



# The Magazine

Summer 2010



THE FIRST TITANIC  
*- a passage in history*

**Day sailing to Turkey**

*Taking the plunge:  
living aboard a Bavaria*

# DIY boating

The RNLI have to respond to some unusual shouts!

The Lyme Regis RNLI lifeboat was called out to this rather extraordinary catamaran. Drifting offshore, the vessel appeared to be home made from metal and wood, with one rather camera-shy individual aboard.



*Photo credit: RNLI*

## Living aboard

Andy and Ann describe their new live-aboard existence

**Spending an occasional weekend on a yacht often doesn't seem sufficient - and most of our holidays certainly aren't long enough, but how would we all cope with living long-term aboard our Bavaria?**



*Andy and Ann leaving Plymouth - for Fowey - in May*

**'Do you think we could do this all the time?' That was the simple question I posed to Ann as we relaxed under the bimini of our chartered yacht in Kalamos, G & Ts in hand. Ann's affirmative answer was to set us on a course that would change our lives and take 18 months of planning and preparation. We already knew a number of liveaboard sailors, so were aware that the lifestyle has its problems as well as its compensations.**

The process of moving aboard a yacht permanently is complex at the best of times, but we lived 200 miles apart (Cornwall and the Cotswolds). Our yacht was roughly halfway between in Plymouth, so the logistics were even more daunting. We each spent weekdays in our separate worlds, working through the day, doing myriad other chores in the evenings, thereby leaving weekends free for being together, either sailing or enjoying the Cotswolds or Cornwall. Even prior to the decision to become liveabards, this resulted in a fairly hectic life, so adding the management of boat upgrades, selling two houses, completing renovations on another for letting, selling three cars and shutting down shoreside lives was certainly a challenge. Fortunately, we are both quite organised souls, and as we made list after list, decisions were made, and items ticked off. At times, though, it seemed the bottom of the list grew faster than the top was reduced.

Our Bavaria 36, *Pipit*, had an excellent specification when we bought her. We did, however, decide on several upgrades which we thought would make our live-aboard lives safer,

more comfortable, and self-sufficient (all of which may be detailed in a later article as we thought other Bavaria owners may find the information useful). These included extra safety equipment, additional navigation aids, replacement canvas and the addition of a bimini as we were heading for warmer climes. We also added a stern arch to mount a wind generator and solar panel and other additional equipment, as the standard B36 pushpit is really quite short and lacking in space to mount things.

Eventually, the day came where we 'retired' from full-time work. This gave us just a month to pack up two homes, move aboard full-time, make final arrangements for administration and correspondence that couldn't be handled electronically and prepare for our imminent departure.

Day one aboard didn't start well – suffice to say a hacksaw and impact driver had to be deployed... perhaps more on that in a future article.

Three weeks later, we finally set sail from Plymouth towards Falmouth. We wanted to spend some time in familiar waters to test all our new equipment before crossing the Channel.

So, as we write this from Lézardrieux in Brittany, our verdict so far on the liveaboard life: it's not all G & Ts and olives, but we love it!

You can follow our progress at  
[www.yachtpipit.com](http://www.yachtpipit.com)

Andy & Ann

Pipit, B 36

*Coincidentally, we came across [www.livingonboats.co.uk](http://www.livingonboats.co.uk), who also publish an e-book of tips to ease the transition to liveaboard status - Ed*