

## Was this the season that converted my husband to sailing?

We now had two partial sailing seasons with Lydia. We launched her in late May 2019, and this year managed to get her launched in very early June. We are a family with twin 11 year-olds, me keen, and landlubber husband. This year was a definite improvement in everyone's competence. We didn't do much in the way of day-sailing in June, but stopped pretending to home school in the second week of July.

We sailed from Exmouth to the river Dart, and just spent the week quietly exploring just about everywhere. Yacht Club Pontoon, Dittisham, Stoke Gabriel, 2 nights in Totnes, Tuckenhay, Sharpham. The kids rowed off in a clean green dinghy and brought it and themselves back grey-brown. We explored bow creek with our silent electric outboard and didn't disturb the deer drinking from the creek. It was astonishing how thronged the river Dart was, that second week we were allowed to stay away from home. The numbers of SUPs everywhere made me feel very unfashionable. I remembered Tuckenhay as this sleepy backwater, but it felt like Piccadilly Circus after lockdown.

The only problem was the lack of washing facilities. It was pretty sticky after a week upriver. We came home via Babbacombe and bathed in the clear green waters – bliss!

Having the boat was a total godsend this year. We may not have left the county on our summer holiday, but we certainly escaped!