



# Alfa Romeo Owners Club Cotswold Section



NEWSLETTER JULY 2016



## CAD 2016 SPECIAL



What a great day was had by all on June 26<sup>th</sup> when over 75 Alfa Romeos (and you may have spotted a Fiat 500, an Abarth and a couple of Lancias) gathered at Ragley Hall Estate!

Thank you, Ragley Hall, for providing us with such a spectacular landscape within which to frame our equally spectacular cars! How did you organise the ideal weather conditions too – with rain felt only as the last few slowly made their way home?

Thank you “The Bell at Alderminster” for providing us with refreshments in your lovely inn and a relaxed atmosphere at the start of the day for the 45 cars who entered into the fun of the 2016 “Giro Panoramico”

True to form, CAD always attracts Cotswold Alfa Owners who may not always be able to come to local meetings, but love to turn up year after year to renew acquaintances and to see if any of us have turned up in something different. True to form, it also attracts many from not only the Cotswold fringes, but further afield like Jersey, Liverpool, London and more. Great to see you again and all the new faces too! That’s what makes Cotswold Alfa Day!

This year saw an even stronger team of volunteers from within the club who helped with the organisation, preparation and marketing and then pitched up on the day for site preparation, marshalling and generally making everyone welcome. So many got involved, too difficult to list without offending someone whose name may not appear. However, Rupert and Dave at Ragley, with Nigel’s help, masterminded the display in toto and the special line-up at the house of *Alfa’s Across the Years*. Mark Byatt was there to meet and greet at the entrance to Ragley and to host the prize-giving and votes of thanks. Mark G, Alex and Fran Payne were meanwhile sorting out the Giro entrants and getting them on their way for the 50-mile tour. Many more were playing an active part and are mentioned later.

We were also pleased to see Nick Wright, Manager of Alfa Romeo Owner's Club, who always attends to support us when possible. Good to see you again, Nick.

### A word from our sponsor



Last, but not least,  
we must thank  
our sponsors, Retromarques Ltd.  
<http://www.retromarques.co.uk/>

Mark Knight and Rob Mears were both at Ragley to present prizes and had on display: Mark's own red 105 Bertone coupe, John Mills yellow 105 Bertone coupe, Matt Willmott's green 105 Spider and the late Robin Hale's ivory 105 Spider, all of which had benefited from or were in the process of receiving some expert work by Retromarques.

### Mark Knight's comments were:

"RetroMarques has a close working relationship with the AROC Cotswolds group and has supported their flagship event, CAD, for several years now. It is how a well-organised classic car club day should be, a great format - with the rendezvous, giro and finish at a stately home - and always a nice atmosphere with invariably a strong turn-out of a wide variety of Alfa Romeos and owners across the marque's history. For us it is not only the opportunity to catch up with customers and potential customers but also genuinely a thoroughly enjoyable day out and we hope the association will continue in the years to come!"

In addition to general sponsorship, Retromarques also awarded three prizes:

**Retromarques Best Classic Alfa Romeo** won by **Tom Warrender** for his **GT 1300 Junior**

**Retromarques Best Future Classic Alfa Romeo** won by **Stefan D'Alessandro** for his **Alfasud**

**Retromarques Best Modern Alfa Romeo** won by **Ken Wallace** for his **Giulietta QV**

Thank you Mark and Rob for your continued support!

### Other winners:

**The AROC Cotswold Section Committee's Choice** was won by **Robert Yuill** for his **156 GTA Sportwagon**

**Giro Panoramico Quiz (Judge's decision final!)** was won by **Chris, Nina and Jack Martin** (see "Driver's Perspective" entry below)

Many Thanks to Angela and David Townsend, aided and abetted by Roger Lewis who were the Giro Wizards this year! They are seen here being awarded personalised choice of gifts from Mark Byatt! **HM**



## "A MARSHALLS PERSPECTIVE"

Well - another CAD has come and gone and from my own point of view what a great event it was!

Having lent a helping hand at last year's event, I have to say I was a touch concerned about being in charge of the parking at Alderminster as we only just fitted everyone in. Need I have worried? Not at all. The morning started early for us and we were first to arrive at Alderminster. We sat and had a coffee when a lovely lady, who was staying there overnight, came over to the Spider. Her opening words were, "Love your car! I used to have one. Did 120,000 miles in six years - most reliable car I ever owned!" So, off to a good start then!



It wasn't long before John, Hazel and the "gang" turned up, we all took up our various tasks and as our guests started to arrive we swung into action. The whole morning went so smoothly with John, Hazel and Fran doing the admin, and myself and Mark G organising the cars. And what a selection - everything from Matt Spitzley's old and new 8C's, Berties, Spiders across a few decades, 2600, 33's and more. It even included our friends from Jersey, back for their second "Giro". Around 11 o'clock, everyone was safely off on the "Giro", so we proceeded straight to Ragley Hall.



It was a first visit for Fran and me and "Wow!" - what a setting! With the help of our wonderful reception committee (you know who you are!!) the cars were parked up by model name/number and looked fabulous down the sweeping drive.

The weather was kind, so along with many others we unpacked the hamper, Fran visited the house, I chatted cars all afternoon!, Before long it was time for the presentations and packing up.

A great day then, thanks to all involved, and speaking to various folk - it's one they all look forward to.

Here's to next year!!

