Speaker Night
Oadby Town FC Club House
Weds 14 December, 7.30pm
Ex-AROC Chairman and 1980s BTCC Champion in a GTV6, Jon Dooley will be giving a talk about his exciting life racing Alfas, illustrated by photos and video. (See photo at foot of this column—that’s Jon in action.) The Oadby Town venue is perfect for us, with full bar serving quality real ale, and we’re getting in Pizzas too! A great night is assured. Please drop a line to John if you plan to go so we have a good idea of numbers. (No charge other than Pizza if you want it.) Address: Wigston Rd, Oadby, Leics, LE2 5QG

New Year Meal
La Torre, High Street Coalville
Syston, Leicester
Friday 6 January, 7pm for 7.30pm
We are returning to the delightful La Torre restaurant for our Section’s New Year Meal following last year’s highly enjoyable night. The venue is 48 High St, Coalville, Leics, LE67 3EE, with ample free parking at rear. The special menu is inside on page 2. An excellent choice of fine dishes is available for an extremely fair price of £22.50 for three courses (+£3 for the fillet steak).

This is always a very popular night where We will have a charity raffle too to add to the fun - please bring a prize. We can fit in 50 people, and no deposit necessary, just please book with John.

With over 30 activities to take part in each year, the East Midlands Section is one of the busiest in the country. We like to keep things nice and varied of course, including a balance of driving, shows, visits and social activities. As we head into the depths of winter we’ve still got lots of good things to look forward to.

We’re looking forward to the New Year Meal at La Torre Ristorante in Coalville again. Do please let me know as soon as poss if you want to attend. We always have a good evening there, where the Italian owners, Grieg and Fabio, always make us feel really at home. The food is terrific and excellent value too of course. We’re having another charity raffle, all prizes donated on the night big or small will be gratefully received.

Before then, on 14 December we have a special Speaker Night. Jon Dooley, former AROC Chairman and BTCC winner in an Alfa Romeo, will give us an fascinating illustrated talk about his life racing Alfas. That’s at Oadby Town FC Club house south of Leicester, a lovely venue with full bar and we’ll be getting in Pizzas too! See panel on the right for more.

The speaker night replaces our normal meeting at the George & Dragon. The G&D is too busy with Christmas meal bookings for us to fit in. We’re missing out the January meeting at the George & Dragon too as it’s too close to the New Year Meal, but we will return there on 8 February for a Curry Night. Chef Josh will be doing a selection of curries for us to enjoy with poppadoms and naans for just £10 per head.

Also in February, Viv Stevens has booked our special trip to Morgan Cars in Malvern for the 17th. That would normally cost £20, but thanks to his influence, it’s FREE for AROC members. Then on 20 March, Brian Smith has organised a trip to the Rolls Royce Heritage Centre in Derby. That is a fabulous place, with everything from the earliest days of the company through to a full-size Spitfire and even a Trent jet engine. Both visits will be followed by a pub lunch too.

AROC has two cracking ‘Alfa Days’ being planned that will be announced as soon as the contracts are in place; Spring Alfa Day and National Alfa Day, then of course MITCAR (Midlands Italian Car Day), our Section’s big event. That will return on 20 August 2017 at a fantastic venue, Ragley Hall, and with a special extra feature. See page 7.

We are working on starting our Section’s outdoor season proper with a special Alfa Display on Sunday 26 March. More again next time

Of course after what seems like forever, the new mass produced Alfa Romeo is here! See lots about the fabulous new Giulia inside, plus the ‘vertically enhanced’ sportscar, the new Stelvio, too.

Well I hope you’re getting set for a super Christmas. Thanks for your support in 2016 in making everything work so well for all. Buon Natale!!

John

WINTER ENTERTAINMENT

Alfisti is edited and produced by
John Griffiths
AROC East Midlands Section Secretary
Tel: 0774 8881317
Email: john.griffiths@aroc-uk.com
Our website for all the latest . . .
www.AROC-UK.com/EastMids

Alfisti is sponsored by
November Meeting
at The George & Dragon, Thringstone

After the relative formality of Section AGM in October it was back to normal at the George & Dragon for November. A cold, dark evening meant a few less than last time but still nearly 30. I may have made a mistake in advertising the fact I’d done another ‘What’s it Worth’ quiz of course!

