



## A Scammell Highwayman in the distinctive SMBP livery

In this edition the stars of the show are some classic Road Tank Wagons from the glory years of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd in the 1950s and 1960s. Some fine colour photographs from this era recently came to light in the Club office and they have now found a home in the Club News archive. The story came to us via a somewhat long drawn out and circuitous route from former SMBP employee and 44 Club member Derek Darnell.

## 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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TW16 7LN  
Tel: 01932 762029  
Email: BPSociety@uk.bp.com

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



# Welcome

## Guest Editorial by Victor Meldrew

I was supping a small Glenfiddich with my old friend Paddy Briggs the other day reminiscing, as we do, about those distant days when the number of times we said "I don't believe it" was much more limited than it is today. "You're a highly respected figure of the same age as our readers" he lied "why don't you share some of the frustrations of modern day living with us". So here goes.

Have you noticed that when you reach 70 you become invisible? You're walking, large as life, down the street and people don't see you? Sometimes they bump into you but mostly they just navigate around you with no eye contact. I often call out a jolly "Good Morning" to them but it never works. They can't hear you either. Then there's the mobile phone issue (why does it have to be an 'issue' by the way, not a 'problem'? Oh well). It seems mandatory these days to look at your mobile phone as you walk along – maybe an inspiring message flashes up every few seconds? You know 'Happiness is what you think' or some such. (That's a 'Sound bite' by the way. Or a slogan. Like 'Bullshit means Bullshit' - I may have misheard that one.)

The other mobile phone 'issue' is people talking loudly on them in public places like the train. Perhaps they think we all have a mute button we can switch on if we don't want to listen? Anyway to Judy from Plymouth (if she's reading this) I do hope that your new boyfriend (was it Jimmy?) gets a job soon and that your waxing goes well.

We still have a phone at home but most of the times it rings it's a nuisance call from somebody pretending to be Microsoft or selling me PPI (whatever that is). I usually hang up but I shouted back for a minute or two at a particularly annoying one recently before realising that it was a recorded message.

The other thing people do on trains these days that I don't recall from the good old days of British Rail is eat and drink. The other day a chap next to me was digging into a 'Pot Noodle' (whatever that is) which was less than fragrant. He only finished it just before Haywards Heath and had the nerve to leave the empty container beside me on the seat! "Hey you" I called out but of course he didn't hear me.

Then you pop into M&S to buy a sandwich and the tills are mostly self-checkout. I've never quite worked them out and always look for one which has a human being at it – like they all used to be. Last time at one of these tills the nice lady gave me a leaflet 'How to use self-checkout if you're old and stupid' or some such. Couldn't make head nor tail of it.

I'm fairly conventional in what I wear - come to think of it I've worn the same sort of jacket and trousers for fifty years. (Until recently it was the same jacket, but I took it into the cleaners and it disintegrated. The new one cost me over twenty pounds!). Anyway the recent hot weather brought young people out in their underwear and little else – sometimes without a shirt! Didn't we once have dress codes? It all started going to pot when men stopped wearing hats. Beginning of the end.

Now don't get me started on television! Have you seen what is apparently called 'Reality TV'. Well if 'Love Island' is reality then I really must have missed out! (Not that I watch it of course). I very much doubt that many of the participants in this pornography have been properly introduced or that the girls have taken the chaps home to meet their parents like we used to.

Do you understand the 'Go Compare' thing? You used to buy a Car or a Home Insurance policy and that was that. It renewed every year and you didn't really think about it. Now you're supposed to shop around all the time – this is phony choice just like the scams with the gas and electricity companies. You switch supplier and within a year you find you're paying more than if you'd stayed with your original supplier. What happened to customer loyalty (don't tell me. I know).

Finally why does nobody say thank you anymore? Margaret has been editing the Church magazine for years and the Vicar never says 'Thank you' to her even at the once a year 'Meet the Parishioners' meeting. She shrugs her shoulders but I can see it hurts.

So there it is (why do all sentences have to begin with 'So' these days?). I'm not complaining (well I am of course but...) and there are some compensations – free bus passes and the like and I do get offered seats on trains quite often if I glare hard. But rather often I find myself mouthing "I don't believe it!" Don't you? 😊

**Victor Meldrew\***

(As told to Paddy Briggs)



## Data Protection

Members will know that under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) all organisations holding data about third parties with whom they deal (customers, members etc.) have to have a Data Protection policy and have to make it available. The SMBP 44 Club keeps the following information about its members:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Date of Birth
- Final job with the Company
- Years of SMBP/Shell/BP service

This information is retained confidentially and is shared on a 'need to know' basis with officers of the Club. The names and addresses are also shared securely and confidentially by a third party contractor which handles the mailing of copies of the '44 Club News' to members' homes. The magazine is only available to members and is not circulated elsewhere.

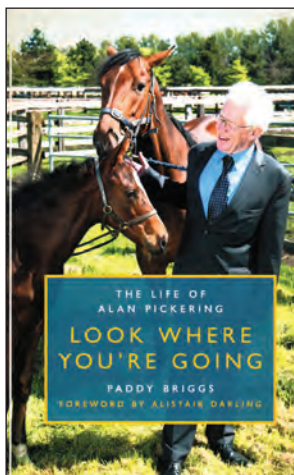
In the '44 Club News' we publish the names and addresses of members in the 'Your Letters', 'Birthday Thanks' and 'Wedding Anniversaries' sections. **However any member who prefers that his/her address is not published can advise us and we will of course comply.** Please advise Colin Hill at the Club Office if you do not want your address details published along with your letter, birthday thanks and/or anniversary announcement. Because the 44 Club website is in the public domain we do not include members contact details on it.

## Back at Shell Centre

The Club Office has now moved from Canary Wharf to the refurbished Shell Centre. Phone number and email addresses remain unchanged, but the postal address is:

The SMBP 44 Association  
Shell Centre  
London  
SE1 7NA

Any post addressed to 40 Bank Street will be redirected



## The Editor's book

Paddy Briggs has recently had a book published by the leading political publisher Biteback. It is a 280 page biography of the Pensions Guru, Racehorse owner and professional Yorkshireman Alan Pickering CBE. As well as telling Pickering's story (which is all the more remarkable as he has been totally blind since his 20s) the book is also a history of the world of employment pensions in the post war era and to date. It also throws light

on the interface between pensions and politics and in researching it Paddy spoke with a number of leading politicians from all Parties including Alistair Darling (who wrote the Foreword) David Willetts and Steve Webb. Copies are available from Amazon and usual sources but Paddy promises a special deal for 44 Club Members if you Email or write to him!



