**JULY 2016** Newsletter 201



## We look forward to welcoming

**Diana Darke** 



4th October Syria – View from the Inside From her courtyard house in Old Damascus a journey into the heart of Syrian society

#### **Rosie Swale-Pope**



18th October Just a Little Run Around The World

20,000 miles unsupported and facing extreme danger

#### **Catherine Moorehead**



1st November North Korea - Grenades in the Schoolyard We see rarely visited parts of this most secretive country

## From the Chairman

GTC Newsletter for the 2016-2017 season.

Rosie Spalding, our Publicity Secretary, is joining me in co-editing our regular bulletins and we hope you'll like the design which gives more space for features and information about our speakers as well as news and details of our programme, which you'll also find on the GTC website.

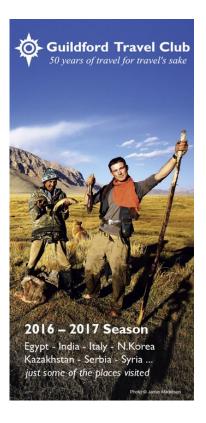
Last season certainly ended on a high note celebrating our 50th Anniversary and you'll see on page 2 some reminders of the evening together with details of how we plan to keep a permanent record of all the posters which Harry and Jean Wick-

Welcome to the new look ens put together for the Club, the memories you sent in and the booklet produced by Gerry Hol-

> We are also beginning a series of short profiles written by Club members. Many of you have travelled widely or have interesting jobs and we begin with a new Committee member, Paul Gillingham.

> So we look forward to welcoming members and visitors to another excellent programme for our 51st season - with thanks to Graham Wilson and our new Programme Secretary, Carol Busby.

> > Janet Parsons



# Our new President



Guildford Travel Club is very pleased to welcome David Edwards as our new President. David is a professional mountain walks leader and he is pictured here in the Dolomites. He's also an advisor on earth science, combining this with public speaking and lecturing around the world.

David has been a popular speaker at GTC in recent vears and we look forward to his visit on Tuesday 15th November when he will be speaking on

### The Tragedy of Pompeii: Living with Volcanoes

Don't miss what promises to be a wonderful evening.

www.guildfordtravelclub.org.uk



John Pilkington, GTC President with Rory MacLean



Audrey Olley & Gerry Holman being congratulated as Honorary Life Members by Janet Parsons



Our members enjoying John's amusing stories of his travels



Jenny Allan welcoming members and guests to the 50th Anniversary

## **Celebrating 50 Years for Guildford Travel Club Rosie Spalding**

What a fantastic celebration we had on 19th April. We entertaining enjoyed an evening beginning with a presentation by travel writer Rory MacLean on the littleknown state of Transnistria.

He regaled us with tales of hospitable citizens offering vodka in such curious places as schools and monasteries. He showed us intriguing and atmospheric images taken by photographer Nick Danziger. It was indeed a trip back to the USSR.

During the evening learned that the Club was started by Bay Hyde in March 1966. It has welcomed some illustrious speakers over the years including Ranulph Fiennes and John Blashford-Snell. Janet Parsons presented Gerry Holman and Audrey Olley with Honorary Life Membership of the Club. John Pilkington gave a Vote of Thanks and revealed that his thirst for travel began when he read 'The Travels of Marco Polo' at the age of 12.

Jean and Harry Wickens put together a fascinating display of the Club's history which included advertising material and photographs which can be viewed on the GTC website.

The evening ended with members and visitors enjoying wine and canapés together.



# A Life in Travel - Paul Gillingham

A profile of our new Assistant Programme Secretary



I caught the travel bug in 1954 March when my dad and I boarded a steam train for Strasbourg, Freiburg and Basel.

Pre-university I joined the Swedish Merchant Navy, sailing among icebergs between Scandinavia and Newfoundland.

Canada, then as a volunteer I soon left for Siberia and teacher to Tanzania with camping trips around East Africa and hitchhiking to Cape Town and back. A cargo ship took me to Colombo, but aspirations to travel overland to England ended in a hospital bed in Madurai.

Eight years teaching in an international school in Hong Kong allowed travels around China and Japan and a move Chile and Argentina, Santiainto TV and radio journalism. Post grad studies took me to Returning to England by ship,

the Trans-Siberian Railway. I then worked as a freelance broadcaster, first as a TV presenter, then travelled the world producing radio features. Particularly harrowing was a month in a Rwandan refugee camp in 1994.

Now retired, travel is confined to solo cycle journeys with tent, most recently to go de Compostella and from Guildford to Vienna.

## **GTC Committee**

Chairman Vice Chair/Membership Secretary Treasurer **Programme Secretary Assistant Programme Secretary** Hall Manager & Website Assistant Hall Manager IT Support & Design Volunteer Manager

**Publicity Secretary** 

**Minutes Secretary** 

Janet Parsons Jenny Allan Colin Rumary Carol Busby Paul Gillingham Andrew Luyten Tom Garside Chris Beynon Julia Hilton Rosie Spalding Gillian Appleton

## **GTC Charity for** 2016/2017



The Malala Fund

Inspired by Malala Yousafzai this charity aims to enable girls to complete 12 years of safe, quality education so that they can achieve their potential and be positive change-makers in their families and communities.