

# Sailing into middle age

A growing number of people in their 50s and above are opting to sail the world in middle age. Photograph: AP

The Chandlers are among a growing group of people in their 50s and above who are opting to sail the world in middle age rather than remain at home.

"It's quite common and it's growing," said Stuart Bradley of the Cruising Association, which represents the interests of cruising sailors worldwide. "There's been an increase in the number of people taking early retirement or early redundancy, particularly among people in their 50s, and it's increasing year on year."

People of within that age group, he added, were the association's main recruiting ground: "You've got the kids off your hands, you are losing interest in your job and you want to get out while you still have some vitality."

John McCurdy, managing director of Pantaenius yacht insurance, said thousands of people were now choosing to spend their retirement "living the dream".

He added: "It's people who have released equity from property, despite the downturn, bought their boats and are cruising the world

"It tends to be successful people from their late 40s and 50s, but younger couples with families are also doing it."

Andrew Bray, editor of Yachting World, agreed. "Quite a lot of people sell up, buy a boat and go sailing. But I would say it's hundreds rather than thousands."

Their motivation, he said, was simple: "It's a way of visiting interesting places that you can't get to by other means."

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