

### Drive It Day

South Wales, 28th April 2019

Dawn & Roy Blunt (South & West Wales Area Centre Organiser), Llanfrechfa, Gwent



28th April – Drive It Day – was a lovely day and nine members of the South & West Wales Area Centre in five Imps gathered at Usk Garden Centre – a mile or so out of Usk on the minor road between Usk and Caerleon – ready for the start of the run.

Pre-run refreshment was taken in the café while the cars were being admired by visitors to the garden centre (after all, the whole idea of Drive It Day is to show the general public classic cars in use). Before we started we persuaded an interested member of the public to take a photo of all of us with the cars then off we went towards Caerleon, passing, with care(!), the occasional group of dedicated cyclists normally found on this and other winding roads at weekends. The route ran through Caerleon village and over the Usk River bridge before turning off to go up the south side of the Usk River along very attractive minor roads, through

bluebell woods and past anemone covered verges, to Usk and then mostly on B roads to Chepstow for lunch. Again the cars proved an attraction and while eating lunch we watched people admiring them.

Lunch over and we were soon travelling on minor roads into the Forest of Dean and across the Wye River bridge, then back on the A466 through Tintern. Parts of this very scenic road alongside the Wye had suffered landslides in the winter storms and there were stretches that had been reduced to single-lane tracks controlled by traffic lights. However, the traffic lights were kind to us and the five Imps managed to stay together. In Chepstow we turned west towards Caerwent and then headed to Caldicot where we parked up at the Country Park and castle – another chance for the public to see the Imps – and for us to look around the castle and exhibitions as well as enjoy an ice cream in the sunshine.

The final section of the run was from Caldicot back to the car park by the amphitheatre in Caerleon where we wandered around and admired the impressive Roman remains.

It was an enjoyable day; the run totalled 75 miles in excellent weather.

We were surprised not to see more classics out on the roads – all we saw was an MGB GT, a Sunbeam Alpine, and a (very stately) large Bentley (or possibly Daimler) saloon. However, there were loads of off-road motorcycles in convoy going the opposite way at times; there must have been a special event somewhere near.



Members of the South & West Wales Area Centre at Usk Garden Centre, start of this year's Drive It Day run. *Left to right: Phil & Lesley Smith with Hilda, Fran Coombs and her son Nicky, Dave Jeffries, Roy & Dawn Blunt with Suzy and Peter & Regina Hurst*

*Photo supplied by Roy Blunt*

## Drive It Day

Painshill Park, Cobham, 28th April 2019

Graham Cashmore (Heathrow Area Centre Organiser), Ashford, Middlesex



Imp Club Heathrow Area Centre

Drive it Day for Heathrow was a rather pleasant trip to Painshill Park in Cobham. This is a local 18th century landscape garden that I did not even know existed. I've probably driven past it at least 50 times, but only found it this year when playing lucky dip on Google Maps to try and find somewhere to visit.

This year we mixed it up with a few other non-Imp classics, so in the end there were two Stiletto's,

one Husky, one Morris 1000 Convertible, one Austin (Mini) Seven and one Morris Ital.

The Painshill Park

**Painshill Park in Chobham a new venue for a Heathrow Drive It Day run. Always nice to try new haunts**

*Photo: Graham Cashmore*



## Post-run meal in Painshill Park's café

*Photo: Graham Cashmore*

staff were great; we were even granted permission to enter via the trade entrance where we had our own special parking area on the meadow, away from the public car park, but still in view for visitors to the park – after all, the key objective with Drive It Day is to be *seen!*

The weather just held off with only a very short light shower, and after a lovely walk around the park, we were able to finish off with a nice meal in the café.

Thank you to everyone that came and helped make it a smashing afternoon.



**Interesting spread of cars though not many members of the public in evidence!**

*Photo: Graham Cashmore*

