



Guildford Travel Club

50 years of travel for travel's sake

We look forward to welcoming...

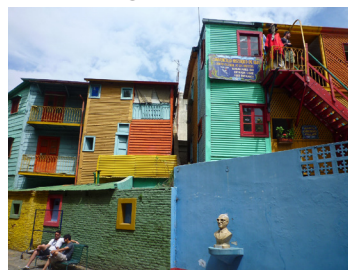
John Pilkington



21st November Russia and Europe—what next?

Our Vice-President returns to talk about Russia's 'forgotten satellite states', the Ukraine and the Caucasus, meeting people on both sides of disputed borders.

Paul Gillingham



5th December Members' Social Evening + Freewheeling Chile & Argentina

Join us for a quiz, buffet with wine and a travel book sale. Paul will also talk about cycle-camping in the Patagonian Lake District and Mendoza.

Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent



16th December Alone in the Jungle

In 2013 travel writer Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent spent two months exploring the remains of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. It proved a thrilling and dangerous journey.

From the Chairman

I'm delighted to report that the 2017/2018 season certainly started on a very high note with a wonderful talk from Felicity Aston MBE on her journey through some of the most extreme winter environments in the world. Judging by your feedback Felicity has joined the ranks of our most popular speakers and we will eagerly await news of her next adventure.

News of the Club's current membership is also very encouraging. Rosie Spalding has put a lot of energy into publicity over the summer months and this, together with an excellent programme from Carol and Paul, has resulted in our membership rising to 155. Looking back to 2012 we had 108 members at this stage of the season. So if you are reading this as a non-member or someone who has not renewed we will be closing the membership at 170 due to the hall capacity. We are keen to continue to welcome visitors to the Club and will continue to monitor numbers to ensure we give priority to members if the overall attendance increases. So make a note to come early for John Pilkington's talk on 21st November as his visits to GTC are always popular!

Do please think about whether you would be willing to show a small number of slides of *your* travels at our Members' Evening early next year. We're keen to encourage as many members as possible to participate in club activities and thank you to those of you who have already signed up to help with refreshments, the Welcome Desk and chairs.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this Newsletter.

Happy travelling, *Janet*

GTC Charity for the Year

Introducing Mercy Ships

In the developed world there are many medical issues that can be treated so quickly and effectively that they often scarcely disrupt the way we live our lives. However in developing countries the situation is massively different. Healthcare systems can be rudimentary, inaccessible and unaffordable to the poorest people.

Mercy Ships offers free medical care on board a hospital ship that docks in some of the poorest countries in the world. The ship is almost entirely staffed by volunteers – teams of nurses, doctors, surgeons and other crew members from all over the world donate their time to work on board for several months at a time.



While the medical volunteers are completing thousands of urgent operations on board, other crew members work with host governments to improve the way health care is delivered across the country by training local medical staff and by renovating hospitals and clinics.

For more information, please see <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>

Sue Rooke

GTC News & Events

Members' Christmas Social - Tuesday 5th December



Do come along to the GTC Social which will be a little different this year.

- Please bring unwanted travel books for our book sale which will replace the raffle
- Wine will be provided by the Club
- A competition designed by Sue Rooke
- And a shorter and easier(!) quiz from Jean and Harry Wickens.

Please bring a plate of sweet or savoury food to share.

New style Members' Evenings

We'd like to encourage more of you to show your slides to other members but realise that presenting a whole evening can be daunting!

We'll be putting out a sign-up sheet to invite you to offer to talk for about 10 minutes about somewhere interesting you've travelled to in recent years.

The technical team on the Committee will then put together a programme and also offer a few slots as well. We'll then agree on a date and book probably the small hall at Onslow Village depending on the level of interest.

We hope to hold the first of these evenings in February next year.

Please do sign up for this. It's your Club and we'd love to hear more about Members' travels



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Early 2018 talks

Brian Anderson



16th January

Yellowstone in Focus

Brian, a photographer and adventurer, tells us about the world's first National Park - geysers and hot springs, magnificent landscapes and stunning wildlife.

