

New season starts 1st October

The 2019/20 Guildford Travel Club season starts on 1st October and will see regular favourite speakers such as John Pilkington and Chris Forse return and includes travel to Ethiopia, Mongolia and Georgia. Other highlights include Japan, the Amazon and closer to home the UK! We do hope you will re-join the club to enjoy travelling with us. See the [GTC website](#) for the full programme

We are delighted that this season Leon McCarron will take over as President of the Club for a three year term. Leon is an accomplished adventurer having undertaken a number of long distance, human-powered journeys. We look forward to hearing about his travels on 17th December when he will talk about his most recent trip, when he walked 1000 miles from Jerusalem to Mount Sinai along a series of new hiking trails. For more on Leon see [Leon's website](#)

This season we are trialling a move to an electronic newsletter, to enable us to share more with our members in a simpler way. We also hope to be able to encourage members to share their travel experiences through 'postcards' in the newsletter, so that other members can benefit from your experiences and suggestions.



Membership renewals now open

You should all by now have received your Membership renewal requests, open **exclusively to existing members until September 30th** after which new members will be invited to join the club before the first meeting on 1st October. We urge you to act quickly with your membership renewal, as there are a number of keen applicants waiting to join. The cost of renewal remains at £32 a year for 14 talks - great value!

To simplify and speed up the renewals process, we have provided pre-populated forms this year and encourage members to pay electronically where possible, following the instructions on the form. Thank you to those who have already renewed, we look forward to seeing you again soon.

If you have any membership queries please get in touch with Barbara Rogers, Membership Secretary on 07899 868128 or email to info@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk. Please note that Barbara will be taking holiday from 1st September to 17th September.

Volunteers needed, please sign up

As ever, **we need volunteers to assist in the running of the Club**. I hope you will come to the first meeting on 1st October with your diaries and sign up for the Welcome Desk, Putting out Chairs (which needs 4 people) and Serving Refreshments. The sign up sheets will be at the back of the hall.

Any offers of help for the first meeting would be very welcome. Please contact Tempe through volunteers@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk. Many thanks indeed and I look forward to seeing you at meetings.

First Talks



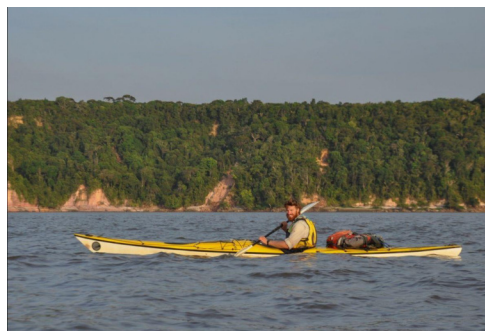
To Eritrea and Ethiopia: A Victorian Quest

October 1st

John Pilkington

Partly on foot with a donkey, John retraces the route taken by an 1868 British expedition to the Abyssinian highlands, meeting spirited people in extremely challenging lands.

For full description see the [GTC website](#).



Kayaking the Amazon

October 22nd

Olie Hunter Smart

Olie and a friend took on the immense challenge to travel the length of the Amazon, a self-supported 4,000-mile journey from its source in the Peruvian Andes to the Atlantic.

For full description see the [GTC website](#).

Travelling Life – Barbara Wyss

This will be my fourth season at travel club. I'm amazed how much it's grown, even in this short space of time, as a result of the quality and diversity of talks. It inspires me to travel even more!



1. When did your interest in travel begin?

Three weeks spent in Jamaica when I was 21 fuelled my desire to travel.

2. Your first foreign travel experience?

My first time abroad was on a Mediterranean cruise when I was 12. My father worked on the ocean liners at the time.

3. Preferred type of travel experience?

I generally prefer landscapes and countryside to the noise and bustle of cities.

4. Where is your favourite place?

That's a difficult one. Spending three weeks driving 3000 miles through South Africa, across the Transkei area and the Drakensberg Mountains was very memorable as was my visit to Namibia and Botswana, which included a short trip to Zimbabwe to view the Victoria Falls. Holidays to the Far East – Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and the Western Canadian Rockies are also favourites, albeit the latter being exhausting, again driving 3000 miles. Last year we did a road trip to California. The scenery was so diverse from the coast to the interiors of the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park. Another 2000 miles!

5. What would you never travel without?

I ensure I travel with a selection of sudoku puzzles, crosswords and magazines so that I have plenty to occupy me while travelling and on the occasional rest day.

