

20th Wicked Welsh Weekend 2019 – Report

Lakeside Caravan Park, Llangorse, Brecon, Powys, 20th-23rd September 2019

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



This was the 20th Wicked Welsh Weekend and the second to be held at our new location: the Lakeside Caravan Park at Llangorse.

We arrived at Llangorse on Wednesday in glorious weather and, after admiring the views of the lake & mountains, set up camp ready for WWW. Many other Impers arrived on Thursday and we gathered

in the Boatyard Bar in the evening for a meal, a few drinks, and a good chat. Celebrations were in order – not only was it the 20th Wicked Welsh Weekend (and we had ordered special rally plaques

Matto mark the occasion – please don't expect them every year!) but Thursday 19th was also a very special day for Dawn and me – it was 50 years to the day since I bought our Imp (*Suzy*) as a three-year-old used car from Mulliners in Northampton.

More people arrived on Friday and, after lunch, we set out for the first organised run. This was a dinosaur hunt heading out across the Brecon Beacons, passing Cray reservoir (great views across the Welsh countryside – in glorious sunshine – what a change from last year's wind and rain) and ending up at the Dan-yr-Ogof show caves with its associated Dinosaur Park and, of course, café and shop. The return route took us down the impressively steep and twisty Devil's Elbow descent from Ystradfellte before returning to Llangorse. The evening meal was taken in the café and we then retired to the Boatyard Bar again.



A pause to admire the Llyn Brianne Reservoir
Photo: Phil Smith

Right: *Suzy* at Dan-yr-Ogof
Photo: Roy Blunt



Cars prepare to leave for Sunday's run
Photo: Roy Blunt



Saturday's run was considerably longer – again over great Imping roads and in glorious weather – but offered various short cuts. Last year – due to a last minute road closure – many people had missed the drive around Llyn Brianne Reservoir and the Devil's Staircase and these were included in the longer option on the way to Llandrindod Wells for lunch. Once there we sat and admired the large dragon in the middle of the lake. The return route was more direct and included the option of a stop in Hay-on-Wye.

The Saturday evening quiz and 'Naffle' has long since become part of the Wicked Welsh Weekend tradition and this year's lived up – or down – to all expectations! Many, many, thanks to everyone donating such a marvellous collection of items which ranged from the sublime (and very useful) to

the ridiculous (and probably totally undesirable). A comment from someone donating an item: "When the charity shop said 'you understand there is no return on this item' we knew it was an ideal candidate for the Naffle!" Dom Smith, Nikki Butt, and Karen Fitzgerald did a phenomenal job selling tickets and Dom also acted as our master of ceremonies and quizmaster doing an excellent job keeping everybody amused. As so often happens on these occasions one person ended up winning a totally unbelievable number of items but (amazingly) succeeded in giving most of them away before she left! Jim Fraser once again treated us to his brilliant song *Sweet Imp of Mine* – based on *Sweet Caroline* and ably (?) backed by the audience. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

Sunday started with light rain which meant that we held the Show & Shine on the camping field instead of on the Common. An addition to the normal awards (decided with the usual public vote) this year was a 'Special' award from the organisers (no matter how misguided they might be!). Among the options discussed on Sunday morning was awarding it for the dirtiest air filter we've ever seen (but that would have meant looking at everybody else's air filter) so we finally went for dirtiest Imp, the award going to a delighted Barry 'Baz' Blackmore. Who knows what it might be awarded for next year but it won't be for dirtiest Imp again! After lunch (and in brightening weather) we set off on the final run of this year's WWW: a short scenic run through the local Welsh countryside calling in at a local award-winning garden centre for refreshments. Some 30 people stayed locally on Sunday and joined us for a farewell evening meal at the Red Lion pub in Llangorse village, a short walk from the campsite. Unfortunately the Red Lion will be closing its doors in October.

Over the weekend we had a few breakdowns. In most cases they



Peter Crook's Chamois and others on the run through spectacular scenery
Photo: Phil Smith



Quizmaster Dom
Photo: Phil Smith



Jim Fraser sings *Sweet Imp of Mine* – again!
Photo: Phil Smith



**Yuk! Dirtiest air filter ever.
Owner shall remain anonymous!**
Photo: Roy Blunt

were fixed quickly by the drivers with help and spares from fellow attendees but one (a clutch failure) had to be recovered home. Gillian Hill put a notice in her Llama's windscreen which, in our opinion, sums up part of the nature and ethos of the Imp Club: 'This car appears here today thanks to the skills and kindness of Gary Mathews and John Keane. Thanks, Guys!'

As joint organisers (together with Lesley & Phil Smith and Regina & Peter Hurst) we would like to express our thanks to the staff of the Llangorse Lakeside campsite, the on-site Lakeside café and Boatyard Bar, and the Red Lion pub in Llangorse for their help over the event. Thanks also go (of course) to all the attendees for making it such a great event; we were delighted to be able to welcome Neil, Tina & Adam Gurner back to WWW after a couple of years absence (Neil & Tina were the originators of the Wicked Welsh Weekend and had organised most of the preceding 19 events). Particular thanks must go to Dom Smith, Nikki Butt and Karen Fitzgerald for their help on Saturday evening. All told some 69 people and around 36 Imps attended at some point over the weekend. Here's to next year's event, details will be announced in due course.



"And the Special Award for the Dirtiest Imp goes to 'Baz' Blackmore!" Presented by Phil Smith
Photo: Roy Blunt



Baz's Chamois
Photo: Phil Smith