Phoebe Smith



30th January

Extreme Sleeps

Adventure in Britain

Editor of Wanderlust by day and extreme sleeping-outdoors adventurer by night, Phoebe thrives on heading off to the wildest locations she can find.

Dr Simon Butler



6th February

The Mediterranean World

Exploring the entire Mediterranean Simon takes us on an epic journey of spectacular beauty, remarkable heritage and profound insights into this culturally dynamic region.

Book review - Rosie Spalding

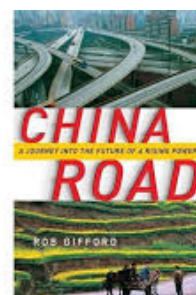
Have you read any good travel books lately? If so we would love to hear about them. Do send a short book review (about 150 words) together with an image of the book cover to sharon.leigh74@ntlworld.com. One review will be included in each newsletter. It does not have to relate to the season's talks.

'China Road' by Rob Gifford (2007) ISBN 1-4000-6467-8

Rob Gifford lived and worked as a journalist in China for many years and is a fluent Mandarin speaker. This book chronicles a journey he makes just before he returns to the UK to work. He sets out to take Route 312, China's answer to Route 66, from Shanghai to the Kazakhstan

border, a distance of 3000 miles. Along the way he meets an eclectic range of people from Emily, a highly educated 20-something party member, a beggar with a husband suffering from leukaemia and no money for treatment, a doctor whose job it is to keep an eye on women of childbearing age and deal with the consequences of a second pregnancy, AIDS patients affected by the blood selling for money scandal of the 1990s, Tibetan monks, Uighur Muslims and a seed salesman who is hopeful the West will soon come to respect China. Rob challenges the people he meets with some tough questions including the growing gaps between urban rich and rural poor,

the disappearance of free cradle to grave health care, pollution, and corruption. He even meets an Indian who is reluctant to discuss the relative merits of the Indian v Chinese political systems but Rob draws his own conclusions nevertheless. He manages to cover the history of China, the development of the Chinese alphabet and Chinese religious life as well.



Meet a member - Chris Beynon, one of our popular speakers and Committee member for IT & Design

When did your interest in travel begin?

Family holidays were usually camping somewhere in Britain, and my first clear travel memory was on Skye, battling into a gale at Uig to walk from the tent to the toilet block! The gale flattened most of the tents on the campsite, and stopped the ferries running for a few days.

Where was your first foreign travel experience?

Apart from a handful of family trips abroad, my first two trips were cycling around Ireland, staying in youth hostels, and then cycle camping from St Malo to the Massif Central and then across the Pyrenees into Spain. That was at the end of my second year at Uni.

Where to next?

I am going to Nepal at the end of October. I've only been once before, at the end of a slightly mad DIY Lhasa-Kathmandu cycle ride back in 2000. So this longer visit, mountain biking in the foothills, is well overdue. Some of the areas we will ride through were badly

hit in the 2015 earthquake, but I'm told that reconstruction there has been thorough.

Your preferred type of holiday?

Somewhere with good scenery and interesting culture. Most trips have been cycling, but I want to do more trekking. I've recently got back from a long weekend trekking in Swedish Lapland, and climbing Kebnekaise in snow was definitely different to my usual cycling!

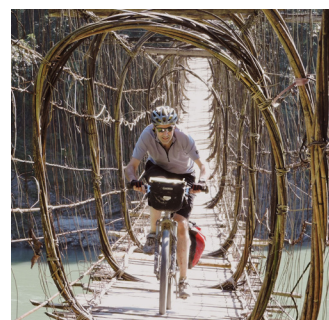
Your favourite place?

Without doubt, Bhutan is the most magical place I've been to, but it's Ladakh in NW India

that I keep going back to, with its mix of barren high altitude mountain scenery, fertile valleys, and Buddhist culture.

What would you never travel without?

An eye mask and noise cancelling headphones, plus a camera.



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
Sue Rooke



Please sign up!