



Remembering the early years of Buncefield Terminal

Continuing our look back 50 years to the commissioning and early years of Buncefield Terminal David Hunter, David Ellis and Graham Douglas reminisce about those distant days. Here we tell the story of sunflowers and tanks with floating roofs. Of Road tankers and pipelines and a football team of which David Hunter's namesake Norman 'Bites Yer Legs' Hunter would have been proud! The story starts on Page 4.

Useful Contacts

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

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– For Shell Pensioners

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– For BP Pensioners

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Welcome

One of the areas we covered when I met the three ex-Supervisors from Buncefield which is this issue's main feature was the use of contractors in Distribution/Operations. This happened in Shell-Mex and BP to some extent but it was later to become the norm in Shell and BP and across the industry. In SMBP we tended mostly to do our own thing rather than contract out – certainly for our key activities. So there was a direct line in the hierarchy from the MD of the company to those working at the coal face - we all took home a weekly or monthly pay check from SMBP. This meant that making deliveries to customers was acknowledged as being part of our core business. In those years I don't recall that being challenged very much – we would use contractors for flexibility, especially if the product demand was exceptional. But in the main it was a Shell-Mex and BP driver in a Shell-Mex and BP road tank wagon who made the delivery. This model continued after brand separation but over the years it was challenged and, as we now know, in time it all changed. Shell and BP have long since contracted out their product delivery needs – as has every other oil company.

You have the operational structure in business to match the times and what you see as the needs and as always the past is a foreign country. But the SMBP model had a lot going for it. We were a family and those working at and from the installations, terminals and depots were very much part of that family. As were the Authorised Distributors. The ADs were independent businesses but they were very much integrated into SMBP's operations. It was a form of 'soft' contracting out. The AD's employed their own staff but most aspects of their day to day business were governed by SMBP norms and standards. In Retail it was more difficult but the gradual move to Company Owned Sites and away from Dealer Owned Sites was at least in part driven by a wish for control. A retail dealer was a customer and it is more difficult to tell a customer what to do than it is the operator of a site you own!

In the cold winter of 1963 everyone in the line pulled together to keep the product flowing despite the appalling weather and road conditions. Would SMBP have been able to do this if we had not had our own drivers? Probably not. Similarly at the time of the various oil supply crises it surely helped that our drivers and other operations staff were fully fledged members of our team. But things move on and times change. Manging installations and their staff is a skilled job requiring hands on involvement and a sensitive approach. I think SMBP was pretty good at this but undoubtedly there were instances when the business was affected by difficult industrial relations and other issues. The Operations staff were under pressure from the marketers to keep the product flowing and the last thing a salesman wants is to hear that a customer he has looked after cannot get fuel because the drivers are on strike.

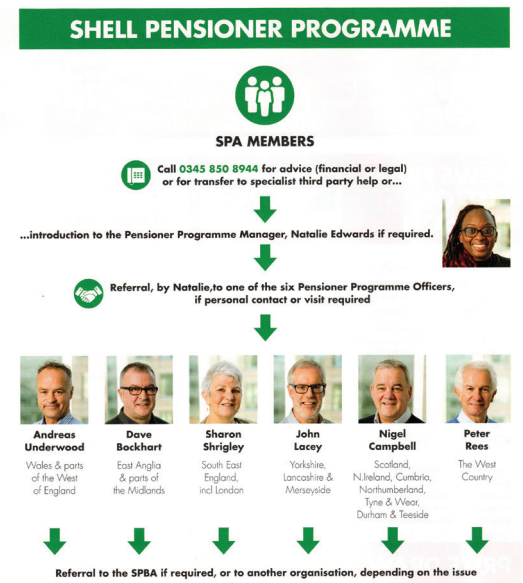
The move to full contracting out that commenced in the late 1980s and 1990s was in part a reflection of the much tougher employment environment of those times. Maybe the Tom Peters 'In Search of Excellence' advice to 'Stick to the knitting' also played a part. Certainly Shell and BP decided that running a network of terminals and employing drivers was not part of the 'knitting' and so they paid somebody else to do it. I guess all SMBP alumni in the 44 Club would regret this. Oh well, it was good whilst it lasted.

Paddy Briggs



Shell Pensioner Programme

The Shell Pensioner Programme offers help and advice to all Shell Pensioners (including, of course, those who transferred to the Shell Contributory Pension Fund from the Shell-Mex and BP Pension Fund back in 1980 and in 1997). However to benefit from this service (including becoming potentially eligible for grants from the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association) it is necessary to be a member of the Shell Pensioners Association (SPA).



Situations Vacant - West Riding

After many years supporting and organising social activities, Terry Morley has stood down. On behalf of the Club and especially all the members of West Riding branch, our sincere thanks go to Terry.

Terry's 'retirement' leaves a gap in the branch and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who has the time to take the reins. The Secretary (Colin) will provide support with getting things up and running. He will send out mailings on behalf of the branch and other support that might be needed.

If you are interested in keeping the branch alive and want to learn more about what's involved, call Colin Hill on 020 7934 5132 or email 44-club@shell.com. (Please bear in mind the club office is manned part-time, so please leave a message if Colin's not free and he will call you back).

A new Vice President

At the AGM the Club Chairman announced that the Executive Committee had resolved to invite Bill Scott, long term stalwart of Glasgow Branch and long serving member of the Club's Executive committee, to become a Vice President of the SMBP 44 Association and that he had graciously accepted the invitation.

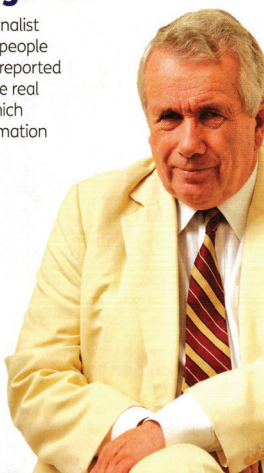


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Martin Bell OBE

Order your **FREE** copy of our expert guide now



Age UK Booklet

Age UK is the leading charity helping older people and they have just produced a helpful booklet entitled 'Live well and love later life' – it's worth taking a look. A free copy is available from Age UK – just send a request (no stamp necessary) to them at:

Freepost Plus
Age UK
2A Halifax Road
Melksham
SN12 6YY

www.ageuk.org.uk

Welcome New Members

Mr Alan Breeze - Chester

Mrs Yvonne Harrison - Oulton Broad

Buncefield – the commissioning and early years of operation of one of Britain's largest oil storage and distribution facilities

By David Hunter, with David Ellis and Graham Douglas. (Additional notes by PSB)

In May and early June 1968 SMBP management, together with a team of six supervisors, assembled from different locations around the UK to commission the new Buncefield Oil Terminal. The Manager was Frank Thompson, the Assistant manager Roy Cole, the Transport superintendent was Bill Roche and the Plant superintendent Alex Pirie. The supervisors were Albert Puddy, Archie Summers and Joe Brady (the old'uns) and the Davids (Hunter and Ellis) and Berry Cross, (the young'uns). The SMBP facility was by far the largest on the new shared Buncefield oil complex, built alongside the M1 motorway next to the Hemel Hempstead junction.

Buncefield was fed from the southern end of the new Thames – Mersey pipeline, linked to various refineries in Essex. It also included the pipeline control centre operated by United Kingdom Oil Pipelines (UKOP) through which all incoming fuel was measured and directed to the various oil company storage facilities.



