



Guildford Travel Club

travel for travel's sake

Talks for the new season

Catherine Moorehead



2nd October Northern Iran: Assassins and Gold

Catherine found Iran a sleeping but welcoming giant as she travelled from Tabriz, across the Zagros Plateau and then headed for the Great Salt Desert, one of the hottest areas on the planet.

Stephen Fabes



16th October Cycling the Six Continents

Doctor Stephen Fabes took six years to cycle across every continent, except Antarctica, visiting remote medical centres along the way concerned with the treatment of the marginalised people of the world.

Charlie Knight



6th November A Long Walk from Mexico to Canada

Charlie trekked 2650 miles from Mexico to Canada, along the Pacific Crest Trail, crossing snowfields and encountering dangerous wildlife but here were highlights too, experiencing the Sierra Nevada and the Three Sisters' Wilderness.

From the Chairman

I hope you are enjoying the summer and some of you will I'm sure have some exciting travels to share when we return on 2nd October. The new programme is enclosed with your Membership Renewal Form and includes talks from some familiar faces - Catherine Moorehead, Paul Goldstein and our President, David Edwards, as well as some new faces who will take us all over the world. One further date to pencil in your diaries is Saturday 23rd February 2019 when we will be holding a further Members' Social Evening after this year's very successful presentations and we hope that a number of you will show us your slides and tell us about your recent travels.

Two new Committee members have joined us this season - Barbara Rogers will be heading up the team on the Welcome Desk and Tempe Mansfield will be taking over as Volunteer Coordinator with responsibility for refreshments. Please do support Tempe by signing up to help in the kitchen, welcoming members and visitors and helping to put out chairs.

Please note that we've made a slight change to membership renewals this year to ensure that we give existing members priority and we would ask you to apply early and before the season starts please. MEMBERS ONLY will be able to renew for the first six weeks following receipt of this mailing and from 2nd October 2018 membership will be open to new members as well as existing ones. If necessary we will start a waiting list once we reach what the Committee have agreed is the maximum number the hall can accommodate. I very much hope that you will rejoin the Club. As I said at the AGM we are really on the map and a sought-after venue on the speaker circuit. There's no need to travel to London to hear the best speakers! The Committee looks forward to seeing you for what I'm sure will be a memorable start to the season with one of our most popular and entertaining speakers.

Janet

Introducing Sue Rooke, our new Vice-Chairman

When did your interest in travel begin?

Due to house moves with my father's job during my childhood our coverage of the UK for family holidays was impressive.

Where was your first foreign travel experience?

I have been lucky to travel overseas extensively in my adult life through holidays and with work. My first major trip was with the International Red Cross to Nicaragua and El Salvador in the late 80s. My travel companion was on his 10th passport and I had never been outside Europe. It was a massive culture shock but luckily one I embraced. Travelling in the international charity sector might not get me to all the hot tourist spots but gives a fascinating insight into

the daily lives for people in the countries I visit.

Where to next?

Work continues to take me abroad fairly regularly and so I do have to make sure that holidays don't get side-lined. We are looking at spending time in Southern Africa later in the year - Botswana? Namibia? We need to make our minds up soon. GTC does not help, as we come away from each meeting with a new destination on our "to do" list.

Your preferred type of holiday?

A mixture - culture and nature. We like to tour but it is also a bonus to be able to base ourselves somewhere and avoid the never-ending packing and unpacking.



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2018 - 2019 Season

Iran - Nepal - Hawaii - Swaziland -
Kyrgyzstan - Palestine - Mexico...
just some of the places visited

Photo © Chris Beynon

GTC Committee 2018/19

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

Your favourite place?

There are so many but if really pressed, we would choose Iceland. I suddenly understood all those geography lessons after time seeing glaciers, volcanoes and tectonic plates..... and then found out that that is indeed where many students now go for geography field trips. The days of spending hours on the side of Box Hill are long gone!

What would you never travel without?

A good book or two - there has to be reading time on a holiday.