

LIGHTS! CAMPERVAN! ACTION!

I'll tell you what you want, what you really really want. You want a campervan! Mike meets up with Martyn to find out why...

WORDS & PHOTOS Mike Trippitt

It was no more than a throwaway line over dinner, but for Martyn Moore, his father-in-law's suggestion meant things were about to change... "It was a little magic moment," says the 57-year-old film maker. "I suddenly had in my head images of me and a 'van full of kit, being completely self-sufficient and independent, and travelling the highways and byways of Europe."

Work takes the Yorkshire-born photographer, cameraman and editor all over the country and into Europe with cameras, lights, tracks and other equipment costing thousands of pounds. An insurance policy stipulation requiring that his equipment not be left overnight in an unattended car was forcing Martyn to lug his equipment into the hotel rooms he stayed in. A campervan would change that.

He says that once his father-in-law had sown the seed, it was always there: "The idea started to gather pace, almost like a romantic image in my head. I started to imagine that, actually, I could do quite a lot of my work from a campervan."

Find me a Ford

Although Martyn and wife, Laura, had the money – his mother had left him an inheritance – what did Laura think to the idea of a campervan?

"Why do people at fifty-odd want to go camping?" she says. "I can see younger people with children might want to do it, but I never did. Why the heck am I going to get to fifty and then start? Laura says it was a lot of money to spend on one thing but Martyn was too far down the campervan road, and there was only one sort on his mind: "I wanted a Ford, just for a silly, nostalgic reason: I learnt to drive in a Ford Transit."

He says his dad was a salesman and delivery driver for the old Brooke Bond tea company, and Martyn remembers a succession of Ford Transits: "He had a wonderful patch from Scarborough up towards Whitby, over towards Helmsley and Thirsk, then down to Beverley. It was one of the most beautiful parts of the country. It was the 1970s and things were easier back then. It's unbelievable to think this now, but when I was about 14 years old I would go out with him during summer holidays, and we would travel around rural north Yorkshire.

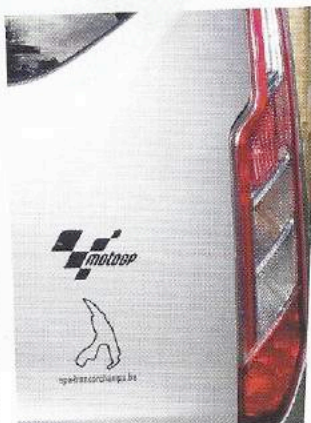
On remote country roads and at an old abandoned airfield near Helmsley he used to teach me to drive. In a Ford Transit that belonged to his employer!

Martyn made contact with David Elliott, Chief Executive of Wellhouse Leisure, campervan converter and Ford Qualified Vehicle Modifier. Before long David had just what



Martyn was looking for: a three-month-old secondhand Ford Terrier that had never been slept in.

Before he went to see it, one Saturday in March 2016, he agreed part-exchange terms on his old Saab estate, and insured the new camper. If he bought it, he could drive it away. When he walked into the showroom, Martyn did not realise that the silver Terrier on display was the one he'd come to see: "There was a sign on it which said, 'Please do not enter this 'van. It has been prepared for a customer.'" I did give it a cursory glance



Rear close-up with Spa Grand Prix sticker



The LPG gas cylinder has its own locker at the back



Martyn Moore

Base vehicle 2016 Ford Transit Tourneo
Conversion type Ford Terrier by Wellhouse Leisure [wellhouseleisure.com](http://www.wellhouseleisure.com)
Owned since March 2016
Drive Front-wheel drive
Engine 2.2-litre turbo-diesel
Power 125bhp
Economy 35-40mph
Gearbox 6-speed manual
Travel seats 5 **Berths** 4
Leisure battery 100Ah
Length x width x height 4.97m x 1.98m x 1.97m
Equipment Air-conditioning, metallic paint, electric windows, Bluetooth, voice activation controls, parking sensors and rear camera, DAB radio, Thatcham 2 alarm, leisure battery, Porta Potti, compressor fridge, sink, grill and two-burner hob, leather upholstery, Eberspächer diesel heating, cassette awning, 12v electric slide-out step
Insurance Comfort (Aviva) £350 including business use

COSTS SO FAR

The 'van, fully converted£38,000

THANKS TO

Best Western Plus Orton Hall, Peterborough, for letting us use its lovely location for a photo shoot [bestwestern.co.uk](http://www.bestwestern.co.uk)



and thought Wow! That looks nice. Some lucky devil will be driving home in that soon." It was only when sales manager, Chris, told Martyn that he'd walked past his 'van that he realised it was the one he had come to see. "By that point, it was 'hook, line and sinker. They were just reeling me in," he recalls.

Call the nurse!

Later that evening after returning home, Martyn went to Peterborough where his wife works as a senior nurse: "When I went up to the hospital to collect Laura from work in a

campervan rather than a Saab estate, I don't think it's over-dramatic to say the world changed a little bit."

The excitement Martyn felt was dented. Laura's reaction was not what he expected: "She was beyond disappointed, that was for sure. For several weeks afterwards, it was tough." As far as she was concerned, Martyn had gone to look at a campervan and she knew he was interested in. But, she says: "he came back and he'd bought it! I was a bit surprised, I hadn't quite expected that."

