

Shell Travel Club Newsletter

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Chairman: Robert Jenkins

Email: robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk



Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you well and having had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas. On behalf of myself and the Committee, we wish you a very happy and healthy 2024.

Since the last newsletter at the end of September, we completed the last two of our scheduled 2023 outings. The first of these was a day trip in October to the Vintners Guildhall in the City of London which was once again organised by our day trip specialist, Frieda. Our Guide made this visit interesting and great fun. However, only a very few selected Vintners hold the keys to their extensive cellar so it was out of bounds to Vintners and visitors alike! We also learned of their involvement in charitable works; a primary school in the East End of London, other educational trusts, local food banks, the wine trade and swan upping on the River Thames. It is encouraging to see so many members supporting these day trips.

Frieda is currently working on a number of interesting day trips to run during the year. So far the following day trips are on the list for consideration: Battersea Power Station, Docklands, Royal School of Needlework and Lords Cricket Ground. Contact Frieda on friedaboase@gmail.com if any of these are of interest to you or with any places of interest you would like added to the list for consideration.

The other outing was our annual Festive Lunch in early December. At the request of members who wished for us to look for an alternative venue to Denbies following a disappointing lunch in 2022, Bruce spent much time researching and then visiting possible venues that he thought would be suitable. Having carried out this exercise, he proposed Effingham Golf Club which the Committee endorsed. Having attended the event, I have to agree, Bruce's recommendation was spot on. The private room we had was very festive, the food was first class and the service excellent. The only disappointment was the lack of support from members. Of the 38 people signed up to this event, over 25% were Committee Members and their spouses. This is probably the lowest turnout we have ever had for an event which is a great shame given all the work that goes in to it and appeared to be fully supported by all those attending the AGM earlier in the year. I have no idea why so few members decided to support this event but all I can say is that you missed a great opportunity. I would like to thank Bruce for all his hard work and the time he put in to making this such a wonderful event for those who attended.

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. Tickets are now available from Bruce at £28.50pp. Please confirm your attendance by completing a booking form which will be sent out shortly or you can find the form on the STC website. All completed forms should be sent to brucestc75@gmail.com. It offers a great opportunity to meet up with friends and past colleagues. If you have any questions then please contact Bruce brucestc75@gmail.com who is dealing with all the arrangements.

On the 5th May, Steve is running a 7 night trip to Tuscany. Full details are on our website or you can contact Steve on steven_jones2@sky.com for more info.

On the 8th September, Bruce will be leading a river cruise trip on the Douro in Portugal. Again, full details are on our website or you can contact Bruce for more information on the

trip on bruce75@gmail.com

In October, Allison and I will be running a 5 night/6 day trip by coach to Cornwall. The hotel and coach are all booked and we are now in the process of putting together an interesting itinerary. This trip is already fully booked, however, if you want further details they can be found on the website and if you would then like to put your name on the 'waiting list', please let me know on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

We are now busy looking at possible trips for 2025 and the Committee will be meeting later this month to discuss and hopefully crystalise those ideas. More to follow in due course.

Sally continues to work on our website where much information can be found and all new trips are uploaded on to it. If you haven't looked at it recently, then please spend a few minutes and visit the site – www.shelltravelclub.com

We continue to receive applications to become members of the STC and it is pleasing to see that many of those new members are starting to join our trips.

On a final note, I had a call recently from Sutton Winston Insurance Brokers who advised that they had now returned to the travel insurance business after pulling out of this particular market several years ago. They apparently have some really good offers for STC members and ask that if you are looking for holiday insurance to call them. It would be interesting to hear any feedback you have should you ask them for a quote.

Once again, the Committee and myself wish you a very happy new year and we look forward to seeing you at one of our trips or events during the year.

Best wishes,

Rob