Anyway, after some very nice pub meals and the odd sherbet I broke up the natter for the usual ‘general announcements’ (boy we’ve lot going on!!) - then it was time to hand out the quiz sheets. 20 Classic Italian cars of all shapes and sizes (OK 19 cars one tractor), with suggested sale prices, game being to select he correct one. I read out longer descriptions from the adverts and carried round my laptop with photos on. It was all applied guesswork of course, Could you get the price for a 1963 Fiat 600 Vignale, for example? For fun, I selected a few oddities like that, plus things like a 97,000 mile Ferrari 550 Maranello - the guy wanted 79 grand for that still.

Anyway, after going through them, guesses were applied and we switched the sheets around for marking. Given the trickiness, I was amazed that anyone got more than half correct, but several did—overall winner, by one, was Roger Smith with an impressive 13/20, winning an Autoglym AquaWax kit. We had a tie breaker too, guessing how many Lancias are registered/SORN in the UK, and the winner of that was Rob, guessing 3859 when the answer is 3981… impressive stuff! The real jeopardy came for the wooden spoon award. 3 people got less than 5 out of 20 - the ultimate victor in that battle, with 3, was Jason Hood. Well done Jason!! He wins the Nigel Mansell Autobiography (updated edition) which will be awarded at our December Talk Night. (As I forgot to bring it). You can start working on your acceptance speech now Jason!

Thanks again to everyone for coming along. A fun night, John

As part of the announcements at the November meeting John covered that we were planning visits to both Morgan Cars in Malvern and the Rolls Royce Heritage Museum in Derby for early next year. Brian Smith our Vice Chairman has booked the Rolls Royce tour for the morning of Monday 20 March. Viv Stephens does various work for Morgan and has arranged a special tour for us there on Friday 17 February from 10am. That will be FREE - normal charge £20. There’s a strict limit of 20 people for that who MUST be AROC members. Both tours will be followed by a pub lunch. Please book your places with John.

December 2016 - Issue 192

AROC East Midlands Section
NEW YEAR MEAL
Friday 6 January 2017
LA TORRE
48 High Street, Coalville.

Please send your choice of 3 courses to JOHN at john.griffiths@aroc-uk.com

NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED

ANTI PASTI (Starters)

ZUPPA DEL GIORNO
Soup of the day

CAPRINO FRITTO
Deep fried goat’s cheese served with an onion marmalade.

PARMA MELONE
Fresh melon served with Parma ham and rocket.

GAMBERONI ALLA DIAVOLA
Pan fried King prawns served with a garlic, chilli and tomato sauce.

FEGATINI DI POLLO
Chicken liver pate served with toasted bread and a salad garnish.

SECONDI (Main Courses)

POLLO LA TORRE
Chicken sautéed with garlic, mushrooms, French mustard and cream sauce.

FILETTO (£3.00 extra)
Char-grilled fillet steak served finished with a mushroom and red wine sauce. (Please state either Rare/Medium/Well done)

MEDAGLIONI DI MANZO
Medallions of beef fillet served on a bed of mashed potato, and finished with a mushroom and red wine sauce.

TRANCIO DI SALMONE CON SPINACI
Fresh salmon fillet served on a bed of sautéed spinach with a dill and cream sauce.

MAIALE PIZZAIOLA
Escalops of pork pan fried and finished with garlic, oregano and tomato sauce.

PENNE FUNGHI E SPINACI
Penne pasta with mushrooms and spinach finished with a cream and parmesan sauce.

All mains served with Italian style potatoes and a selection of vegetables.

DESSERTS

Mascarpone Cheese Cake
Chocolate Torte
Tiramisu
Ice Cream

Plus COFFEE

Price £22.50 per head (£3 extra for Steak)

cont’d
After a string of further delays, Alfa’s much awaited new Giulia arrived in UK showrooms for Friday 18 November. Some of our number made it down to Variava’s on the Friday evening and during Saturday (some simply could not wait!), but Alfa Jeep Brand Manager Paul Jones opened the doors an hour early for us especially on the Sunday.

