

OUR 'VANS, OUR MONTH



It's been hard to get hold of the keys to our Marquis County Sussex Duo over

the last few weeks - the 'van is such a practical size, and has such a comfy layout, that it's been very much in demand. But I managed to keep hold of the key fob just long enough to take the 'van to a relative's house for a New Year's Eve party: we were able to squeeze onto their drive and use it as overnight accommodation. It proved just the job, and that blown-air heating kept us toasty despite temperatures outside dropping to well below freezing.

However, the Sussex's primary trip this month has been to Norfolk, in the capable hands of our Kate Taylor, for our latest Good Sites Guide (see p57). Here's what she told me on her return:

"As the newest team member, I was pleased to jump into the golden Sussex Duo for my first trip away. The 'van is a Marquis exclusive, which Auto-Sleepers has based on the LWB Peugeot Boxer van (steel high-top version). All the dashboard controls are in obvious places and there's nothing complicated to worry about.

"Stop-go traffic held me back for the first half an hour of my trip to Norfolk, but I found the 'van responsive and well behaved in the crowded streets. Visibility was excellent thanks to good split-aspect wing mirrors and a reversing camera. Nevertheless, it was a relief to get onto the motorway and finally use all six gears - I gave it plenty of welly and the Duo responded effortlessly. I can see why this Marquis Exclusive won the

Sarah used the Sussex Duo as New Year accommodation



The dynamic Duo

2010 Caravan Club Design and Drive awards category for Van Conversions over £40,000.

"My January trip took me up through Thetford Forest and round Norfolk's north coast, then down to Yarmouth and Norwich. After visiting several campsites, it was great to pitch up each night on site. That's when I fully appreciated the impressive specification

including: microwave, oven, grill, hob, Truma gas/electric blown-air heating, television and fridge - the little luxuries of life that all come as standard with this model. It took no time to get dinner ready, pour a glass of wine, close all the blinds and relax. At the back of the 'van I made the facing sofas up into a 6'3" x 6'1" bed in a minute or two,

rotating the sofa cushions so the raised kneerolls went to the outer edges. It was really comfortable thanks to the memory foam cushions. Another night I made it up just as a single bed, so that I had more room to stretch my legs.

"The sliding entrance door is a bit on the narrow side and the washroom is quite small; but these things are the normal compromises you'd expect in a van conversion. As I drove back down the M11 after my trip I decided that this is a great motorhome for couples. A small washroom is no problem if, like me, you like to stay on campsites. It's a small price to pay for a great driving experience."

SARAH WAKELY



The Duo was home to Kate during her tour of Norfolk



LIKES

Spacious, comfortable lounge; high spec level



DISLIKES

The entrance door is tricky to close when you're inside the 'van

Marquis County Sussex Duo

Price £47,195

Mileage 1193.8

Economy 32.2mpg

Faults None

Expenses None