

Shell Travel Club Newsletter

ISSUE 365 May 2023

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Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you and your family well and having had an enjoyable Coronation celebration. It is hard to believe that we are already in the second half of May and not much sign of any nice weather yet! Hopefully, this is just around the corner.

It is with great sadness that I announce the loss of our previous Treasurer, David Dungate. He was a lovely man who went above and beyond to support the club, staying on as Treasurer for as long as he could while we tried to replace him. It is down to him that we are now able to do a vast majority of our banking electronically. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time, I know that they will miss him greatly.

Since the last newsletter, we have had two day trips and of course the AGM. On the latter, the numbers were once again disappointing and not helped by the overnight snow the evening before which caused some members and committee to stay away. However, regardless of numbers, it was a great success with the usual excellent fayre and fantastic after luncheon speaker that kept us all amused. Feedback received has all been positive. A big thanks to Bruce for pulling this event together. I am not sure how many members realise how much work and time goes in to organising it.

Frieda ran a day trip at the end of January to Westminster Abbey which was both well supported and an excellent trip. In March, Frieda took another party of members for a tour of behind the scenes of the Strictly Come Dancing studio. Once again, this trip was well supported and much fun. Many thanks to Frieda for running these day trips which are becoming more and more popular with our membership. Please see Addendum 2 for a fuller report of both these trips.

Looking forward to the remainder of the year, on Sunday 4th June 2023 we will be heading off to Reims for our annual Champagne Tour. We will be staying for 5 nights at the 4* Holiday Inn in the centre of Reims and from there we visit a number of first class vineyards where we will sample many of their Champagnes. This trip is fully booked with 47 members on it.

On the 17th September 2023, we will be running a 5 night Mystery trip to Worcestershire where we will be staying at a 4* hotel where old meets new! Although this trip is a while away, it is already full. However, if this sounds of interest to you and you wish your name to be added to the 'Wait List' just in case we have a cancellation or you require any information on the trip then please let me know on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk.

This years Festive Lunch has been booked for **Friday 8th December** at Effingham Golf Club, a venue which is frequented by other Shell clubs and organisations. Bruce is now finalising arrangements but I understand that the food is excellent and there's lots of parking. Lets make the 2023 Festive Lunch an opportunity to bring as many of the members together as possible and something we look back on with fond memories. Please put this date in your diary and also let Bruce know your intention to attend asap so we can get an idea of numbers. Bruce can be contacted on bruce75@gmail.com.

Frieda has plans for some very interesting day trips she is currently working on. To give you a flavour, 'Chelsea and the Swinging 60's', 'Vintners Hall Tour' and 'City Walk and the Blitz'. More information will follow from Frieda as these trips become ready to launch. Please see Addendum 1 for full details of 'City Walk and the Blitz' and 'Vintners Hall Tour'.

Looking forward to 2024, our AGM has been booked at Silvermere, Cobham for **Wednesday 6th March**. We know from past experience that this venue gives us exactly what we need along with good food and plenty of parking. More information will be available soon but in the meantime, please put this date in your diary. It offers a great opportunity to meet up with friends and past colleagues. If you have any questions then please contact Bruce bruce75@gmail.com who is dealing with all the arrangements.

On the 5th May 2024, Steve is running a 7 night trip to Tuscany. Numbers are filling up fast but at time of publication, there were still some places available. Please contact Steve on steven_jones2@sky.com for more info.

On the 8th September 2024, Bruce will be leading a river cruise trip on the Douro in Portugal. Uptake so far has been good but there are still plenty of places available to STC members. Bruce has worked really hard sorting this trip out for the benefit of members so please support him if possible. For more information on the trip then please contact Bruce on bruce75@gmail.com without delay or we run the risk of the allocated STC cabins being released.

I am starting to look at the feasibility of a wine trip to the Loire, France in 2024, possibly late June or early July. More info on this will follow in the coming weeks.