A good crowd gathered for the ‘reveal’ at just after 10am, and after a short speech from Paul the covers were drawn from the white 2.2 Super 180 and the awesome Quadrifoglio in Rosso Competizione. The latter having arrived at 4pm on the Friday night – JUST in time for the launch weekend! A blue Super (2.2 180) was also available for test drives over the weekend. That car had a number of extra packs on it over the white Super and had a real premium edge about it, the 2-tone tan and black interior suiting the car very nicely, along with brushed aluminium trim.

On the road the 180 is a very smooth device with huge reserves of torque—over 330 lbs/ft. The standard 8-speed ZF ‘latest generation’ gearbox is a revelation, imperceptible changes reacting instantaneously to the inputs form the fabulous aluminium paddles. (They are an essential extra!) Ride quality even on 18” runflats (245 section 9” wide rims on the back) is excellent too. With 0-60 in under 7 seconds, this is a very brisk car.

The QF was on static display duties, but the guys started it up on several occasions. What a noise it gives in Dynamic mode with the exhausts opened up, it spits and crackles too; great fun! And that colour under the lights - just gorgeous. I’m itching to drive one again!

Back on the Super - it was pleasing to see the finish that bit better than the pre-production car we had at the NEC, notably better finished under bonnet with re-positioned battery connections. In the showroom, Lis Jones’ cup cakes went down very well as ever, perfect with the coffee! While we were there in the morning alone 4 people placed firm orders, plus one for the MiTo. They’ve done a great job with the latter’s styling bringing it in line with the Giulia.

A thank you to Chris Paul and the team for opening up for us and putting on the spread, much appreciated. Looking to forward to seeing lots of these beautiful new Alfas on the roads, and of course, in AROC members hands. John

(Photos by Duncan and John)
For the AROC display this year at this massive show we had a few challenges with the originally planned ‘big capacity Alfas’ theme, the main one being that we could not secure a Giulia Quadrifoglio. Paul Jones worked wonders in getting the LHD 2.2 Super from Alfa UK though so at least we had a the forst indoor showing of the new car in UK. We ended up with a mix of mainly saloon cars but with one beautiful coupé in the form of Clive Richardson’s V8 Montreal, a car he’s owned for many years. At this point I’ll mention the fact that this is the ‘Classic Motor Show’, we want to reflect that AROC is a friendly and inclusive Club – as appreciative and welcoming of a car as special as Clive’s as we are the owner of more modern Alfas like Bob Woodward’s 159.

From our Section we had Salvatore Vitale’s gorgeous 156 GTA, Dave Atkins’ very rare 155 Q4 (thanks to Mark Gunston for ferreying that while Dave was in Israel), Then on the ultra-rare area the 1956 1900 Super of Quentin Butler, the only example in the UK, and one that shone up a teat after a quick polish. Also, the nearly-as-rare 1984 Alfa 90 belonging to Rod Ashton. A fabulous car with the most amazing green-lit interior and electronic dashboard. Next to that the beautiful red 164 Cloverleaf of Nick Clode. Our stand sponsor Chris Variava finished the Giulia’s welcoming lones with a new Giulietta Veloce.

Needless to say the Giulia drew a huge amount of attention, and the two young ladies from FCA capture over 200 names from people expressing serious interest in it over the 3 days of opening.

On the Friday, Andy Wallington from our Section demonstrated his newly designed home speaker system playing various Italian music. A nice ‘extra’. On Saturday, the famous old race driver Colin Crabbe did a signing session for his new Autobiography called ‘The Thrill of the Chase’, which features many Alfas and related stories.

Elsewhere around the show, the Maserati Club had an excellent display of rare racing cars, predominantly Cooper Maseratis, with some unique machines like the 5-Litre Tipo 151/3. The Ferrari Owners Club had some beauties too arranged on a race grid format that worked really well. Also in our prime hall, Auto Italia had a lovely Fiat Spider Abarth rally car in their little corner. The Fiat Motor Club and Lancia Motor Club had another eclectic mix on their stands in their hall too. Lancia Betas galore, and for Fiat an original 124 Spider alongside the just-released new type. I loved the Fiat Uno 70SL (only one left in the UK!) and the ‘saved from crusher’ Mk1 Punto Sporting too!

