

# Caravan and Motorhome Club Magazine



## FOCAL POINTS

How to take fantastic close-up nature photos

## Best of British

We uncover the delights of the North-West and the Norfolk coast



SINCE 1907



**Towcar Test**  
Peugeot 3008 put through its paces



**Foreign Touring**  
Musical magic in Salzburgerland



**Motorhome Design**  
More results from our annual awards



# Take the slow road



**Martin Dorey** is a writer from Cornwall, who you may know through his books and BBC TV show *One Man and His Campervan*. He is also a regular on the Club's caravan, motorhome and towcar awards panels and appeared as a guest judge on *Caravanner of the Year*

I fell in love this month. I was planning to travel between four of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's Scottish gardens – Edinburgh, Dawyck, Logan and Benmore – when, at the start of my adventure, I had my head turned by a new vehicle.

Marquis had set me up with an Auto-Sleeper by the name of Fairford for this trip along some of Scotland's best roads. Upon seeing it for the first time my heart skipped a beat and I thought to myself: "Where have you been all my life?" Before me stood a stylish van conversion with a very pleasing blue and beige interior and all the mod cons.

I have seen a lot of conversions over the years. Many of them get me excited, but not all of them pass my imaginary holiday test: namely, can I see myself taking off on a lazy jaunt in it? Often the answer is 'no' – perhaps because it has a work surface that's no use to any cook or the lounge just isn't any good for lounging.

The Fairford fits the bill and ticked all the boxes, so I was happy to set off in it on a *real* jaunt, my mind filled with thoughts of adventure and al fresco nights on site.

The route I took, which has been designed by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, takes you to the abovementioned foursome, which are on the Galloway Peninsula (Logan), near Peebles in the Scottish Borders (Dawyck), in Argyll and Bute (Benmore), and of course in Edinburgh itself. The itinerary and exact route will be released officially later this year and it offers a fantastic drive for horticulturally-minded tourers, with splendid sights to be enjoyed along the way. Edinburgh Club site is an obvious place at which you could stay, and there are plenty of CL options close to the other gardens to choose from.

As I write I'm hunkering down for the evening at New England Bay Caravan



"My mind filled with thoughts of adventure and al fresco nights on site"

and Motorhome Club Site, near Drummore on the Galloway Peninsula. New England Bay is a short drive away from Logan Botanic Garden, which is routinely described as Scotland's most exotic; warmer conditions caused by the Gulf Stream mean there are eucalyptus and palm trees growing, as well as unusual plants like the giant gunnera.

As for 'al fresco nights'... it's currently a bit windy on site, but hopefully if it drops by the morning I can fling open the doors and enjoy a light sea breeze. It will be a nice way to finish off an excellent trip.



**MEMBER SINCE...**  
Motorhomer Martin Dorey joined the Club in 2016

**Read more from Martin next month**