As you can see, your committee have and continue to put together varied trips that we hope will appeal to a wide range of members. **All we ask is that you show your support and join as many as you can.**

On other news, just two weeks ago, we finally managed to get our bank, TSB, to recognise Rex Sinden as our new Treasurer (of 6 months!) and give him access to our account. This now means that Rex has full visibility of our finances and we now have both Sally and Bob who are able to co-authorise outgoing payments via bacs. We will shortly get Steve access to the account so that we have a full contingency to operate it. This has been a real slog with paperwork going missing between TSB branches and the head office in Scotland or claims by head office that the information we have submitted has been incorrect whereas the branch has said it is fine! My sincere thanks to Sally for her help and considerable time she has put in over the past 6 months monitoring the account for incoming payments and some old fashioned cheque writing for payments we had to make.

It is pleasing to see that we are continuing to attract new members – both ex Shell and Associate. It is even more pleasing to see that the trips we are running or have planned are seeing these new members signing up to them. Thank you.

Sally has been working on the website and updating it. The minutes from the AGM will shortly be uploaded and all trips and day trips will appear on there as they get launched. If you haven't looked at it recently, then please spend a few minutes and visit the site – www.shelltravelclub.com

The Committee and myself wish you an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you on one of the 2023/2024 trips or other planned events.

Best wishes

Rob

Addendum 1

JOIN A 'CITY BLITZ' WALK

Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 11 am



A nearly circular walk starting at St Paul's underground station and finishing near St Paul's Cathedral. Along the way we take in stories of bombing and bravery during the Blitz of 1940/41, life in the underground shelters and the night St Paul's burned. The story of how the City came through the destruction to rise like a phoenix from the flames told by people who lived through it and extracts from the diary of an 18 year old boy.

The cost of the walking tour is £12.00 per person.

To find out more contact Frieda at friedaboase@gmail.com

VISIT TO VINTNERS' GUILDHALL

Thursday 26 October 2023, 11.00 to 12.30



The Vintners' Hall, with its origins steeped in the history of the City of London and the import, regulation and sale of wine, continues to maintain its strong links with the wine trade known as the “spiritual home of the international wine trade”. And much more: with its current trade, social, charitable and educational interests it continues to play an important role in the 21st century.

Cost £12.00 per person

Contact Frieda on friedaboase@gmail.com for more information.

Addendum 2

Westminster Abbey visit on Monday 30 Jan 2023

Our thanks go to Frieda Boase for arranging a successful visit to Westminster Abbey (or the Collegiate church of St Peter, Westminster). Twenty members came along to enjoy a most informative and friendly tour led by Julie Chandler (an official Blue Badge Guide).

Dating back to Edward the Confessor in 1065, Westminster was built on the site of a Benedictine monastery which dates from 960AD on Thorney island.

In the lady chapel alone there are fifteen Kings and Queens at rest in a magnificent setting. We paid our respects to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior and learnt how the idea was first conceived by the Reverend David Railton in 1916 while serving as an army Chaplain on the Western Front.

Close to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior we were able to view but not take photographs of the Coronation Chair which dates back to 1308 (otherwise known as King Edwards Chair) which is presently undergoing restoration ready for the crowing of King Charles III in May this year.

It was a most enjoyable afternoon and a visit is highly recommended.

Behind the Scenes – Strictly Come Dancing on Monday 6 March 2023

Frieda has organised another successful trip for 16 members of the Shell Travel Club to 'Behind the Scenes - Strictly Come Dancing'.

Carole Williams our host for the afternoon was a brilliant raconteur with a great sense of humour. She told us how the DSI Studio was founded by Geoffrey Hearn and Peggy Spencer in 1982 and since then, its reputation has grown world-wide.

Strictly Come Dancing was first shown on television in May 2004 with Tess Daly and Bruce Forsyth and its popularity has grown ever since. Saturday evening entertainment brought the ballroom to our screens with added celebrities bringing glamour and showbiz fun.

Amazingly only 4% of the studio's work is devoted to Strictly, with other costumes and dance shoes being created for individuals clients, theatre, Dancing on Ice and Dancing with the Stars spread over fifty countries.

The base of all women's designs is a leotard which is colour matched to the finished design. The fabrics come from all over the world but the beading is generally made in the U.K. The costumes are beautiful creations using the skills of the in-house designer Vicky Gill and the team.

Many thanks once again goes to Frieda Boase for organising this exciting and well supported day trip for members and to Carole Williams of DSI who gave the presentation.