# Remembering the Road Tank Wagons of Shell-Mex and B.P.



In our heyday Shell-Mex and B.P. ran hundreds of vehicles delivering around 40% of the needs of Britain's Retail sites, industrial customers and into many other markets. In its own right 'Distribution' or 'Operations' was a significant business operation across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. SMBP was also a major customer of the Commercial Vehicle industry and the likes of AEG, Scammell and Dennis beat a path to our door. Derek Darnell in his last job before retirement was responsible for liaison with these and other manufacturers ensuring that the Fleet was always up to date and that we got the best value. In later years he took a busman's holiday and helped form a 'Historic Tanker Group' which included three vehicles in SMBP livery and which he kept at Northampton Terminal.



Derek Darnell

We'll take a closer look at these three splendid vehicles in a moment but let's first go even further back to pre SMBP days. This splendid Fuel Oil RTW belonged to Shell-Mex Ltd serving the Fuel Oil market described in the advertisement which dates to 1925. We don't have a date for the photograph but the tanker was probably in service in the late 1920s. To the untutored eye it is intriguing how similar the RTW is to today's much more modern vehicle. The main elements haven't changed that much in nearly 100 years have they? Many thanks to Tony Reeve-Parker for presenting this photo to the 44 Club archive.

Back to the 'Historic Tanker Group'. Derek Darnell and his colleague Jack Kimp worked on restoring the three vehicles and they were later to take part in the Trans Pennine Rally in 1996 where

the third driver was Albert Hillaby. The Dennis was a small 700 gallon three compartment tanker built in 1935. The AEC was a 'Mercury' which carried 2000 gallons in four compartments - it dates back to 1958. It is described as the 'Grandfather' of the Modern Lightweight petrol tanker used to day. And the Scammell on the front cover of this edition is from 1956 - it carried 3600 gallons in six compartments. The Scammell is in the famous Yellow and White livery with the Shell and BP logos on each side of the main tank. This livery dates back to the 1960s (Does anyone know when it was introduced?)



Many thanks to Tony Reeve-Parker for presenting this photo to the 44 Club archive.







and was a subtle and very sophisticated example of graphic design. It was flexible for a variety of vehicles (as here on an aviation tanker and trailer). As SMBP had two main brands it was important that neither predominated and the Yellow and White livery does this skilfully and rather more subtly than in its Green Cab, Red Body predecessors. Also as artics became the norm the tractor had to be in the same livery as the body.

The vehicles that Derek Darnell and colleagues restored were later to find a home at the Coventry Road Transport Museum where, as you can see from this brochure from the 1990s, they took their rightful place among some very distinguished vehicles indeed. **PSB**



# Wedding Anniversaries

## Blue Sapphire (65!)

Michael and Jill Hancock

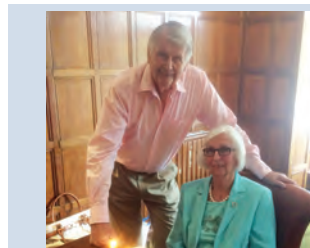
15th August 2018

## Diamond

Mike and Maureen Howard

Jim & Audrey Broughton

2nd August 2018



Colin & Maureen McLean

21st November 2018

Pamela and Norman Dye

30th August 2018

## Emerald

David and Lilian Sermon

David and Lilian Sermon celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary in Hawaii - here at The Harbor Pub, Waikiki.



Mike and Maureen Howard celebrate their 60th Wedding anniversary which was marked by a card from a special admirer.



## Sapphire

David & Pat Cattermole

10th November 2018

Roy and Irene Lainton

8th September 2018

Roy and Jean Cheetham



29th August 2018

# Birthday Thanks

**75th** My have the years flown by! I worked in the garage at Kingsbury terminal for a number of years before going to East Midlands and then Birmingham Airport. My wife Cheryl and I are presently in good health but have had some health problems in recent years. However I am glad to say we are now fine and enjoying travelling around the UK with our touring caravan. Very best wishes to all at the 44 Club.

*George Steane*

**80th** I had more cards than I had ever received before and left them on mantelpieces, bookcases and even obscuring the TV so any visitor over the next weeks could not miss the joy I felt. I did 34 years with SMBP/Shell one way or another, finishing as a Pensioner Liaison Representative. God bless you all.

*Bob Andrews*



*Ann Powell*

**80th** I had a fantastic party on the 'Caversham Lady' boat on the Thames with family and friends, thank you all!

**80th** My thanks go to the Club for remembering my 80th birthday. This was spent with family in our 4\* restaurant in our retirement village. We will also be going on holiday to Italy shortly with friends, one of whom celebrates his 80th birthday, so celebrations all round! Long may the 44 Club continue.

*Tony Reeve-Parker*

**80th** Where have all the years gone? When I received the card, I don't know why but I immediately thought of when I joined Scottish Oils and Shell-Mex in 1958. It was in December and at the end of my first day I walked out onto Bothwell Street and could not see the other side of the street - thick yellow SMOG. I said to myself what am I doing here??? I am glad to say I didn't try to answer the question hence a long and happy association.

*Michael Ross*

**80th** I was delighted and somewhat amazed to find myself still alive as my actual Birthday falls on the 15 March (even when it is Leap Year). As men and women of culture Members will know that this date is the Ides of March when Caesar got his comeuppance (Brutal don't you think?) I take no chances and hide away all knives on the day.

My day started with a letter from the Council increasing my Council Tax by 5.5 per cent. But then at 11.42 hours a lovely E Mail came from that nice man Clive Mather giving me a 4.1 per cent increase to my Pension.

PS Please do not tell Richard Hiseman that I have a letter in the magazine as he gets very jealous.