David Hunter, mucking in to get the installation ready

Today David Hunter (bottom left mucking in to get the installation ready) and David Ellis are the only surviving members of the original team - Graham Douglas joined us in 1971 as the operation expanded. On arrival we were faced by an enormous building site, still full of contractors finishing off various building and groundworks, (see photos). Once the first fuel arrived on site the whole atmosphere changed, with all the industry safety rules and procedures associated with a working oil storage facility put in place.

Everything about SMBP Buncefield was large, including the two ten thousand tons floating roof tanks, in which premium and regular grade gasolines were stored. Also stored were best grade gasoline, (101 octane), diesel, gas oil, regular kerosene and premium kerosene. In time three more large tanks were built to store aviation grade kerosene, (Avtur), principally for road bridging to Luton Airport.

The first task to be completed was flushing fuel through all the supply lines to the vehicle loading gantries, one solely for gasoline loading, the other for all the other grades. Thousands of

Buncefield oil installation near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire will always be associated in the public mind with the incident on Saturday 11th December 2005 when it was destroyed by fire. But for more than thirty years it was the home of first Shell-Mex and BP and then Shell UK (with BP Oil as a guest). And SMBP played a key role in the commissioning of the Terminal fifty years ago. Three of SMBP's then supervisory staff here tell the story.

gallons of the various fuels were loaded into vehicles and then returned to stock. Sundry debris was also removed from the supply lines, including gloves and spanners! With size came speed. Vehicle loading arms were four inches in diameter and minimum loading speed was five hundred gallons a minute. We also had one gasoline gantry equipped with electronic quantity metering, eight inch diameter loading arms and a loading speed of one thousand gallons a minute.





Floating roof tanks have a roof which moves when you step on them. When they are being filled they gradually rise up and if they overfill the mechanicals form what is known as a 'Sunflower'. If this happens on your watch it is, as Graham Douglas puts it 'career threatening'. It happened once but career disaster was averted in the nick of time.

Needless to say with all this new equipment mistakes, both mechanical and human, occurred and spillages to ground were fairly commonplace but they were nothing copious amounts of water from fire hoses couldn't wash into the interceptor system, from where it was skimmed and returned to storage.

The three Musketeers all joined SMBP as very young men in the 1960s with little or no qualifications. As 'Operations Trainees' they spend some five years learning the ropes. Learning by doing. As David Hunter puts it "SMBP trained people properly". They would visit and work in a range of facilities and do all the jobs. Above all they were 'taught by the Blue Collar workers' who they worked alongside and who mostly generously helped them. It was an apprenticeship that was invaluable as they eventually became Supervisors and then later in their careers when they moved into management.

We also received many visitors, both from home and abroad, with the high speed loading facility demonstrated in all its glory. We did our best to make sure they didn't get their expensive shoes wet.

As all the fuel stored was under bond, meaning that Customs duty had not been paid, every point on the gantry metering equipment which could be tampered with in order to illegally remove fuel had to be sealed with wire and special lead seals. Customs officers were on site for much of the time, checking that all wire and seals were intact.

As time moved towards the grand opening day on 28th July employees - drivers, static operatives, vehicle mechanics and office staff from various London terminals, which were to transfer customers to Buncefield, and who had

been sold the idea of a new life in rural Hertfordshire, arrived.

Too many drivers were initially transferred for the amount of business so they could not earn the amounts of wages (overtime) they had been used to and/or promised. The inevitable outcome was a difficult labour relations scenario which took some time to resolve. Eventually however more work arrived and peace broke out.

Many new people were recruited locally and at full strength one hundred and fifty drivers and one hundred vehicles were employed, working both day and shift work, twenty four hours a day, Monday to Saturday. Two extra Supervisors were appointed, Graham Douglas being one, in order to provide additional cover in the office to manage the operation and to supervise the drivers. Receipts of fuel continued 24/7 with the Supervisors on seven day, twenty four hour shift cover, with static operators brought in at weekends to assist with receipts as necessary. David Ellis came into his own at this point with some wondrous shift patterns but he still could not avoid being on nights when the clocks went back, thirteen hour night shifts.

Tanker drivers were 'proud and good ambassadors for SMBP' and their relationship with the customers was crucial to building loyalty. Mutual respect between drivers and supervisors was the key to keeping the show on the road.

From the outside Buncefield was perceived as a difficult place to run from an industrial relations standpoint. This was true from time to time, strikes did occur, occasionally. Buncefield was an ideal training ground for upcoming supervisory staff and others thought to

need some exposure to an operational environment before moving on elsewhere.

One day a brand new vehicle arrived in the yard, much bigger than anything seen before. It was a Scammell Trunker - a multi-compartment trailer with a capacity of six thousand three hundred gallons and an all up weight of thirty two tons. Many of the drivers who first saw it were very nervous of taking it on the road. However a large Scottish driver strode into the office, said he wasn't scared of the size, asked for the keys, loaded it and departed. The era of the '63' as it became known had arrived and many more followed. This vehicle was the forerunner of today's large vehicles which both carry and weigh even more.

Buncefield was invited to form a football team and play Hamble Terminal at their sports and social club ground. We got thrashed - due in no small part to the presence of one or two Southampton FC players in their team. The next year we were invited back again with the same outcome. During the course of the evening and after a surfeit of local 'falling down water', verbal abuse was exchanged between some of the players, to be followed by fisticuffs. Buncefield was not invited back again.

Again in the early seventies the company organised two fire and safety courses for supervisors, at the Fire Service Training College at Moreton in the Marsh. Students from all over the world attended the courses. David Hunter was on the first course along with trainee supervisor Julian Dalzell. One morning, after a very social evening spent with some of the other students and looking very much the worst for wear, Julian appeared in the classroom around 11am, two hours late and much to the amusement of

continued on page 6

One of the key changes around the time of Brand Separation was the move away from Supervisors to Shift Managers at installations. The premise was to focus on management and to ensure that there was full cover around the clock at 24 hour terminals like Buncefield. However there was a trade-off between the wish to have management-potential staff in charge at all times but in some cases without the practical experience that those who had been Operations Trainees brought to the Supervisory roles.

the rest of us. The instructor did not see the funny side! Later in the course whilst on fire hose handling practice the order came to break the mainline of hoses and insert another length. With the water off, step forward Julian who busied himself with the task in hand and then called for the water to be turned back on. Being hydrant operator I duly obliged, only to hear loud shouts of abusive language. In his haste our star pupil had joined the ends of the new length together to form a circle, not into main hose line as instructed. Result, an open hose end thrashing about with anybody within thirty yards, instructors and our course administrator included, getting thoroughly soaked.

Like all SMBP's installations Buncefield had to operate in all weather conditions. One afternoon, after a terribly foggy morning at the bottom end of the M1 motorway with multiple accidents the police asked for our assistance. A competitor's vehicle had been involved



David Hunter admits to having sported a Zapata moustache when at Buncefield. No record of this monstrosity exists but David tells the story of how colleagues decided to take wholly understandable action to try and discourage this folly by taking David forcibly to the washroom and shaving half of the moustache off so that at the next shift he had to appear only semi-moustachioed.

in one of the many accidents and as we had the necessary equipment we were asked to unload it. Two vans containing the equipment and an empty vehicle with staff, myself included, were escorted the wrong way down the closed M1 to meet the damaged vehicle which was towed up to us. It was an eerie feeling working in the middle of a motorway. Once the vehicle was emptied we returned to the Terminal and measured the quantity of fuel recovered. Surprisingly we recovered more than was shown on the vehicle's bill of lading. I would like to have been a fly on the wall when the driver was asked by his manager to explain how excess fuel came to be on his vehicle!

