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THE  
NEC SHOW

# Small wonders

Peter Sharpe found something for everyone at the October NEC Show, including these novel little caravans that are ideal solution when space is at a premium

**T**HE Motorhome & Caravan Show at the NEC in Birmingham, was the first show to be run by NCC Events, the exhibitions arm of the National Caravan Council. There were caravans costing in excess of £35,000 on display, but it was the lower end of the market that caught my eye and several manufacturers have identified a growing market for easy-to-tow, garage-friendly caravans.

## TEARDROP TURTLE 1500 SHOW PRICE £6,345 (FOR FULL DEMO PACKAGE)

Pod-type caravans have been around for years, but up until now, they have been mainly notable for their novelty value. Although they are unlikely to occupy anything other than a niche market, their does seem to be growing interest in them, especially from people who regularly attend shows and exhibitions. They recently created one as a special order for an angler, boasting a Realtree camouflage finish.

The Turtle 1500 is the largest of the £5,995 for the basic unit, with an additional £350 if you want the sink/shower unit added. An awning also costs £350 and you can have either a £100 or £200 sound system. The 1500 provides a very generous five feet wide (1500mm) double bed and can house the optional kitchen and hand held shower in its rear hatch. The demo unit was on sale with a free awning and stereo system included.

The smallest in the range is the Teardrop Cargo at £3,995, which can be transformed into a load carrying trailer - ideal for exhibitions and sporting events.

Website: [www.teardroptrailer.co.uk](http://www.teardroptrailer.co.uk)



The Teardrop Turtle provides a wide double bed and a rear kitchen



## FIFER POD SHOW PRICE £8,450

East Neuk Campervans is the Fife motorhome manufacturer that picks up awards for fun, so there must be something going on when they decide that it's worthwhile diverting some of their production into a mini-caravan.

The Fifer Pod (or the MyPod as it was cheekily entitled at the show) doesn't have the most elegant of profiles, but it is certainly the most practical. It is basically a box on wheels, but when you are producing a trailer of this size, no other shape will match the interior living space, another advantage being that you can have a roof rack and mount bicycles on an A-frame-mounted cycle rack.

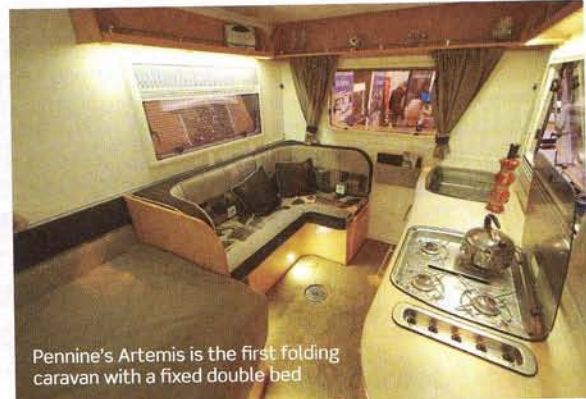
Inside, you have twin sofas that create either two single beds or a double. You also get a surprisingly good kitchen, with a removable twin-burner cooker, a microwave oven and a 20-litre 240v electric coolbox.

An elevation roof version is available and an XL version is in the pipeline.

Website: [www.eastneukcampervans.co.uk](http://www.eastneukcampervans.co.uk)

## PENNINE ARTEMIS RRP £14,995

The Pennine stand was immediately in front of my chosen entrance into the NEC and having seen the folding campers on numerous occasions during my travels, I nearly missed their brand new model - the Artemis folding caravan. A few fans of traditional folding campers feel as if they have been left behind by Pennine's drive to go upmarket, as their re-branded "collapsible caravans" now sell for similar prices as small caravans. One can understand the regrets from some quarters, but if there was sufficient demand for the traditional type, you can be sure that Pennine would produce them. There was also concern that Pennine were making a direct assault on the market niche presently occupied by Gobur Caravans, who were displaying on an adjacent stand. The



Pennine's Artemis is the first folding caravan with a fixed double bed



big difference between the two is that the Pennine have dared to put a fixed bed into the Artemis and have adopted a more modern look that Gobur's more traditional styling. Most people agree that competition is generally a good thing, so we might see a sudden escalation of this section of the market.

Website: [www.thepenninegroup.co.uk](http://www.thepenninegroup.co.uk)

The **MOTORHOME & CARAVAN SHOW**  
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The Fifer Pod is also available with an elevating roof and has an XL version



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