



Mary Green looking back over 101 years - and to the golden days of Shell-Mex and B.P.

Mary Green was born in Ipswich in July 1915 when the Great War was not yet a year old. She looks back on some of the many highlights of a long life and to Shell-Mex and B.P. in its golden years in East Anglia.

Useful Contacts

The 44 Club – For anyone who worked for Shell-Mex and BP

The SMBP 44 Association

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44 Club News

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– For Shell Pensioners
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40 Bank Street
London E14 5NR
Tel: 020 7934 5129
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The BP Society

- For BP Pensioners
Administration Secretary
The BP Society
Chertsey Road
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TW16 7LN
Tel: 01932 762029
Email: BPSociety@uk.bp.com

Let us know your Email
Please advise the Club Office
(Email as under Colin Hill above)
of your Email address.

You can also do this by visiting
the Club website:
<http://www.44club.org.uk/>



WELCOME Guest Editorial by Elaine Ellen

Secretary of 44 Club Glasgow Branch

I suspect we are all familiar with that 'bolt from the blue' or the feeling of being jolted out of our 'comfort zone'.

One such moment happened to me, very recently, when Paddy Briggs suggested I write a guest editorial for this edition of the 44 Club magazine! I remain in great doubt about my credentials for this task but thought "give it a go; why not!"

I became involved with the 44 Club about three years ago but knew of its existence long before that. My father, Edgar Emmerson, and my father-in-law, Frank Ellen, were both Company men. Frank ended up on the BP side and my father on the Shell side. As a family we lived in Northern Ireland, Somerset, Co Durham and latterly Scotland as my father progressed up the career ladder, finishing as Group Terminal Manager in Scotland based at Bishopbriggs Terminal. I joined SMBP just before the split, based in Accounts Payable initially and then Estates and Equipment, and worked for just over seven years in the Glasgow office. I also ended up on the Shell side and married a Shell man!

Following my father's death in 2012 I was delighted that a group of drivers attended his funeral and my brother and I enjoyed their chat, listening to them reminisce and observing the strong camaraderie between them. My father had been a regular attendee at 44 Club meetings and Sandy, one of the drivers, suggested I should join. When I took the plunge I was made very welcome and it almost felt like coming home. Going through my father's papers produced a lot of historical data, photographs, newspaper clippings, mementos etc. I have been able to reproduce a lot of these to use at the Glasgow 44 Club meetings and some of our members have, as a result, also given me photographs that we have 'put on show' on the wall of the meeting room. We developed our own website and a lot of this archive material can be found there too.

I am now the Secretary of the Glasgow Branch and the Chairman, Jim Anderson, worked in the Glasgow office at the same time I did. Jack Kennedy, my boss in those days, is a regular attendee. Amazing how the memories come flooding back!

If anyone reading this recognises any of these feelings I would strongly encourage them to come along to their local branch of the 44 Club. There is a whole network of people keeping the memories alive and sharing them in many different ways. Have a look at the 'News from the Branches' pages to find the contact details and get in touch.

You won't regret it!

Elaine Ellen

Members' Reunion & AGM 2017

It's not too late to sign up for the Members' Reunion and AGM on 27th April. On the reverse of the address sheet there is a notice giving you further details. Applications via email are totally acceptable as are payments by electronic transfer. This year, rather than send the Club Accounts to all members, they are available as follows:

- Once audited, they will be available to any member on request. Please contact Colin Hill at the Club office in London and he will arrange for them to be sent to you (on paper or email).
- They will be made available on the 44 Club website (www.44club.org).
- Copies of the Accounts will be available at the AGM

BP Members

Until we can agree a method of receiving death notifications of our colleagues who last worked for BP, we rely on word-of-mouth. Many members are very diligent in informing the Secretary of the passing of such members. Sadly we don't receive all of them, unlike the system that's used in Shell. The Secretary is soon to be meeting with BP Pensions and Benefits to resolve this but, in the meantime, please let us know if you hear of the death of a BP member. Also, if you know that there is a surviving spouse, he or she will be invited to continue membership of the 44 Club in their own name. If you could let us have the name of the surviving spouse or partner, an invitation will be sent to them. You can either email 44-club@shell.com or call 020 7934 5132.

The Secretary has a meeting with the BP Pensions Manager at the end of March. Watch this space!

Shell-Mex House

The article on Shell-Mex House prompted many members to pass nostalgic stories and a few pieces on memorabilia to us. Among the latter was this picture postcard which we can't quite date. It shows trams running along the Embankment so that might be a clue. But what year was it? Over to you!



Email Communications

An error has occurred with some emails being sent from the Club Office. The phone number displayed on some of the footers was incorrect and went unnoticed for a while.

There is no change to the contact number for Colin Hill. It is 020 7934 5132.

PLR Scheme

The Club has long been a supporter of the Pensioner Liaison Representative scheme run by Shell for the benefit of Shell Pensioners and we were sorry to learn that Shell is discontinuing it. Many PLRs are honorary members of the 44 Club and attend our events. Along with the Shell Pensioners Association, the Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association and others, representations have been made to Shell and the Shell Contributory Pension Fund to see if a way can be found to continue to provide a service to the most vulnerable of Shell's Pensioners (many of whom are ex Shell-Mex and B.P.) Further news as soon as we get it.

Mary Green – a hundred years of Ipswich life and happy memories of Shell-Mex and B.P.



In 1925 the Green family bought a beach hut at Felixstowe and had many happy days on the beach as she grew up in the 1920s. It was a Christian family - Mary was confirmed in 1931 and was regularly to attend church throughout her life (three times every Sunday as a child). Mary was a bright child, passing a scholarship exam for Central School in Smart Street. Mary recalls that the girls were trained to 'go into offices' with secretarial training the norm – she left school at 15 in 1930 (as was normal as well). The school acted as a sort of employment agency for businesses in the town and found the girls jobs. Ten shillings a week

The Great War was ten months into its deadly four years when on 11th July 1915 Mary Millicent Green was born at 162 Cemetery Road, Ipswich. The house, which stands today (see right) is a three story building which back in 1915 had an indoor toilet, but no bathroom. It was crowded as Mary was one of seven children and her painter and decorator father Fred and her mother Edith must have struggled to make ends meet. Her mother had been 'in service' as a Cook and two of her sisters were to follow to work for the Christopherson family who lived in 27 Tuddenham Road – a smart house in one of the smarter parts of town. The late Mr Christopherson had been a wealthy Coal Merchant. There was an 'Upstairs/Downstairs' feel to this arrangement. Mary and her younger sisters were befriended by the spinster daughters of the house, Miss Marion and Miss Eva (both in their forties when Mary was born).



162 Cemetery Road



Mary as a child and in the Fire Service

was the wage for new clerical and secretarial employees but this still enabled Mary to save enough to buy a second-hand bicycle after a year in her first job. Various jobs were to follow in the pre-war years and then during the war Mary was in the National Fire Service.

In 1946 Mary saw an advertisement in the local paper for a shorthand typist in Ipswich that looked interesting. She enquired to a box number and was interviewed at which point she found out that it was the Shell-Mex and B.P. 'Eastern Counties Branch' office in Woodbridge Road that was recruiting. (The photo on the next page, shows the Branch in 1946/7. Mary is in the second row, second from left).