Six years at Buncefield gave us all the sort of experience which at times had to be lived through to be believed. We wouldn't have missed it for anything.

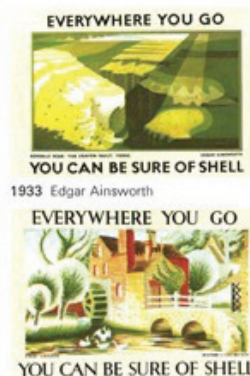
The two Davids and Graham Douglas all went on, after Buncefield, to have successful careers in Shell and BP including spells as Terminal Managers. Buncefield was a fine apprenticeship in its own right and they have happy memories of their time there.

Great Advertisements

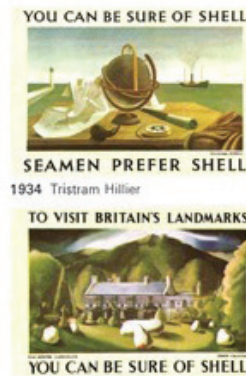
Some of the great advertisements from the inter war years and the early years of Shell-Mex and B.P.



1937 E. McKnight Kauffer



1933 Clifford and Rosemary Ellis



1934 Tristram Hillier
1936 Edwin Calligan

Annual General Meeting of the SMBP 44 Association and Members' Reunion



AGM

Shell Centre was the venue for the 40th AGM and reunion of the 44 Club on Wednesday April 25th 2018. The Chairman Rick Westley (right) welcomed the around 80 members who braved the formidable security of the building to be with us. Rick thanked Shell for its continued and much appreciated support for the Club's operations which included funding the employment of our Secretary Colin Hill (now two and a half days a week) and providing him with an office etc. (**Ed:** As Honorary Editor of the 44 Club News, I am also grateful to Shell for funding the design, production, printing and distribution of the magazine).

Rick welcomed all members and our guests and said though membership inevitably declined again the Club remains strong and very much viable – not least because of the sterling work done by the branches and all our volunteers. Some branches are struggling a little but there are also positive signs with the revised Bournemouth branch doing well and with Viv Perry successfully reviving the South Wales branch. In a couple of areas help is needed – in East Sussex & Kent where Charles Richards is keeping the branch afloat but where a permanent organiser is needed.



Chairman Rick Westley

AGM & REUNION

Similarly in the West Riding where Terry Morley has had to stand down and new blood is needed.



Treasurer Nick Preece

The Treasurer Nick Preece (left) summarised the accounts of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2017. The Club had a deficit of £423 over the year with slightly

lower income from the 2017 AGM and lower surplus on diary sales compared with the previous year. However the Club was financially healthy with Assets of a little over £11,000.

At the 2017 AGM Jonathon Kohn had talked about the decision to close down the PLR scheme and previewed what would replace it. At this meeting the



Natalie Edwards

lady who has been appointed to run the Shell Pensioner Programme, Natalie Edwards (above) spoke to us about it. It started on 1st November 2017 and is providing support to the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association as well as helping any Shell Pensioners who are members of the Shell Pensioners Association on a variety of subjects. The system is summarised on Page 3 of this magazine under 'Noticeboard'. Elaine Ellen briefed the Meeting about the new 44 Club website (See separate

story opposite page).

The meeting re-elected the Officers of the Association (Rick Westley, Chairman and Nick Preece, Treasurer) and also the three Committee members (Ken Longhurst, Elaine Ellen and Brammer Allport). The Hon. Auditor Les Bater was also re-appointed.



Les Bater

The Chairman announced that the Executive Committee had unanimously agreed that Bill Scott of Glasgow should be asked to be a Vice President of the 44 Club and that he had accepted with pleasure.

The Reunion began on time as the bar opened at 5:30pm.

Reunion



Maura Flynn



Allan Melmore, Andy Hull, Brammer Allport, Brian Keech



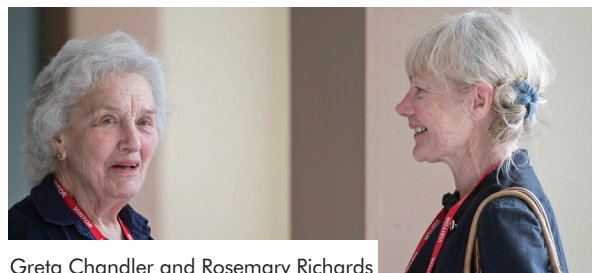
Laurie Wheeler



David Roberts and friend



John Smeddle and John Perry



Greta Chandler and Rosemary Richards

Club's new website



The AGM held on 25 April 2018 saw the launch of a new website for the 44 Club – www.44club.co.uk. Elaine Ellen, a member of the Executive Committee, has taken on responsibility for the website and worked hard so that the new site was ready for the launch.

The main aims of the website are to increase accessibility to information and to display up to date reports and photographs of branch events. All branches have been contacted and the response has been good.

There is now quite a lot of information on the site's Branch Pages.

The website is complementary to the '44 Club News'. The magazine Editor will continue to manage the Branch pages of the Club News and liaise with the Branches in this task. However the website can be updated on a much more regular basis and photographs etc. can be added whenever they are ready. The '44 Club News' is a quarterly record of Branch events past and to come but there are space limitations – especially for photographs. The website is more instant and Branches are encouraged to send material to Elaine as soon as it is ready!

Each branch page contains a 'contact' form. For those branches with email the contact form will go directly to their given email address. For branches who do not use email the contact form will go to Elaine who will then get in touch with the Branch.

The website also gives access to past and present issues of the '44 Club News'. These can either be downloaded or read on screen and can be magnified to personal preference. As each new issue is published it will be added to the website.



A developing website element is the tab titled Archive. The hope is that members will send photographs, stories or any other historical information that will be of interest to members. As we go to print there is only one photograph here but hopefully more will come flooding in! Contributions from Branches and directly from individual members are very welcome. Contributions (including hand-written ones) can be sent either by email or via the post. So please let us have your photographs, stories etc. Hard copy photographs, newspaper clippings etc. can be scanned by Elaine and then returned to you.

The Contact page on the website has an email link or you can contact Elaine directly to discuss any contributions, queries or amendments:
Telephone: 07703 578614,
email: elaine.ellen@btinternet.com
or by post – Elaine Ellen, Little Finnelly, Gartocharn, West Dunbartonshire, Scotland G83 8SA.



Final Distributor Trade Reunion

Some 29 years ago, fourteen couples attended the first Distributor Trade Reunion which was held in Tewkesbury at the Tewkesbury Park Hotel. (see right.)

Looking back, the venues for the Reunions have included a variety of locations in and around the fringes of the Cotswolds. Then of course there was also Le Touquet twice!



Distributor Cronies Meet...



The final reunion in 2018:

Six of the men who had been at the first reunion (Mike Howard, Eddie Morton, David Richens, Derek Higgins, Dick Tinson and Maurice Husbands) also attended the final reunion held at the Regency Park Hotel in Newbury.

Standing (L to R): Rick Westley, Mike Howard, Eddie Morton, Dick Tinson, Maurice Husbands, Nick Edmonds

Sitting (L to R): Dena Tinson, Derek Higgins, Maureen Howard, David Richens, Jenny Edmonds, Vicky Westley
(John and Gay Smeddle had to leave early)

The first reunion in 1990:

Back row: Colin Rose, Rex Hatcher, Ted Osgood, Maelor Jones, Alan Flowers, David Soame (with glass), David Richens (obscured by Soame), Dick Tinson, Eddie Morton.

