Summer is on the way, so we turn our attention to a few leisurely pursuits – and some not-so-leisurely ones...

**Editor’s Letter**

*by Dickon Ross*

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**THIS ISSUE HAS a summary, ‘Wind in the Willows’ sort of feel as we focus on boats, ships and messing about on the water.**

Take in the pure exhilaration of F1 power boats, which pelt along at 150mph with just a few centimetres of the hull actually in the water. Mark Venables finds out what it takes to build one and what it takes to race one on p28, as well as talking to Bill Smith, team leader of the project to restore the original record-breaking Bluebird, salvaged from the bottom of Lake Coniston.

Or enjoy the more leisurely pace of cruise ships, as over 20 million holidaymakers will do this year: They may be stereotyped as retirement homes on holiday but they are increasingly popular with younger people and families.

Vitali Vitaliev looks back at the liners that shipped a million ‘ten-pound poms’ to Australia and why the time may be right for new ships to make the return trip. On p34 we look at the project to build a working replica of Titanic, with just a few modifications for health and safety. The plan is to recreate the Titanic experience right down to the tiniest details, from the sinking part and the shortage of lifeboats; this time you would see New York. And Nick Smith meets environmental engineer Tim Jarvis, who sailed a somewhat smaller replica boat in a recreation of Sir Ernest Shackleton’s famous Endurance rescue mission in the South Atlantic. He tells how he kept it as authentic as possible, right down to the waxed cotton clothes. Our interviewee, Ellen MacArthur, talks to Mark Venables about how surviving alone at sea with few resources inspired her latest venture to promote the ‘circular economy’ on p40.

The vast majority of international freight goes by ship, and it has more than trebled since the 1970s. Shipping may be less polluting per tonne per mile, but in total it produces more CO₂ than all the world’s planes. We look at some initiatives to reduce that pollution, such as the Envirosprint project from Rolls-Royce (p50) and a daring plan to put sails back onto ships and cut the fuel consumption without cutting the speeds on p44. We also hear how a bet led to the extraordinary solar-panel-covered PlanetSolar yacht and its record breaking trip right around the world (p60).

Architects in the ‘Waterworlds’ panel at this year’s Clerkenwell Design Week at the Royal Docks last month discussed how water is traditionally seen as the enemy of buildings, something to be feared and excluded, perhaps enjoyed for a view but little more. Docklands regeneration usually meant building expensive penthouse apartments on the dockside to exploit the views. Now, as architects anticipate rising sea levels, there is more interest in floating housing inspired by Dutch schemes. Professor Alex de Rijke, director of dRMM and dean of architecture at the RCA, said there had been dozens of regeneration plans for London’s huge Royal Docks over the decades, but the latest plan, for floating housing (p52) is the first to focus on building on the water rather than around it.

**Global container capacity has more than doubled since 2004**

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**One TEU is the space equivalent to the volume occupied by a standard 20ft shipping container**

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