



Welcome to an exceptionally fat *Flying Fish* – other than the 2014/1 issue marking the Club's 60th anniversary the thickest we've ever seen. It was clear by mid-March that it was putting on weight, and as a fatter *Fish* means increased printing and postage costs I checked with Commodore Simon Currin and Treasurer Charles Griffiths that this would be okay. The former replied that, 'In these times of Social Distancing the prospect of a fat *Flying Fish* will be a consolation for many, so fine with me. I suspect that not many cruising accounts will be generated this summer!'.

Knowing how many members are making a dash for home after having their cruising plans curtailed I'm not so sure about his second sentence, and equally time in lock-down may encourage some to dig out their log books and write about cruises made in previous years (there's no time limit). As always I welcome all and any submissions – see page 130 for the practicalities. I gather Jeremy Firth anticipates a possible dearth of items for the September *Newsletter*, and shorter pieces (under 1000 words) should be sent direct to him at newsletter@oceancruisingclub.org ahead of his 20th July deadline.

Returning to the current *Fish*, a further effect of its obesity was the amount of work it generated for my amazing proof-readers. They received their first thick envelope, or virtual equivalent, in mid-February and the final one in the first week of May – five batches in all, spread over nearly three months. Not once did anyone let me down or return their proofs after the requested date, so a round of applause, please, for David, Nicky, Allan, Anthea, Tony, Fay, Brian and Harvey. Any remaining errors are purely my own!

Many non-liveaboard members will have been cruising vicariously during lock-down, so if you've read a book recently which you think other members would also enjoy how about reviewing it for *Flying Fish*? It doesn't have to be newly published, but it *does* have to be non-fiction (except in very special cases), in print and preferably available from Amazon or other major outlets – and, needless to say, to have boats or the sea as its *raison d'être*. Drop me a line at flying.fish@oceancruisingclub.org before starting work though, as it may have been reviewed in a previous issue or a fellow member may already have suggested it.

Still on the subject of books, a note which I'd have put at the end of the Review section had there been space. *Flying Fish* often carries reviews of cruising guides, a fair few of them written by OCC members. All cruising guides are heavily dependent on user feedback, particularly for updates and corrections between editions, and this is greatly appreciated by both publishers and individual authors. For titles published by Imray Laurie Norie & Wilson send your input (text and photos) to editor@imray.com for onward transmission to authors, for other publishers consult their website.

Finally the usual reminder – the **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE** for submissions to *Flying Fish* 2020/2 is **Thursday 1st October**, but I anticipate a busy autumn (sorry, antipodeans!) so if you can manage mid-September I'd really appreciate it. Thank you!

Cover photo: Jan and Corrie Steenmeijer's Koopmans 45 Livingstone sailing from Santa Marta, Bonaire to Cartagena, Colombia – see 'Sailing the South Coast of Newfoundland', page 27. Photo Rob Heijmerink