

Our First Rally

“What’s all this rallying thing about then”, so began the discussion in the **** household.

We have been caravaners on and off now for 8 years and members of the CAMC throughout. However, despite having used commercial and CAMC sites, as well as CL’s we had never been on a CAMC rally.

Why not? Well we have never been sure about what goes on at a rally, and if I’m honest we were a bit nervous about being roped into events that we were not really interested with, especially with overzealous rally organisers who would be knocking on the van door every 10 mins asking us to take part in activities.

But you don’t know until you try! So, after we filled and sent the form with payment to the organiser, we found ourselves on a beautiful sunny Thursday afternoon packed up and rolling out towards Coombe Bissett for the Wiltshire Easter Rally.

On arriving at the field, we were met by the organiser who walked us through to our pitch. Conveniently situated slap bang in the middle of the group and with a feeling of being observed by several caravan veterans I faced the first test! Reverse the caravan into the pitch. After successfully negotiating the task and with the legs down I was told that I could have just drove into position and that a lot of people could not have managed the reverse, Kudos to me!

Over the next 4 days my family and I had an amazing time. All the things that we were nervous about before attending proved to be totally unfounded. Yes, people asked us if we wanted to join them for a cup of tea, and yes, we were asked if we wanted to do some activities. And throughout the whole time we were told, “only if you want to?” and, yes we did join people for a brew and a chat, and No, sometimes we said, “No thanks!” Nobody was offended and not once was I, or the rest of the family, made to feel uncomfortable.

I asked why more people were not attending rallies, and his answer was simple, “some people are nervous about coming off of EHU” I can see why some people would be apprehensive, but I would stress that our solar panel kept us fully charged the whole time. Granted the weather was sunny and dry, but I honestly feel that even ambient light would charge your battery to the level needed to sustain a weekend away.

If you have never attended a rally before, and were thinking about attending one, then I seriously implore you to go for it. My family and I had an amazing time, in an amazing location for very little cost with, what turned out to be, a friendly, fun and helpful group of people, who amazed me with their kindness.

We will be rallying again!

signed