



It's standard for me to start this page thinking 'what on earth am I going to say?' and end up running out of space! To start with, a quick run-down of this issue. As always there are some riveting cruises accounts, inland as well as at sea; plus Jonathan Lloyd's very helpful suggestions for *Passage Planning in the Southwest Indian Ocean*; virtual visits to some fascinating places and, sadly, the loss of a well-loved yacht and the recovery of her skipper by one of the world's best-known cruise ships, documented in dozens of photographs.

Thinking of photographs, two requests. Firstly, had Kathy not taken the stunning picture which graces the cover of this issue I'd have been really stuck. It doesn't quite tick all the boxes, as most cover photos have relatively blank spaces top and bottom so that nothing is obscured by the titling (sky and sea are ideal), but it more than compensates in terms of pzazz – a cover photo *must* have that 'look at me' factor! So if you have a picture you think would make a good *Flying Fish* cover please forward it to me, even if you aren't writing an article to go with it. Secondly – and this applies to all photos, cover or not – please try to get the horizon reasonably level. *Flying Fish* does not favour sloping horizons, and though I can and do level them up, it becomes difficult if they're too far astray. Personally I blame it on the demise of astro – anyone who took sun sights several times each day soon learned to hold their sextant upright!

From future to past, and you'll find the first of a new *From the Archives* series on page 23. This kicks off with an account of an Atlantic passage taken from *Flying Fish* 1964/1, the very first *Fish*. Future issues will carry articles from subsequent years, though not from every single one or we'd be here until doomsday! Meanwhile the *Flying Fish* website archive is heading in the opposite direction, with all copies from 1990 onwards now available to download as PDFs. The earlier part of the archive will follow in due course, but probably not before the end of the northern hemisphere sailing season.

What else? Oh yes, I'd be happy to welcome a few more proof-readers to my regular team. As well as sharp eyes allied to reliable grammar and spelling, technical knowledge is very useful (though not essential) and I'd be particularly glad to reinforce the already high level of legal advice I receive ... retired (or not) solicitors and barristers please note! Drop me a line at flying.fish@oceancruisingclub.org if you'd like to know more.

And the standard last paragraph – the **DEADLINE** for submissions to ***Flying Fish* 2018/2** is **Monday 1 October**. I already have four articles on file, plus two more promised, so if you plan to add to them please follow suit and send in good time – it saves unnecessary stress all round.

*Cover Photo: Isambard Kingdom Brunel's iconic SS Great Britain,
aboard which the Club held its 2018 Annual Dinner.
Photo Kathy Mansfield (www.kathymansfieldphotos.com)*