

South & West Wales AC Drive-it-Day Run and *Suzy's* 50th birthday

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As many of you may know, *Suzy* is our 1966 Super Imp, which I've owned since September 1969 (that was a great month for me – I bought *Suzy* at the start of the month and met Dawn, my future



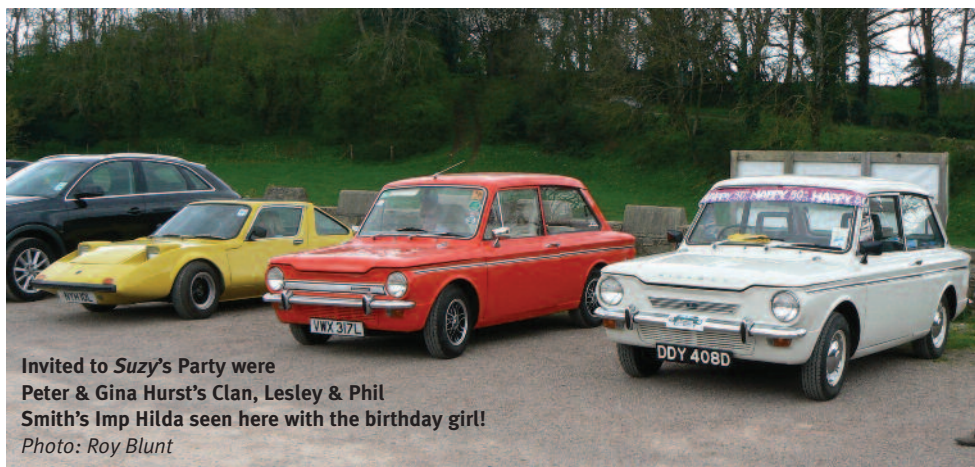
Suzy celebrates her half-century
Photo: Roy Blunt

wife, for the first time a couple of weeks later!). *Suzy's* story has been well covered before in *Impressions* (*Forty plus years with one Imp* – serialised in the February to June 2010 issues).

Suzy was first registered on 22nd April 1966, so her 50th birthday came up this year. As this was just

two days before Drive It Day we thus decided to combine an area centre run with a birthday party. Three cars (*Suzy*, plus Lesley & Phil Smith with *Hilda*, and Peter & Gina Hurst with their *Clan*) met up at the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre at Rogerstone (just off the M4, J27) on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.

Our route wound its way for 30 miles, largely on minor roads with superb views, to the Rock & Fountain pub and restaurant at Penhow on the A48 for lunch. Here we were joined by Graham 'Imp to Budapest' Miller and his family to make a party of twelve for a very pleasant lunch followed by a special birthday cake. The cake had a picture on it of *Suzy* being very carefully washed by our two eldest grandsons. (I hope that Gill Dunkley would have approved of the cake – R.I.P. We will



Invited to *Suzy's* Party were Peter & Gina Hurst's *Clan*, Lesley & Phil Smith's *Imp Hilda* seen here with the birthday girl!

Photo: Roy Blunt



me with a superb and appropriate cartoon drawn by Rory Allan, the partner of their second daughter, Katie. We had always admired the cartoon that Rory had drawn featuring Phil, Lesley and *Hilda* and were delighted to receive this one of Dawn, me and *Suzy*. Bet you would like one too – Rory might be persuaded if you are lucky!

After lunch we said goodbye to Graham and family and started the second part of the run – another 50 miles on hilly minor roads with more superb views, ending up at Goytre Wharf Canal Centre (also on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal) before going our separate ways home. All in all a great day out in fine weather. Disappointingly we only saw four other 'classics' during the run: an old double-decker bus in 'Western Welsh' livery, a Model T Ford going the other way (the driver responded to our greetings and waved to us), an Austin A35 and a VW Karmann Ghia – the drivers of the last two totally ignored our waves! However, our two Imps and the *Clan* produced, as usual, plenty of smiles and waves from bystanders on the roads as well as interest whenever we stopped.

Top: A birthday cake fit for... a car!

Photo: Roy Blunt

Right: Wonderful artwork by Rory Allan



miss you and your cakes, Gill). The waitress came in, singing "Happy Birthday to You", with the cake, complete with six candles, but was then somewhat flummoxed to find that the 'Birthday Girl' wasn't actually in the room but downstairs in the car-park – apparently they don't often have birthday parties for cars!

After the meal Phil and Lesley presented Dawn and