



Guildford Travel Club

travel for travel's sake

From the Chairman

I don't think that any of us quite anticipated the numbers of both members and visitors who came along to the first meeting of the season. It shows how popular the Club has become in recent years and reflects the hard work of our Committee in putting together a range of excellent speakers and publicising these so effectively across the Guildford area and beyond.

But our success has come with challenges as to how to move forward from here. As I mentioned at our recent meeting the Committee has agreed to continue the freeze on membership which we will review next term. We are very conscious of our responsibility to continue to keep the Club a welcoming and comfortable place to visit and that means that we must restrict numbers if these exceed a manageable number. We have opened a Waiting List and would encourage any ex-members to put their names down. One of two of you have asked us to explore alternative venues and we have considered your suggestions. However we are not looking to expand the Club and feel that Onslow Village Hall has the facilities and the ambience which suits GTC therefore we will remain here for the foreseeable future.

We have an exciting programme of talks to look forward to this season with visits from our retiring President, David Edwards, in January and Paul Goldstein in the spring as well as many new speakers. I'm very pleased that Sharon Collins who participated in our Members' Slide Evening earlier this year will be sharing more of her travels at the AGM. So if you would like to show us slides of *your* travels at next February's event do please sign up.

Enjoy your membership of GTC and look out for news of our new President in the near future.

Best wishes **Janet**

A Year of Travel — by Barbara Rogers GTC Membership Secretary

2017/18 has been a fantastic year of travel for me. In November last year I went to North East India, in particular, Assam & Nagaland, highlighted by the Hornbill Festival, a celebration of dancing from the seven states in that area. In April & May I visited the three European cities of Bologna, Basel and Copenhagen. Basel was a trip to visit family, Bologna was a language learning holiday but also to find out more about this city with a history. Copenhagen was architecturally interesting, oriented around the water with a rail bridge across to Sweden.

My major trip of the year was an adventure to Australia, almost three holidays in one. The first leg was to the north-west, travelling from Broome to Darwin, an area called the Kimberley. The region is beautifully wild with extensive savannah dotted with a variety of eucalyptus and boab trees, wide and full rivers, mountain ranges, beautiful rock formations, waterfalls and gorges. Getting lost is no joke in this area and every traveller must be equipped with spare tyres, plenty of water and a practical person onboard in case of a breakdown.

We saw aboriginal rock art in situ and learned how the federal government has given a lot of land back to the aborigines in an attempt to make amends for the past. We then went on to Central Australia where we visited the iconic places of Alice Springs, McDonnell Ranges, Kings Canyon, Uluru (where it rained!) and The Olgas.

After flying back to Sydney where my travelling companions live and spending a few days there, I joined the Indian Pacific railway to travel across the country back to Perth, a journey of about 3500 kilometres for three days with about 200 other passengers for my final experience.

It was fascinating to witness the great expanses of land and in particular the Nullarbor Plain (literally no trees) was soporific in its emptiness but I really

Pre-Christmas talks



Jenny Tough
20th November
Running the World's Mountains
Join Jenny on her world first solo mountain running expeditions which include the High Atlas in Morocco and the Sierra Occidental in Bolivia.



Sam McManus
18th December
Nomads in the Tian Shan
Sam goes hiking, climbing and horse-riding in the Tian Shan Mountains and around the great lakes of Kyrgyzstan. He finds time to attend the 2018 World Nomad Games too.



enjoyed it and it gave me the opportunity to find out more about the country from the Australians on the train.

So where next? Japan in two weeks time!



GTC Christmas Social Tuesday 4th December

A reminder that this year we're asking you to sign up if you'd like to come along to our Christmas Social Evening.



100 places available only

- * Please sign the list at the back of the hall
- * Bring a plate of sweet or savoury food to share
- * Wine will be provided by the Club
- * Quiz on "Christmas Around the World"
- * Competitions in aid of Mercy Ships—see over

After supper Janet will speak on the beautiful country of Palestine and her visit last year to its wonderful sites as well as several interesting communities

DO SIGN UP EARLY TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!



Members' Slide Evening Saturday 23rd February

Following the success of our Members' Slide Evening last season we plan to hold another evening next term and we'd like to encourage you to show slides of your travels to other members.

This will also be a Social Evening and there will be tables in café style and a bar.

Please sign-up if you're willing to give a talk for 15 minutes about somewhere interesting you've travelled to in recent years.

The technical team on the Committee will be on hand to give any advice needed and will put together a programme of about five talks.

Many of you have told us how much you enjoyed the last evening so please do sign up and also we hope to see a good number of members in the audience as well.