6. Where to next?

New Zealand is beckoning.

'Postcards' from our members

Members of the club are very well travelled and so it would be great to connect members with common interests, and enable members to share some of their travel experience. So we are keen for members to send us a 'postcard' from their travels to include within the newsletter.

For this first edition of the newsletter members of the committee have shared some of their recent travels to get us started. Do please email in a photo and caption of your recent trip to share where you have visited – a postcard to the club! Please email newsletter@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk.

Indian Journey - Barbara Rogers

I recently returned from a fascinating train journey across North India, boarding six trains and 'sleeping' overnight from



Varanasi to Agra; the shortest leg was four/five hours!

Starting in Calcutta and ending in Amritsar we visited the home of Buddhism in Bodhgaya, learnt about the rule of the Moguls in Agra, the deities of Hinduism all along the way and finally the teachings of Sikhism in Amritsar. We visited so many wonderful buildings including the Taj Mahal and the Golden Temple.

This holiday for me was about the mixed experience of a long Indian train journey, and learning about the teachings of the different religious thinkers.

Annecy, France - Sue Rooke

It always takes us ages to decide where to go and it was no exception for our short break mid-June. As we had limited time it made sense to stick to Europe but we still had a vast array of choices. A familiar or non-familiar country? Better weather than the UK or would the same do? Mountains or coast? There were lots of options but at last we found the solution, Annecy in South East France.



We went by train – just one easy change in Paris. I am pleased to report a successful holiday with boat trips, walks, culture, sun and good food. We had seen the reports before travelling that the water levels in Lake Annecy had reached record lows, but were pleased to find that a lake fed from water from the Alps was full in June!



North West Argentina - Chris Beynon

I am just back from the far north-west of Argentina, up near the borders with Chile and Bolivia. Yes, it is mid-winter down there, but it's the best time to visit that region because it's warm during the day, with wall to wall sunshine.

I saw a mixture of stunning mountain scenery, vineyards and colonial architecture, with a population far less European than the rest of the country. In case you were wondering, no I didn't

cause the power cut on the first morning I was there, which took out all of Argentina and some surrounding countries!

Notices

Members talks: After a couple of very successful members evenings in recent years, this year we have decided to combine the social evening with talks from members. So we are looking for a number of members to give us a 15minute talk on their recent travels on 3rd December. Do please let Tom Garside know if you have a trip to share, or add your name to the signup sheet in the hall. The committee can guide and support you with preparing the talk and support technically.

Iran Adventure: Catherine Moorehead (GTC talks on Bhutan, N Korea & Iran) is looking for a travelling companion (or couple) to Iran from April 8 to 21 next year. Basic cost £3150pp (or less with couple), plus tips, visa, insurance, some meals. Includes flights and own room in good hotels. Tailor-made route with driver-guide and own car. Outline route: Shiraz & Persepolis/Pasagardae - Kerman (excursion to Mahan and Rayen) - Yazd (excursion to Chuka Chuka) - Isfahan - Kashan via Abyaneh - Qom - Tehran Airport (but not Tehran). If interested, please email Catherine at katejism@btinternet.com

Jordan: Silk Road Adventures' have a couple of last-minutes places available on their autumn hiking trip in Jordan. The journey, led by Leon McCarron on 5-19 October, offers two weeks of walking along the world-famous Jordan Trail, taking in the best sections of the route from north to south. Expect to pass through Petra, Wadi Rum and alongside the Dead Sea, as well as taking in a variety of landscapes from lush green hills in the north to craggy, rocky gorges and the crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Aqaba. It is available to all reasonably fit and experienced hikers, and is the perfect chance to see the Holy Land at three miles per hour. For more information visit: <https://silkroad-adventures.com/tours/hike-jordan-trail-with-leon-mccarron/> or contact Silk Road Adventures at: Travel@silkroad-adventures.com

Privacy policy: The GTC Privacy Policy has recently been updated to reflect that we are now using the MailChimp application to distribute newsletters in the future. See the [GTC Website](#) for revised policy.

Contacts

Membership: Barbara Rogers

Email: info@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk

Chair: Tom Garside

Email: chair@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk

Copyright © 2019 Guildford Travel Club, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you were a member of Guildford Travel Club in 2018/19

Our mailing address is:

Guildford Travel Club
11 Cheselden Road
Guildford, Surrey GU1 3SB
United Kingdom

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