Martyn remains convinced that over

dinner the night before, he had made it clear that if the camper was as described he would probably drive home in it. "Both daughters remember that statement very, very clearly," he says!

Laura is philosophical: "I think it went a little bit quiet for a few days. I mean, what do you say. It's done now, isn't it? We've had a few jokes since." And she says, it is good that Martyn enjoys it: "If he had spent all that money and he didn't enjoy it, that would be terrible! At least he likes it and feels he's getting his money's worth."

Well, it's a nice house

And enjoy it he does! By staying overnight in campsites and customer car parks, Martyn's work has been transformed. Producing promotional and marketing video for corporate clients, he can shoot film in the morning at a customer's premises anywhere in the country, work on editing the footage and post-production on his laptop in the 'van during the afternoon and evening, then present a rough edit to his customer the following morning.

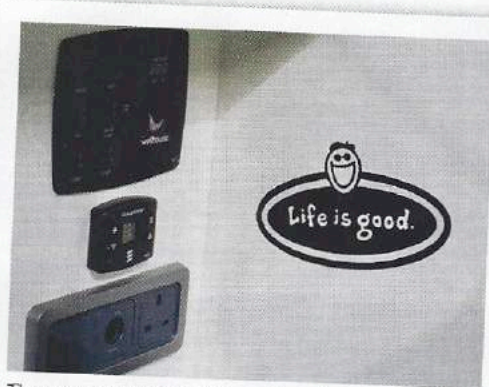
Within weeks of buying the 'van, Martyn was involved in a week-long project for the Made In Britain campaign filming in the northwest of England: "We did six factories in six days. I don't think I've ever worked so hard over the course of a week in my life.

It was early starts with long mornings of shooting and long afternoons and evenings editing, but staying on campsites in places like Derbyshire and Formby Point in Liverpool made it worthwhile. Breathtakingly beautiful. "It blurred the lines between work and play completely, but it really justified itself in terms of a mobile production facility. I came back after that week of constant travelling absolutely exhausted, but also feeling like I'd been on holiday!"

Martin has had a couple of minor gripes with his Terrier. The butterfly retaining clips that hold the pop-top in the closed position work loose. Martyn says it isn't dangerous because a secondary fail-safe strap prevents the roof from lifting up. But he says, "You can be driving along and you suddenly notice a difference in the wind noise. So



The conventional side kitchen has a double gas burner, a sink and a grill



There are plenty of gadgets on board, including Eberspächer blown-air heating

if you're smart, you'll pull over at the earliest opportunity and you'll just tighten up those butterfly latches. You give them an extra twist and that will keep you going until it happens again. With the Terrier 2, Wellhouse switched back to conventional straps which you pull tight and they just don't move. They work. So with the next habitation check, Wellhouse will replace my butterfly catches with traditional straps."

Martyn says that his whole experience with Ford and Wellhouse has been really positive, and he would wholeheartedly recommend both.

After 25,000 miles, the relationship between Martyn Moore and the Terrier is cemented: it is his transport, office, production suite and accommodation. He's benefited from equipment that he would not have chosen had he been buying the camper from new, and whilst his bond with the awning is not always strong – it rattles more than he wants, and it spoils the lines of

the vehicle more than he'd like – Martyn says that in specification terms the 'van is "the perfect vehicle for the use I put it to".

He wouldn't be without the parking sensors, really likes the reversing camera, and loves the Thule electric slide-out step: "I'm constantly stepping in and out of the 'van carrying bags, cases, cameras and tripods, and I don't know if it's me and just my age, but my knees are now starting to go! Every time I use that step I just think I'm really glad of it. If I forget to open it, I'm kicking myself because I'm either tripping over a tripod or my knees creak, so the step has been a surprise, welcome addition."

Camper-tastic

Outside work Martin has used the camper for weekends away visiting friends, day trips with his daughters, and an amazing weekend in the Ardennes with his eldest daughter, Charlotte, at the Belgian Grand Prix.

He's also visited Scotland in winter and done the North Coast 500 in seven days. He says the days were incredibly short but fantastically dramatic and exciting. "As anybody who has travelled in Scotland will tell you, whatever the weather is doing now, it's probably not going to be doing in three hours time. The way that the storms roll in and with the patterns of weather, you can be in blazing sunshine one minute and then black as midnight the next!"

This year Martyn, Charlotte and his youngest daughter, Katie, have tickets for Glastonbury, but Martyn acknowledges that "wild horses wouldn't get Laura to Glastonbury!" Martyn likes the idea that in the future he and his wife might "jump in the 'van and do what so many other people do with their early retirements." But, he says: "It's such a ridiculous notion. It's Laura! It's never going to happen!"

Perhaps when it comes to campervanning there is one thing on which they do agree. "You might see Martyn on a campsite," says Laura. "But you won't be seeing me!" She laughs and adds: "Look for me when it is pouring rain, it's horribly cold, and you're sitting there with your little camper stove. I'll be in the hotel up the road!"

