

Meet the team with the drive and talent to produce very happy campers

A love of freedom and exploration the inspiration behind vehicle conversion specialists **8 Ball Camper Conversions**



Advertisement Feature

Have you ever wanted to enjoy the freedom of travel without leaving home comforts behind? With a camper conversion built to your bespoke requirements, you can experience both.

It's a dream that is driving the success of one of the country's leading conversion companies based right here in East Yorkshire.

Colin Almond and Mike Hearst were living the campervan lifestyle long before it became their business.

They'd seen for themselves the benefits of being able to set-off and explore the UK, Europe and beyond with friends and family and everything you need right there in your vehicle.

It led them to launch 8 Ball Camper Conversions in Little Weighton – a natural extension of their existing garage firm which is run from the same site in Rowley Road.

"We do a lot of camper conversions for local people but we have done them for people across England and Scotland," said Colin.

"We work on newer vehicles, so not the old VW campers that used to be. You don't have all the breakdowns and they are a lot more comfortable."

Traditionally associated with surfers travelling around to find the best waves, today's camper vans suit a range of modern tastes.

Sleeping up to five, they can offer everything from spontaneous family getaways to romantic trips for two.

Colin and Mike can work on a VWs, T5s, and T6s of any age, however, and are currently prototyping a new Ford Transit Custom. Their name comes from a sticker found on an older vehicle which was one of their first conversions.



BESPOKE: Colin Almond and Mike Hearst work on vans of all ages.



INSIDE JOB: The interior of a camper van converted by 8 Ball Camper Conversions. Pictures: Leo Francis

They are also able to advise on and deliver on every aspect of the conversion, from seating to solar panels.

"We import our seats from France," said Colin. We do this because they are crash-tested and safety is a priority.

"We can also fit solar panels so you can be self-sufficient and camp in places that are off the beaten track."

But it's not just the essentials that are

taken care off with 8 Ball Camper Conversions.

Entertainment, such as Bluetooth audio systems and iPad docking stations can be included using an electrical system that does not flatten the vehicle battery.

Strip lights around furniture are both pretty and practical for cosy evenings in the van and soft closing mechanisms on cupboards and drawers are used as standard.



adding a touch of luxury to everyday living.

With more than ten years' experience of running 8 Ball Camper Conversions, and many more of enjoying camper van trips themselves, Colin and Mike are able to include a level of detail that sets their work apart, too.

It means electrics are hidden away, smooth mechanisms make it easy to convert rear seats into a double bed and simple tricks such as adding a chopping board to the top of the cutlery drawer make the most of the space available.

Even the fridge is carefully positioned to allow it to be opened with the bed in place so a morning cup of tea can be made without rearranging the furniture.

But as much as Colin and Mike are there to pass on their expertise, throughout the process, the customer is in complete control of the finished product.

"We always ask customers what they want when they get the conversion done," said Mike.

"You can choose your own wood on the inside of the van. You can choose any colour you want. It's all your own design."

8 Ball Camper Conversions were even able to match the interior of one client's

van to his watch strap for a look that was totally unique to him.

Other happy customers include the Veritys, a family who will be travelling around Europe in their van for a year, as featured in last month's Journal.

They discovered 8 Ball Camper Conversions through a business link.

Dad Tom Verity said: "Eight ball campers have been awesome. There is a company which does roofs for campers, Austops, and they rent a shed off me."

"They are completely independent and I said to them, 'Can you tell me what we should be buying?' and he said he couldn't recommend 8 Ball Camper Conversions highly enough."

"And as soon as we got to meet them, we felt in safe hands."

"It's quite a popular thing to do right now but to get something done very well and at what I would consider to be good value is difficult and that's what we have got at 8 Ball Camper Conversions."

No special licence is required and smaller in size than a motorhome or caravan, they can be easier to manoeuvre and more readily accepted at busy sites where space is at a premium.

Furthermore, anyone looking to invest in a conversion can hire one of 8 Ball Camper Conversions own vehicles for a holiday and see first-hand just how exhilarating life on the open road can be.

Find 8 Ball Camper Conversions at Station Garage, Rowley Road, Little Weighton, HU20 3XJ. Visit www.8ballcamperconversions.co.uk or call 01482 84236.

'You can choose any colour you want. It's all your own design'



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