Front Row: Derek Higgins, Dick Owen, Maurice Husbands, Mike Howard
Crouching: Mike Treasure

(Geoff Bryant and Jeremy Barron were missing from the photo)

Undoubtedly great friendships and memories for everyone over the years ending with another memorable two days together. We will still keep in touch with each other and those who were unable to be with us.

Wedding Anniversaries

A reminder that Wedding Anniversaries (unlike Birthdays) are not held on the Club's database so if you would like a notable anniversary to appear you will have to let the Editor know!

Platinum

Paddy and Margaret Rutledge
13 Bonfield Road
Strathkinness
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9RR
23rd December 2017

(Our apologies for showing an incorrect address in the last issue.)

Golden

Jeremy & Bridget Barron
The Chase
Warren Road
Thurlestone
Kingsbridge
TQ7 3NT
29th March 2018

Chris & Gillian Barclay
12 Richmond Road
Benfleet Essex
SS6 7RH
16th March 2018



Birthday Thanks

80th I joined SMBP at Thame Terminal in 1967 then progressed westwards to Yelland in glorious Devon. I retired in Devon in 1991 and also became a local Chairman of the 44 Club for many years. Thanks to all who work behind the scenes to keep the Club going and keep in touch with members.

Dennis Thornton
13 Rooks Farm Road
Yelland
Barnstable
Devon EX31 3EQ

84th My birthday here in Australia on Anzac Day was odd as it is a public holiday. We have been here in this Retirement Village for ten years now. We don't move around too much since I had a stroke but it's good to be in the sun!



ML Howlett
Villa 79
Knox Village
466 Burwood
Highway
Victoria 3152
Australia

85th For health reasons I have not been able to come to the AGMs and I haven't seen fellow members for some time. Unfortunately I have been diagnosed with Glaucoma and have been registered as sight impaired. I can still see a little but not very well – but no complaints. There's always someone worse off isn't there!

Roy Baverstock
Grovebury House
Ixworth Road
Norton Suffolk
IP31 3LE

85th Just over 31 years ago I retired after 20 years' service at Wythenshawe. During my time I worked in several different departments ending with 10 years in Salaries and Wages. They were happy days.

Pat Scott
25 Tennyson Road
Cheadle
Cheshire SK8 2AR

85th I must write a few words to thank you for my Birthday Card. I very much appreciate the thought. I would like you to send my very best wishes to all fellow members. I was very lucky to spend the greater part of my working life with SMBP and Shell UK Oil and to have a wonderful friendship with all of my colleagues.

Ernie Sudron
Rosemary House
Lawrence Gardens
Kenilworth CV8 2GH

86th I really don't feel that old – though I did last Christmas when I had a fever and had to go to hospital! I keep myself busy with music and computer work. Just few days before my birthday I played the warm up at the Medway Organ and Keyboard Club. I'm also busy making and donating cards and notelets.

Len Boyns
32 Wouldham Road
Borstal
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LB



87th It is really lovely idea that Birthday Cards are sent to us all – please thank all those involved in the process. It is much appreciated. I spent my whole SMBP career in Shell-Mex House – including working on Brand Separation towards the end. It was good to see old friends at the AGM and reunion.

Myrtle Richardson
49 Norbury Hill
Norbury
London SW16 3LA

87th I am still going strong and still go for a walk every morning!

Allen Smith
73 Stag Leys
Ashted KT21 2TL



87th My colleagues knew me as Miss Abbott until I left in 1977 to be married. I always enjoy reading news of old friends – though I need a strong light and a magnifying glass these days!

Marion J Rush
Summerhill Cottage
82 Downs Wood
Epsom
Surrey KT18 5UL

88th How quickly the years pass now! I suppose that as you age you get a bit slower.

Vivien Wilkens
24 Bray Road
Stoke D'abernon
COBHAM KT11 3HZ

(Ed: It's the ninth law of thermodynamics Vivien. This states that as you get older everything speeds up around and you go relatively more slowly.)

88th Thanks for another card. I don't know how long I can keep collecting them but I will try. I enjoy my Ukulele club on Thursday evenings. The one on the table is in fact a Cake!!



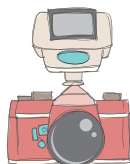
Bill Topham
'Bronhaul'
6 Cormorant Grove
Kidderminster DY10 4BW

90th It's a pleasant gesture to be so remembered and to have reminders of the happy working life I had at SMBP. With 34 years retirement under my belt I am now a bit frail and dodderly but I can still manage to drive so I'm not housebound - though sadly I am unable to attend 44 Club events.

Rex Hutchinson
25 Forester's Walk
Acomb
York YO24 3LJ

Thanks also received from: Ernest Ribano (85), William Bell (84), Derek Skinner (86), Barry Hiscock (82), Patricia Bray (81), Bill Taylor.

News from the Branches



Thanks to all for your submissions. Please don't forget photographs. Modern mobile phones take amazing photos so please encourage members attending events to take a few.

Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering
☎ 01349 368134
✉ kpyorkie75@gmail.com

All is well at 44 Club Inverness. On Thursday 3rd May at the Kingsmill Hotel. We had 20 members for our lunch.

Coming up:

Lunches at the Kingsmill Hotel on the last Thursday of the Month, March to June and August to December. All welcome.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker
☎ 01651 869206 / 07752052602
✉ mrgrahamwalker@hotmail.com

On 1st May six members enjoyed lunch at Cosmos's Union Square, Aberdeen.

Coming up:

Monday 8th October: Coffee morning 10:30 onwards. Michies coffee shop, 391 Union Street, Aberdeen.

Monday 5th November: Coffee morning 10:30 onwards. Michies coffee shop, 391 Union Street, Aberdeen.

Glasgow

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

Eighteen members and guests gathered on 15 March to listen to Rear Admiral Mike Gregory talk to us about 'From the army to submarines'.



Glasgow Branch

What an interesting talk he gave. We listened, mesmerised, to his memories of the early part of his career and a brief insight into submarine command. He happily answered various questions – without, of course, revealing any state secrets!

Our AGM took place at the start of the meeting. Dennis Naismith has decided to stand down from the committee and we are very grateful to him for all the work he has put in over the years. Thank you, as always, to all those who brought raffle prizes and congratulations to the lucky winners. It was great to have such a good turnout for our final meeting of the session.

Coming up:

Thursday 9 August: Summer Lunch at Sarti's Restaurant, Renfield Street, Glasgow.

Thursday 18 October

Thursday 15 November

Thursday 13 December (Christmas Lunch)

2019

Thursday 17 January

Thursday 14 February

Thursday 14 March

If you are reading this and thinking you would like to join us, please get in touch. You will be made very welcome. Why not come to one of our

meetings as a guest before deciding whether to join? Contact details are at the beginning of this article and our website is also well worth a look – www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

Belfast

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

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

West Riding

Contact: Contact: Please see 'Noticeboard' on (Page 3)

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate
☎ 01642 722 491



Teesside Branch

On Thursday 19th April 17 members of the Teesside branch met at The Cleveland Tontine Inn for our springtime gathering, after which we all enjoyed a piece of Ces's cake presented to him by the Tontine management. Tea and coffee was served in the garden on the hottest day of the year so far. Thanks to Ces for organising a very enjoyable afternoon.

(Ed: Terrific photos Teesside. Thank you!)



Teesside Branch

Coming up:

Thursday 16th August: Lunch 1200-1230 The Jet Miners Inn, 61 High Street, Great Broughton, Middlesbrough, TS9 7EF
Contact Ces Tate.

