

Shell Travel Club Newsletter

ISSUE 372 September 2025

Chairman: Robert Jenkins

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Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you well and having had an enjoyable summer.

Autumn is now upon us with a drop in temperature, changes in the weather and darkening evenings! Christmas will soon be with us!

Since the last newsletter in May, Allison and myself ran one of our 'mystery' trips to Gloucestershire. On the journey from Cobham Services, we made a stop at Bourton-on-the-Water for some sightseeing followed by lunch and drinks. The 4* hotel we stayed at was a good base for the varied excursions that we did on each of the days we were away including a boat (well actually 3 small boats) trip which was very enjoyable. On our return journey to Cobham, we stopped off at Chedworth Roman Villa which was very interesting.

At the time of writing, Bruce is away sunning himself in Croatia with some of our members on a yacht cruise. More of this trip will follow in the January newsletter.

On the 23rd September, Allison and myself will be taking a group of 34 members to France where we will stay for 4 nights in Cour-Cheverny in the Loire before moving on to Reims in the Champagne region. It is a packed itinerary where we will visit many wine and Champagne houses to sample their latest vintages and try out numerous restaurants enjoying the local cuisine. My guess is we will all need another holiday once back to recover! An update as to how it went will follow in the January newsletter.

The Festive Lunch is booked at the Effingham Golf Club on the 3rd December, 2025 and Bruce who looks after this event will be issuing the menu during October. If you are intending coming to this event and haven't already let Bruce know, please send him an email confirming your attendance. Bruce can be contacted on brucestc75@gmail.com.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have booked Tyrrells Wood Golf Club for Wednesday 11th March for our AGM. Tyrrells Wood is one of the finest golf clubs in Surrey and is easily accessible from the A3, A24 and M25. Once again, Bruce is our lead on this event and he has already booked an after-luncheon speaker from Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. More details will follow but in the meantime, please add this date to your diary. Our Secretary Bob Fowler is collecting the names of attendees so please let Bob know on mail@robertfowler.plus.com if you are planning to attend.

On the 28th June, Allison and myself will be running a 5 night/6 day trip to Shropshire by coach. The hotel and coach have been booked and we will shortly start to put the itinerary together. If you are interested in joining this trip, let me know on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk as only limited places remain.

On 11th September, Bruce will be running a French river cruise with Riviera on the Rhone travelling between Lyon and Marseille. This trip has already sold out and a 'wait' list is in operation. Should this appeal to you then ask Bruce on brucestc75@gmail.com to put your name on the wait list.

On the 8th October, Dave Lee is running a 7 day trip to Carcassonne, France by rail. This sounds a wonderful trip and I know that Dave already has many bookings for it. If you are interested in joining this trip or want further details, then please email Dave on home38@outlook.com.

Frieda has been busy exploring various interesting places to take members to on day trips. A trip is planned to the Society of Apothecaries, Blackfriars Lane, London on Wednesday 5th November 2025. During the summer, Frieda has also been visiting different venues for day trips in 2026 i.e. State Apartments of the Speaker of the House of Commons, tour of Houses of Commons and Lords, Kenwood House and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Some of these tours have been taken from a growing list of places to visit sent to Frieda by members of the club. We will keep you up-dated with details sent to you by email as and when a day trip is released.

Dave is looking into offering another Rail Steam Day trip for 2026. So far, only dates up to end March have been released. These are all 'long distance' and therefore early start and late finish from London Euston or Kings Cross heading north for the day. The steam engine joins us later in the day and detaches prior to our return, but the carriages are 'classic Brit Rail' as we (fondly) remember. These trips do provide the option for members who are north of Watford to join the train later (not much!) in the morning at a number of locations and get dropped back obviously earlier. It may be thought useful to book yourselves a London hotel for the previous night, because of the early start, but this will obviously increase your costs. Perhaps anyone who may be interested could email Dave on home38@outlook.com with their thoughts on long distance travel on this scale, or a preference for a shorter, fully steam hauled trip. Pricing would be broadly similar to the Eastbourne steam trip.

As always, we try and give members a variety of different trips to new locations along with a programme of day trips which we hope appeal to our members and in return you show your support and join us on as many as you can.

Please remember, all current trips and future trips can be found on our website www.shelltravelclub.com which Sally updates regularly, along with photos from past trips, newsletters and much more, so please log on and check the site regularly.

Lastly, as many of you are aware, at this year's AGM I announced my intention to stand down as Chairman of the STC at the AGM in 2026. By that time, I would have been on the committee for 14 years and 10 of those as Chairman. Maybe it is time for new blood and someone else to steer the club. To date, no one has come forward. If this role is of interest to any member then please let me know.

The committee and myself wish you a very enjoyable remainder of 2025 and look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes,

Rob

Shell Travel Club Holiday Schedule 2025/2026

5 th November 2025	Apothecaries Hall Day Trip Contact: Frieda Boase Email: friedaboase@gmail.com	£16pp
3 rd December 2025	Festive Lunch Contact: Bruce Ogilvy Email: bruce75@gmail.com	TBD
11 th March 2026	AGM Contact: Bob Fowler Email: mail@robertfowler.plus.com	TBD
28 th June 2026	Shropshire Mystery Tour Contact: Rob Jenkins Email: robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk	TBD
11 th September 2026	French Rhone River Cruise Contact: Bruce Ogilvy Email: bruce75@gmail.com	from £2873.75pp
8 th October 2026	Carcassonne by Rail Contact: Dave Lee Email: home38@outlook.com	from £1899pp