

Shell Travel Club Newsletter

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Dear Shell Travel Club Members,

I hope that this finds you and your family well and having had an enjoyable summer although the weather could have probably been much better.

Since the last newsletter, we have completed two trips. In early June, 47 members travelled to Reims for, what was before Covid, our annual Champagne Tour. Our 6 day trip went without a hitch and we even managed to get a slightly earlier Eurotunnel out and back home. We visited a number of first class vineyards, some known to us and several new ones. Whilst in the region, we also took time out for a river cruise with lunch (and drink) on the Marne and found some good restaurants to eat between visits to the vineyards.

Our second trip was to Worcestershire for the 5 night/6 day Mystery trip. Shortly before the trip, the destination was released to members. It was to the 4* Stanbrook Abbey Hotel which, in an earlier life was home to a large number of nuns and still retains the atmosphere in the beautiful cloisters and Chapel. The hotel and food was fabulous and staff excellent. During our time in Worcestershire our itinerary was both interesting and varied. We had lunch on the way to Worcester at a cider farm where we sampled many perry's and cider's and finished with a Ploughman's lunch. On our first evening, we had a Champagne reception with bottles purchased in France during our trip in June. During our trip, we visited such places as Forgehill Needle Museum, Morgan Car Company, Malvern Abbey, Avoncroft Rural Museum and expert collector's talk at Royal Worcester Porcelain. At each venue tours were arranged and our guides were very knowledgeable. Considering that this trip included the tours mentioned above with all hotel meals and some lunches, not to mention the free champagne, it was excellent value for well less than £900pp.

We continue to have excellent support from members for the day trips in and around London. In July on a warm sunny day members joined a Blue Badge guide for a circular walk starting at St Paul's underground station and finishing at St Paul's Cathedral. Along the way we took in stories of bombing and bravery during the Blitz of 1940/41, life in the underground shelters and the night St Paul's burned. The story of how the City came through the destruction to rise like a phoenix from the flames told by people who lived through it and extracts from the diary of an 18 year old boy. Our next day trip in October is to Vintners' Hall, with its origins steeped in the history of the City of London and the import, regulation and sale of wine; it continues to maintain strong links with the wine trade known as the "spiritual home of the international wine trade". And much more: with its current trade, social, charitable and educational interests, it continues to play an important role in the 21st century. Contact friedaboase@gmail.com for more information and details of any day trips you wish to add to the list.

This years Festive Lunch has been booked for **Friday 8th December** at Effingham Golf Club, a venue which is frequented by other Shell clubs and organisations. Bruce is now finalising

arrangements but I understand that the food is excellent and there's plenty of parking. Lets make the 2023 Festive Lunch an opportunity to bring as many of the members together as possible and something we look back on with fond memories. Please put this date in your diary and watch out for an email which will be sent out very soon where you will have your choice of either a 2 or 3 course menu.

Looking forward to 2024, our AGM has been booked at Silvermere, Cobham for **Wednesday 6th March**. We know from past experience, this venue gives us exactly what we need along with good food and plenty of parking. More information will be available soon but in the meantime, please put this date in your diary. It offers a great opportunity to meet up with friends and past colleagues. If you have any questions then please contact Bruce bruce75@gmail.com who is dealing with all the arrangements.

On the 5th May, Steve is running a 7 night trip to Tuscany. There may still be availability for more members to join this holiday but any further reservations would be subject to a payment for the hotel and flights. If any member wants to look at this option please contact Steve on steven_jones_2@sky.com. Further details with flight times etc. will be sent before Christmas to those members who have already paid their deposits.

On the 8th September, Bruce will be leading a river cruise trip on the Douro in Portugal. For more information on the trip then please check the web site or contact Bruce on bruce75@gmail.com

Whilst on our Worcestershire trip, many members asked if we would consider doing a similar UK trip in 2024. Watch this space but if we do, it will be towards the end of September.

As you can see, your committee have and continue to put together varied trips that we hope will appeal to a wide range of members. **All we ask is that you show your support and join as many as you can.**

On other news, many of you will have seen the article on the STC in the September edition of the SPA news. This I understand has generated quite a response from SPA members interested in joining the STC. Sally is currently working through these requests.

Sally continues to work on our website where much information can be found and all new trips are uploaded on to it. If you haven't looked at it recently, then please spend a few minutes and visit the site – www.shelltravelclub.com

The Committee and myself look forward to seeing you at the Festive Lunch in December and until then, we send our best wishes to you all,

Rob

Worcester Holiday September 2023 Photos