It’s always great to meet so many Club members on the stand, and our team there signed up 46 new members too. Thanks to Duncan, Jason Hood, Mark Gunston, Brian Smith and Roger Smith in particular for their efforts on various days, and of course Paul Jones and George Variava too, there every day. Nick Wright, Stuart Taylor, Paul and I made sure all the cars had gone by 7.30 ish on the Sunday, time to relax! Next year’s stand is already getting some thought… A Stelvio maybe? Some utilitarian Alfas? Modified Alfas? We will see.

Look out for a bigger show report with more on the cars in the December AROC magazine. John

Photos Clockwise from top of page: Top; Clive Richardson’s superb Montreal, with Nick Clode’s 164 behind it. Quentin’s freshly polished 1900 Super. Salvatore’s 156 GTA. Bob Woodward’s 159 3.2 Q4 Lusso Q-Tronic. Terence Challenger’s Giulia Super; then the CV’s Giulietta with new Giulia at the edge of the stand. All photos taken before show opening of course! (Pics by John G and Duncan L.)
Stelvio Launched in LA

Alfa Romeo’s boss, American Reid Bigland proudly introduced Alfa Romeo’s first SUV to the world at he LA Motor Show on 16 November. In keeping with the Giulia, the Stelvio was presented in full-on Quadrifoglio form, all 500hp of it. This emphasises that new alfa Romeos are developed from the top sports variant down, rather than the more usual way around.

The Stelvio QF has a top speed limited to 177mph, with a 0-60mph time of a scarcely believable 3.9 seconds. That is also the fastest SUV around the Nurburgring with a time just under 8 minutes, That’s quicker than the £120,000 Porsche Cayenne ‘S’, the fastest ever SUV, just to give it some perspective.

Social Media was alight on the launch evening—the looks of the SUV getting a surprising amount of praise from Alfisti—though the usual ‘horror’ of this type of thing having a Alfa badge on was expressed from some corners. As has been said many times, the company needs to generate money, enthusiasts can then have more coupes, Spiders and the like.

The Stelvio will be sold in 280PS 2.0 petrol turbo guise as well as a ‘Diesel’ (version TBA). We might expect other Giulia-type engines too, also we’d expect both 4x4 and RWD versions, as per BMW’s model. Price? Nothing firm yet, we guess, and emphasise GUESS, around £65-70K for the top QF version, with the range starting under 40K, but don’t quote us! When will we see it in the UK? Let’s say ‘Next Year’.

John
Detailing Tools

If you want to keep your Alfa Romeo in tip-top condition, then it pays to keep it clean. Though there are countless hand washes available now it is also very satisfying to DIY, as well as cheaper and more convenient. To speed the job along, having the right tools always helps.

Here are three essential things for your armoury,

Firstly—a pump sprayer. This ideal for products such as wheel cleaners and ‘pre-wash’ products. I use ValetPro Citrus Pre-wash before washing our cars, a product you can dilute to 1:8 parts water. Simply spray on any surface (it will clean mildly dirty wheels too), leave for a few minutes before hosing or jetting off. It does softens the dirt making cleaning even easier. You then go in with a wash mitt with a good car shampoo, using the two-bucket method—one with clean water for rinsing. The pre wash is @£20 on eBay for 5L that will last ages. A pump sprayer starts at around £10.

Secondly - detailing brushes. Soft bristles make short work of muck around badges, and of course wheels, A selection of sizes is ideal. Decent Sets are available on eBay around £6 to £12.

Then - Noodle mitts. These can be picked up on eBay or supermarkets / DIY stores from about £4. They work great for general shampooing, and are ideal on wheels. The microfibre noodles dirt away safely, and the reverse side is good for safely shifting dead bugs etc. So 4 little ideas ideal to tell Santa about! JG

Dave and Chris go to Israel!

