

Belle Italiane - Saturday 11 October 2008

A great line up of Canterbury Alfas attended the Belle Italiane (display of Italian vehicles) organised by the Canterbury Fiat-Lancia Club in Hagley Park, Christchurch.

As the display was beside the busy entry to the park and Botanic Gardens it attracted a lot of interest from members of the public. The entry fee went to support Chomondeley Childrens' Home.

It was an exceptional spring day, sunny and warm with no wind. The vehicles on display were Alfas, Fiats, Lancias, Maseratis, Ferraris, two Lamborghinis including a Countach, Vespas, as well as Moto Guzzi and Laverda motorbikes. Of particular interest was Don Donnithorne's very rare 1960's Lancia Fulvia Zagato.

With 14 Alfas present there was a good representation of the marque. We lined up a 105 GTV, GTV6, Brera and GT in date order to show the evolution of the Alfa Coupe. There was a bit of friendly rivalry between Mark Apperley (Brera) and Steve Ansley (GT) as to which of their cars was attracting the most photographers. The highlight of our display had to be Gil Sutherland's Montreal which attracted great interest. Other Alfas were Alfasud, 156, 166, 164, Alfetta GTV and 2600 coupe.

It was an exceptional spring day, sunny, windless and warm and Club members enjoyed a relaxed picnic in the shady area behind the cars. We were very pleased to welcome Alain Merrylees, who at just two weeks old is our youngest participating Alfisti, he entertained us all with his happy gurgles. Parents Justine and Don are certainly starting their children on the right track.

We thank the Fiat-Lancia Club for their organisation and inviting us to what we hope may become an annual event. Thanks also to all who participated. It was an ideal opportunity to raise our club profile locally.