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

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

Coming up:

Tuesday 21st August: Lunch 12.00-12.30 The Consort Hotel, Brampton Road, Thurgroft, Rotherham S66 9JA.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers
☎ 0161 4372072/0776 11006720
✉ witherspt@gmail.com

Coming up:

Manchester branch have their usual monthly pub lunch on the second Monday of each month at 12.30. Contact Pat for details.

North West - Western

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



North West - Western Branch

For many years our initial lunch of the year has been held at the Plassey, a restored Edwardian Farm. As this is currently being refurbished we re-located to the Restaurant at Bellis Bros Farm Shop in Holt Wrexham. We were warmly welcomed and eighteen members and guests had a very appetizing and filling lunch. The general consensus from all the diners was very positive that we should return next year.

Coming up:

27th July: Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham.
October (tbc): Burnside Hotel Bowness-on-Windermere.

December (tbc): Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham.

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett
☎ 01384 833 132
✉ carol.a.barnett@blueyonder.co.uk

Ed: Our apologies for a gremlin in the last '44Club News' regarding the Branch's Christmas Lunch for 2017 whereby, through no fault of the Branch, the previous year's report was published. The correct report follows:

Due to very heavy snow and ice, our Christmas Lunch which had been booked for 12th December 2017 had to be cancelled and was rearranged for 11th January 2018, which turned out to be much better than expected. It was once again held at Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley, and



North Midlands Branch

was attended by 40 members and guests. The meal was very much an improvement on last year - we were in the function room, which has lovely views over the golf course, there was far more room for the waiters to serve our meal. Fortunately the weather was very good although it was cold, but the sun did peek through during the afternoon. Following on from lunch we had our usual Christmas Raffle with some prizes supplied by members and guests and others being purchased out of club funds which are raised by members and guests at raffles held during the year. Many thanks go to them for their support and we look forward to seeing you all again this year.

For the first of our planned functions in 2018, we once again gathered at The Plough, Far Forest, Bewdley, on Wednesday 28th February 2018 with 33 members and guests attending this very popular venue. There was a lot of chit chat amongst our group who were first to be served (thank goodness) as once again that place was very busy.



North Midlands Branch

Everyone agreed it had been a great afternoon and a wonderful meal. We were very lucky with the weather as the previous day it had snowed and the thoughts were that we may have to cancel, but luck was on our side, although there was snow on the fields the roads were clear and most of the time we had sunshine. We were very fortunate as the following day we

continued on page 14

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

woke up to a good six inches of snow! (How Lucky).

Our first Skittle games this year was once again at The Squirrel, Alveley, Bridgnorth, on 4th April 2018 and was attended by 27 members and guests.

During a break in our games, we were served a light lunch and held our usual raffle with a wonderful selection of prizes, all supplied by some of our members and guests. Our thanks go to them for their support. Our last game was a knock out and was won by one of our Guests, Rose Rutter who very kindly donated her prize money towards the club funds, for which we thank her.

Coming up:

16th July: 5 day Coach Holiday to Skegness. If you are interested, contact Frank or Carol Barnett.

August (tbc): Lunch and Bowls at Cookley Village Hall.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

☎ 01296 630169

💻 malcolmbury@btinternet.com

We made a somewhat low-key start to the year with our first pub lunch in March which was held at The Two Brewers in Chipperfield. This pub has always been a popular venue with Branch members in the past but the turnout was somewhat lower than usual with around 25 members getting together to enjoy the delights of Chef and Brewer food and, more importantly, each other's company. Our thanks must go to Mike Howard for organising this one.

The Golden Eagle in Ashley Green has been one of our best venues for

the past few years. Despite the fact that the excellent former management has moved on to pastures new, we decided to return there for our second pub lunch of the year in May. Once more, Brian Lovell made his usual splendid job of repeating the winning combination of a specially prepared 44 Club menu and having the main bar and restaurant reserved for our exclusive use. Despite one or two last minute misgivings on Brian's part, the new management responded well to the challenge of serving nearly 40 members with some good food. We were particularly pleased to welcome Stephen Tipton and his wife Elaine and we hope to see them again at many of our future events.

Coming up:

12th July: 12.00 noon onwards. Barbecue lunch at The Oak, Green End Street, Aston Clinton HP22 5EU. A separate notice and booking form giving full details will be sent to members. Contact Malcolm Bury (as above) for further information.

29th August: 12.00 noon onwards. Pub lunch at The Paper Mill, Apsley Lock HP3 9RH followed by a return cruise on the Grand Union Canal to Hunton Bridge. Full details and a booking form to follow. Contact Malcolm Bury (as above).

11th October: 12.00 noon onwards. Pub lunch at The White Horse, London Road, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2RH. Full details will be circulated later in the year. Contact Christine Cowie (01442 873375).

Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell

☎ 01206 867947

💻 peter.gobell39@btinternet.com

Our first lunch of the year was held at Top Meadow Golf Club on March 3rd escaping the bad weather by one week. 52 members and guests enjoyed a very good three course lunch at a remarkable price. It's one of our favourites.

Our next lunch was at The Langdon Golf Club, not too far from Shell



Chelmsford Branch

Haven. 58 members and guests sat down to a excellent meal of highest quality, choice and plentiful plates. The 37th AGM was conducted in quick time to avoid members going to sleep. A successful raffle was held and grateful thanks to those who donated prizes.

We have a Facebook site SMBP 44 Club Chelmsford Branch which can be accessed via Facebook or via Google. Please have a look at it.

Coming up:

3rd September: Beauvoir Italian restaurant.

17th October: Orsett Hall Hotel.

13th December: Langdon Hills Golf Club.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

☎ 01473 219860

💻 rosemary.grayston@sky.com

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

☎ 01473 610 534

💻 davidcattermole@yahoo.co.uk

In April we had a lunch at the Ski Lodge Restaurant when 27 members and guest enjoyed a superb lunch of the highest standard. The branch AGM was held and both Tony Grayston and David Cattermole agreed to continue duties as joint secretaries.

Coming up:

17th July: Lunch at Hintlesham Hall.

Another lunch will be arranged before we have our the Christmas lunch on 13th December at the Best Western Hotel, Copdock.



South Midlands Branch

King's Lynn

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

The branch had a very successful carvery lunch on 26 April at the Foldgate Inn, Stradsett. The meal was, as usual, first class. There were 34 members, wives, and guests attending, a recent record number.



Kings Lynn Branch

Everyone enjoyed having their lunch in the lovely new conservatory which we practically filled. Our usual far flung members made the journey from such places as Brackley Northants, Royston, Ipswich, Huntingdon, and Colchester. Many of them live well out of our area but are keen to meet up with colleagues from many years past. Several members helped others with transport, which is vital as we all get older and sometimes have to give up driving. Peter Gobell, the E. Anglia coordinator, had travelled up from his home in Colchester. The 37th AGM took place after lunch, which was quite a short affair, and Secretary Tom, and Chairman/Treasurer Steve, agreed to carry on despite pointing out that they had served in their posts for 25 and 22 years respectively! Everyone is looking forward to meeting up again on the 5th July.

Coming up:

5th July: Finger Buffet at the Sandringham Social Club. West Newton.