*John Lindley*



**81st** I really don't feel to be in my 80s although being patted on the (bald) head by my grandchildren brings it

home. The picture of Shell Mex House on the card is a wonderful reminder of first walking through the door in awe some 62 years ago. Across the river there was no Shell Centre in those days but I can recall walking past a huge hole in the ground where it was to be in the late 1950s on my way from Waterloo Station and being covered in cement dust. That suit was never the same again.

*Jerry Barr*

**84th** I am always pleased to get the 44 Club News - it was good to see my photograph with fellow members at the



Bristol branch lunch in the last edition. Most of my career was spent at the Computer Centre in Hemel Hempstead with a brief spell at the Head Office in Victoria. My wife Valerie and I now live in Somerset.

*Michael Beacham*

**87th** I have been in and out of hospital for three months following major surgery on my left knee. Hoping that my 88th year is better than my 87th!

*Ken Froy*

**84th** The years are passing but I still play bowls outdoors and I'm first team Captain for the fifth successive year!



*Don Shields*

**88th** It is eight years since I received my first 44 Club birthday card - thank you very much for the latest! Of course, it released a torrent of memories, from being among the first 'professional' Real Estate Superintendents to be recruited in Southern Division and then to Head Office with Real Estate Department in the prefabs atop Shell-Mex House, just prior to the Monopolies Commission report. After that came McKinsey, when I went to the new Midland Region as one of the plethora of 'i/cs' (when 'Manager' was no longer in the repertoire). I was i/c GROD, Birmingham, administering all three Brands. Then I became RMM for National, then back to Head Office to join the National management team and be responsible for Planning on a UK scale.

At the great divide I joined BP Oil in Victoria in Marketing Studies in support of J A Riddell-Webster. I was in the reorganization team for Industrial Division, followed by a spell in New Ventures in Britannic House where I was on the small team which set up BP-Rockwool. Then I was Planning & Resources Manager, BP Retail and finally back to BP Oil Retail Branch, with a solo project in the USA.

In 1983 I took early retirement and soon got involved in charitable and other activities, as my completely new life began.

*Roy Kersley*

**99th** I am delighted that I have reached the grand old age of 99 and that this achievement has been so kindly recognised by my fellow members of the 44 Club. I was so touched to receive my birthday card. I loyally worked for

SMBP/Shell for 32 years and have since enjoyed 39 years of happy retirement!

*Denis July*

**(Ed:** Many congratulations Denis. I think there should be a special award for those who worked a full career for SMBP/Shell/BP and then draw a pension for more years than they worked!)

Thanks also received from:

Christina Bangert (89), Bob Beattie (82), Joyce Meade (92), Peter Franklin (90), Letsy Constable (89), P. Quantock (81), Marie Shadbolt (88), TJ Bowen (80), Frank Sadlier (88), Dot Small (93), Anne Barton (80), Mike Howard (85), Trevor Harvey (83), Owen Roberts (84), Paul Donovan (86), Eunice Peacock (94), Mary Pickering (86), Tony Baillie (90), Brian Lewis (83), Don Davis (87).

## Your Letters

### Andy Rooney

It was a sad day when Andy Rooney's elder daughter Elizabeth phoned me to advise that Andy had passed away. I first met Andy when he returned to Scotland as an Area Manager in Glasgow. He proved to be an inspiration to me as one of his representatives and to all of the rest of his team. He was a talented professional with a kind and caring manner and a good sense of humour. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

*Jack Gardiner*

**(Ed:** Managers can be fairly judged by the quality of the people who work for them. When I took over from Andy on his retirement back in 1983 I inherited a team of outstanding

people including Jack, Bob Walker, Colin Bain and the late Derek Cook. The office staff, including the very able Jeanette Fulton, was no less skilled. As a bit of a tyro Manager – albeit a very different one in style from Andy – I benefited enormously from the solid business he handed over to me, not least the people.)

### Geoff Franklin

I was very upset to hear from Eve Franklin that her husband, and my colleague and friend, Geoff had died of Prostate Cancer. I first met Geoff in the Plymouth office and later when he moved to HO to run the Shell Lubricants information room. On his retirement Geoff worked for the company producing great range of Shell Lubricants sales literature. He was a talented man in every way (a very good photographer) and will be much missed.

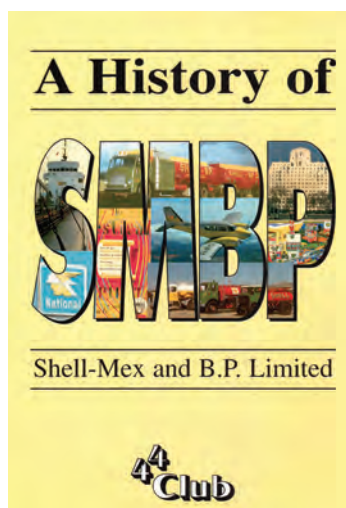
*Ken Froy*

### Barrie's guest editorial!

Barrie Dugdale, in his Guest Editorial in Club News 158, says that he "wasn't very keen" and had to be persuaded to take on the Club News editorship in 1992. He is being modest! He was our first choice (I was Club Secretary at the time) and he took to the job with relish and produced a great run of magazines over eight years. **(Ed:** From Edition CN54 in March 1992 to Edition CN89 in December 2000.)

Barrie and I also worked with Brian Bowden to put together the History of SMBP which was published in 1999. Barrie designed the excellent and artistic front cover. Barrie was an essential part of a very good team

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which included Greta Chandler, Len Evans and John Burton. It is good to know that he 'enjoyed every minute'. We enjoyed working with him.

*Ken Froy*

## More on Bernard the Bobsleigher

One of the people helping me with the loan of the bob etc., turned out to be the coach of the Canadian Olympic Bobsleigh team, who had just returned from Korea with a Gold and Silver - exalted company indeed.



Before I left for Austria I had been on a skiing holiday in Norway when I received a call from BBC radio asking for an interview. I explained I was in the mountains in Norway but they said "no worries, we'll do it on Skype audio" So I duly connected with them in my hotel room and was interviewed for their breakfast programme. I thought that would be that and was glad it had gone OK, only to receive a further call to say that they would like to repeat the

process once I was in in Igls (Austria) for the event. So once again, I was interviewed over Skype audio after the first two runs and thought (again), that would be it.

