heritage which I hope you will enjoy  
and support. Speaking of support please see the  
separate note for volunteer marshals for NAD. I  
was somewhat disappointed to only have one  
reply in the positive last time we put out the call.

July sees the **Silverstone Classic** which I know  
many of us attend and thoroughly enjoy. This year  
we'll have everything from pre-war sports cars to  
historic F1, the fabulous "Thunder Sports" with  
their monster 7 litre V8s and some demo runs of  
Sir Jackie Stewart's championship Matra to celeb-  
rate his 80th birthday.

In August we will have our **Fun Concours** and to  
shake things up a bit, I would like a few sug-  
gestions from you all for some different classes  
please. Not too wacky though!

Late summer events that we have previously run,  
although too few, proved popular so to this end I  
am organising a trip to the **British Motor Mu-  
seum at Gaydon** for late September. If we have  
enough numbers then we can get a group rate. My  
thoughts are we can do a morning visit with lunch  
somewhere nice or an afternoon with supper. More  
details to follow.

I'm sure the summer will be packed with many  
events to attend. So whatever you go, don't for-  
get to jot down your experiences and a few pics  
for the Newsletter. Without a steady flow of arti-  
cles and interest, one page from me makes boring  
reading!!  
*Ciao, Alex*

## NATIONAL ALFA DAY 2019 - 30 June

This year's National Alfa Day is being held at the fabulous venue of Bicester Heritage. The hosting section this year is Thames Valley but being 'on our doorstep', we are assisting with the event.

We are looking for volunteer marshals to help with everything from main gate assistance to manning the ticket points and pointing folk in the right direction.

This is a great opportunity to help the national event, meet and greet friends old and new, help put the section on the map and above all have a fun day.

**Volunteer marshals have more fun...and...get FREE ENTRY...but we have to know ASAP so that you can receive your complimentary ticket in advance by email.**

Please let any Committee Member know if you are keen to up your enjoyment of the day by getting involved as a marshal.

Thanks in advance, Alex.

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## LA VITA ROSSA 2019 - report

The final bank holiday weekend in May sees this wonderful event at the equally wonderful setting of Prescott Hill Climb. From an Alfa Romeo and Section point of view this means a "must do" in the event diary for many of us.

So on a thankfully bright Saturday morning a few of us met up just outside the venue and convoyed in together. Parking this year was in a general area for Italian cars so the mix of Lancia, Abarth, Alfa, Fiat etc was great to see. From an Alfa viewpoint, we had a great turnout with everything from a rare Matta to the usual lovely selection of 105



series, early and late Spiders, a superb Sud Sprint, GTs and GTVs - and rare 90 and 75 saloons.

After setting up the Section sail flag, a hearty breakfast was called for, we ate on the open balcony outside with splendid views and the sounds of cars warming up for the hill climb practice.

Then it was photo opportunity time and as usual we were spoilt for choice. Our resident photographic guru, Chris Martin, was soon lost to the lens and as usual his efforts were well rewarded with the some superb shots. If you haven't done so already these can be seen on our website and are a joy to look at.

Opposite our parking area was a line of assorted Ferrari's from the late 40's to the present day. Amongst those was an early 166 "Barchetta" that I had seen before at a few venues and thought it was not only fabulous but still driven on the road today. Imagine my delight at lunchtime when Tony Mitchell came over to me and said "I know the owner and would you like to meet him and the car?". The owner of the 166 was so obliging, informing me of its history, the time he had owned it, ever since he was in his twenties - and he's now over 80!. Lifting the bonnet to admire the wonderful 12 cylinder engine and stories of when he raced it, rolled it and generally enjoyed it. This was one well used and loved Ferrari and not kept locked in a private collection as so many are.

Alfas attempting the hill climb were varied and included a 105, a 4c, a 916 Spider in Proteo Red (of course!) and a very rapid 3.8 V6 Busso 156. As usual, Duncan Pittaway's "Beast of Turin" Fiat S76



drew the crowds with it's amazing noise from the 28.5 litre four cylinder engine. Elsewhere in the invited car section was a stunning grey pre-war 6c Alfa, an 'in your face' orange Montreal



- just as it should be - and various Lamborghini's and assorted exotica to admire.

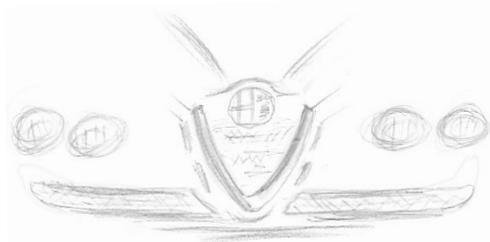


For us, this event has a **relaxed** mini Goodwood Revival feel about it with the amazing cars, the wonderfully assorted mix of shops to tempt your flexible friend and above all good company. If you are yet to do it then pencil it in for next year, it's a must!

### TELL your ALFA STORY...

Go on...bare your soul...write and tell me... then I can tell everyone else! Since I first issued this invitation last month, no one has yet stepped forward...so I'm still waiting...

- How do you celebrate your Alfa-ness? What does it mean to you to be an *alfista*?
- Your favourite little design features of Alfas.
- Your favourite Alfa and what it meant to you.
- Your dream Alfa?
- Your most exciting Alfa experience - ever!
- Your favourite Italian trip/ holiday / experience...what or where can you recommend?
- ...maybe get creative with a bit of 'Alfa Art'?



### ...To START, here's MY ALFA STORY

I grew up on a farm in the north-east of Scotland but I was never interested in the animals; I was, however, very much into the tractors - Fordson Majors in those days - and at school, my subjects were maths and physics. English and other languages? No way, not if I could help it! So it was unsurprising that I became an engineer, electronics as it happens, but engineering is

engineering is engineering. Of course, I had been driving the tractors - and the cars - around the farm right from when my legs were long enough to reach the pedals and I couldn't wait to sit my test on the first possible date after my 17th birthday.

I took a year out from uni. to accumulate some cash and my first expenditure was, naturally, on a car; not just any car but a revvy, all alloy engined Sunbeam Stiletto. I would like to think that its Italian name was 'the stars' telling me that my motoring future was going to be Italian - and so it turned out. Eleven Alfas in all - so far.

I discovered Alfasuds when a work colleague drew my attention to them just after a new dealer came to town and I started noticing them, gradually falling in love with them



( a s you do!) to the point where I could no longer resist getting one (a

1.3 Ti) followed closely by another (a Sprint). In fact, I became so enamoured with those little Alfasuds that I felt compelled to learn more about Italy by going to Italian evening classes and even went to the *Università per Stranieri* in Perugia for a month just to learn a bit of the language. Who would have thought it given my total disinterest in languages at school?

Those Alfasuds were to lay the foundations for so many important aspects of my life...if only I still had them now...

Oh, if only...  
David Slorach

### LOOKING FORWARD to JULY EDITION including a full writeup on Cotswold Alfa Day

Please send your news and all other contributions for publication FAO 'The Newsletter Editor' at least 3 days before regular monthly Section meetings: [contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk](mailto:contact@aroccotswolds.co.uk)