This was the beginning of a twenty-three year career with SMBP. Coincidentally Mary's brother Jack worked at SMBP and though it was unusual at the time to employ siblings permission was given. The Petroleum Board was still in operation but one or two products like motor oils were outside of its remit and it was supporting this sales activity that gave Mary her first SMBP job. She worked as part of the five-strong secretarial



Eastern Counties Branch 1946/47 - Mary is in the second row, second from left

team but in particular for the Branch's Deputy Manager T.C. Richardson. There was also Dictaphone typing for the office as a whole. When the Petroleum Board was dissolved the Ipswich employees all got together in a new SMBP office in Lloyds Avenue where the secretarial strength was fifteen. Over the years new branch offices were to open in Norwich,



Kings Lynn and Cambridge and also under a new organisation structure in Ipswich under Arthur Hopewell (left, in his cricket kit). This was a very small office at Cliff Quay Installation and Mary was the only

woman employee – there was no female toilet so she had to (as she puts it) 'go over to the Installation Office in all weathers'!

In the Ipswich Division days the then SMBP house magazine in early 1958 commissioned John Arlott to visit the office and



the installation at Cliff Quay. (Arlott is shown playing darts alongside TC Richardson (below left)). Mary at the time was working for Roy Lacey the PR Officer and she recalls Arlott's visit. The article he wrote is as charming and elegant as any of his cricket or other writings and he makes the not always riveting world of oil sound interesting by focusing on the people. One of these was D.L. 'Sandy' Sanders who was surely SMBP Ipswich's most famous product. He also played an important part in Mary Green's life and he also in hers. Let John Arlott tell Sanders story: "He has been with the Company ever since he left school ... [and is now] a Retail Merchandising Representative. He played soccer until he was 21 and then, quite casually, tried Rugby with Ipswich Y.M.C.A. an obscure side as Rugby clubs go. Eventually he was asked to turn out for the Harlequins and, within a year, was in the England team... A motorcycle accident in Yugoslavia in 1956 put an end to Sandy's rugby". Mary Green told me the rest of the story. Sanders had had nine England caps before his

accident – which he was fortunate to survive. His love of the game turned him to Rugby administration which was eventually to culminate in his becoming the President of the Rugby Football Union in 1989-90 (two years before that other SMBP Rugby man Sir Peter Yarranton!). He and Mary were very close for 60 years. They holidayed together often and always spent Christmas together. He was a venerable 87 when he died which led to Mary referring to him as her 'Toy Boy'! She has his photograph prominently on display in her home (below).



Over the years Mary's office location was to change as the organisation evolved. She managed to stay mostly in Ipswich but there was one step out to Cambridge, post McKinsey, under John Meadows when she was a Domestic Markets Assistant (this turned out to eventually be in

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Royston as this Cambridge office was too small!). Mary's last SMBP job was in Chelmsford office where she worked with John Lee and Alf Cowell. She retired from Chelmsford and the Company in 1970 at the age of 55. Throughout her 23 years with SMBP Mary Green had been active on the social and sports side of the Company - she looks back on those years with affection often breaking into infectious laughter when she recalls a long distant event. She continued working until she was 90 – as an employee of various firms in Ipswich and then as a volunteer with ACRE – the 'Action with Communities in Rural England' for 20 years. She never married but with Sandy Sanders and also with her many female friends she has travelled extensively and lived life to the full



Mary at her 100th birthday party

– albeit with decorum! She says that she is more limited these days and had complained to her Doctor that she feels a bit restricted. "Well you should remember that you are 101"

he replied! She greatly enjoys the 44 Club lunches and the camaraderie and so successful Ipswich Branch of the 44 Club.

Mary Green's 100th Birthday party spanned six days with the main event on her actual birthday with around 80 guests including, from her SMBP days, Tony and Rosemary Grayston, Norman and Pam Dye, Pam Alston, Margaret Page and Grace Naunton.

Mary Green is an extraordinary woman with whom it was a pleasure for me to spend an hour or so. In many ways her loyalty, commitment, humour and zest for life make her the quintessential SMBP alumnus and 44 Club member – albeit one with an unusually long lifespan! **PSB**

Légion d'honneur for British World War II veterans awarded to Stan Fryer



On the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, the French President announced that the Légion d'honneur would be awarded to all British veterans who fought for the liberation of France during the Second World War.

S.R. (Stan) Fryer (pictured right in his SMBP days) has been advised that he will receive the award for the part he played on D-Day at Sword Beach. He was a Sub Lieutenant in the RNVR and took a landing craft onto the beach.

Congratulations to Stan from all at the SMBP 44 Association on his award.



Auction House

“Algernon Newton, RA (British 1880-1968) Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland signed with monogram and dated ‘30 lower right oil on canvas 60 x 90cm (23 x 35in) Provenance: Commissioned for the offices of Shell BP at Shellmex (sic) House, The Strand, London. A gift to the vendor’s father in the 1950s from Shell BP(sic) for whom he worked for some forty years and by descent.”

Interesting story from Paul Donovan of Cranbrook about the pictured painting ‘Bamburgh Castle’ which was put on sale at the London Auction House Cheffins recently.

Does anyone remember the painting and know who was the lucky recipient of the gift in the 1950s? This is purely out of interest; there is no suggestion

that there is anything untoward in the story!

The painting sold in the auction for £11,000 against an estimate of £2000-£3000 – so a nice little windfall for somebody!



Rugby stars from SMBP

The mention of D.L. (Sandy) Sanders in the ‘Life after Oil’ feature prompts the memory to reflect on Shell-Mex and B.P. as a rich source of rugby talent for England back in the 1950s. One of Sanders’s nine caps was at Twickenham in January 1954 when there were four SMBP employees in the scrum. Alongside the prop Sanders (literally) there was the great hooker Eric Evans (30 caps), behind them in the second row Peter Yarranton (5 caps) and in the back row the flanker Reg Higgins (13 caps plus one for the Lions). It could even have been five from SMBP as Alec Lewis (10 caps) was in the England squad at the time and indeed played later in that year’s Five Nations tournament.



Wedding Anniversaries

Diamond

Doug and Jancis Quayle
24 Poppyfields
Gillingham
Kent SP8 4TH
30th March 2017

John and Edna Fulford
35 Daphne Road
Rhyddings
Leiros Park
Neath SA10 8DP
30th March 2017

Nicholas and Elizabeth Flint
2 Locarno Avenue
Luton
Beds LU4 9EJ
29th March 2017

John and Olive White
27 Conygar Close
Clevedon BS21 6AP
5th February 2015

Golden

Mike and Liz Kidd
1 Shieling Road
Bickington
Barnastple
N Devon EX31 2LY
11th March 2017

Ken and Betty Longhurst
74 Vicarage Road
Marsworth
Tring
Herts HP23 4LU
20th August 2016

Brian and Jean Clark
4 Cobb Close
Rochester ME2 3TY
24th June 2017

Colin and Ann Wills
67 Dulverton Road
Ruislip
Middlesex HA4 9AF
11th March 2017



Shell-Mex and B.P. – involvement in pipelines

SMBP first became involved in cross country pipelines transporting petroleum products when after World War II, the Government appointed oil companies to operate and maintain its UK pipeline and storage system. In the 1950s it was still used for military purposes but increasingly came into commercial use. With the commissioning of the consortium owned Thames/Mersey pipeline in 1968, the British Pipeline Agency (BPA) was formed – a joint Shell and BP enterprise – who operated the Thames/Mersey Pipeline and took over the operation and maintenance of the whole of the Government owned system.

After the end of World War II, the system continued to be used for military purposes, including the American air force during the Cold War.

SMBP had a contract to operate and maintain 48% of the system.

Government owned system

In the mid 1930s the amount of aviation fuel storage available for military use amounted to a pitiful 8,000 tons which was one day's consumption during the Battle of Britain. The Government decided to build storage and by 1938 this amounted to 810,000 tons and by 1943 over 2m.