However when I returned to UK I was asked to attend the studios in Bristol in person, for a longer interview and update on fundraising and



was then asked to appear on the evening TV local news programme 'Points West!' The plan was for a 7 minute interview, but my appearance coincided with a local deaf girl winning an Oscar, so my appearance was mercifully short, but still generated considerable donations. For several weeks after, local people would look quizzically at me and say 'weren't you on TV last week?' etc.

The other question asked frequently was "How did you do?" Well, the answer was that, unsurprisingly we finished last! We were after all, some 25 years older and, (in my case) some 71 years less experienced than our multi champion competitors. However I proudly assert that for three minutes we stood in Gold medal position as, being the slowest on the first run, we were first down for run 2 and until the next competitor finished, we were in the lead. Of course the next ones down pushed us to silver and the ones after that to bronze and ...well you can work out the rest!

I had thought that the professionals would be a bit insulted that a 71 year

old would rock up having done no preparation at all for their beloved sport, but they sort of adopted me and they insisted I attend a massive event planned in Altenburg in 2020, with vintage Bobs etc... but I may have accidentally booked a holiday in Australia around that time!!! Anyway after all the hullabaloo had calmed down I ended up raising £2658.00 for Cancer Research UK, so all was worthwhile.

*Bernard Amos*

## Learning from mistakes

Just reading the Buncefield piece in the latest Magazine. So similar to Kingsbury when I joined in January 1969. I left Kingsbury in 1970 and returned 12 months later after learning from my mistakes, lucky me. Moved on to Jarrow then Manchester AP then finishing at Stanlow. Great times and a great company to work for.

*Nick Cook*

## Buncefield, burst hoses and hungover trainees

Loved seeing the picture of my three old friends on the front cover of the latest Club 44 news. And even Dave Hunter's description of my dubious exploits at the Morton in the Marsh Training College brought a smile to my face. Here is a picture of that course group.

*Julian Dalzell*



*Buncefield Training Course*



## Always have an Irish Navvy on your side

I met up with Frank Thompson when he had taken over Buncefield. He had the task of turning a building site, with still some construction traffic, into a bonded Terminal with fuel, including gasoline on site. He had to impose 'overnight' a whole raft of disciplines, including control of entry. When I asked him how he did this, he replied, "I recruited the biggest Irish navvy who had been working for the contractors and instructed him to let no one in without my, (Mr. Thompson's) permission. No matches allowed". He recounted one incident when a regular construction worker refused to hand over his matches. The Irish gentleman ripped off the worker's jacket!

But the funny side (eventually!) was when H.B. (John) Greenborough was in the area with Government and Industry senior members and he decided to pop into this new

Terminal at Buncefield to show it to his guests. He arrived at the gate. The Irish gentleman refused entry! John Greenborough explained who he was. The reply was "I don't care if your name is Harold [expletive] Wilson, you're not coming in without Mr. Thompson's permission and he's not here at the moment". They drove away. A very anxious Frank Thompson then got a letter from John Greenborough praising him for implementing such tight security so quickly and effectively!

*Dennis Doe*

## Dennis Moore

The loss of Dennis Moore came as a great shock as I had only seen him in a Home a couple of weeks before and planned to take him out for lunch when he was released back home in a few days' time. He was a lovely man and after his 39 years in the oil



industry went on to help Yeo Valley build up into the major company it has now become. He lost his wife Wyn only last year. I enjoyed his own epitaph - "I have enjoyed a very happy life with Wyn who has spoiled me throughout. I am very proud of my two children and what they have achieved and I love my three grandchildren. What more could I have asked for". What indeed.

*Maurice Husbands*

# News from the Branches

## Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering

### 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

### Coming up:

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

*Monday 5th November:* Venue and time as for October

 *Tuesday 11th December:* **Christmas lunch** at the Double Tree Hotel, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, 11:30 for 12:30

## 2019

*Monday 11th February:* Venue and time as for October

*Monday 11th March:* Venue and time as for October

## Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

[www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com](http://www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com)

Our Summer Lunch was on 9th August at Sarti's (Renfield Street, Glasgow). Numbers were slightly down at eleven



*Glasgow Branch*

of us, but we all had a great lunch and a good catch up.

### Coming up:

Our programme for the next session is almost complete and is as follows – **All welcome!**

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## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Thursday 18th October: 34 Ports, 12 Days, 1 Ship (Elaine Ellen)

Thursday 15th November: Antiques Road Show – 44 Club Style! (Mr Watt)

🌲 Thursday 13th December  
Christmas Lunch

### 2019

Thursday 17th January: My Favourite Scottish Gardens (Louise Bustard)

Thursday 14th February: Family History – the story continues ... (Christine Miller)

Thursday 14th March: To be finalised but will be preceded by the AGM.

## Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

## Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

## Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

### Coming up:

🌲 Wednesday 12th December:  
Christmas Lunch 1200-1230 The Sea Hotel, Sea Road, South Shields NE33 2LD Contact Keith

## West Riding

Contact: (provisional) Terry Morley

### Coming up:

🌲 21st November: Christmas Lunch 1200-1230 The Queens Arms(A61) 201 Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PT (£5.00.p.p.deposit required) Contact Terry.



Teesside Branch

## Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate

On Thursday 16 August sixteen members met at the "Jet Miners Inn" Great Broughton for our summer meeting. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with good food and company. Thanks to Ces for organising it.

(Ed: Terrific photos Teesside. Thank you!)

### Coming up:

🌲 Thursday 6th December:  
Christmas Lunch 1200-1230, The Jet Miners Arms, 61 High Street, Great Broughton, Middlesbrough TS9 7EF Contact Ces.

## South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

### Coming up:

🌲 Tuesday 27th November:  
Christmas Lunch 1200-1230 The Holiday Inn (A1M Junction36) High Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster South Yorkshire DN4 9UX Contact Jim & Audrey Broughton

## Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

### 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

On May 24th nine members and guests had our Spring lunch at the Sandpiper near Ormskirk. Many young people were sitting outside having their lunch. Although young at heart we slightly more senior patrons



North West - Western Branch

decided to have a roof overhead. The weather can change even in Mid-Lancashire.

