

Two weeks in to the summer holidays and I am wondering how everyone is doing? I was desperate for a break by the time Parliament rose. And although my actual holiday is yet to come it has been nice to be working locally, apart from the odd day, for the last two weeks.

I used to love the summer holidays as a kid. We didn't actually go away very much because mum couldn't afford to at the time and so real holidays didn't really become a thing for me until I started full time work. But that didn't stop me enjoying the six weeks of freedom from school. It helped that I was an outdoorsy kid and that where I grew up in Hythe there was plenty of outdoors to play in. We lived on an estate with few cars so played a lot of sport in the street immediately outside our house and once we grew tired of that we had the canal nearby that we could fish in or try and cross on homemade rafts. They usually failed and I'd get grounded for the rest of the day for returning soaking wet and covered in smelly canal weeds. We had the roughs, a set of hills behind the canal, that when the army weren't training on them were ours, free to roam. And then when we had done all that we still had the beach about a 3 mile bike ride away.

It all sounds wonderfully carefree and maybe 30 something years on my memories are rose tinted. But having recently just re-read Swallows and Amazons it felt like I had plenty of summer adventures like that. Of course I know times have changed but there is so much out there which can free youngsters from the academic pressures and give them their own happy summer holiday memories.