**Alex Payne**



**Photos this month are from the Grimshaws, Alex Payne, John Mills.  
Lots more photos on the website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> and the Facebook link too!**

## GIRO PANORAMICO - A DRIVER'S PERSPECTIVE



We arrived at The Bell in Alderminster soon after 9.30 to find a lovely selection of Alfas already in the car park, with more arriving all the time including two lovely 8C's of differing vintages. We enjoyed a coffee and biscuit while taking a few photos and chatting to a number of people, including another GT 3.2 V6 owner. Seeing a few 'yank tanks' driving past and one stopping to ask for directions added to the fun, as did the cyclists who stopped and asked me what was going on and was it a wedding!!!

Cars started leaving for the Giro Panoramico soon after 10:30 and we headed off shortly after. My son, Jack, had decided that he was going to navigate (dangerous!) and said he needed to sit in the front, leaving my wife, Nina, sat in the back, trying to spot pubs and the answers to the bonus questions – not easy with the limited visibility from the back seat of a GT....!!

Initially, we were in a queue of Alfas, but this quickly thinned out when the two cars in front missed the turning on the right to Admington and Quinton near the start. That left a 916 spider in front of us and a 33 behind. We did not get off to a great start as we could not spot the answer to the first question in Dorsington, despite driving through at a snail's pace. I did consider turning round and driving through the village again, but decided this was a bad idea on a narrow road against the flow of Italian cars coming the other way.

We really enjoyed the route, which mixed some great roads that allowed you to get a bit of (legal) speed up. It was an area of the country we did not really know which made it more interesting.

We struggled with a few of the questions, only just spotting 'Highgrove Farm' and the house sat on saddle stones (we put these down as stone toadstools as we could not think of the correct name) but in the end we managed to get answers to nine of the ten questions, plus a list of 16 pubs. Somehow we managed not to get lost and arrived safely at Ragley Hall following a black 159. What a great venue and seeing the cars parked in front of the house was really impressive.

We had a great day which was rounded off nicely when we found that we had won the Carluccio's Hamper at the prize giving. Thanks to all of the organisers and marshals for making it a great day out.

My photos of the day can be found at <https://goo.gl/photos/eFU1ree1rXpkd6Pe8>

**Chris, Nina and Jack Martin**



*(Chris receiving his prize from Mark Byatt, with John Mills standing by)*

### **Message from the Ragley site team**

I very much enjoyed the CAD. It appeared to run like clockwork and was over before I knew it. Big thanks to Rupert for the tabards and John Mills for managing the event - Good job John! The parking was very easy this year and it was very good to have Nigel on board and very kind of Kathryn, Rupert's daughter, to join us to lend a hand.

Looking forward to the next!

**Dave Parker**

## COTSWOLD SECTION EXTRAS

### **Thursday, July 21st - from 6pm until 9pm - Witney Motorshow**

It takes place on the Henry Box playing fields, Ducklington Lane, Witney, OX28 4JF.

Nice little informal show - More info here [www.witneymotorshow.co.uk](http://www.witneymotorshow.co.uk)

Some of our section like to attend.

### **September 25<sup>th</sup> (provisional) GIRO NEL AUTONNO.**

Rupert Organ is in the planning stages of a brilliant day drive- out, starting at The Village Inn, Twyning for bacon butties and coffee at 9.30-10.00 a.m., followed by a drive to Hay on Wye to arrive around lunchtime. The return route would go a bit further around and over the Malvern Hills, finishing back at the Elgar Inn, Earls Croome, famous for their Italian restaurant. We will start taking names after CAD – but if interested – also tell Rupert or one of the committee at the next meeting.

### **Sunday, 2nd October Cotswold AROC Autumn Walk**

**Organisers: John and Helen Raper**

**Distance** 4 miles. Ascent 85ft - although we will do a little more than this! Ask John and Helen Raper to explain!

**Duration** 2 to 2.5 hours. There are no stopping off points on the way!

**Meeting point** will be the Cotswold Food Store & Cafe (<http://cotswoldfoodstore.com>). Postcode for satnavs is GL56 0QZ. It's on the A424, about half a mile further from Stow than the Coach and Horses we used for the Scalextric sessions.

**Meet** at 10:00 **for breakfast** and then do the walk (the gates will be open from about 9:30 but the café opens at 10:00 on Sundays). John has arranged for us to park at the café while we are out walking. The route will take in the Cotswold countryside and allow a rare chance to see the amazing Sezincote House which was the inspiration for The Royal Pavilion at Brighton!

**Return and optional Lunch.** We should be back at the cafe in time to order lunch if people wish to stay on. Let us know how many of you will join us!

### **Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cotswold Section Christmas Lunch**

**Three ways House, Mickleton (Home of the Famous Pudding Club)**

We have secured a booking here again as we all seem to enjoy the great food and relaxed atmosphere. Next month, we will include the menu choices and let you know how to book. So pencil in the date!

**See website for other diary dates and lots more information!**

<http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/>

**Remember: For general enquiries and anything relating to items in the Newsletter, please first check our website <http://www.aroc-uk.com/cotswolds/> for more information**

**Or email the committee on the section email [aroccotswolds@933.me.uk](mailto:aroccotswolds@933.me.uk)**

***Please send us your news! Snippets of news/ event stories /photos etc are so welcome – so please email us with details or we will ring you back to chat through. Newsletter deadline is five days before monthly meetings. Hazel Mills***