In 1941, the Government embarked on a pipeline building programme recruiting pipeline engineers mainly from the United States. This was a grid system linking storages at Humber, to Mersey to Severn (Avonmouth) to the Thames and completing the grid, Thames to Humber with spurs to Southampton Water and to the East Anglian military airfields. This allowed aviation fuel to be imported into the British western ports, which were less vulnerable to enemy attacks, and transported to the east where the RAF and American air forces were based. Much of London's war-time petrol was pipelined to Walton-on-Thames from Bristol and then barged down to London.



Tony Mansfield writes: It was a Winston Churchill directive that had initiated the Avonmouth to Thames pipeline. The blitz and submarine warfare had created havoc with infrastructure, food, and fuel supplies and Churchill was deeply worried that this may initiate a mass evacuation of a city containing 9 million persons. Oil supplies from the USA were reaching Bristol and Liverpool but had trouble unloading due to onward transportation problems. Churchill demanded that a pipeline be built from Bristol to London for the supply of diesel, motor spirit and fuel oil and that it be built PDQ! The SMBP chief engineer was tasked with this top secret task and he immediately decided that the only place that could provide the requisite security for the planning was the Lensbury Club. Coincidentally, Lensbury also provided a superb cellar, excellent food and waitress service!!

The operating team were part of SMBP's Engineering Department until a separate Pipeline Department was formed in 1963. Esso and Trinidad Leaseholds (predecessors of Texaco) shared another 48%.

The system was entrusted to the Ministry of Power whose main requirement was to maintain strategic stocks but they started to allow commercial use of the system. SMBP were one of the first commercial users in 1959 by using Government storage on the Isle of Grain (built many years before the refinery) and the Grain to Walton section of the pipeline and then building their own pipeline from Walton to Heathrow Airport (photo shows the team supervising this pipeline's construction – Steve Stephenson, SMBP Engineering Manager, with the hat). Conoco (Jet) were able to enter the UK market in 1967 without having to equip themselves with their own storage as they were able to rely entirely on the Government pipelines and depots.

The formation of the British Pipeline Agency

In 1963 a consortium of oil companies, which included SMBP, was formed to explore the viability of a commercially built pipeline linking the Thames and Mersey Refineries with major storage points in North London (Hemel Hempstead) and the Midlands (Kingsbury) with spurs to Northampton and Uttoxeter. The consortium was named United Kingdom Oil Pipelines and became known as UKOP.

At this time, with a rapidly expanding market, much of SMBP's distribution system was in dire need of modernisation. For example, the Birmingham demand had to rely on several small obsolete depots including barge-fed Worcester. The alternative to pipelines was rail and Dr Beeching in charge of British Rail endeavoured to gain the traffic by offering very low carriage rates. But the pipeline system won out and was built and the pipeline

and storages were commissioned in 1968. Subsequently, the pipeline was extended to Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Again, it had been necessary to recruit pipeline engineers from the USA.

To operate and maintain this system a new enterprise was established known as the British Pipeline Agency (BPA) jointly owned by Shell and BP but under the SMBP umbrella.

BPA also took over the SMBP contract for operating and maintaining the Government-owned system and by 1977 had acquired the contracts for the entire system.

The years post Brand Separation

In 1975 the UK Government established BNOC (British National Oil Company) as part of its North Sea energy strategy. BNOC took control of the Government pipeline and storage system but continued to employ BPA to operate and maintain the system.

In 1982, BP acquired BNOC, which had recently been re-named Britoil,

which raised the question of the future status of the Government system. This was solved by the hiving off that part of Britoil responsible for pipelines to a new Government organisation, the Oil and Pipeline Agency (OPA) to administer the system with ownership being transferred to the Ministry of Defence.

OPA continued to contract BPA to operate and maintain the system. But gradually OPA started to appoint other contractors and by 2012 BPA were no longer involved. But BPA still operate the Thames/Mersey Pipeline and have substantial consultancy contracts in the UK and overseas including Russia.

In 2015 the Government system was sold to a Spanish Company, Compañía Logística de Hidrocarburos who are responsible for its maintenance and operation and who have obligations to provide military use. **David Roberts**



The team supervising the pipeline construction, Steve Stephenson, SMBP Engineering Manager, with the hat

News from the Branches

('Contact' refers to the person to get in touch with in a Branch for further information about events etc. In some cases events may be organised by a different Branch member and where this is the case these contact details are also given). Branches welcome attendance of 44 Club members and friends from anywhere in the UK (or elsewhere!) so don't feel restricted.)

Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering
☎ 01349 368134
✉ mwfpickering@gmail.com

We are still deciding about a new Inverness venue and will keep you all informed about what is planned for October and for Christmas 2017 when we do that.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker
☎ 07752 052602
✉ mrgrahamwalker@hotmail.com

Following the untimely passing of Ken Melville the Branch is pleased to announce that it has a new Chairman. His name is Graham Walker and he was a very popular choice of all those that attended the meeting. Graham comes with lots of pedigree having joined SMBP in Hull direct from school at the age of 15. He retired a few years ago in Aberdeen having completed some 44 years' service.

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen
☎ 0770 3578614
✉ elaine.ellen@btinternet.com
www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

Seventeen members thoroughly enjoyed Christmas Lunch in December 2016. We returned to Sarti's restaurant in Glasgow. The food was excellent, matched only by the company! Our first meeting of the New Year took place on 19 January. Mr Watt, a long standing and popular speaker, brought an assortment of boxes – not cardboard but silver,



Glasgow Branch



Belfast Branch

porcelain, wood, etc. – dating from between 1750 and 1960. As always we thoroughly enjoyed the talk given by Mr Watt. He has suggested that next year he holds an 'Antique Road Show' style talk so we are already searching out unlikely treasures to bring! On 16 February, Christine Miller returned to speak about her progress with family research. Regular attendees are starting to feel as though they are part of Christine's family and await each update with bated breath! She didn't disappoint and we learned about another member of her family that Christine had found about using, amongst other resources, parish records.

Belfast

Contact: Mr. Norman Mavitty
7 Barn Hill, Donaghadee BT21 0QA.
☎ 028 9188 3445
✉ nmavitty@hotmail.com

A super Christmas lunch was had at Donaghadee golf club on Friday



Northumbria Branch

4th December. It was a lovely sunny day and we could see Scotland only twenty miles away. The menu not only gave us the traditional turkey and ham but a choice of eight main courses. Billy Ball and John Young, the Shell PLR, are in the photograph - they both had a big vote of thanks from the rest of the happy 44 Club diners. It's great to report that our numbers for this annual event are not decreasing - our turnout was 23 people.

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy
125 Mill Road, Portstewart BT47 2QJ
☎ 028 7134 8337
✉ hoyschool@gmail.com

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor
☎ 0191 4137 185
✉ keithtaylor275@btinternet.com

Twenty members met for our

Christmas lunch at the Sea Hotel South Shields - our third visit there. Great food and company a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Thanks to Keith and John for organizing it.

Coming up:

The Chichester Arms, Chichester Road, South Shields NE33 4AA
Lunch on the second Wednesday in every month.

West Riding

Contact: Terry Morley
☎ 01132 663 586

Coming up:

The Queens Arms (A61), 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds. LS7 3PT.

13th April: 12 for 12.30pm. Lunch.
3rd August: 12 for 12.30pm. Lunch.
22nd November: Christmas Lunch.

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate
☎ 01642 722 491

Our Christmas lunch was held at the Falcon Inn Hilton our first visit there. Twenty-one members enjoyed a first class meal - thanks to Ces and Doreen for organizing a very enjoyable afternoon.