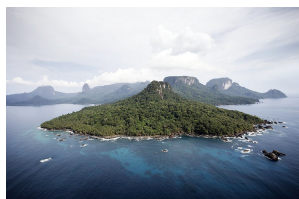


Talks for early 2019



David Edwards
15th January
Hawaii – The Pacific Anomaly

David explores this fascinating island, visiting Pearl Harbour, seeing the island's volcanic activity and experiencing some diverse cultures and wildlife.



Ian Coates
29th January
Portugal's 23 Atlantic Islands

Ian explores some of the Portuguese Atlantic islands visiting well known ones such as Madeira and Cape Verde and some of the lesser known ones such as Sao Tome.



Chris Beynon
5th February
Indian and Nepalese Himalayas

Chris takes his bike to Arunachal Pradesh in NE India, still a little-visited remote area, and compares it with the more mainstream tourist areas of Nepal.

Booking your holidays for 2019?

Be sure not to miss the first talk of the 2019/2020 season when John Pilkington will be bringing us his new talk

"To Eritrea and Ethiopia" Retracing a Victorian Expedition

John followed the route of a British government expedition to rescue European hostages in the Ethiopian highlands. He travelled partly on foot with a donkey and compares these dramatic and challenging lands then and now.

History and adventure combined from one of our best-loved speakers.

Book Review

Following Catherine Moorehead's talk on Iran we are including a topical review by our Publicity Secretary Rosie Spalding

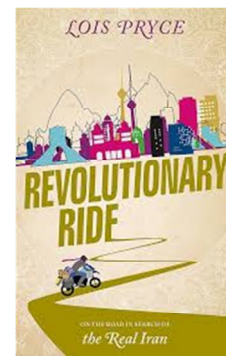
Have you read any good travel books lately? If so we would love to hear about them. Do send a short book review (200 – 250 words) together with an image of the book cover to sharon.leigh74@ntlworld.com. Your review does not have to relate to the season's talks. One review will be included in each newsletter. This time I have chosen a journey through Iran, following part of the route of our recent speaker Catherine Moorehead including the Alborz Mountains and the Valley of the Assassins.

'Revolutionary Road' by Lois Pryce (2017)

In December 2011 Lois finds a handwritten note on her motorbike from Habib, inviting her to visit his country of Iran. 'It is very beautiful, and the Persian people are the most welcoming in the world' the note says. How can she resist the challenge? In 2013 she finally sets out for Iran on her bike. She describes the cities vividly and contrasts the buzz of Tabriz and its giant bazaar with the gentility of Isfahan and its refined boulevards, Yazd and its tranquil antique alleys and the madness of the road system in Tehran.

Lois does indeed meet many friendly and welcoming people along the way who are keen to feed her at every opportunity, including Nahid who has no expectations of equality or justice for women and Raha, the glamorous business woman who has studied luxury brand management in the US. She is also offered hospitality by Hossein and Leila who have returned to Iran from Canada because they have missed the warmth of the Iranian people. She learns much about current views on religion, politics, religion and the massive drug problem existing in the country. She does experience some unpleasant encounters too with four of the 'basiji', Ahmadinejad's revolutionary guard, who force her off the road and a frightening encounter with a drug-fuelled petrol pump attendant in the desert. Lois ends her journey in Shiraz, home of Habib, and she visits nearby Persepolis, ancient Persian capital and venue for the most extravagant party in the world, thrown by the Shar in 1970 to celebrate 2500 years of Persian Monarchy.

Lois writes with warmth, a feisty attitude and great humour. An image lingers of her 'day off' in a hotel room watching TV with Hugh Bonneville speaking in Arabic in an episode of Downton Abbey.



A reminder about the charity which GTC is supporting for a second year.

Mercy Ships is an international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in world, delivering free healthcare to people in desperate need. We'll be supporting its work at our Christmas Social.



PLEASE KEEP SIGNING UP!

- * Refreshments
- * Chairs
- * Welcome Desk



Please sign the lists at the back of the hall or speak to Tempe Mansfield—our Volunteer Manager for more information

Thank you to those who have signed up in recent weeks

GTC Committee

Chairman	Janet Parsons
Vice Chair & Minutes Secretary	Sue Rooke
Treasurer	Colin Rumary
Membership Secretary	Barbara Rogers
Programme Secretary	Carol Busby
Assistant Programme Secretary	Paul Gillingham
Hall Manager & Website	Andrew Luyten
Assistant Hall Manager	Tom Garside
IT Support & Design	Chris Beynon
Volunteer Manager	Tempe Mansfield
Publicity Secretary	Rosie Spalding