

# Shell Travel Club Newsletter

**ISSUE 370 January 2025**

Chairman: Robert Jenkins

Email: [robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk)



Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you well and having had an enjoyable and relaxing festive period. On behalf of myself and the committee, we wish you a very happy and healthy 2025 and we look forward to seeing you on one of the trips that we will be running during the year.

Since the last newsletter in September we have run a 5 night trip to Cornwall where 44 members enjoyed visiting various places and attractions including Bodmin jail for a tour and talk, a vineyard where we had tastings of their various wines and a trip on a steam railway through the Cornish countryside. Several pubs were booked for lunch and together with a first class hotel and fantastic food it proved to be a great trip.

Due to high demand from members, Frieda arranged a second visit to Battersea Power Station on the 17<sup>th</sup> October following the very successful one she ran on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Once again, this second visit to Battersea Power Station was well attended with members surprised at how vast the two power stations are. The first one built in the 1930-1940's in art-deco style and the second in early 1950's interior style. With so much to see members were encouraged to visit again.

Bruce once again organised and ran our Annual Festive Lunch which took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at Effingham Golf Club and was as always a great success. An attractive venue, great food and service was enjoyed by many members. A provisional date has been set with Effingham Golf Club for Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

Looking at 2025, the AGM is booked for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at Reigate Manor Hotel just off J8 of the M25. Bruce is again organising this function and the booking form and AGM paperwork was sent out a few days ago. Please note the revised venue.

As you will be aware, toward the end of last year, we canvassed members regarding their interest in the committee organising a day trip on a steam train. If this proved successful then we would look to run a short break train holiday in 2026. The responses received were very positive. As such, I am pleased to advise that Dave Lee is organising a day trip on the Sussex Belle in first class accommodation on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Join us for a train trip from London Victoria to the Sussex coast, and return. Crossing the North and South Downs and passing through the beautiful countryside of the Weald, it will be steam hauled by an LMS Black 5 locomotive. Arriving in Eastbourne at approx. 1300 for a 90min stop, we then have a run along the coast to Hastings before we return to London Victoria. Please get in touch with Dave on [home38@outlook.com](mailto:home38@outlook.com) quite quickly to express interest. Full details on the flyer sent recently to all members, but do make contact with Dave if you have any questions. We do need to be ready by end of Jan to ensure we get seats! Given this is an initiative that members have said they would be interested in, I am hoping that you support Dave by joining this trip as the success of it will determine what we do in 2026.

Steve is running a trip to northern Cyprus departing 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025. There are currently 25 members on this trip with a few places still available. Please note that for any new members wishing to join us the price will be subject to any supplement which the airline impose for

further seats. Steve will be sending further information to those members who are signed up for the trip in the week commencing 13 January 2025. If you are interested in joining this triphthen please contact Steve on **steve\_jones2@sky.com**.

Allison and myself will be running another 'Mystery' trip commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2025. This time it will be to Gloucestershire. It will be a 5 night trip and staying in a 4\* hotel with a spa on a DB&B basis. We will travel by coach with the pick up and drop off being Cobham Services on the M25. It will be run along the lines of similar trips whereby there will be outings to various places of interest and some free time will be scheduled in. Uptake has been good and we still have a couple of rooms available. If anyone still wishes to join this trip or requires more information, please contact Rob on **robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk**.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, Bruce has organised a motor yacht cruise in Croatia. visiting Split, Rab, Sibenik and the undiscovered Islands of the north. We still have a couple of lower deck cabins still available. Please contact me on **brucestc75@gmail.com** for more info.

Due to continued interest from members, Allison and myself have agreed to run one more wine & Champagne tour commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2025. This will be a 7 night trip staying 4 nights in the Cour-Cheverny in the Loire and 3 nights in Reims in the Champagne region. Coach pick up and drop off will be either Cobham Services on the M25 or Stop24 Services on the M20. We will travel to France by Eurotunnel. At this time, there is still availability on this trip so if any member is interested in joining or requires further information then please contact Rob on **robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk**.

Frieda is currently working on a number of interesting day trips to run during 2025. The first day trip will be with Ian Bevan, a blue badge guide walking members around The Inns of Court on Thursday 3 April 2025. There are a number of other visits being looked at and will be advertised later which could include the Chelsea Physic Garden followed later in the year by the Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars Lane, City of London.

Bruce is looking at a river cruise from Lyon then up to Beaune then down the Rhone to Aries/Avignon for September 2026. Watch this space!

As always, we try and give members a variety of different trips to new locations along with a programme of day trips which we hope appeal to the members and in return you show your support and join as many as you can.

Please remember, all current trips and future trips can be found on our website [www.shelltravelclub.com](http://www.shelltravelclub.com) along with photos from past trips, newsletters and much more, so please log on and check the site regularly.

We have been advised that during the past few months some members have said that they have not been receiving any emails from the STC. Sally, our Membership Secretary and Website Administrator has been looking at this. It would appear that for some members using Gmail or Googlemail, emails from the STC are going in to 'promotions' or 'junk' folders. Could any member using these Google email addresses please check these two folders regularly to ensure they don't miss any communications from us. Sally continues to work on how best to address this issue.

Best wishes,

Rob

## Shell Travel Club Holiday Schedule 2025

|                                 |   |              |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025     | STC AGM<br>Contact: Bruce Ogilvy<br>Email: <a href="mailto:brucestc75@gmail.com">brucestc75@gmail.com</a>                                     | £42pp        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025      | Inns of Court Guided Walk<br>Contact: Frieda Boase<br>Email: <a href="mailto:friedaboase@gmail.com">friedaboase@gmail.com</a>                 | TBD          |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025     | Sussex Belle Steam Train<br>Contact: Dave Lee<br>Email: <a href="mailto:home38@outlook.com">home38@outlook.com</a>                            | £195pp       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025     | Northern Cyprus<br>Contact: Steve Jones<br>Email: <a href="mailto:steven_jones2@sky.com">steven_jones2@sky.com</a>                            | from £1219pp |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025      | Gloucestershire Mystery Tour<br>Contact: Rob Jenkins<br>Email: <a href="mailto:robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk">robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk</a> | from £950pp  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2025  | North Croatia Cruise, 7 nights<br>Contact: Bruce Ogilvy<br>Email: <a href="mailto:brucestc75@gmail.com">brucestc75@gmail.com</a>              | from £2199pp |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025 | Wine & Champagne Tour<br>Contact: Rob Jenkins<br>Email: <a href="mailto:robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk">robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk</a>        | from £1400pp |