

Shell Travel Club Newsletter

ISSUE 373 January 2026

Chairman: Robert Jenkins

Email: robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk



Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you well and having had an enjoyable Christmas. The committee and myself wish you and your families a very happy and healthy 2026 and we look forward to seeing you on one of our trips or functions during the year.

Since the last newsletter in September, Bruce returned from his yacht cruise in Croatia. Despite arriving in Split over 2 hours late the ship's crew stayed on duty and gave us a large platter of cold meats and cheeses which we washed down with plenty of red wine. Even though our group was only 8 we enjoyed a number of dinners ashore. The ship was well founded and the crew were attentive and looked after us well. The coast of Croatia north of Split is very attractive with some spectacular scenery and was much quieter than the southern route. We had plenty of sun, plenty of swimming and great sea food nearly every day.

Allison and myself completed our 7 night two centre trip to the Loire and Champagne regions of France with a group of 34 members. We spent much time visiting various Domaines in both regions exploring their vineyards, being shown the production of the wine from harvest to bottling and of course, sampling the many wines and Champagnes produced at the individual Domaines. On top of that, we enjoyed many wonderful meals involving local cuisine and copious amounts of alcohol. The trip was such a success, many members asked if we would consider running another trip to the Burgundy region in 2027. Bookings are now being taken for this trip. Contact Rob for a Booking Form on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk.

On the 5th November, Frieda took a party of members on a trip to the Society of Apothecaries, Blackfriars Lane, London.

The Festive Lunch took place at the Effingham Golf Club on the 3rd December 2025. Although I wasn't able to attend, I understand it was a great success and the food even better than it was the previous year. Numbers attending this year were 38 which is disappointing given the amount of work and time that is put in by Bruce to be able to offer this event to members. Also, a fair proportion of those attending this event were committee members and spouses. We have reviewed this event at our recent committee meeting and although the attendance by members is low, we have decided that we will once again run this event this year and the date has been set as Wednesday 9th December 2026. It would be really appreciated if as many of you could attend this event and would ask that you put the date in your diary **NOW**.

Looking ahead to 2026, as you are already aware, 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 J9 Leatherhead (only 4 miles from the exit). Once again, Bruce is our lead on this event and he has booked an after luncheon volunteer speaker from the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. This is an incredibly important organisation funded mainly by public donations. There will be an opportunity for members to make a contribution either by cash or card after the talk should you wish to do so. As a Club, the Committee has decided to donate £200. This

year, the cost for the lunch is £31.50 per person, however, the Committee have decided to subsidise this by £10 meaning members will only pay £21.50. We have done this to promote the event and encourage member attendance which again, like the Festive Lunch, has continued to fall during the past few years. The formal notice of the AGM has now gone out to members so please add this date to your diary and let Bruce know on brucestc75@gmail.com if you are planning to attend. Please don't leave it too late as we need to advise Tyrells Wood on numbers for lunch.

We urge you to attend if you can as it is your opportunity to have your say and to suggest tours or trips or events.

On the 28th June, Allison and I will be running a 5 night/6 day trip to Shropshire by coach. The hotel and coach have been booked and the itinerary pretty much finalised. This trip is now full but if you are interested in joining this trip, let me know on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk and I can add you to a 'wait' list.

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 some bookings for it. If you are interested in joining this trip or want further details, then please email Dave on home38@outlook.com.

Frieda spent much of the summer exploring and visiting various interesting places to take members on day trips in 2026. These included the State Apartments of the Speaker of the House of Commons, tour of Houses of Commons and Lords, Kenwood House and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. We will keep you updated with details sent to you by email as and when a day trip is released.

Following on from the wine trip last September and members' wish to visit Burgundy, I am pleased to advise that Allison and myself will be running a trip to the Burgundy and Champagne regions of France sometime between mid May and mid June, 2027. It is likely to be an eight night/nine day trip. Hotel accommodation is currently being booked for those members who have said they wish to join this trip. There is now a limit on further availability so for those members who are genuinely interested in joining this trip and haven't yet contacted Rob, then please let him know urgently on robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk and a place may be found subject to availability.

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 as many of our members as possible and in return all we ask is that 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 last years' AGM, I announced my intention to stand down as Chairman of the STC at the 2026 AGM. At this time, no one has come forward to take over the role. At our recent committee meeting, I agreed to stay on as Chairman and continue to take an active part in the Shell Travel Club. However, as part of me doing so, I wanted to pass on the responsibility of writing the Newsletter to another member of the committee. I am now finishing off my final three times a year Newsletter which I hope you've enjoyed reading for the past 10 years. I now pass on that responsibility to Jonathan Boase who will be writing it from May 2026.

The committee and I once again wish you our very best wishes for 2026 and look forward to seeing you soon.

Rob

Shell Travel Club Holiday Schedule 2025/2026

11th March 2026	AGM	£21.50pp
	Contact: Bruce Ogilvy	
	Email: brucestc75@gmail.com	
28th June 2026	Shropshire Mystery Tour	TBD
	Contact: Rob Jenkins	
	Email: robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk	
11th September 2026	French Rhone River Cruise	from £2873.75pp
	Contact: Bruce Ogilvy	
	Email: brucestc75@gmail.com	
8th October 2026	Carcassonne by Rail	from £2399pp
	Contact: Dave Lee	
	Email: home38@outlook.com	
18th May 2027	Burgundy & Champagne Tour	TBD
	Contact: Rob Jenkins	
	Email: robert.jenkins@hotmail.co.uk	