On June 27th - a beautiful clear sunny day - our hardy regulars gathered at Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham. After our very filling and appetizing lunch which we enjoyed over-looking the Mersey estuary, with the two cathedrals at Liverpool on the skyline. A wonderful venue and we will be returning there for our Christmas lunch in December.

### Coming up:

11th October: Burnside Hotel, Bowness on Windermere LA23 3EP

12th December: Christmas Lunch

🌲 Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham WA6 6HH





North Midlands Branch - Skegness

## North Midlands

**Contact:** Frank or Carol Barnett

What a wonderful day 6th June 2018, turned out to be this year for our visit to Bodenham Arboretum for a Carvery Lunch. This is proving to be a very popular venue with our group who were 39 in number this year, enjoying both the food and sitting in the sunshine around the very large pool they have there both before and after lunch. Once again, the desserts were a real treat, but on this occasion, we had a real good laugh when the waitress said the 'Spotted Dick' had been taken off as it had gone hard (!)

On Monday 16th July 2018 16 members and guests headed to Skegness by coach for a 5-day, holiday, staying at The Royal Hotel. Many in our group including Frank and myself had never been to Skegness so did not know what to expect. Our first surprise was how far the sea was from the hotel which is on the coast road, but there is a very large boating pool between the coast road and the sands and a large car park (Although this would be expensive if you were to use it). We were told there had been some changes made along the promenade which was a very pleasant walk. During our stay we visited the market town of Louth which has several individual shops along with the usual chain stores. We also visited Maplethorpe which could do with a bit of a clean-up. Our main complaint on this was the distance the coach park was from the promenade given the age and ability of our group. We also had a few hours in Lincoln, a

very busy city with the canal running through the centre, but again there was a fair old walk from the coach into the shopping area practically in the extreme heat and most of us were looking for shaded areas. It was however a very enjoyable holiday with good company, good food and good entertainment in the evening.



North Midlands Branch

Our Carvery Lunch followed by our game of Bowls on 22nd August 2018 was attended by 34 members and guests. Lunch was at The Island Pool. Cookley, nr Kidderminster and bowls held at Cookley Village community centre. Although the Island Pool was very busy and there was a long queue in getting our food, the wait was worth while with the food being excellent and some in our party even had some wonderful desserts! There were only 21 of us who went on to Cookley Village hall for bowls, afternoon tea and biscuits, along with our usual raffle where there were numerous raffle prizes all supplied by our members and guests. Our very grateful thanks go to them for their support and to Peggy Stanley for selling the raffle tickets. It was a very nice afternoon with the weather staying dry and warm, not too hot as in the previous few weeks.

### Coming up:

*16th October:* Skittles at The Squirrel. Alverley

December (date to be confirmed):  
Christmas Lunch

**2019**

February (date to be confirmed):  
Carvery Lunch The Plough, Far  
Forrest. Bewdley

## South Midlands

**Contact:** Malcolm Bury

For our early July lunch we returned once more to The Oak in Aston Clinton in hot and sunny heatwave weather for a summer barbecue.



South Midlands Branch

Nearly 40 members enjoyed some excellent and plentiful food in the spacious and newly extended pub and gardens. Our thanks are again due to Malcolm Bury for his usual impeccable organisation and to the staff at the Oak for catering so efficiently for our party. We were also very pleased to welcome Sue Croucher and Chris Newing to our lunch for the first time.

In late August we took an afternoon cruise on the Grand Union Canal near Hemel Hempstead preceded by a pub lunch at The Paper Mill in



South Midlands Branch

Apsley. Our group of 33 members was able to enjoy a very relaxing and

*continued on page 12*




South Midlands Branch

enjoyable afternoon of conversation with good friends whilst watching the canal side scenery drift past at a gentle pace. Christine Cowie and Luanda Bury made sure that we were all very well supplied with tea, coffee and cake at regular intervals. The overall organisation of the day was in the very capable hands of David Down and Malcolm Bury and we were supported by an excellent volunteer boat crew from the local charity Waterways Experience. Terry and Anne Jewell joined us for the first time and it was good to welcome back George Lush and Tony Yarwood after a lengthy absence.

There are two remaining Branch events in 2018 and these are listed below. Our last pub lunch of the year will be held on 11th October. Then we shall complete this year with our annual Christmas lunch and AGM on Friday 14th December which will be held, as usual, at Berkhamsted Golf Club. This is always the highlight of our Branch year and we look forward to another successful reunion of many old friends and colleagues.

## Coming up:

*11th October:* 1200 noon onwards. Pub lunch at The White Horse, London Road, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2RH. Full details will be circulated beforehand. Contact Christine Cowie (01442 873375)

 *14th December:* From 11.30am onwards. **Christmas Lunch** followed by our AGM at Berkhamsted Golf Club, The Common, Berkhamsted HP4 2QB. A separate circular and booking form will be sent to all active members. Contact Malcolm Bury

for further information

## Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell

Our lunch at the Oysterfleet Canvey Island on June 11th was a huge success, 64 members and guests attended, the food and service was of the highest standard, and the weather was kind to us to enable to sit outside on the veranda overlooking the lake. This is one of our favourites and we hope to return next year.



The Chairman !

## Coming up:

*17th October:* Orsett Hall Hotel.

*13th December:* Langdon Hills Golf Club.

## Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or Contact: David Cattermole

We had a lunch on July 19 at Hintlesham Hall, a Queen Anne Style hotel with fine dining and accommodation, originally it was a Manor House dating from the 1400s. Twelve members and guests had a most enjoyable meal in pleasant surroundings and the weather was perfect.

## Coming up:

*16th October:* Black Tile Martlesham

 *13th December:* Before the **Christmas lunch** on at the Best Western Hotel Copdock.

## King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

21 members and guests enjoyed another tasty finger buffet at the popular, and delightfully situated, Sandringham Social Club in West



Kings Lynn Branch

Newton village. Numbers were down due to holidays and illness. Everybody mixed and moved around as there was no fixed seating plan. The Branch has been saddened by the passing of Ron Burke (91) - a stalwart and long serving member.

## Coming up:

*25th October:* Foldgate Inn, Stradsett, for their lovely carvery lunch.

