

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

Ruby the VW campervan is parked up almost directly underneath the Crystal Palace transmitter mast and she's experiencing a sense of deja vu. It been just over 6 months since we last visited this campsite, and we booked this mini break almost as we departed back in June.



Since June, the Camping and Motorhome's Crystal Palace club site has some good news. Developers have the lease on the land and

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

when we last visited it was set to close this very weekend in fact, hence our booking. Happily, the developers are not ready to build yet, so the campsite has been given another year of being able to be open.

End of the Christmas term is our busiest and this year has been no exception. We actually started Christmas music engagements over 4 weeks ago, and have been flat out with Christmas concerts and performing at Christmas parties etc. This year we decided to book the last two weekends off so we could have some downtime so here we are in London for treat number 1. My mum is Jazz sitting so we can embrace London in all its splendour.

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

We arrived at a Crystal Palace club site around 7pm on Thursday and was greeted by the very cheerful warden Matt, otherwise known as one half of **Walter's Wardens** on Twitter. That afternoon we had learnt of the sudden death of a friend of ours so it was nice to have a friendly face greet us, thanks Matt. We had a quick and simple dinner of spag Bol which I'd made a couple of weeks ago and frozen, then wandered to the local, the Weston House, for a couple of drinks and a dram each.

Despite it being almost zero outside, we were once again amazed at Ruby's fabulous insulation, with the help of our little plug in heater we remained snug as a bug all night.

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

Friday dawned a beautiful crisp winters morning, so we wasted no time in heading into London on the very conveniently located number 3 bus to Trafalgar square. We had some time to mooch so we walked along the Strand to Fleet Street, for a pint in The Old Bank of England (Fullers) pub. This really is a stunning pub, as the name suggests it's housed in the old bank and the decor as such is brand and wonderful. We've eaten here before, the pies are tasty.



Next up we wandered down the road 200 metres or so to our next watering hole, **Ye Old Cheshire Cheese**, a phenomenal old character pub which dates from the 1600s- it's interior looks like it's straight out of A Christmas

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

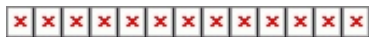
Carol. Their sausage rolls and pork pie bar snacks are just delicious by the way. Research obviously- we knew you'd ask us how they were ☐



It was now time for a longer walk to Soho which took us around 45 minutes without stops. We love wandering the streets of London and rarely take the tube. We wandered through Covent Garden and Leicester Square, before heading across Piccadilly Circus into Soho. We met up with Keith's dad and Valerie as we had a reservation at **Cahoots** bar at 3pm. Cahoots is a brilliant little hidden gem found just off Carnaby Street. It's an underground bar set out as it would have been underground on the tube during

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

the 1940s. It's atmospheric and quirky, and they serve lovely cocktails. You need to pre-book your table in advance and the tables are timed with a strict entrance time. During the evenings you can expect to hear live swing music, but during the day they place atmospheric jazz. We really loved our visit.



We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and left slightly merry! We wandered down the beautiful Carnaby Street towards Regents Street for our dinner reservation at John , Yes; John Lewis. During the winter months the roof of John Lewis turns into a winter wonderland, with a pop up restaurant, bar and this year ice rink (albeit slightly small ice rink). Nestled high above the chaos of Oxford Street a little

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

of a week before Christmas, we were transported to a haven, an oasis of calm and festive ness. This years pop up is MYPIE- as the name suggests a pie and mash pop up.

Keith, Valerie and I went for chicken leek and brie pies and Barry went for shepherds pie. Honestly they were completely and utterly scrumptious.



We waved Barry and Valerie off in an Uber- they were heading to Festival Hall for a carol concert. We chose to take in more of the street life, and enjoyed a walk down Regents street to enjoy those iconic and beautiful Xmas lights.



Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1



We went back for another look at Carnby Street as the lights there were linked with Bohemian Rhapsody and were fun, before walking back to Trafalgar Square for our bus back to Ruby.



We'd had a jolly good day but don't want to burn ourselves out as we had more planned for tomorrow.

Share this:

- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)
- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new](#)

Winter Adventures and festive fun; London Part 1

window) Facebook

- **Share on Pinterest (Opens in new window) Pinterest**
- **Share on WhatsApp (Opens in new window) WhatsApp**
- **Email a link to a friend (Opens in new window) Email**