



36th International Bristol Balloon Festival 2014



On Thursday 7th August we travelled to the International Bristol Balloon Festival. We took Rosemary, my neighbour with us. Rosemary had never been motor homing before, and was both excited and apprehensive.

Once at the camping field we parked up with the Avon group of the Motorcaravanner's Club. There were already a lot of vans there, - many of whom arrived on the Wednesday. Our first priority was a coffee, and then Mel & I put the awning up with a little help from Rosemary, who was going to sleep in it.



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU...

Saturday 9th August

08:00 - 08:00	Mass Hot Air Balloon Launch
08:00 - 09:00	Model Balloon Display
10:00 - 10:30	WW1 Display Team -
10:30 - 11:00	Exit Parachute Display Team
11:15 - 11:30	Model Aircraft
12:00 - 12:30	Parabatix Flying Display
12:30 - 13:00	Balloon Demonstration
13:00 - 13:15	RAF Typhoon Display Team -
13:30 - 13:45	Model Aircraft
14:00 - 14:30	Inflation Race
14:30 - 16:30	Great Western Air Ambulance
14:45 - 15:15	Parabatix Flying Display
15:30 - 16:00	Exit Parachute Display Team
16:15 - 16:45	Balloon Demonstration
17:00 - 17:30	Great War Display Team
17:30 - 18:00	Battle of Britain Display Team - Spitfire & Hurricane
18:00	Mass Hot Air Balloon Launch
19:30	Rolls Royce Spitfire Display
20:30	Model Balloon Parade
21:15	Nightglow sponsored by Securitas
22:30	Gates close

Sunday 10th August

08:00 - 08:00	Mass Hot Air Balloon Launch
08:00 - 09:00	Model Balloon Display
10:00 - 10:30	Exit Parachute Display Team
10:30 - 11:00	Balloon Demonstration
11:00 - 11:30	Exit Parachute Display Team
11:30 - 14:30	Great Western Air Ambulance
12:00 - 13:00	Balloon Tethering
13:00 - 13:30	Parabatix Flying Display
13:30 - 14:00	Model Aircraft
14:00 - 14:30	Exit Parachute Display Team
14:15 - 15:15	Parabatix Flying Display
15:30 - 15:45	Model Aircraft
16:00 - 17:00	Briertling Wing Walkers
17:00 - 17:30	Great War Air Display Team
17:30 - 18:00	Battle of Britain Display Team - Spitfire & Hurricane
18:00	Mass Hot Air Balloon Launch
20:30	Gates close

bristol balloon fiesta

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7th - 10th August 2011

Jobs done, we walked across the road to Ashton Park, where the festival was to take place. It was already very busy. We wandered around the stalls before going back to the van for dinner.



By 6pm we went back to watch the night glow, which was spectacular. This year it began by introducing each of the balloon teams with the



most recognisable track from the Kill Bill soundtrack before getting the party kick started with Shirley Bassey followed by Black Eyed Peas



'I Gotta Feeling'. These tracks set up the celebration theme of the night. By way of contrast, the soundtrack then turned to Gary Barlow's 'Let Me Go' and Sara Bareilles 'Brave'. Heather Small then belted out her inspirational



track, 'Proud',

To finish the Bristol skyline was illuminated with a spectacular firework display. Next time we will take seats as it was a long time to stand.

Back at the van we had a glass or 3. One of us had a few too many (it wasn't me- was it Rosemary?!)



Next morning we were woken by Mel at 6.00 with a cup of coffee, and were awake sufficiently to sit in the sun in our pyjamas to watch and enjoy the mass hot air balloon launch.



After a huge cooked breakfast, we got the Park & Ride bus into Bristol.



Rosemary & I fancied trawling the charity shops, but we could only find 2, and that was after asking a local lady for directions. It was nice to see parts of Bristol we hadn't seen before, such as Cabot's Circus. We also had a coffee in a dirty and dingy Weatherspoons "The V shed" The staff were inattentive, and we got the feeling we were invisible. Footsore & weary we returned to the camping field. Soon after we got there, we were treated to a fly past by an RAF Typhoon. As there was no night glow this evening, we opted to stay in and play Tri-dominos and Uno over a glass or two.





On Saturday Mel woke us early with coffee, and we sat outside to watch the mass hot air balloon launch. 109 balloons went up in 40 minutes! Incredible.



We checked the programme and decided to walk over for the RAF Typhoon display. We had watched it fly over the camping field the previous day, and it was spectacular.



Unfortunately, due to the weather, and the fact it was sitting on Bristol Airport and holding up scheduled flights it came over while we were walking over. We found a great



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viewing spot by the fence, and set up our chairs. Rosemary I went off to find the nearest set of toilets

while Mel held the fort. Then we went and got some chips and had a chip butty. (£3 for a portion of chips!) Thank goodness we had taken our own rolls. We sat and watched the parabatix display. – Aerobatic parachuting. It was interesting. This was followed by a parachute display team.

Rosemary and I went for a wander and found a stall selling plastic capes as it kept drizzling. (Hers was daffodil Yellow and mine was green)

Later we saw a fly past by the Rolls Royce spitfire team. Sadly the rain came in quite heavy, so we decided to go back to the van and forgo the night glow, which still took place. We did see the fireworks from the comfort and dryness of the awning. It was getting windy too, as we were on the receiving end of an old hurricane which brought strong winds in its wake. We decided to make a 3rd bed in the van, (utilising the levelling chocks, bread baskets and seat cushions), and bought Rosemary in for the night. She was very snug and warm. It was still raining in the morning, so we had a

leisurely breakfast, while waiting for a break in the weather to take the wet awning down, and stowing it in the shower tray.

We left site by 13.00 and took a slow drive home, stopping to refuel for gas and have a cuppa.

109 balloons in 40 mins