## South Wales

Viv Perry

On a bright sunny May Day (Wednesday 23rd May) the revitalised South Wales Branch met at Sketty Hall, Swansea to enjoy convivial chat and reminisce about work times. It was great to see Yvonne and Alan Davies join us who travelled in from Ammanford.



South Wales Branch

We all came together on another sunny day at Sketty Hall Swansea for the third meeting this year. We enjoyed a good chat over a summer's drink in the garden followed by a






South Wales Branch

light lunch. The conversation flowed especially when Alan Davies shared some of his work experiences!

Alan and Graham Cork joined the Drivers group on 25th June at Skewen Rugby Club and were able to get a list of the ex BP Drivers who are not on the mailing list for the 44 Club News. Drivers have bi-monthly meetings led by Brian Cooper and Huw Thomas and the 44 Club South Wales Branch has agreed to meet bi-monthly so that there will be a meeting every month. It is hoped that many of the BP drivers and their partners will come along to the 44 Club branch meetings in the future. We would like to welcome more members in the South Wales area for which there are many including both ex Shell and ex BP.

#### Coming up:

*October:* Provisional meeting for East side of South Wales at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl for the end of October. Anyone interested, please let Viv know.

 *13th December:* Christmas lunch. Details to be advised.

## Greater Bristol

**Contact:** Roger Gamlin

Our Summer event took place on Thursday, July 19th. A visit to 'The Woodford', a restaurant built on the banks of the Chew Valley Lake, just outside the village of Chew Stoke, a few miles south of Bristol. It was a



Great Bristol Branch

glorious day, not a ripple on the lake. We were twenty-three in number and sat outside for morning coffee (paid for by branch funds!) which gave us time to reminisce. We sat inside for our very varied lunch choices which were excellent and very well presented. The event was organised by our chairman, Roger Gamlin who was again warmly thanked for his efforts.

#### Coming up:

 *4th December:* Christmas lunch. The Henbury Golf Club

## Bournemouth and Southampton

**Contact:** Tony Reeve-Parker

Our Autumn Lunch was on 12th September at what is fast becoming our favourite venue - the award winning Kings Arms at Longham. More in the next edition.

#### Coming up:

 *Wednesday 12th December:* Christmas lunch. The Amberwood, 154 Ringwood Road, Walkford, Christchurch BH23 5RQ. This will be the second time we have been here for Christmas and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



## South East

**Contact:** Charles Richards

After the disappointing turnout at the 2017 event, the July visit to the Wagon and Horses at Charing, was a great deal more successful, with 19 members sitting down to an excellent lunch on a bright, warm, summers day!

#### Coming up:

With our holding only two events a year, our next lunch is not until the annual visit to Marden in March 2019. However, if anyone, here in the South East, wishes to hold a function at a venue that is known to them, please let me know, and I will be delighted to help them as much as I can, organize an event! Over to the South East members!!

## Guildford, Kingston & London West

**Contact:** to be advised.

It is hoped that we can recommence meetings of this Branch with a Christmas Lunch. If you live in the Branch's area and would like to help get the Branch up and running again please contact Club Secretary Colin Hill or another member of the 44 Club Executive Committee.

## Harrow

**Contact:** Greta Chandler,

#### Coming up:

*15th November:* Lunch - 12.30 The Ascott, Greene King, 144 Field End Road, HA5 1RJ. Plenty of parking. 282 bus from opposite Eastcote Station - one stop - about 200 yards. Varied menu including one for 'seniors', reasonable prices. Please advise Greta by 12th November if attending.

## Taking the perfect Photograph!



- A posed photo with everyone facing the camera works well (see Teeside and North Midlands)
- Always try and have the main light source behind you. Images taken facing a window are often too dark

- Candid shots can be very good but please don't photograph the backs of people's heads!
- Encourage people to smile!
- Please set your camera or phone to the highest resolution. This allows the Editor to crop without losing too much definition. The default resolution on most modern phones is good enough
- Please send photos to the Editor in the jpeg format (that's the default for most cameras and phones) and as an Email attachment. If you prefer to send a print through the post that's fine as well
- Even if you have posted photos on your Branch Facebook or website page please still select the ones you want to see in the Club News and send them as jpegs to the Editor by Email

## Obituaries

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

**ATKINSON (85).** Mrs Patricia Atkinson of Horndon on the Hill died on 13th April 2018. She was the wife of Mr Ronald Shead, once a Driver at Shell Haven Terminal.

**BAULD (82).** Mr Alexander (Sandy) Bauld died on 29th May 2018. He left group service in 1993 after 24 years.

**BIRD (91).** Mrs B Bird of Worthing died on 16th March 2018. She was the wife of Mr F W S Bird, once a Shift Manager at Portslade.

**BOARER (96).** Mrs Maureen Boarer of Holsworthy died on 13th July 2018. She was a Shorthand Typist at Tunbridge Wells when she left group service in 1951 after 3 years.

**BURKE (91).** Mr Ronald Burke of King's Lynn died on 11th July 2018. He was a Driver at King's Lynn when he left group service in 1982 after 34 years.

**BLAIR (86).** Mrs Margaret Blair of Fleetwood died on 17th May 2018. She was Retail Marketing Assistant at Bristol Regional Office when she left group service in 1982 after 16 years.

**BUTT (91).** Mr K Butt of Sketty died on 9th March 2018. He was a Driver at Swansea when he left group service.

**CARR (89).** Mr William Carr of Dover died on 20th May 2018. He worked in Costs & Ledgers, Leeds Regional Office when he left group service in 1968 after 12 years.

**COLQUHOUN (94).** Mr Arthur Colquhoun of Ashington died on 2nd July 2018. He worked in Industrial/Marine Lubricants, BP Oil, South West when he left group service in 1981 after 26 years.

**FORD (89).** Mrs Jacqueline Ford of Bexleyheath died on 7th May 2018. She was Secretary to Director of Finance & Planning, BP Victoria when she left group service in 1985 after 25 years.

**FORDREY (86).** Mr Alfred Fordrey of Sutton died on 17th May 2018. He was Driver at Wandsworth Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 28 years.



**FRANKLIN (86).** Mr Geoffrey Franklin of Christchurch died on 26th June 2018. He was Customer Services Supervisor, Shell Lubricants UK, Cheadle Hulme when he left group service in 1985 after 32 years.

