



Hellesveor made us feel very welcome, but when you look this good it's easy

Something for the weekend?

Gordie Woollacott borrowed an Ecowagon T6 for the perfect winter weekend getaway

Picture this: I imported a Bay Window nearly five years ago. On April 20, 2016, I was in the workshop tearing out the rotten interior and pulling the engine. I know the date well because our little boy, Camden, showed up the next day around six weeks ahead of schedule with his adorable little fingers and baby sick dashing my plans of getting the Bus turned around ahead of his imminent arrival

Fast forward to half-term 2020 – Camden's first ever school holiday. The Bay now has a running engine thanks to AirDubs in Taunton, but the interior is still somewhat Spartan to say the least. Parenting, it turns out, is an all-consuming experience! I couldn't take the fact that my boy is four years old and was yet to spend a night in a camper van. Having devoted 13 years writing for *VolksWorld* magazines I decided for the first time to try



Social distancing at St Ives beach was not an issue...

Owner info

Name: Gordie Woollacott
Job: Freelance regular
Fleet: 1972 Crossover Westfalia (tin top) 1 owner US import by me, 2016 Tiguan R Line 4Motion MK2
Jobs this month: enjoying a weekend escape, despite the rain

The perfect set-up for a short break away from the norm



"I couldn't take the fact that my boy is four years old and was yet to spend a night in a camper"

and blag my family a Camper for a short break as it was clear the Bay wouldn't be ready in time.

The first name to spring to mind was Kenny Green at Ecowagon in Cornwall. I've written about a few of his Vans and I know they often have a demo kicking about. The fact he's based in Cornwall also made sense as I wouldn't need to take it far to find a great place to pitch up for a few nights.

The bad news (not for him!) was he'd recently sold the demo. There was good news though as they were building three stock Vans at that very moment and he kindly agreed to have one ready for me! I have to tell you, picking up one of their brand new Expo conversions with only 300 miles on the clock and loading it with camping gear, wife Mandi, Camden and Indy (our five-year-old lab) had me wondering if this was such a good idea!

Ahead of the curve

The thing is, this Van was gorgeous in its factory fresh Ravenna Blue paintwork. Inside was everything you'd expect from an Ecowagon conversion with their trademark curved units and the brilliant rock n roll bed, adapted from a California and running on rails. This feature became an immediate hit with both Indy and Camden as we were able to bring them up close to the action at the front.

Being half-term and very last minute, oh



Despite it being half-term, we had the place to ourselves

and that whole COVID-19 thing, our choices for where to stay were kind of limited. Most sites are operating on a reduced capacity. We love St Ives and decided to head there. Our first stop, the Ayr Holiday Park right at the top of the hill in to the town was full. It turned out to be a blessing as, just up the road a bit we discovered Hellesveor Farm. It was absolutely perfect for us! A small, family-run site with quality facilities and just a short walk to town. We met owner Andrew on arrival and he showed us to a nice hard-standing pitch (this was in the terms of hire from Ecowagon for obvious reasons!) with hook-up. He even asked about which way the pop-top hinges so he could park us up away from the wind. This guy knows his Volkswagens!

Keeping our distance

The lockdown situation's obviously changed since I wrote this, but at the time social distancing was no problem at all. Even during half-term week we literally had a field to ourselves! Indy was probably the happiest of us all. The arrival of Storm Aiden no doubt had its own impact on the lack of crowds and although it meant for a rather soggy BBQ on our first evening, the rain for the most part happened during the night. Let's face it, there's nothing that adds to the cosiness of a Camper than the pitter patter of rain outside. This was also my first experience of window pods that bring with them their own level of comfort and privacy.



Saying hello to the neighbour downstairs! There's so much room in the Reimo pop-top and great views

"Inside was everything you'd expect from an Ecowagon conversion with their trademark curved units and the brilliant rock n roll bed"



The campsite facilities were decadent to say the least!



Eating cereal from a cup because we only brought one bowl for Camden!



Collection on a rainy day at Ecowagon HQ in Redruth



Doggy ice cream always goes down well, even during a storm

"I already feel that the interior of my Bay is going to have a few mod cons that I wasn't expecting, especially if Mandi has her way!"

Shelter from the storm

Our first full day was spent exploring the beautiful cobbled lanes of St Ives. To be fair, the busy narrow streets did nothing for our personal attempts at social distancing and so in the interests of safety, we set up at the Sloop Inn on the seafront for the rest of the day. Just to be clear: "in the interests of safety." It's not every day one gets to imbibe an ale from a 700-year-old inn! Considering the storm, it turned out to be a very mild day and with the help of a beanie or two we were able to sit in the front beer garden and watch the world go by (I even happened to bump into an old mate I haven't seen for nearly 20 years!).

Rather than drag the crew back up the hill to the campsite at the end of the day, we did the sensible thing and ordered a taxi before grabbing a chippy to take back to the van.

Let's do it again

Happily for me, Camden couldn't get enough of camping in the Van. I just hope he doesn't think every Camper is going to be as nice as an Ecowagon Expo! I already feel that the interior of my Bay is going to have a few mod cons that I wasn't expecting, especially if Mandi has her way!

It was only a couple of days away, but we had a great time and even for just 48 hours it was nice to change the scenery from the last seven months at home thanks to Ecowagon.



'Staying safe' at The Sloop Inn

