

Shell Travel Club Newsletter

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Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you and your family well and looking forward to the summer months ahead which are just around the corner.

Since the last newsletter, the only function we have held was a day trip on the 26th April with a visit to the Fashion & Textile Museum at Bermondsey to see the Crown to Catwalk Exhibition. Fifteen members took part in this day trip led and organised by Frieda Boase. The feedback from those attending was that it was a very enjoyable and informative trip and all asked that more STC day trips should be considered for the future. Frieda is now looking in to this and some of her initial ideas are as follows: The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and Tour (go behind the scenes at the All England Club), Amberley Museum (explore the 36 acres of history nestled in the heart of the South Downs national park (access by car or train)), Kew Palace (oldest building within the gardens summer home of George III in the 18 century), and Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court.

As previously advised, with the Covid restrictions being lifted, we feel we are in a better position to start to explore trips for our members. As you are aware, we have already launched the Wine Tour of Devon which runs between the 27th September until 1st October, 2022. This is a 4 night break staying in the 4* Belmont Hotel, Sidmouth, Devon on a DB&B basis which we will use as our base to visit and sample various wines (amongst other things) from 9 local vineyards. Lunch will be supplied on each of the days except the 1st October. Uptake on this trip was immediate and only one double/twin room remains available. If anyone wishes to join this trip then please let me know quickly on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk or I will have to release the room back to the hotel.

Due to members requests and feedback received, we have moved forward and booked Denbies for our 2022 Festive Lunch which will be on Thursday 1st December. Bruce will supply more information on this shortly and we will update the STC website as well but in the meantime, please put this date in your diary.

Our 2023 AGM has been booked at Silvermere, Cobham for Wednesday 8th March. This will comprise of a two course buffet lunch followed by a guest speaker. More information will be given nearer the time but again, please make a note of this date in your diary.

Steve is currently looking at resurrecting the Montenegro holiday that was originally planned for April 2020 but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. More information on this will follow shortly but it is likely that this trip would be in April 2023.

Many members have been asking for the annual Champagne trip to Reims, France to be reinstated. Obviously, with the ongoing Covid restrictions that have been in place, this has not been a trip that could be looked at and hence why we are running the Devon Wine Tour this year. However, I am pleased to advise that I am currently working on a Champagne Tour

in 2023 which is likely to be five nights departing on Sunday 4th June, 2023. More information will follow soon but this trip will have limited availability so it will be imperative that when details are given, you sign up quickly or risk the possibility of not securing a place.

We are also looking at a 16 night cruise with Fred Olsen to the Caribbean departing Southampton on 3rd December, 2023. This will include stops at Ponta Delgada in the Azores, Basseterre, St Kitts, Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, Roseau, Dominica, Castries, St Lucia, Kingstown, St Vincent and Bridgetown in Barbados where will then fly back to the UK. More information will follow on this shortly.

Hopefully some of these trips will be of interest to you and you will decide to join and support them once details of them become available.

I would also advise, that as a Committee, we have recently taken the decision to no longer offer Day Membership. We decided that if members wished to take a friend or friends on a day trip, with Life/Associate Membership being a nominal £5.00 it wasn't unreasonable to ask them to become full members enabling them to then support the club and go on other trips.

The Committee and myself look forward to seeing you on one of the 2022/23 trips and in the meantime, we send you and your families our best wishes.

Kindest regards

Rob