Teesside Branch

Coming up:

20th April: The Fox and Hounds, Slapewath, Guisborough TS14 6PX
Contact Ces for more information.

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton
☎ 01522 805 319
✉ Audrey.broug2@ntlworld.com

Coming up:

The Consort Hotel, Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9JA

11th April: 12 for 12.30pm. Lunch.
22nd August: 12 for 12.30pm. Lunch.
5th December: Christmas Lunch.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers
☎ 0161 437 2072 / 02261006720
✉ witherspt@gmail.com

Twenty-seven members and guests attended our annual get together for Turkey and Tinsel lunch in the Belgrave Suite with its own licenced bar. Numbers were slightly down this year and we missed our traditional speech by Jim Moss who was unable to attend due to illness. Jim was much missed and we look forward to seeing him next year when hopefully we will have our usual full complement. The meal itself was served promptly and was enjoyed by all. Entertainment via DJ and bingo was a new feature a Val Dodson was the lucky winner.

Coming up:

Regular monthly pub lunch on 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12:30. Contact Pat Withers for details.

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall
☎ 01829 270 095
✉ normanwaterfall@talktalk.net



North West - Western Branch



North West - Western Branch

A HAPPY BAG

- ♥ A marble for when you've lost yours
- ♥ A piece of string to hold it all together when things are falling apart
- ♥ A heart to remind you someone loves you
- ♥ An eraser to make little mistakes go away
- ♥ A coin so you'll never be penniless
- ♥ A candle to brighten up your day

Eighteen members and guests enjoyed each other's company on their annual visit to the Burnside Hotel in Bowness-on-Windermere in the Lake District. As usual the colours of the area pleased the eye and the food certainly pleased the taste buds. We hope to return again next year. Once again Forest Hills Hotel was the venue for our Christmas meeting and lunch at which 31 members and guests enjoyed excellent food and service. The presents were very welcome – a chocolate Santa and pen for the men and a 'Happy Bag' for the ladies. The contents of the happy bag are shown above!

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Coming up:

6th April: 12:30 for 1.00pm. Lunch at Plassey Restaurant, Elton, Wrexham LL13 0SP.

10th May: 12:30 for 1:00pm. Lunch at Sandpiper, Holly Farm, Ormskirk Old Road, Bickerstaffe Ormskirk L39 0HD.

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

☎ 01384 833 132

✉ carol.a.barnett@blueyonder.co.uk

Our Christmas Lunch this year was once again held at Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley, a lovely venue, on Wednesday 17th December 2015 with 38 members and guests attending. Our meal was excellent as usual as was the atmosphere. Although we were in a different room than the one we have used on previous occasions it was very cosy. Following on from lunch we had our usual Christmas Raffle with most of the prizes being purchased out of club funds which are raised by members & guests at raffles held during the year. Many thanks go to them for their support.

Coming up:

May: Spring Lunch (this has changed from April)

June: Summer Lunch

August: Bowls

Letters with Dates and Venues will be sent out to members

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

☎ 01296 630169

✉ malcolmgb@btinternet.com

Another very successful Christmas lunch was held at Berkhamsted Golf Club. More than eighty members signed up for the event. The organisation was master-minded by Malcolm Bury who did an excellent job with table plans, menu choices etc. It was very encouraging to welcome some new faces and also Colin Hill, our Club Secretary. A selection of photographs underlines the happy party.

The food quality was voted the best yet and needless to say a booking has already been made for 2017 (15th Dec). The usual raffle was cancelled this year as a trial but was a topic of conversation at the short AGM that followed. Chairman, Ken Longhurst and the committee were all re-elected unanimously. Plans for the 2017 programme were finalised at a recent committee meeting and the dates and venues will be circulated to all branch members by e-mail, or post where necessary. We look forward to good support from all.

Coming up:

16th May: Pub lunch at the Golden Eagle, Chesham Road, Ashley Green HP5 3PW from noon onwards. Contact Brian Lovell (☎ 01442 822214) for further information.

5th July: Pub lunch with roast pork spit roast at the Oak, 119 Green End Street, Aston Clinton HP22 5EU. A separate note about this lunch will be sent to active members closer to the date. Contact Malcolm Bury ☎ 01442 873375 for further information.

Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell

☎ 01206 86747

✉ peter.gobell39@btinternet.com

Our final lunch of the year was held at The Langdon Hills Golf Club with great views from the function room. It was our first time there but known to many members who worked at nearby Shell Haven. We had 77 members and guests attending with a raffle which PLRs doing well as usual. The food and service were first class, so much so that we have booked two lunches there this year.

Coming up:

13th June: Oysterfleet Hotel

4th September: Beauvoir Arms

24th October: Orsett Hall

14th December: Langdon Hills Golf Club

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

☎ 01473 210 860

✉ rosemary.grayston@sky.com

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

☎ 01473 610 534

✉ davidcattermole@yahoo.co.uk

The Christmas lunch was held at the Rushmere Golf Club attended by 48 members and guests including Colin Hill National Secretary, who went away happy with two raffle prizes. Other members travelled from far and wide. The food and service was to a high standard and it has been booked already for this year's Christmas lunch. A successful raffle was held and thanks to David Cattermole and wife Pat for organising the draw, with many prizes and happy members.



South Midlands Branch

Coming up:

Lunches have been planned for this year, the first at a new venue The Black Tile, Martlesham on April 4th followed by a old favourite Hintlesham Hall in June (date to be advised). The Christmas lunch is again at Rushmere. Golf Club on December 5th. Other venues to be arranged.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon
☎ 01485 540346
✉ tomcannon36@gmail.com

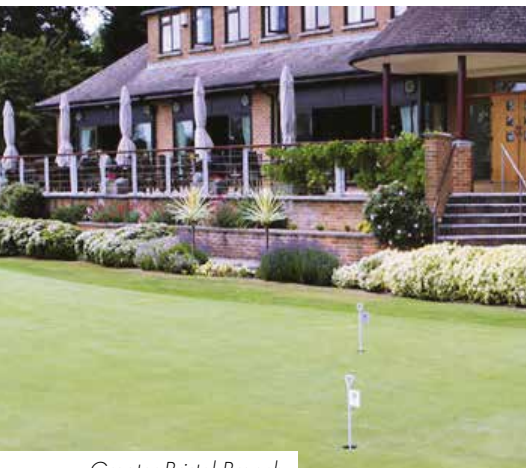
Coming up:

13th July: Buffet Lunch at the Sandringham Club near Kings Lynn.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin
☎ 0117 9684 638/ 07748787392
✉ rogergamlin@aol.com

The Gt. Bristol Branch held its AGM and Christmas lunch in December at a new venue for us, Henbury Golf Club. Numbers were a little down on last year at twenty-two. The room was lovely and warm and beautifully decorated. After coffee we held our brief AGM chaired by Roger Gamlin. He reminded us that the Greater Bristol club was reconstituted ten years ago. Our ex-Chairman David Richens sent his apologies and tendered his resignation from the committee. He was thanked for his ten years of service both as Chairman and as a member. The rest



Greater Bristol Branch

of the committee 'volunteered' their services for another year - if anyone else would like to join us they will be warmly welcomed. Four events will be arranged for 2017. There was then plenty of time to chat to old colleagues and/or visit the bar before sitting down to the three course lunch. The raffle produced a welcome contribution of £77 to Branch funds. Roger and the committee were warmly thanked for their efforts. Several items of memorabilia were on display.

Coming up:

July: Visit to Yeo Valley Organic Garden and Café. Details to follow.

September: Pub Lunch. Details to follow.