A full report on Dave and Chris Atkins’ very special trip to Israel as guests of the buyer of their 1970 Giulia 1300ti will appear in the Club magazine in either December or February, so I don’t want to steal all of the thunder from the account. Suffice to say their hosts Ronny and Laura treated them really well, and Dave was made the centre-point of the big gathering of Alfisti in Tel Aviv while they were out there. They had a fantastic time, seeing many sites and have made many good friends. Here are a couple of photos to give you the flavour of things. John

THE ALL-NEW ALFA ROMEO GIULIA, THE WAIT IS OVER

With 510 hp and perfect 50-50 weight distribution, the All-New Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio combines power and performance like never before. Breath-taking Italian design, innovation and unrivalled driving pleasure are yours to experience. Engineered to thrill, the Alfa Romeo Giulia can be yours for only £59,000 OTR.

Book a test drive today.

CHRIS VARIAVA 431-461 NOTTINGHAM ROAD, BASFORD, NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG6 0FB.
TEL.: 011588553060 WWW.VARIAVA.COM/ALFA-ROMEO
AROC East Midlands Section Events 2016/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 December 2016, 8pm on.</td>
<td>REARRANGED DATE: Rolling Road Night – at Future Motor Sports in Syston for a night on the Dynamometer to measure the power of our Alfas. Price £30 for 3 power runs. Re-arranged from November where event was cancelled due to local flooding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 14 December 2016, 7.30pm</td>
<td>Speaker Night. Former AROC Chairman and BTCC Champion for Alfa Romeo in the 1980s, Jon Dooley, will be giving a talk on his fascinating racing life in Alfa Romeos, fully illustrated with pictures and video. Venue – Oadby Town FC Club House, Wigston Rd, Oadby, Leics, LE2 5GQ. Real Ale on tap, and pizza too! Please let John know if you can go.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fri 6 January 2017, 7.30pm</td>
<td>New Year Meal at La Torre, High Street, Coalville. A super 3 course Italian meal for just £22.50. Fun charity raffle and more. See menu on page 2. Please book your place with John.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weds 8 Feb 2017, 7.30pm</td>
<td>Curry Night at The George &amp; Dragon, Thingstone. Just £10 a head for a curry with all the trimmings. (Bar menu available). Please book your place with John, no deposit necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 Feb 2017, 10am</td>
<td>Visit to Morgan Cars in Malvern. Special guided tour starts 10am. Followed by pub lunch. Organised by Section member Viv Stephens who does work for them. NO CHARGE (normally £20 a head.) Strict limit to 20 persons, AROC members ONLY. Book via John.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20 March 2017, 9.45am</td>
<td>Rolls Royce Heritage Centre Visit. Space for up to 30 people for this fascinating guided tour of Rolls Royce history, and it is all FREE. See cars, aero-engines, Spitfires, and perhaps witness a running Merlin! Ali followed by a pub lunch. Will start at 9.45am at the Light Alloy Foundry site in Derby. Please book your place with John.</td>
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Rolling Road Night - Another Chance! NEW DATE: Thursday 8 December At Future Motor Sports, Syston

Flooding roads meant we had to postpone the planned evening from 21 November. Happily I managed to get in touch with the 12 people signed up with their cars. After re-contacting them, we still have a couple of slots, details below.

It is a fun evening and spectators are welcome, though you must wrap up warm of course.

The cost is £30 payable on the night, and for that you get 3 power runs with full power-curve print-outs of torque and bhp. In the past we have proved the accuracy of their equipment by using a brand new Giulietta and the stats were bang on. It’s not stressful on the car, it’s just like an ‘overtake’ through the gears and it gives a fascinating insight. Sadly Alfas with TCT boxes don’t work - they are simply too clever! All car makes are welcome, new or old. No deposit necessary but you will need to BOOK your place with John.

Address is Unit 44, The Half Croft, Syston, Leicester LE7 1LD.

