



If this issue's cover photo of *Dragon Run*'s handsome flying fish spinnaker made you envious, Bill and Lydia Strickland – and their sailmaker – would be happy to pass on details. E-mail them on wjstrick64@gmail.com. The Board and General Committee would be delighted for other, similar sails to be seen around the world, but only if the 'fish' is based on the approved artwork, drawn for us many years ago by Founder Member Colin Mudie. Please don't be tempted to design your own version!

Closer to home, if you're thinking of writing for *Flying Fish* – and if you have a story to share I hope that you are – could you be sure to read the *Guidelines for Contributors* on page 174. They really are intended to ensure smooth passage on both sides. They should save you the wasted effort (and disappointment) of sending in a contribution that's far too long, which misses the deadline by a couple of weeks – though see the last paragraph below – or which shouldn't have come to *Flying Fish* at all ... though maybe *What, Who, Where and When* on page 92 is more relevant there.

On my side they save time sorting out all kinds of problems, most often to do with photos and captions, not to mention one of the editor's worst nightmares ... duplication. With *Flying Fish* and the *Newsletter* going out in the same mailing but edited on opposite sides of the globe, if a contributor overlooks the request to 'tell me if you're sending the same piece (or photos) elsewhere, inside or outside the OCC' it can result in a lot of extra work for Jeremy and me at the very last moment, as one of us drops everything to change the layout, remove or replace a photo, or otherwise put things right. It might sound obvious, but it's easily overlooked.

So what do we have in this issue? Well, an awful lot of book reviews for a start – and my thanks to all those who assisted with them. It'll probably be a bit late for buying Christmas presents by the time you receive this *Fish*, so why not just treat yourself? Reviewers normally get to keep the book(s) they're allocated, and there were several among this crop that I was really sorry to part with.

Among our own members' writings there are cruise accounts from the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean (if not actually in a yacht), illustrated by hundreds of fabulous photographs. To return to where this began, Sid Shaw tells me he took the cover photo on his wife Rebecca's phone – amazing to those of us who grew up with film on a roll ... but never, ever, enough of it!

Finally, the usual reminder – the **DEADLINE** for submissions to *Flying Fish 2018/1* is **Thursday 1 February**, though I really do appreciate not having a dozen articles – and their 250 or so associated photos – all arriving on deadline day. Even less a week or two later!

Cover Photo: Bill and Lydia Strickland's Dragon Run displaying her unique flying fish spinnaker during the 2017 Chesapeake Cruise (see the top paragraph above). Photo Sid Shaw