Bournemouth,

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker
☎ 01425 837285
✉ tonyrp456@gmail.com

Bournemouth and District 44 Club celebrated a pre-Christmas function on Tuesday, 6 December at The



Bournemouth Branch

Amberwood Inn in Walkford. Although The Amberwood was full and extremely busy with several functions that day, they coped very well and we were treated to some very enjoyable Christmas fare. From the feedback received everyone enjoyed themselves and asked about the Spring lunch at the Hobler. We welcomed 3 new members on this occasion who had not been to any of our functions before - we were very glad that they could join us.

East Kent

Contact: Bernard Smith
☎ 01227 262 775
✉ tessdale2004@hotmail.com

Tunbridge Wells

Contact: Charles Richards
☎ 01892 528 231
✉ cajrichards@yahoo.co.uk

Guildford, Kingston & London West

Contact: John Burton
☎ 020 8977 3732
✉ john_a_burton@talk21.com

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,
27 Elm Ave, Ruislip, HA4 8PE
☎ 020 8866 8452
✉ gretalon@gmail.com

Coming up:

6th April: Lunch Miller and Carter (The Plough) 154 Bury Lane, Ruislip, HA4 7TH (one bus stop before The Lido - plenty of car parking) 12.30pm. Please advise Greta by 4th April if you wish to come.

Welcome New Members

Mrs Edith Cairns - Ballynahinch
Mrs Mary Cattanach - Glasgow
Mrs Elaine Davies - Carmarthen
Mrs Jane Evans - Llangollen
Mrs Susan Hawkins - Reading
Mrs Kathleen Hurley - Canford Cliffs
Mrs Maureen Mason - Mobberley
Mrs Margaret Norris - Fareham
Mr Joseph Sanders - Plymouth

Your Letters

Brand Separation – a jointly owned distribution company?

My recollection is that a joint supply and distribution company was never a serious proposition. I recall some talk about it within SMBP when splitting the assets seemed quite a difficult achievement. But I never heard it discussed by the regular Shell and BP visitors to Shell-Mex House such as Ian Webster (Shell) and Rodney Chase (BP) during the negotiating stage in the run up to Brand Separation. I am not surprised that there are no documents relating to it.

I think that it is right to say that such an idea was ahead of its time. Shell and BP have, since Brand Separation, formed a number of joint enterprises, such as Kingsbury, and BP are currently in the process of selling most of their storage sites to independent operators, with Texaco having already done so.

David Roberts
11 Hillside Way
Withdean
Brighton BN1 5FE

Shell-Mex House

The winter edition of the '44 Club News' invited memories of Shell Mex House.

I started my career with the Company on September 4th 1961 as the office junior in the Industrial Lubricants department at a salary of £275 per annum in room 510. I met my wife to be, Christine Glasgow, then aged 16, a junior shorthand typist, (room 504). We are still happily married 50 years on. One of my jobs was to show senior managers and buyers from the construction industry Taylor Woodrow, Wimpey, Costains, MacAlpine etc. round the building before they were delivered to the River Suite for corporate entertaining.

Needless to say I did not get included on that part of the visit.

I can still recall parts of my tour guide speech:

"The building was constructed in the Egyptian style on the site of the old Hotel Cecil (hence Cecil Chambers) opened in 1933. It is 203 feet high and was for some years the tallest building in London. The Clock face is 26 feet 3 inches in diameter the 3 inches making it bigger than Big Ben and the largest clock face in Western Europe."

Before STD came in the number for Shell Mex house was Temple Bar 1234 and every desk had two phones, one internal and one external. Some lifts, toilets and a restaurant were designated management only - one always knew where a manager was heading when he had a large brass key in his hand. The lower basement floor was fully equipped as a hospital to deal with casualties in case London was gassed, and all the war time signage and equipment was still in place in the sixties. Fire watching posts were still in place on the roof and by arrangement with the CEGB a great innovation was a camera which automatically took pictures of the Smog-causing emissions from Bankside Power station on the other side of the river.

A large store room in the basement was full of hundreds of the old black round Aladdin paraffin heaters known as 'Smelly Nellies' presumably in case there was a breakdown in the boiler room and no other form of heating was available. One might have hoped that the name would have survived, so much more descriptive than '80 The Strand'.

David Roberts
10 The Crofts
Ballaughton Meadow
Douglas
Isle of Man IM2 1JQ



(Ed: I visited 80 The Strand (Ugh) recently and in the communal areas at least it seemed much as I remember it – but I'm sure the offices etc. bear no resemblance to the building we once worked in. It was never a single company building I think – a Government ministry had at least one floor and there were other strangers around. But it was a pleasant place to work not least because The Strand, Trafalgar Square Covent Garden etc. were close by. I once used Covent Garden Station as my commuter destination and in the morning would walk through the cabbages on the way to work. The pubs were open for the Market workers coming off night shift. Those days are of course long gone but we were very lucky to have enjoyed those times weren't we? Incidentally the Shell-Mex House clock is still the largest in the UK but one in a station, Gare de Cergy-Saint-Christophe in the north of Paris is now the largest in Europe.)

Cup or Pot ?

The letter from Maurice Husbands Club News 153) mirrors my experience when I was transferred to Shell-Mex House in 1975 to join Roy Kersley in a small unit called 'Marketing Studies' under Maxwell Booth reporting to Mr Riddell-Webster. I arrived when Roy was on holiday to be met on my first day by the tea-trolley lady with the question "Are you a pot or a cup?" I naturally said a "pot".

On his return Roy, who was a grade senior to me, jokingly challenged my right to a 'pot'. The next day I was put in my place by the tea lady who obviously had had a missive from on high (not Roy) that I was entitled to just a cup. Soon after that the carpet had to be trimmed and a picture or two had to be taken off the walls. However I recovered some little status by bringing in my own tray and teapot and milk and sugar pot which I brought out in triumph in front of Roy. Later on I purchased an official set of SMBP teapot milk jug etc. and a photo taken at the time now adorns a wall in Roy's house. On the back of such small triumphs life in SM House went on in its idiosyncratic and enjoyable path...

*David Stanbury
Hill Cottage
Bath Road
Littlewick Green
Maidenhead SL6 3QR*

Douglas Booth

It is very sad news about Douglas' passing. Both Lorraine and I have fond and humorous memories of him. It was Douglas who employed Lorraine in the first place, and of course as Regional Managers together, we had many happy times at the Wellington Club and shared

the hilarity of the occasion at Henley when Kay fell in the river, saved only by her voluminous skirts.

*Frank and Lorraine Downes
High Barn, Flint Hall Farm
Bradenham Road
High Wycombe
HP14 4ES*

(Ed: This is one of many letters received marking the passing of Douglas Booth, and one of the few that can be printed without heavy censorship! Like Lorraine I was employed by Douglas back in 1970 - although in my case I think that he and Don Maddin, my direct line boss, took me at 23 and straight from college as a favour to Personnel Development. Douglas was one of what I later saw to be a bit of a pattern in Shell. A quiet, immensely capable unflappable man with a flamboyant partner! At those Regional events at a hotel in Knightsbridge Douglas would stand by the bar sipping pint after pint whilst Kay would dance her shoes off on the dance floor - usually with the youngest and handsomest of representatives for whom duty called.

The rescuer in Frank's river story was I recall a very young Charles Harrison to whom Douglas raised his glass in thanks. I never saw Douglas

drunk but he had a smart trick in case an over-zealous policeman thought of flagging him down on his way back to Guildford. Kay would sit in the back of his Austin Princess (probably waving occasionally to passers-by) and Douglas would put on a chauffeur's cap and drive sedately home. It always worked.

