

OUR BOATS

Top tips from real boat owners in the MBY fleet

MBY'S FLEET

DUCHY 27
ALCHEMY
PHYLLIS ROCK, Yarmouth, UK

SUNSEEKER THUNDERHAWK 43
RUTHLESS
GREG COPP, Port Solent, UK

SEARIDER 45
FORMANDA
KIM HOLLAMBY, Haslar Marina, UK

WINDY 37
SEVO
HARRY METCALFE
Port Saint Jean, France

JEANNEAU CAP CAMARAT
KIPPER
JACK HAINES, Poole, UK

AQUASTAR EXPLORER 67
ROMA
BOB THOMAS, Port Solent, UK

KARNIC BLUE WATER 2250
BOHEMIAN GIRL
HUGO ANDREA, Poole, UK

BOSTON WHALER 190 OUTRAGE
SEASCAPER II
LESTER McCARTHY, Hambly, UK

SELENE 47
HIGH FLYER
TESSA TENNANT, Lynton, UK

NORDHAVN 46
ENVOY
DI & LAURIE CRANFIELD, Med

HORIZON 60 PC
BLUE HORIZON
ALEX HAMMOND, Bahamas

PRINCESS 67
JENNY WREN
MIKE ROTHERY, Sant Carlos Marina, Spain

NEXT MONTH

FLEMING 55
PLAY D'EAU
PIERS DU PRE



FAIRLINE PHANTOM 48
CORONA
KIERON WHITE, Ocean Village, UK



DUCHY 27

Footloose and fancy free

Initially concerned about moving to a smaller dayboat, the switch to a more manageable vessel has in fact made cruising beautifully simple

Switching tack and downsizing your boat is a rather nerve-racking prospect. What if you miss your bigger boat? What if you find yourself wanting to overnight but with no cabins to do so? And what if you find dayboating just isn't for you?

Well, I'm happy to say that after taking the plunge and downsizing from our two-cabin 37ft Windy Grand Mistral to our cuddly-cabin 27ft Duchy motor launch, my husband Peter and I have never been happier. Last summer, in particular, confirmed that we had made the right decision – dayboating has proved to be both fun and liberating.

Get up and go!

Our new boat, *Alchemy*, has dramatically simplified boating for us and has generally made our cruising much less complicated and more carefree. Our good fortune of having a view of the Solent from our house on the Isle of Wight, coupled with the smaller and easier to handle boat, enables us to get up and go at a moment's notice when we see the right conditions outside our windows.

I can honestly say that we used the Duchy more in 2013 than we used our

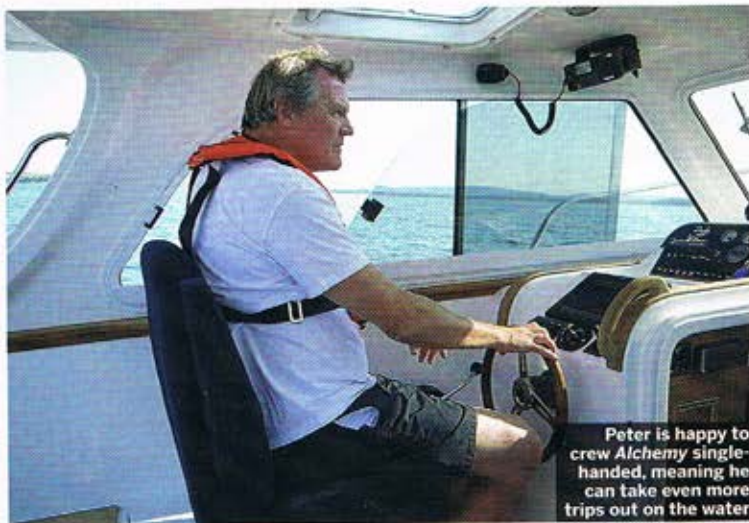
previous boat over several seasons. Of course, this was partially due to the uncharacteristically good weather that was bestowed on us in the 2013 boating season, but ultimately it was down to the ease of operating our 27-footer.

Peter is delighted that he can comfortably handle the boat on his own, particularly now that the retro-fitted stern thruster is in place. Not only is the Duchy simpler to crew, refuel and manoeuvre in and out of the marina, but it is also much quicker to prepare her for a cruise and clean up afterwards. We find ourselves much more inclined to head out for a pootle when the prep, checks and clean up isn't so time consuming.

We've had numerous wonderful spur-of-the-moment adventures out on *Alchemy*, both on our own and with visiting friends and family. With fewer boating chores to take care of, we now happily take an afternoon trip on board to catch some late rays, or enjoy a quick cruise on a weekend morning and still meet all our on-land engagements in the afternoon.

One of our top jaunts out occurred at the end of Cowes Week when, after

spending the day out on a friend's boat watching the races in Cowes, we drove home to find glorious weather in Yarmouth. A last-minute decision was made to cruise our boat back down Cowes for the Red Arrows and fireworks display. Food and drink were quickly organised before we motored down around Gurnard and dropped anchor to witness an amazing spectacle of



Peter is happy to crew *Alchemy* single-handed, meaning he can take even more trips out on the water



ind. The evening was so
 ile that we have decided to
 an annual event. If anything
 zing has made us even more
 e and we have been able to host
 riends on board.