Special Announcement

MITCAR 2017 - 20 August 2017 Midlands Italian Car Day

RAGLEY HALL, Alcester, Warwickshire

Next year’s MITCAR event will be held at a beautiful stately home in acres of fabulous parkland, and will have an additional BIG attraction all at no extra cost: ‘The Festival of Flight...!’ A veritable extravaganza of planes. MITCAR will be in its own VAST parkland area to the east of the Hall, the massive model aircraft and full-size hovercraft event will be on the west. Advance ticket sales will be at a special discount too. MITCAR 2017 is gonna be big. Do not miss it! (More details in the next edition.)
Alfisti no.193 will be out in January

**FOR SALE**  156 2.5 V6 with Zender body kit
1998; 190bhp 2.5 V6 6-speed. Proteo red. Full body-kit with the Alfa ‘hoop’ boot spoiler. A very eye-catching car. The car has not been driven in a long time and will need re-commissioning including a brake overhaul. It aslo needs replacement floor panels (parts supplied). For details, please contact Bill Clarke (a good friend of AROC member Ian Osborne) on 07963047963. Car is open to offers. (Bill would prefer not to break the car.)

**156 2.0 Twin Spark** - Bryan Alexander
For many Alfisti, the Giulia launch brought back memories of the proud presentation of the 156 back in 1998. The 156 was the companies ‘new hope’ and deservedly won European Car of the Year. Bryan’s example dates from close to that launch, a beautiful car in Fantasy Blue. With just over 40,000 on the clock from new it’s a lovely reminder.

**FOR SALE**  156 GTA - Salvatore Vitale
Hi chaps and chapesses. It is with a heavy heart that I have to announce the sale of my beloved Alfa 156 GTA. I’m not going to list all the things it’s had done (lots!) just if your interested pls contact me: 07580 536140 POA. Number plates not for sale. It’s going to advertised in the usual mags plus it was at the NEC on the AROC display. - Sal.

(This GTA has Q2 Diff - quad stainless exhaust, recent respray and new wings. Rare in metallic black. - JG)

**Giulietta QV - Alex Pope**
Getting my wheel alignment checked at CV’s next week. Trying to eek the very last bit of life from my front Dunlops - they’re now on 3-4mm I guess, noticeably noisier and I can’t go near the boost in 2nd or 3rd with even the tiniest bit of steering lock on - it immediately turns into an Audi and ploughs straight on. I think the Q2 relies on at least one wheel having grip to pull things straight and ESP is quite laid back in dynamic mode! All Weather Mode fixes the traction issue, but as per previous discussions it feels like it does so by losing about 100lb/ft from the QV so it’s not so much fun. (Bizarrely, above 50mph all the power and torque suddenly comes back, so on the motorway it flies like you’re in Dynamic mode. Go figure.). Funnily enough, whilst I’m on tiptoes on cold, damp, greasy tarmac, the worn tyres still handle the conditions pretty well and feel fine in the rain. Who’d be a tyre engineer, eh?! And for the avoidance of doubt, 13 months and nearly 15k miles in I still think the car is brilliant, quirks and all - it suits me down to the ground and I’m happy to hang on to it for a good while yet while Alfa prevaricate over bringing us a Giulia Sportwagon...

Best, Alex

**166 2.5 V6 - Ian Osborne**  From an email to JG
Hi John, just a few pictures of my low mileage 166 awaiting its Zender body kit to be fitted. The alloy wheels are also away getting repaired and painted. The engine is sorted now with a new cam belt and water pump. Fitted new clutch and dual mass flywheel too. Cheers John, Ian O.

**166 2.5 V6 - Bryan Alexander**
From an email to JG
Hi Bryan, just a few of my low mileage 166 awaiting its Zender body kit to be fitted. The alloy wheels are also away getting repaired and painted. The engine is sorted now with a new cam belt and water pump. Fitted new clutch and dual mass flywheel too. Cheers John, Ian O.

- SCOOP! -
**Unusual news from the world of motoring**

**Alfetta Resurrection**
Mark Gunston’s superb 1975 Alfetta GT is going under the hammer on 3 December at CCA Auctions, Warwickshire. He did a brilliant job with that T-Cut...

(This is a joke, the car is mint!)