Alex Sard remembers working for Douglas as his Secretary from 1972 to 1975 and says it was one of the happiest periods of her employment with Shell-Mex and BP. As the Regional Manager of Industrial in Knightsbridge Douglas was hugely popular and highly respected by his staff and peers alike. As a personal boss to Alex he was, she says, kind and fair with a wry sense of humour.

Clive Moulton - a rich source of unrepeatably stories - remembers Kay Booth's well publicised opinion of herself that she was the double of Elizabeth Taylor and how this brought wry smiles to a lot of us - and that she certainly kept us amused.

In later years I saw Douglas from time to time at Lord's - there was no keener cricket fan. He lived his 94 years to the full, was one of the key executives in the later years of SMBP and his calm in the office, at home and by the river was legendary. RIP.

Birthday Thanks

The Club is delighted that our Birthday Cards prompt so many memories and that members appreciate them. We love to hear from you so do please write to the Editor if you would like to - and please advise which birthday it was that the most recent card commemorated. All thanks are published or acknowledged here. All means of communication are welcome though carrier pigeon landing facilities are a bit limited. Emails are preferred as they save re-typing!

80th I started work for SMBP as a craftsman on the night shift at Fulham Motor Repair Centre then transferred to Bromley-by-Bow and Silvertown installations as a vehicle tester before finally moving to Kings Lynn Terminal.

My most hazardous event during my service years was when a vehicle,

fully laden with Propane, slid off an approach road to a farm in the fens. It ruptured the delivery pipe at the base of the cargo tank and was leaking gas which formed into a highly dangerous fog. I had to supervise all the emergency services, find another gas tanker and get it to the farm so that the gas from



BIRTHDAY THANKS

the stricken tanker could be safely discharged. All this was only possible because of the excellent training I had received at the SMBP Training Centre.

There was a TV programme recently about the new extra-length trailers (2 metres longer than the usual trailer) which had been introduced by Eddie Stobart. This reminded me of



the 10,000 gallon refuelling tanker based at Heathrow which I drove many times to the Fulham MRC. I think that this was even longer than the new extra-length trailers – it had no rear-steer and could only be driven after midnight on trade plates.



It was a special task to drive it on the public roads and only a few of us were allowed to do it!

*David Feeke
26 Knitting Needle Lane
Wells Next the Sea
Norfolk NR23 1LW*

80th Thank you for the card to remind me that I am now 80! It arrived right on the day. I like to read all the responders names who have received cards and see who are the survivors. I have kept many photographs from my days with the Company and have some artefacts that I presented to the Shell Museum collection last year when we were in the UK for 2 months. Working for SMBP was one of the most rewarding periods of my life where I met and worked with the most interesting and pleasant people I have met during my life. To all those who would remember me - 'Greetings' and if anyone is in Charleston, South Carolina at any



time, please look us up. Judi and I would be most pleased to welcome any old friends.

*Ian Purches
5030 Weatherstone Road
Charleston
South Carolina
29414. U.S.A*

(Ed: Good to see that you are still flying the flag in Charleston Ian!)

80th I joined SMBP in Shell-Mex House in June 1957 in Room 520 in the Consumer Trade Department



under Sidney Jonas and worked alongside a young Graham Prodger. Here is a photo of Angelina and me taken on my 80th. Congratulations to everybody involved in the production of the Club News.

*Terry Griffiths
28 Henley Road
Taunton TA1 5BJ*

82nd They couldn't put all the candles on my birthday cake. We didn't want to alarm the Fire Service!

*Anne Curry
42 Hargrove Crescent
Ashford TW15 3DG*

83rd Hello there! It is always nice to hear that I am not forgotten. I enjoy getting the 44 Club News, and wish I could have been at some of the events. I worked at Hemel Hempstead, and left in the early 1970s, so I have been retired some time, and for over 42 years I have lived in Spain. I do not often come to the U.K. though I do go to Hamburg

once a year. Since leaving Shell, I have worked in China, New Zealand and India, but my home is here and I always come back to Spain. My husband died twenty years ago, so I have to do the big garden alone, but find time for mountain walking, and tennis three times a week, also swimming. I live in the mountains, but still help out at the coast in my office at weekends, as my friends rent out houses and need a backup for those times, so it keeps me going, I did not realise how old I was! Best to keep going and forget about age.

Margaret Bulle (Margaret Rance when I worked at Hemel)

*Margaret Bulle
España la Vieja 31,
Buzon 1,
003579 Benadoleig,
Alicante, Spain*

84th I would prefer to be dyslexic and say 48 but we have to face facts in life. After 58 years this is the first birthday I have spent without my wife Nanette who died on 14th October. True as ever, along comes my birthday card from 44 Club. Thanks to all in the 44 Club who keep up this good work. Nanette and I had many good memories of when I worked in Retail and with Eddie Morton's team in Distributor Trade. We still keep in touch even though I live in Perth, Australia. It is good that work mates still supported each other outside work as Nanette and I experienced during the Dunblane disaster. Blessings and good wishes to those of us who still creak along.

*A.O. (Sandy) Hogg
142, Trappers Drive,
WOODVALE 6026. W.A.
Australia*

85th Despite age I managed to fulfil a long-standing ambition last summer by joining a small expedition cruise into the high Arctic in search of wildlife. I am pleased to say that despite global warming now that hunting is banned in Svalbard the wildlife is flourishing. Because the ice is retreating every year, we managed to get to within eight degrees latitude of the north pole and came across walrus, arctic foxes, seals,



thousands of sea birds, and, six very healthy looking polar bears including the one on the attached photo. He came to the side of the boat, hung around for half an hour, got bored and went to sleep.

Best wishes from dull and damp
Matlock

Brian Spencer
7 Hackney Road
Matlock DE4 2PV

86th It is always good to be remembered, as I remember old friends and colleagues. Arthritis makes writing difficult but I hope you can decipher this!

Marion Rush
Summerhill Cottage
82 Downs Wood
EPSOM
Surrey KT18 5UL

86th The Picture on my delightful card, of Sheffield Park Garden, reminded me of my thanks letter last year, when I said I still got up to Engineering Escapades at Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park Loco Works. Very sadly, as I moved into my 87th year, Arthur (my friendly Arthritis) told me I should not be climbing on top of engines, or crawling underneath them to work in cramped spaces, lying across sleepers and ballast!! So, very reluctantly, I had to bring to an end my long commitment to steam loco maintenance. Well, that gave me



back about 1½ days a week - which I find is now an essential addition to the time I take to maintain me - and try to keep up with the maintenance of the house and garden.

A weekly dose of physiotherapy at East Surrey Hospital is not an adequate substitute for the exercises I used to get for free at Bluebell Railway, and the people are not nearly as interesting as my fellow engineer volunteers were!! We are all getting older, and even the 44 Club is changing. But it still has an important role in keeping long-standing friendships alive, and keeping our minds active, even if our bodies are not quite as agile as they were!

Many thanks for the memories of a Great Company.

James MacCarthy
20 Reigate Road
Reigate
Surrey RH2 0QN

88th At my age I have outlived many family members, neighbours and acquaintances so I do not receive many birthday cards nowadays. So to get a birthday card from the SMBP 44 Association is more than welcome. Thank you.

Frank McIntyre
1 Wyvis Avenue
Bearsden
Glasgow G61 4RD

90th I had a lovely 'big' birthday and am now recovering!! Thank you for your efforts and for the magazine which I really enjoy.

Dorothy Allen
41 Woodlands Avenue
Eastcote
Ruislip HA4 9RL

(Ed: Thank you Dorothy and thank you also for your donation to the Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association, which is much appreciated.)