Boats out and no worries

ind of the season a hot weekend
 and we took *Alchemy* to the
 ully scenic Newtown Creek –
 rning about *Alchemy*'s classic
 inal styling suits Solent boating
 . A friend of ours has a house
 2wtown so we cruised down to
 on the boat together.
 singly, the conditions were so
 hat we all took an invigorating
 ore enjoying lunch in the sun. It
 exceptional day out and we
 y discovered that our Duchy
 as plenty of space for lounging,
 ng and relaxing.
 r a summer that included more
 g days out than ever before.

we've also got rather intrepid, trying
 out overnight trips on our little launch.
 The first one was a trial by fire but all
 rather fun. Peter and his two adult
 children, Catherine and Michael,
 fancied an overnight excursion on the
 boat and Buckler's Hard was chosen as
 the destination. Following a gentle
 cruise up the Beaulieu River, they took
 an overnight berth and had a leisurely
 stroll along the beautiful river into
 Beaulieu for a refreshing pint at the

Montagu Arms. Later, they returned to
 the marina and enjoyed an excellent
 dinner at the Master Builders on the
 magnificent Beaulieu Estate before
 returning to the boat for the night.

Two's company, three's a crowd

Although everyone had an enjoyable
 time, it was agreed the following
 morning that the accommodation on
Alchemy was a bit snug for three adults
 and perhaps a couple of overnight

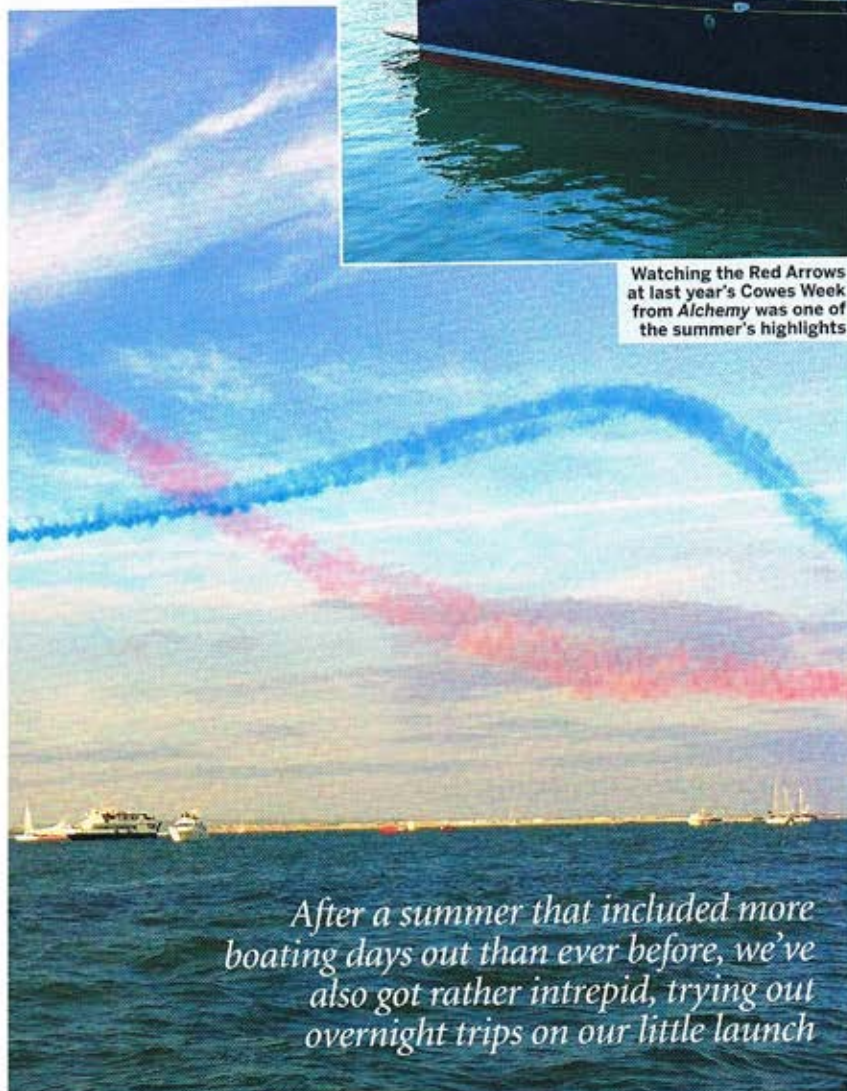
guests was a more comfortable
 prospect. And so, this season, Peter
 and I have already eyed up a couple of
 overnight trips for the two of us.

Switching from a sports cruiser with
 a top speed of 40 knots and very
 comfortable overnight accommodation
 to a motor launch/dayboat with a
 top speed of 22 knots has proven to be
 just the elixir we needed to start our
 retirement and be as spontaneous
 as we hoped. **Phyllis Rock**



Alchemy at her home base in Yarmouth. At 27ft, she's a perfect get-up-and-go dayboat

Watching the Red Arrows at last year's Cowes Week from *Alchemy* was one of the summer's highlights



After a summer that included more boating days out than ever before, we've also got rather intrepid, trying out overnight trips on our little launch



Despite initial concerns, there is plenty of room on board for entertaining and relaxing



Two sleeping on board is fine, three is a bit of a push...