**GALLOWAY (86).** Mr Fred Galloway of Dalry died on 23rd May 2018. He was Terminal Manager at Ardrossan when he left group service in 1989 after 24 years.

**GILL (93).** Mr Stuart Gill of Thornbury died on 3rd July 2018. He was a Shift Manager at Bristol Regional Office when he left group service in 1977 after 30 years.

**GREEN (89).** Mr Jack Green of Dewsbury died on 3rd February 2018. He was a Tyre Fitter at Leeds Terminal when he left group service in 1975 after 7 years.

**HINDER (97).** Mr W H Hinder of Neath died on 18th May 2018. He was a Driver at Swansea when he left group service in 1977 after 19 years.

**HOUGHTON (83).** Mr Derek Houghton of Carlisle has died. He was a Terminal Manager at Belfast when he left group service in 1992 after 36 years.

**KITCHEN (92).** Mrs Joyce Kitchen of Warrington died on 9th May 2018. She was the wife of Mr John Kitchen once a Terminal Operative at Barton Lubricants Plant.

**LISTER (89).** Mrs Mary Lister of Ipswich died on 13th August 2018. She worked as a Secretary at Ipswich when she left group service.

**LOWE (86).** Mr George Low of Warrington died on 3rd July 2018. He was a Driver at Haydock Terminal when he left group service in 1989 after 20 years.

**LUMM (89.)** Mrs Dorothy Lumm of Watford died on 19th April 2018. She was the wife of Mr George Lumm once a Driver at Buncefield Terminal.

**McCLINTICK (88).** Mr John McClintick of Stevenston died on 18th May 2018. He was a Driver at Ardrossan Terminal when he left group service in 1979 after 21 years.

**McWHIRTER (87).** Mr Darryl McWhirter of Birmingham died on 8th March 2018. He was a Technical Sales Representative, Lubricants, Birmingham when he left group service after 31 years.

**O'BRIEN (80).** Mr Joseph O'Brien of Blackwood died on 22nd May 2018. He was a Driver at Newport when he left group service in 1964 after 4 years.

**QUIXLEY (104).** Mr James Quixley of Lincoln died on 4th April 2018. He was a Supervisor at Shell/Lensbury Terminal, Fulham when he left group service in 1974 after 36 years.

**RIGHTON (79).** Mr Michael (Mick) Righton of Jarrow died on 23rd May 2018. He was a Driver at Jarrow when he left group service in 1996 after 30 years.

**ROONEY (94).** Mr Andrew (Andy) Rooney of Newton Mearns, Glasgow, died on 14th May 2018. He was Consumer Sales Manager, Scotland when he left group service in 1983 after 32 years.

**ROWLINSON (90).** Mr Clifford Rowlinson of Stalybridge died on 8th July 2018. He was Section Head – Commercial, Manchester Regional Office when he left group service in 1982 after 33 years.

**SHEPPARD (87).** Mr Ronald Sheppard of Luton died on 2nd May 2018. He was a Driver at Buncefield Terminal when he left group service in 1990 after 21 years.

**SKIDMORE (89).** Mr Arthur Skidmore of Dronfield Woodhouse has died. He was a Distribution Adviser, Manchester when he left group service in 1984 after 35 years.

**SMITH (91).** Mr Desmond Smith of Giffnock has died. He was a Senior Marketing Assistant at Glasgow when he left group service in 1985 after 36 years.

**SMITH (75).** Mr James Smith of Haydock died on 19th June 2018. He was a Driver at Haydock & Stanlow when he left group service after 31 years.

**SMITH (88).** Mr John Smith of Chester died on 26th June 2018. He was a Shift Manager at Teesport Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 15 years.

**STEVENSON (90).** Mr William Stevenson of Comber, Co Down has died. He was an Industrial Representative at Belfast when he left group service in 1988 after 27 years.

**STOTT (87).** Mr Digby Stott of Hemel Hempstead died in April 2018. He was Quality Co-ordinator, British Pipeline Agency when he left group service in 1990 after 29 years.

**SULLIVAN (77).** Mr David Sullivan of Cheltenham died on 9th May 2018. He was an Airfield Supervisor at Gatwick Airport when he left group service in 1993 after 22 years.

**VINCENT (92).** Mr William Vincent of Bristol died on 19th June 2018. He was a Lubricant Reseller Representative, Birmingham LMC when he left group service in 1984 after 27 years.

**WALKER (89).** Mrs Betty Walker of Leigh-on-Sea died on 27th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr Colin Walker, once Personnel Manager at Shell Haven Refinery, also once a Pensioner Liaison Representative.

**WATHERSTON (81).** Mr Thomas Watherston of Southport died on 3rd July 2018. He was a Driver at Stanlow when he left group service in 1991 after 22 years.

**WEST (86).** Mrs Janet West died on 9th May 2018. She was the wife of Mr Bernard West, once Finance Manager, London Office (BP).

**WILLIAMS (92).** Mr David Williams of Carmarthen died on 2nd May 2018. He was a Shell Retail Representative at Birmingham when he left group service in 1984 after 31 years.

**YEOMAN (94).** Mr Stephen Yeoman of Newhaven died on 19th July 2017. He worked in Industrial Marketing, Shell-Mex Hose when he left group service in 1974 after 16 years.