92nd Seventy-six years ago I joined the Company at an aviation depot of the Petroleum Board but I did not know at the time that as a sixteen-year-old I would be expected to clear the snow away in the vehicle loading

area when necessary or have to put out a grass fire which had been started by a passing railway engine. The best job was being asked by a driver to load his vehicle when he went off for a smoke. I used to get tips – usually 6d which I spent on 10 Woodbines (the drug of choice for my generation). We never had it so good as in the SMBP days. I am now kept going by three batteries – one in each ear and a new one in my chest keeping the dicky ticker going!

Peter Wharton
1 Cautley Drive
Killinghall
Harrogate HG3 2DJ

93rd Thank you and the volunteers for marking my 93rd birthday. At the time of receipt I was nursing a chest infection, feeling very sorry for myself at the prospect of missing Christmas celebrations. However, the fact that I was remembered was quite a fillip. This is yet another example of the family spirit present within the 44club and every ex-member of that rather special company.

Throughout my service as a Shell PLR I was constantly reminded of the loyalty and appreciation shown by SMBP retirees in particular. The PLRs remain a significant and valuable force as ambassadors for the Company today.

Maldwyn Clements.
44 Woodland Park Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 8LY

Thanks also received from: Mavis Humphries, Eileen Readman (82), Jackie Ford (86), Brian Fausset (89), Elizabeth Kershaw, Terry Morley (85, though he cannot believe it!), Ray Large, Peggy Hughes (86), Bill Wright, David Yorke (80), Lawrie Townsend, Alan Mallett (81), Michael Carrington (85), John Swan (80), John Nowill (92), Gerry Cowan (75), Anne Groves, John Smith (75)

Obituaries

We regret to report the deaths of the following members. Our condolences are sent to their families, friends and past colleagues.

ALDERMAN (90). Mrs Doreen Alderman of Bishops Sutton died on 12th February 2017. She was the wife of Mr Philip Alderman once a Systems Analyst, Shell-Mex House.

ALLEN (86). Mr John Allen of Ryton died on 13th January 2017. He was a Vehicle Tester at Jarrow when he left group service in 1987 after 20 years.

ATKINSON (90). Mr Thomas Atkinson of Lancaster died on 20th August 2016. He was a Motor Mechanic at Heysham when he left group service in 1979 after 30 years.

BAGSHAW (92). Mrs Barbara Bagshaw of Poole died on 19th August 2016. She was the widow of Captain Michael Bagshaw once a Master Mariner, Ship Management, BP House.

BEDDARD (84). Mrs Brenda Beddard of Stockton-on-Tees died on 12th January 2017. She was the widow of Mr Stephen Beddard once a Retail Engineer in Leeds/Manchester.

BLAKELY (85). Mrs Maureen Blakely of Sittingbourne died on 18th November 2016. She was the widow of Mr Frederick Blakely who was with SIPC in Shell Centre.

BOOTH (93). Mr Douglas Booth of Chichester died on 18th December 2016. He was Regional Manager, Commercial Division, Norbury when he left group service in 1983 after 34 years.

BRIDGES (94). Mrs Doris Bridges of Stowmarket died on 17th November 2016. She was the widow of Mr G Bridges once a Driver at King's Lynn.

BUCKNALL (74). Mr Alan Bucknall of Rotherham died on 27th September 2016. He worked for BP Oil, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1993 after 29 years.

BURCHELL (76). Mr Anthony Burchell of Brighton died on 5th February 2017. He was Rail/Pipeline Programmer, Supply & Distribution, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1993 after 27 years.

CONSTABLE (82). Mr Geoffrey Richard Constable of Teddington died on 10th November 2016. He was in Contract Services, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1990 after 32 years.

COOKE (96). Mrs Olive Cooke of Ryde, Isle of Wight, died on 17th February 2017. She was the wife of Mr Christopher Cooke.

DAVIES (84). Mr James Gilmore Davies of Carmarthen died on 3rd December 2016. He was a Commercial Sales Representative, Shell UK Oil, Birmingham when he left group service in 1987 after 34 years.

DAWES (85). Mr David Dawes of Hamble died on 3rd March 2016. He was Head of Press and Regional PR at BP Oil Victoria when he left group service in 1998 after 36 years.

DYER (94). Mr E M Dyer of Westbury-on-Trym died on 5th December 2016. He was F&A Credit Supervisor, Retail, Bristol when he left group service in 1978 after 41 years.

EVANS (86). Mr Desmond Evans of Llangollen died in July 2016. He was Driver at Kingsbury when he left group service in 1983 after 18 years.

FEAR (75). Mr Christopher Fear of Horsmonden died on 23rd November 2016. He was Aviation Sales Manager, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1996 after 35 years.

FERRIS (85). Mr Leonard Ferris of Billericay died on 16th December 2016. He was Terminal Group Manager at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1988 after 25 years.

GUNNER (93). Miss Ellen Gunner formerly of Seaton died on 11th January 2017. She was Supervisor, P.R. Typing Services, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1970 after 11 years.

HELLAWELL (96). Mrs Joyce Hellawell of Cheltenham died on 13th February 2017. She was the wife of Mr L J Hellawell, once an Admin Assistant, IR&M, Shell-Mex House.

HOLMES (89). Mr Cyril Holmes of Rocester (Staffs) died on 19th November 2016. He was a Driver at Uttoxeter Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 28 years.

HOLMES (74). Mrs Jenny Holmes of Aylesbury died on 7th November 2016. She was Retail ESP Project Manager, BP Oil, Hemel Hempstead when she left group service in 1993 after 29 years.

HUGHES (77). Mrs Beryl Joyce Hughes of Leigh (Lancs) died on 12th December 2016. She was the widow of Mr William Hughes once a Driver at Haydock.

LATHAM (82). Mr Dennis Latham of Congleton died on 23rd February 2017. He was Payroll Administrator, Wythenshawe Computer Centre when he left group service in 1986 after 37 years.

LONGMAN (86). Mr Eric Leonard Longman of Penryn died on 20th December 2016. He was a Driver at Falmouth when he left group service in 1983 after 15 years.

LOVE (87). Mr Richard Love of Sholden, near Deal died on 16th January 2017. He was a Driver at Dover when he left group service in 1968 after 19 years.

LOVELAND (95). Mr William James Loveland of St Leonards-on-Sea died on 1st December 2016. He was Depot Manager, Eastbourne when he left group service in 1975 after 37 years.

LOVETT (98). Mr Bernard Lovett of Bournemouth died on 28th November 2016. He was an Area Sales Manager, Industrial, South East Region, BP Oil Ltd when he left group service after 24 years. He was also a founder member of the Bricklayers Arms Executives.

McILVEAN (85). Mr Dale McIlvean of Honiton died on 26th December 2016. He was Regional Sales Manager, Shell, West Country when he left group service in 1991 after 26 years.

McKELVIE (93). Mr Keith McKelvie of Welford-on-Avon died on 14th January 2017. He was Shell Lubricants Coordinator, Birmingham when he left group service in 1967 after 13 years.

MELVILLE (75). Mr Kenneth (Ken) Melville of Aberdeen died on 1st January 2017. He was Safety Officer, Distribution OPU, BP, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1993 after 28 years.

MULLEN (73). Mr James (Jim) Mullen of Ottery St Mary died on 15th February 2017. He was Retail Territory Manager, Bristol when he left group service in 1993 after 33 years.

O'BRIEN (90). Miss Sheila O'Brien formerly of Crouch Hill, London died on 3rd January 2017. She was Financial Assistant, Marketing Costs, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1975 after 8 years.

