

AROC Cotswold Section – FVHBC Drive it Day – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014

To celebrate Drive it Day 2014, a bunch of the AROC Cotswold section and Brian Yates from Somerset in his Bertone Coupe, met on the outskirts of Stratford on Avon, nearly all of the cars that turned up were either Bertone Coupes or Spiders so it turned into a bit of a 105 day out as well !

Despite the biting cold wind and drizzle Mark Byatt managed the journey to Stratford with the hood down on his S2 spider, sporting a very fetching fur lined hat, the rest of us had the sense to keep the hood up and the heater on.

We then drove a route planned by John Mills through some of the very pretty villages of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, ending up at the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon to join in the Drive it Day celebrations. We will definitely use the route again but on a warm sunny day when we can enjoy the views. On arrival we were shown to the parking area for the Historic/Classic Vehicles and somehow they didn't notice John Gardiners 156 was quite that historic!

After a quick coffee and for some cake, we headed out into the elements to see what machinery had turned up and it was quite an eclectic mix as you would expect, the MSA classics rally entrants driving from Chester to Gaydon, were just starting to arrive with everything from a Fiat 500 to Ford GT40 and everything in between. As you would expect just about every major and some minor marques were on show including a Gordon-Keeble sporting a body designed by Giugiaro and built by Bertone. Only 100 Gordon-Keeble cars were ever built and according to the Owners' Club over 90 examples still exist.

The heavens opened so the least hardy of us headed for the museum where we had a look around the new(ish) Jaguar Heritage display, on display there is a Jaguar XJ13 prototype racing car, developed for Le Mans in the mid 1960's it was never raced or produced but in my opinion has to be one of the best looking Jaguars I have ever seen. The car has not been officially valued, but a £7 million bid for it was declined by the owners in 1996.

In all a good day made better with a drive home down the Fosse Way in the sunshine that eventually made an appearance.

See <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/images/photogallery/did2014/index.html> for photos from the event

*Written by Mark Grimshaw*