



Guildford Travel Club

50 years of travel for travel's sake

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

Welcome to the new look 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-

ens put together for the Club, the memories you sent in and the booklet produced by Gerry Holman.

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 years 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

Please turn over for more news of GTC



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 enjoyed an entertaining evening beginning with a presentation by travel writer Rory MacLean on the little-known 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 we 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 March 1954 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. Post grad studies took me to

Canada, then as a volunteer 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 into TV and radio journalism. Returning to England by ship,

I soon left for Siberia and 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 Chile and Argentina, Santiago 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.