

Guildford Travel Club «

Never-ending journeys

Lake Hawea New Zealand;
Harry & Jean Wickens

Village granaries, the
Dogon area of Mali;
Harry & Jean
Wickens



Vesteralen Islands Norway;
Jan Parsons



Kyaikhtiyo, Myanmar; Harry & Jean Wickens



Dougga,
Tunisia; Jan
Parsons

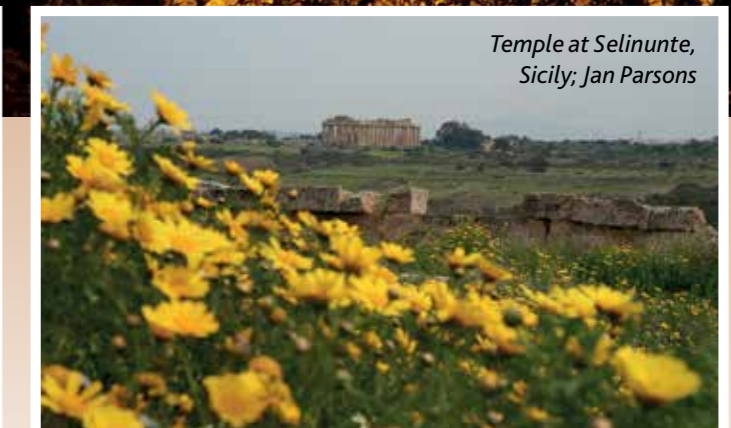


Medina, Kairouan
Tunisia; Jan Parsons

» Guildford Travel Club



Temple at Selinunte,
Sicily; Jan Parsons



Guildford Travel Club has members all over the county and celebrates its 50th anniversary in April. Chairman Janet Parsons, who lives in Grayshott, tells us more.

For me travel is about journeys. The excitement of setting out in the early hours to drive across Europe in an old VW Beetle in my early 20s and seeing snow-capped mountains for the first time as we crossed the Alps is an experience I'll never forget.

Sailing in the Greek islands and watching a strip of intense golden light as the sun rose over the giant volcanic cliffs of the island of Thira, crossing the Arctic Circle to the beautiful Lofoten Islands or visiting the wonderful legacy of ancient sites in Europe and North Africa. The urge to go on exploring is born out of such experiences.

In April we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the journey

of Guildford Travel Club. Founded in 1966 the driving force behind the club was Bay Hyde, well known in Guildford for her involvement in numerous local organisations. She inspired the newly formed committee to organise a regular programme of illustrated travel talks and a range of social activities with the underpinning motto of 'Travel for Travel's Sake'. In just over a year membership reached nearly 200.

Such was the popularity of the club it hosted a major event in 1970 at the Civic Hall, with mountaineer Chris Bonnington speaking on his expedition which made the first ascent of the South Face of Annapurna, the biggest and most difficult climb in the Himalaya at the time.

Guildford Travel Club is the leading travel club in South-East England and has gained an enviable reputation for the quality of its speakers, including distinguished photographers and writers from all over the UK. The club has welcomed Ranulph Fiennes, Viscount Norwich, Felicity Aston, and John Blashford Snell, a great explorer and former president of the club, among others.

One of the great attractions of Guildford Travel Club is its welcoming atmosphere. Members and visitors alike come to hear enthusiastic and inspirational speakers and also to share their own travel experiences and discuss future travel plans. Many members travel to places off the tourist trail and Members' Evenings

provide an opportunity to enjoy informal slide evenings.

So, as we approach our 50th anniversary, the journey continues. We meet on Tuesday evenings from October to April and have some great speakers still to come. Kev Reynolds talks on *Trekking the High Himalaya* on 1st March, and Hilary Bradt, founder of Bradt Travel Guides, speaks on *Northern Peru Revisited* on 15th March. Then there is our 50th celebrations with travel writer Rory MacLean followed by a reception on 19th April with wine and canapés. Tickets – priced £15 – are almost sold out.

● Thinking about joining and sharing the wanderlust? Visit www.guildfordtravelclub.org.uk