South Wales

Viv Perry
 ✉ viv.perry1@btinternet.com

The vernal equinox. ... The first day of spring in the northern hemisphere in 2018 has arrived and so has the



South Wales Branch

revitalised 44 Club South Wales Branch. The inaugural meeting was held at the Sketty Hall, Sketty, Swansea with the sun shining on Wednesday 21 March 2018. The 44 Club in the past had enjoyed a good branch - small in numbers but lots of enthusiasm to meet under the leadership of the late Viv Howells. South Wales does not enjoy a great population of ex SMBP Shell and BP pensioners and whilst this inaugural gathering consisted of a table of 8 we have hopes that the numbers will increase when news is out that it is up and running once again. Those attended are from the left to right, Flo and Clive Hillman, Chris and Viv Perry, Rowena and David Sanders, Sylvia and Graham Cork. It was unanimously agreed that we would meet again in May 2018. Viv and Chris volunteered to look at potential other events such as a trip to Tenby, a boat trip around Swansea Bay together possibly a game of bowls (rink not crown). Costs will be important so these will be discussed at the next meeting.

Greater Bristol

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

Our spring event took place on Thursday, April 19th – a return lunch time visit to The Failand Inn, Failand which is situated just a few miles south of Bristol on the Bristol



Greater Bristol Branch

to Clevedon road. We were twenty-one in number and the choice of menu was, as ever, excellent. There was plenty of time for a chat and to reminisce. The event was organised by our chairman, Roger Gamlin who had arranged an unusually hot and sunny day for us. He was 'warmly' thanked for his efforts.

Coming up:

Our next event will take place during June, possibly 'The Woodford' situated on the banks of Chew Lake just outside of Chew Stoke. For details please contact Roger.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker
 ☎ 023 8074 1912
 ✉ tonyrp456@gmail.com
 5 Paget House, Grove Place, Upton Lane, Nursling, Southampton SO16 0AQ

On a beautiful spring day a near-record number of members and guests homed in to The New Forest pub for our spring meeting. We welcomed a new member from abroad - Roger Cook, who came all the way from the Isle of Wight to be with us. During coffee, Doug Quayle started an impromptu joke session (all in the best possible taste) followed by Ian Wilkinson which rounded the afternoon off nicely. A great time was had by all.

Coming up:

Our autumn lunch will be held again at The Kings Arms at Longham in September, where we are assured of the best Pub Grub in Dorset. Date to be advised.

South East

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

We had a very good turnout for a very enjoyable lunch at West End Tavern at Marden - including our

continued on page 16

illustrious Club Secretary Colin Hill.

Coming up:

Our next lunchtime get together is on Thursday 12th July, at the Horse and Groom, Faversham Road, Charing Hill, (signposted towards Throwley Forstal). After the good turnout at Marden let's hope we can grow on our numbers to what has turned out to be a very enjoyable meeting place! For those that have not been there before, it has a large attractive garden, and with the weather we

should have in July it will be delightful to have lunch alfresco.

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:

Thursday 26th July: 12:30 Lunch at The Harvester (The George) Bury Street, Ruislip (It is at the very start of Bury Street) HA4 7TJ (tel. 01895 622109 - press 2 for direct connection). Please advise Greta if you wish to come. Plenty of parking. Prices from about £8.00 for main course.

Your Letters

Memorabilia

Having read the article about Buncefield in the spring edition of the 44 Club News, the thought crossed my mind as to whether your readers might be interested in a booklet that was printed in the late 1960s to mark the official opening of Haydock Terminal. It makes interesting reading and highlights just how much the world has changed in the last 60 years.

I was appointed as the Operations Planning Manager at Haydock in 1979 when Keith Smith was the Group Terminal Manager (which also

included Heysham and Workington) and when Keith moved onto Shell Haven, Dick Hiseman took over the Haydock group. When Haydock lost its group status and became a satellite of Stanlow in 1982, I was appointed as the Terminal Manager and remained there until shortly before its closure in 1987. I have fond memories of Haydock and although there were many challenges there was always a very happy and friendly atmosphere and much 'Scouse humour'.

Sadly the terminal has long gone and the site is now occupied by a large Sainsbury's Distribution Centre - my only contact is to stop at Shell's Haydock Island site just off the M6 to refuel my car on my journey north.

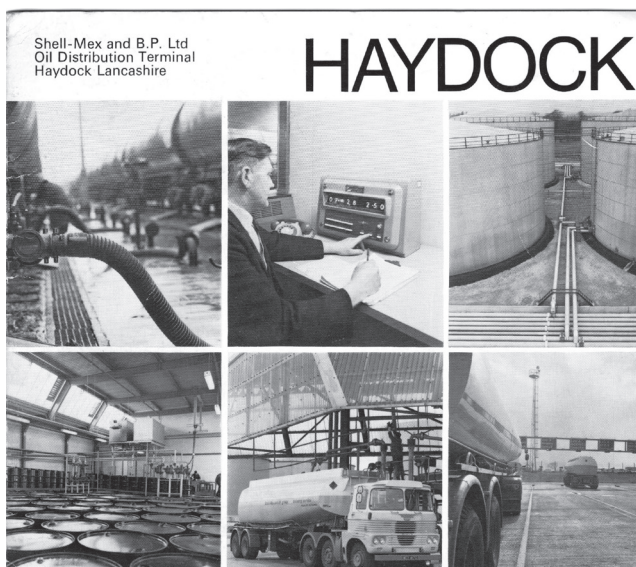
Is there an archive facility available to the 44 Club where items such as this booklet can be kept for posterity?

Graeme Soutar
15 Three Ways
Cuddington
Northwich CW8 2XJ

(Ed: Thanks for this Graeme. We do indeed have an 'archive' where items of memorabilia pertaining to SMBP are stored and this will be a valuable addition to it. If any other member has any similar historic mementoes we would be pleased to take them off your hands. Let me know and I'll make arrangements.)

Remembering Peter Thompson

My father Peter passed away in March 2018 – he is survived by his wife Margaret and his 3 children (David, Richard and Sally) and nine grandchildren. Peter joined Shell-Mex and B.P. and it and its successors were his only employer. Over the period he worked in Shell-Mex House, Bristol, Wythenshawe, BP House (Victoria), Leeds and in BP Offices in Hemel Hempstead and Duckhams Oil in West Wickham. As well as working in Audit, Peter also gained the professional qualification as a Chartered Secretary (FCIS) and ended his career as Finance Director and Assistant



Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd
Oil Distribution Terminal
Haydock Lancashire

HAYDOCK

Managing Director of Duckhams Oil in 1981.

Lensbury played a major part in my father's life – he was actively involved with cricket and football teams and also was Commodore of the Cruising Club for a period.

Richard Thompson

A Novelist in our midst

I was recruited in 1973 as a Shell Space Heating Representative, working initially for Bruce Clench and later Mick Aslin in John Burke-Gaffney's H&A SE region at 195 Knightsbridge. In 1975 I was transferred to the still unbranded Placement Unit in SM House headed by John Walkley and, soon after, Sue Bibby, in Bob Breese's Personnel Development division.



I found SMBP a very supportive organisation and one that was home to some very sharp business brains, but my introduction to the company was strange. Under the watchful eye of the redoubtable Charles Madge, who was then heading up H&A training, I was in the process of being trained to sell when the Yom Kippur War led to my being made focal point for allocations, where my principal role was to administer the restriction of supplies to customers. Thankfully, shortly after, I was on the road selling maintenance contracts to space heating customers throughout the GLC. I remember with particular fondness Richard Cotter, my Technical Supervisor and, with gratitude, representatives Ray Power and Mike Downing, who did the most to train me. I was happy in Sales and hadn't ever considered a role in HR, but when one came up in 1975, there was a surplus of sales representatives

and Mick Aslin, my boss, was keen that I took it to save another representative from redundancy. It was the best move I ever made.