## Welcome New Members

Mrs Mollie Burke - King's Lynn  
Mr Clive Coakley - Ammanford  
Mr Brian Cooper - Skewen  
Mr David Ellis - Norwich  
Mr Chris Evans - Swansea  
Mr Gervais Griffiths - Swansea  
Mr Graham Griffiths - Swansea  
Mr Derek Harris - Swansea  
Mr David Hill - Swansea  
Mr Clive Hillman - Sketty  
Mr Arwyn Hughes - Llansamlet  
Mr Adrian Jones - Neath  
Mrs Nanette McWhirter - Birmingham  
Mr Dipesh Shah, OBE - Pinner  
Mr Brian Smith - Ynysforgan  
Mr Ron Thomas - Swansea

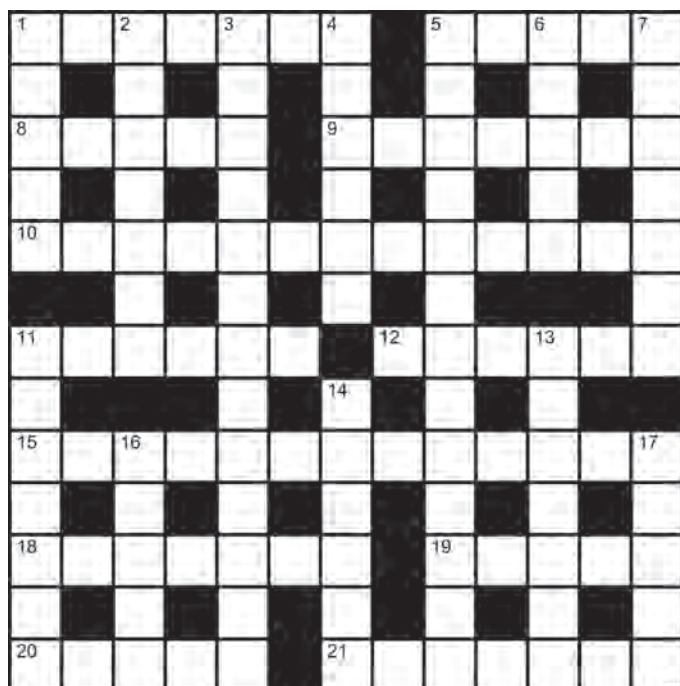
# and Finally ...

## Quiz – Answers to the Editor please. Prizes!

What, Where, When is this?



### Prize Crossword



#### Across

- 1 Less fine (7)
- 5 Modern written communication (1-4)
- 8 Does impressions (5)
- 9 Holidaymaker (7)
- 10 Four couples celebrate 'Diamond' in this magazine (13)
- 11 Device used for fastening two loose ends (6)
- 12 Where the oil was stored (6)
- 15 Vanellus was the BP Oil for them (6,7)
- 18 The beginning of the oil chain (3,4)
- 19 To stop, check, or hinder by enclosing with bars (5)
- 20 Often linked with Brahms in an inebriated way (5)
- 21 Opposes (7)

#### Down

- 1 Punctuation mark (5)
- 2 'Wisden' is one (7)
- 3 Vita , Lady Nicolson (9-4)
- 4 The Wankel was an early \_\_\_\_\_ engine (6)
- 5 Estimate based on experience or knowledge. (8,5)
- 6 "I wasn't there Guv" defence (5)
- 7 Cars that won the F1 World Championship six times 1963-1978 (7)
- 11 Portable bedding carried when hiking (7)
- 13 Early public transport (7)
- 14 In Retail we had Company Owned Sites and \_\_\_\_\_ Owned Sites (6)
- 16 One of the Buncefield Davids in the Summer 2018 Club News (5)
- 17 One shot the Archduke in 1914 (5)



### Last Issue's Crossword

Thanks to the many who spotted the undeliberate mistake in 21 Across where the compiler invented a Film called "Riders of the Lost Ark"! Winner was Colin Skinner of Badby who receives the usual valuable prize!

Closing date for next issue  
31st October 2018



# Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association (SPBA)

## The Charity offering help to Shell Pensioners in need

The SPBA exists to give benevolence to all members of the Shell Contributory Pension Fund (SCPF) in need who are also members of the Shell Pensioners Association. Having incorporated the Shell Mex & BP Benevolence Association the SPBA includes Pensioners who retired prior to Brand Separation and who were originally recipients of a Shell-Mex and B.P. Fund pension and who now receive a Shell pension. As at end of July 2018 benevolence is far greater than 2017 and the amount of benevolence to Shell pensioners is expected to exceed £200,000 the second largest amount in the last 20 years. Our analysis of pension numbers and pensioners income show that the

need for benevolence is expected to continue at this rate for a considerable time.

SPBA has financed installation of stair lifts, conversion of bathrooms to walk in showers, installation/repair of heating, gas fires, repair of roofs, house repairs wheelchairs, replacement of windows, beds, dishwasher, cookers, washing machines, car repair, reclining chairs, mobility scooters, medical and dental costs, and transport costs.

As I hope you know SPBA replaced the SMBP Spring grant with a Xmas grant and we wish to ensure that those in need receive this.

If you require financial assistance for any of the examples listed in this article please contact Ken Sleat by letter at Shell Benevolent Association, Shell Centre, York Road, London SE1 7NA or e-mail at [ken.k.sleat@shell.com](mailto:ken.k.sleat@shell.com) or telephone 02079345131, so that we can see if we can help.



## THE SHELL PENSION PROGRAMME



**WHATEVER YOU  
NEED WE ARE  
HERE TO HELP**

## The Shell Pensioner Programme (SPP) is a free service for Shell Pensioners

It offers support and advice to all Shell Pensioners who are Shell Pensioners Association member's in receipt of a SCPF/SOC PF pension.

The support can come in many forms from financial assistance through the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association, help with mobility and regular visits from your own Pensioner Programme Officer.

A small event can make a big change to your life, so never leave yourself wondering whether we can help you if you are not sure, call **0345 850 8944**

## Here are some examples of people we have helped

Following a request from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Family Association) the Shell Pensioner Programme became involved in supporting R who was struggling with decreased mobility and wished to be able to visit his wife who lived in nursing accommodation. Although she lives in the same complex as R, it was too far for him to walk unassisted. The case was made to SPBA to partner with SSAFA in purchasing R an electric wheelchair. The request was approved and R now owns a new wheelchair, with which he is delighted. With over 30 years' experience as a Shell tanker driver, manoeuvring the new wheelchair should not be an issue!



Pensioner X had been suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of being involved in a major incident whilst working on an oil rig approx. 25yrs ago. He was referred by the Helpline to the SPP and to the PPO for his area. The pensioner really appreciated the PPO's knowledge and understanding of the incident having worked at an Oil Refinery for many years. The incident had a traumatic effect on Pensioner X, resulting in horrendous nightmares and very little sleep. With help from the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association the SPP were able to obtain a grant to pay for Cognitive Behavior Therapy sessions at a local Stress and Trauma Clinic.

Pensioner X was very appreciative of the support he received and it has had a very positive effect on his mental well-being.