ORCHARD (93). Mr John Orchard of Northwood died on 21st December 2016. He was SP&A Manager, National Benzole, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1973 after 19 years.

PAPWORTH (90). Mrs Waltraut Irmgard Papworth of Lincoln died on 12th January 2017. She was the widow of Mr Sidney Papworth once an Area Sales Manager – Industrial, Lincoln Industrial Area, Torksey.

PARKINSON (79). Mr Brian Parkinson of Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, died in November 2016. He was a Group 1 Operator at Great Yarmouth when he left group service in 1992 after 17 years.

PATERSON (90). Mrs Adelia Paterson of Bradford died on 10th November 2016. She was the widow of Mr Robert Paterson once a Senior Airfield Operator at Leeds Airport.

PEARCE (87). Mrs Mary Pearce of Bromley died on 24th November 2016. She was a Secretary, BP Oil, Victoria when she left group service in 1983 after 32 years.

PERKINS (80). Mr Francis Derek Perkins of Port Skewett died on 7th January 2017. He was a Driver at Newport when he left group service in 1980 after 20 years.

POWELL (91). Mr Philip George Powell of Auckland, New Zealand died on 1st December 2016. He was a Driver at Plymouth when he left group service in 1981 after 34 years.

RANDOLL (82). Mrs Alison Randall of Benfleet died on 4th December 2016. She was the widow of Mr Bruce Randall, once with Shell Oman Marketing, Muscat.

RAYSON (88). Miss Brenda Rayson formerly of Beckenham died on 9th December 2016. She worked in Commercial Administration, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1981 after 17 years.

REASON (94). Mr Raymond Reason of Welling died on 21st April 2016. He was Senior Marketing Assistant, BP Oil, Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1981 after 43 years.

REEVE (77). Mrs Arline Reeve of Loughton died on 20th December 2016. She was Data Preparation Supervisor, Shell Centre when she left group service in 1992 after 21 years.

RICE (93). Mrs E F Rice of Putney died on 14th November 2016. She was the widow of Mr E C Rice once a Bitumen Field Manager.

ROPER (92). Mrs Dorine Roper of Abbeydore, Hereford has died. She was the wife of Mr Harry Roper, once a District Heating Technical Adviser, Shell-Mex House.

ROSE (95). Mr Geoffrey Rose of Henbury, Bristol died on 5th December 2016. He was a Shift Manager at Avonmouth when he left group service in 1978 after 40 years.

RUST (96). Miss Christina Rust formerly of Chislehurst died on 1st January 2017. She was a Secretary at Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1975 after 28 years.

SALVAGE (88). Mr Raymond Salvage of Houghton Regis died on 9th January 2017. He was a Driver at Buncefield Terminal when he left group service in 1988 after 18 years.

SANDERS (69). Mrs Avril Elizabeth Sanders of Plymouth (wife of Mr Joseph Sanders, once a Garage Technician at Plymouth Terminal) died on 20th July 2016.

SAUNDERS (92). Mrs Catherine Saunders of King's Lynn died on 5th February 2017. She was the widow of Mr Frederick Saunders once an Operator I at King's Lynn.

SMITH (82). Mr David Smith of Woodbridge (formerly of Ipswich) died on 27th January. He was an HGV1 Driver at Ipswich when he left group service in 1985 after 28 years.

STONE (85). Mr (Reginald) Dennis Stone of Portishead died on 31st December 2016. He was Senior Operations Assistant, Avonmouth when he left group service in 1990 after 19 years.

SPENCER (77). Mr Paul Spencer of Colmworth, Bedford died in 2016. He worked for BP on Special Projects in Antwerp and Zwijndrecht when he left group service in 1991 after 28 years.

THEOBOLD (82). Mr John Theobald of Moreton in the Marsh died on 25th February 2017. He was Regional Manager, Retail, Watford when he left group service.

THOMPSON (74). Mrs Maureen Thompson of Chester died on 18th November 2016. She was the widow of Mr Humphrey Thompson once a Terminal Manager at Stanlow.

TREES (92). Mr Edward (Ted) Trees of Beaconsfield died on 19th February 2017. He was Manager, Heating & Agriculture when he left group service in 1979 after 22 years.

TWEDDLE (91). Mr Alan Tweddle of Barnstaple died on 5th February 2017. He was a Development Engineer, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1975 after 26 years.

WADSWORTH (85). Mr Douglas Wadsworth of Barnsley died on 8th February 2017. He was a Driver at Leeds when he left group service in 1987 after 21 years.

WATSON (87). Mrs Ann Watson of Grimsby died on 13th February 2017. She was the wife of Mr Frederick Langton once Section Head, Industrial Markets, NE Region, Leeds.

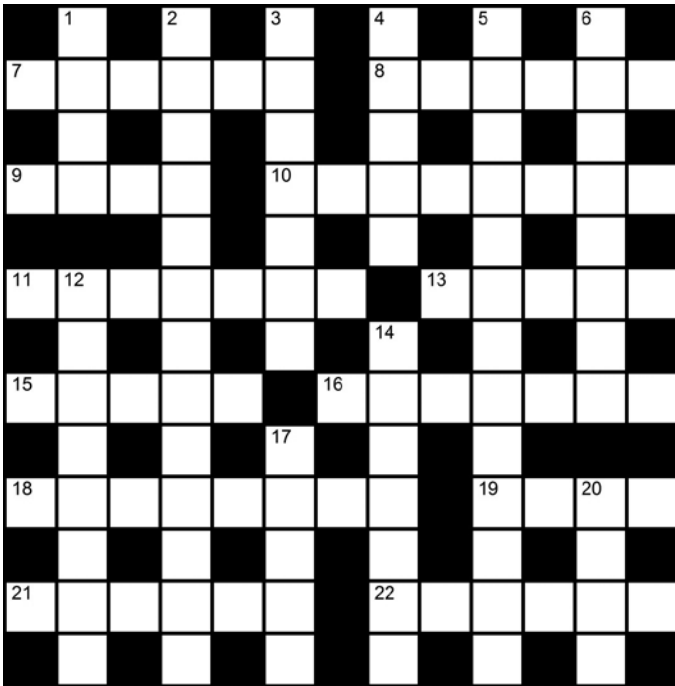
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"He is a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing"

Oscar Wilde

Prize Crossword



Across

- 7 The 'E' type was one (6)
- 8 President Ronnie (6)
- 9 Not new (4)
- 10 Remains loyal to... (6,2)
- 11 Mary's Rugby star friend (7)
- 13 Metric measure of weight (abb) (5)
- 15 Where Europe's largest clock is located (5)
- 16 Hydrocarbon product used as feedstock (7)
- 18 What we all wore before trainers! (3,5)
- 19 Petroleum producers cartel (4)
- 21 Man of Steele (6)
- 22 In the happy bag at the Christmas Party (6)

Down

- 1 One of the beers in the 'Coal Hole' (4)
- 2 Projectile that flies to its target (6,7)
- 3 On the desk to help correct mistakes (7)
- 4 He and Jean have their Golden Wedding in June (5)
- 5 A sort of human advertising (8,5)
- 6 Rescued from the river (8)
- 12 They study and quantify problems (8)
- 14 A citrus fruit (7)
- 17 The 'Bringer of War' has two (5)
- 20 Often jellied, sometime electric (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

A record 26 correct entries from which **Keith Taylor's** rose to the top! Well done Keith. A pristine copy of 'The Shell Book of the British Coast' will be winging its way to Tyne and Wear!

This edition of the Club News is available online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/ClubNews154>

Closing date for next issue
May 17th 2017