When Brand separation wove its magic and I was allocated to Shell, going on to work at various times at Stanlow and Shell Haven refineries, The Group Training Centre at Lensbury, Shell Mex-House and Shell Centre. In 1999 I was appointed Vice President HR for Infineum, a global Shell/ExxonMobil Petroleum Additives JV. I retired in 2010.



My debut novel (Available from Amazon and all discerning bookshops!) 'The Code' was published in March 2018. Its themes include revenge, abusive

relationships, both personal and organisational, imposter syndrome, 'living a lie' and gardening! The novel spans the years 1963 to 2009 and follows three men who from schooldays become locked in a cycle of revenge which plays out throughout their lives, and is complicated by the trio's interactions with two sibling-rivalry obsessed sisters. It's a fast paced novel with a strong plot, compelling characters and a nice line in humour. I am donating all my proceeds from the novel to African Revival, a charity which transforms schools and provides equal access to quality education.

Nick Thripp
Princes Newt
27 Princes Road,
Weybridge, KT13 9BH

Leo Computers Society

Those 44 Club members who were once involved with the LEO computers may be interested in the LEO computers society. They hold lunches/get-togethers at prestigious locations every 18 months or so and a lot of LEO memorabilia is on display. See the website for more info : <http://www.leo-computers.org.uk>

David Gambling
10 Wellswood Close
Hemel Hempstead HP2 4QN

LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY

Click here for
MENU

LEO IN AUSTRALIA
Chairman Peter Byford joined a group of ex-Leo people in a cafe in Federation Square, Melbourne on Wednesday 10th January 2018.
[Click HERE](#) for details.

LEO PLAQUE UPDATE An information board has been added to the LEO plaque, sited in Lyons Walk, (see News Item below, with a couple of added pics.) Or click [HERE](#) for a pdf of the Information details.

LEO REUNION
The LEO Reunion was held on Sunday 15th October, at The Honourable Artillery Company HQ in City Road, London. Some pictures are available on the Reunions Reports page - [which can be reached HERE](#)


A few copies of "LEO REMEMBERED" are still available. This is the book of Leo reminiscences containing contributions from around 50 members and friends of our Society. Details of this, other Leo books and an order form can be seen [HERE](#).

ICL AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER August 2017
Includes article by Neil Lamming - "LEO in Oz", on pages 25-27. PDF version (all 35 pages) available [...HERE](#)

This is the site of the LEO Computers Society celebrating the World's first business computer.
Membership of the Society is open to:

- all ex-employees of LEO Computers and its succeeding companies;
- anyone who worked with a LEO computer;
- and anyone who has a specific interest in the history of LEO Computers.

We encourage those who have an interest in LEO, as specified above, to join the Society
- see the Application Form. Membership is currently free of charge.



In 1951 the LEO I computer was operational and ran the world's first regular routine office computer job.

The company LEO Computers Ltd was formed in 1954 and went on to build Leo II and Leo III computers.

Bernard the Bobsleighter

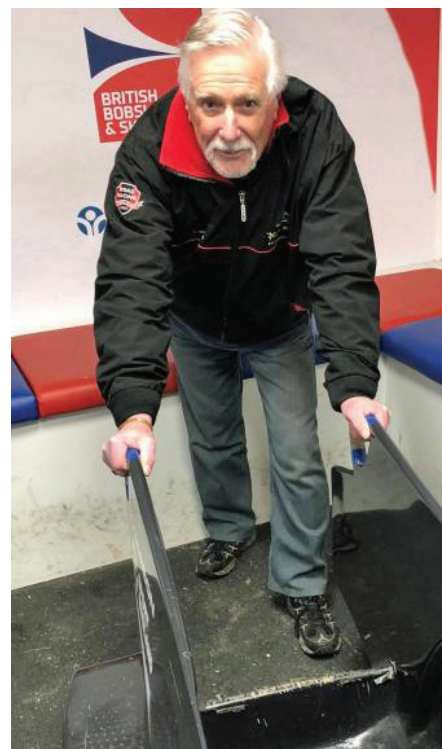
I took on the challenge of being a brakeman for an old Shell contractor in the European Seniors Bobsleigh Cup at the Olympic Bobsleigh track in Igls Austria. As I was, by some distance, the oldest one there and it being my first ever try, it was very daunting, to say the least! Especially so when I was informed that other competitors included Olympic Gold medallists, World Champions and multiple World Cup winners. I completed eight runs (four practice, two qualifying and two in the race), and was somewhat beaten up by the end! Multiple major bruises, trapped finger and cracked ribs. All in the name of charity though, so worth it. I did feel a bit beaten up, but also quite proud to have done it and to have raised some money.

Many friends have recently died, are battling or living with various horrible cancers, so I did it for Cancer Research UK.

(Ed: If you would like to donate to Bernard's good cause it can be reached via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/BernardAmos>

Bernard Amos
16 Lye Lane
Olveston
Bristol
BS35 4DG



Obituaries

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

BOOTH (93). Mrs Kathleen (Kay) Booth of Chichester died on 14th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr Douglas Booth, once Regional Manager, Norbury.

CAREY (79). Mr Anthony Carey of Bramall died on 26th January 2018. He was Head, Network Control (UIC/11) when he left group service in 1990 after 33 years.

CHAMBERS (75). Mr Keith Chambers of Bridlington died on 4th March 2018. He worked in Customer Service Development, Distribution Division, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1993 after 33 years.

COOPER (89). Mr George Cooper of Newquay died on 28th January 2018. He was a Retail Sales Representative at Birmingham when he left group service in 1975 after 20 years.

CURNOW (85). Mr A S (Tony) Curnow of Plymouth died on 6th April 2018. He was Terminal Manager, Plymouth when he left group service in 1988 after 23 years.

CURTIS (95). Mrs Margaret Curtis of Huddersfield died on 1st April 2018. She was the wife of Mr Frederick Curtis, once a Plant Ops Manager, NW Division.

DOOTSON (94). Mrs Molly Dootson of Braunton died on 18th February 2018. She was the wife of Mr Harry Dootson, once a Domestic Heating Representative in Exeter.

EDGECOCK (89). Mr Peter Edgecock of Worcester Park died on 13th February 2018. He worked in Routing and Despatch at Wandsworth when he left group service in 1982 after 26 years.

ELMS (98). Mr Richard Elms of Godalming died on 6th January 2018. He was a Driver at Lensbury when he left group service in 1963 after 28 years.

FARMAN (81). Mr Edward Farman of Ipswich died on 27th April 2018. He was a Driver at Great Yarmouth when he left group service in 1988 after 17 years.

FRENCH (87). Mr Jeremy French of Martock died on 26th February 2018. He worked in Distribution Division (UOMK/25), Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1984 after 22 years.

HERD (85). Mr Victor Herd of Chester has died. He was a Commercial Representative, Manchester, when he left group service in 1988 after 19 years.

HODGES (87). Mr Kenneth Hodges of Poole died on 25th February 2018. He was a Senior Airfield Operator at Bournemouth Airport when he left group service in 1983 after 26 years.

HUYTON (83). Mr Brian Huyton of Wimbledon died on 3rd April 2018. He worked in Retail Planning, BP, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1971 after 14 years.

JACQUES (90). Mr Robert Jacques of Aylesford died on 25th January 2018. He was a Driver at Northfleet when he left group service in 1982 after 27 years.

JONES (89). Mr Samuel Jones of Southport has died. He was Central Stores Manager, Weaste Central Stores, Salford when he left group service in 1984 after 22 years.

JOHNSON (82). Mr Fred Johnson of Prescot died on 28th February 2018. He was a Driver at Haydock when he left group service after 18 years.

KENDALL (102). Mrs Rose Kendall of Plymouth died on 17th February 2018. She was the wife of Mr R Kendall, once a Senior Clerk at Plymouth Installation.

KERRY (95). Mrs Lily Kerry of Bury St Edmunds died on 17th April 2018. She was the wife of Mr Robert Kerry, once a Depot Clerk at Bury St Edmunds Depot.

LAWRANCE (87). Mrs Ida (Kate) Lawrance of Norwich died on 20th March 2018. She worked in the Data Processing Unit, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1967 after 13 years.

MARSOM (84). Mrs Eileen Marsom of Sutton died on 20th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr John Marsom, once a Taxation Adviser, Shell-Mex House.

MOON (83). Mr Roy Moon of Sleaford died on 15th March 2018. He was a Driver at Jarrow when he left group service in 1986 after 21 years.

NEWELL (87). Mr Leonard Newell of Pitsea died on 31st December 2017. He worked at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1990 after 36 years.

OSBORN (86). Mr Francis Osborn of Welling died on 29th March 2018. He worked in Poole when he left group service in 1987 after 17 years.

OVERY (88). Mr S T Overy of Gillingham died on 16th March 2018. He worked on the Isle of Grain when he left group service in 1982 after 35 years.

PENIKET (86). Mr John Peniket of Warley died on 26th January 2018. He was Terminal Operator at Warley Terminal when he left group service in 1984 after 32 years.

PULLIN (91). Mr Alan Pullin of Weston-super-Mare has died. He was an Airfield Supervisor at Cardiff Airport when he left group service in 1985 after 31 years.

RAINFORD (91). Mrs Joan Rainford of Ellesmere Port died on 16th February 2018. She was the wife of Mr James Rainford, once a Senior Operations Assistant at Stanlow Terminal.

RATHBONE (91). Mr James Arthur Rathbone of Rhyl died on 6th February 2018. He was a Driver at Stanlow when he left group service in 1981 after 30 years.

ROBINSON (91). Mrs Marion Robinson of Charlton, London, died on 24th March 2018. She was a Commercial Assistant, Shell-Mex House when she left group service after 14 years.

SOMERS (91). Mrs Mary Somers of Standish died on 11th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr Eric Douglas Somers, once a Salesman at Wigan.

THOMPSON (87). Mr Peter Thompson of Reigate died on 18th March 2018. He was Finance & Personnel Director at Alexander Duckham & Co Ltd when he left group service in 1984 after 36 years.

VARLEY (92). Mrs Hilda Varley of Altrincham died on 28th March 2018. She was the wife of Mr Henry Desmond Varley, once a Sales Engineer, Shell Lubricants, Manchester.

VENN (92). Mrs Elsie Venn of Chippenham (formerly of Stowmarket) died on 6th February 2018. She was the wife of Mr H G Venn once a Chauffeur at Shell Centre.

WAITE (96). Mrs Rosemary Waite of Rayleigh died on 8th March 2018. She was the wife of Mr Ronald Waite, once a Supervisor at Shell Haven.

WELLS (94). Mr Percy Wells of Pontypool died on 1st April 2018. He was a Tanker Driver at Newport when he left group service in 1980 after 14 years.

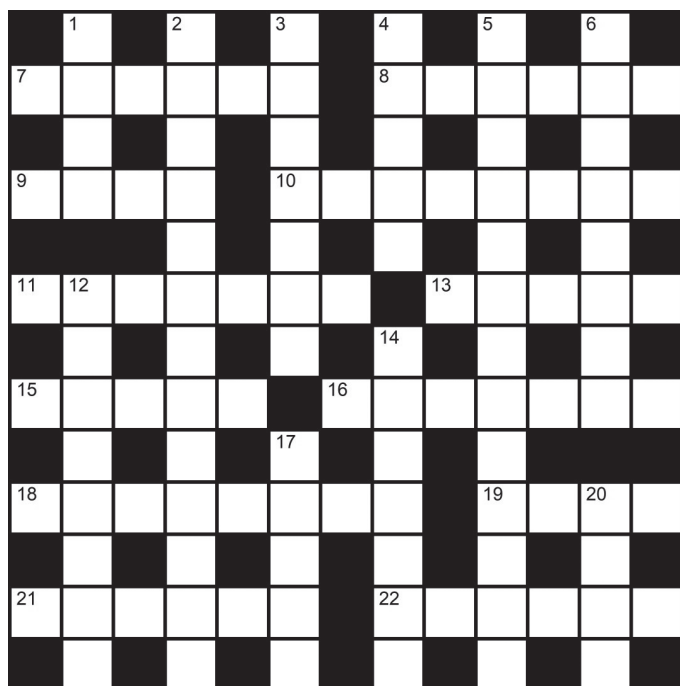
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"The 44 Association is about the past, and we will not forget what a good past it was."

Tony Page. One of the authors of 'A History of Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited' 1999.

Prize Crossword

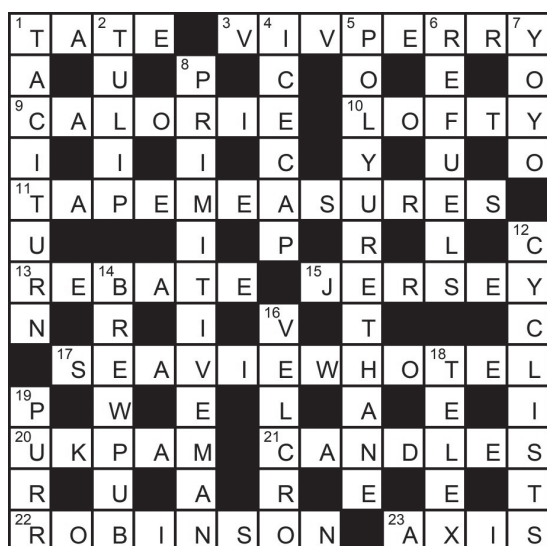


Across

- 7** David Hunter's moustache (6)
- 8** Set of steps leading from one floor of a building to another. (6)
- 9** 44 Club's new VP - first name. (4)
- 10** The roofs of Buncefield's tanks (8)
- 11** Drives a truck (American?) (7)
- 13** Sheku Kanneh-Mason's instrument (5)
- 15** Rib-Eye or fillet or T-bone ? (5)
- 16** Former PLR now a PPO in Wales and the West (first name) (7)
- 18** Agreement between buyer and seller (8)
- 19** Information (abbreviation) (4)
- 21** ... of the Lost Ark ? (6)
- 22** Ignored the Ides of March warning (6)

Down

- 1** Bigger than Mini (4)
- 2** Wrote 'Yesterday' (4,9)
- 3** It's in the coffee and keeps you going (7)
- 4** Posh race meeting (5)
- 5** A Royal Navy ship with the armament of a battleship, but faster, lighter, and less heavily armoured (6,7)
- 6** Played Sybil in Fawlty Towers (First name) (8)
- 12** Apply new or modified parts or equipment to existing building (e.g. Petrol station) (8)
- 14** Available on the shelves (2,5)
- 17** Expands a bit with age for some (5)
- 20** Italian car brand (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

Ten all-correct entries from which our State of the Art computer thingy chose Herbert Baseley of Bristol as the winner. A brand new copy of the 'Shell Book of English Villages' on its way to you, Herbert.



Closing date for next issue
31st August 2018