



bp



John Perry
– the SMBP
man who
painted the
world green



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Welcome

Guest Editorial by John Bamberg

In the early autumn of 1954, I was nearing the end of 2 years National Service in the RAF. At that time, we were given permission to go for job interviews so that we had employment to go to after we were demobbed. I went for four – Marks and Spencer, Metal Box, British Oxygen and Shell-Mex and B.P.

At my interview in Shell-Mex House I was greeted by a charming secretary, escorted to a waiting room and offered tea or coffee with biscuits. I was also offered repayment for the cost of travel to get to the interview, but I pointed out that as a serviceman I had been given a free travel voucher. Nonetheless, she insisted and gave me the cost of the rail ticket – about four shillings, I believe! I was interviewed by a gentleman named Jackson, an Assistant Manager in Staff Department, who I soon discovered was an avid sport fan. Early in the interview he asked me what sports I played, and when I said I had played rugby for Eastern Counties that was the end of the formal interview – we spent the remainder of the time talking sport! One statement he made has stayed with me for life – in describing the culture of SMBP, he said "...you'll find less sh*ts per square yard in Shell-Mex and B.P. than anywhere else"! Following that enjoyable experience, I had no difficulty deciding to accept the SMBP job offer that followed - a decision I have never regretted.



I joined SMBP at the start of 1955 as a statistical clerk in 'Trade Relations' - that was the rather odd name for the Statistics and Economics Department. I then spent the next 35 happy years in a wide variety of different roles in Admin, Operations and Sales in SMBP and then in Shell UK Oil. This was only interrupted, in 1979, by a three year stint seconded to Shell International. That represented a marked change of style and culture. I had a sort of consultancy job in Retail where I had virtually no power or authority - almost the only work I had to do was that required of me by Operating Companies. If they wanted support or advice from me regarding strategy or capital or revenue budgets, they would have to ask for me to visit them and bear all my travel and living costs. Fortunately I was sufficiently sought after to see the world, First Class, at Shell's expense! From that, I developed a taste for international travel which has stayed with me in retirement.

I was fortunate that my Shell International job was at a time when there were two 'rules' from which I benefitted. One was a Government decision to allow all time spent abroad on business to be tax free! The other, an internal one, was that if you spent a significant amount of time away from home, your wife could join you on a business visit overseas and be treated as a Company employee. **Those were the days!**

I look back on 35 years of employment and 30 years of retirement with unadulterated pleasure. I found SMBP/Shell UK Oil to be honourable Companies in which Management trusted staff, and vice versa; and customers trusted the Company, and vice versa. It gave me a happy working life, both whilst at work and at home, and a happy retirement. It also gave me several life-long friends.

What's not to like?!

John Bamberg



Noticeboard



Reunion and AGM

There is a flyer with this magazine about the Members' reunion and AGM at 5:00pm on Thursday 16th May in Shell Centre. It is always a jolly occasion with the formal meeting kept to the minimum to allow the maximum time for nostalgic chat and a wine or a beer. Do come if you can.

Enclosed is the Agenda for the upcoming AGM. The accounts will be available to those attending the AGM. Should anyone not able to attend, require a copy of the accounts, please get in touch with Colin Hill who will arrange for copies to be sent once they are available.

BP Society

In the spirit of ensuring that membership of the BP Society is available to as many BP alumni as possible, the BPS Council, at its meeting in December, agreed to allow alumni who are not in receipt of a BP pension to join.

The Society already has some members who are not BP Pensioners, but the numbers are limited and applications have needed to be agreed on a case by case basis to manage the administration. Now, the BP Society website can facilitate all non-pensioner BP alumni to join the Society quickly and easily.

The Council decision also enables all employees from the former Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. to join the Society. Following the Brand Separation of Shell-Mex and B.P. only those employees who moved to BP, and later became BP retirees,

were entitled to become Society members. The new rule means that **all** former employees of Shell Mex and B.P. can now join the Society - even if they went to Shell on Brand Separation and are Shell Pensioners! This has been done to allow all SMBP alumni to re-establish contact with their former friends and colleagues.

You can register with the Society for free and share news with other members or, for £10 per annum, you can become a full member and participate in the Society's subsidised events programme. BP non-pensioner alumni, including those from SMBP, can register by visiting the society website. If they become a full member they

Birthday Cards

Members will be aware that former Club Chairman Peter Cast and his wife Bridget have administered the Club's Birthday Card programme for many years. They have now asked to move on from this and arrangements have been made for Barry Russell, who project manages the production and despatch of '44 Club News', to take over the work. He and his wife Ann are now sending out the around 1,500 cards each year that the Club send to qualifying members. We are very grateful to Peter and Bridget Cast for the work they did and to Barry and Ann for taking it on.

will receive a request to pay their subscription once their application has been processed. All details at www.bpsociety.co.uk



John Perry. The Shell-Mex and BP man who changed the face of BP around the world

1960, the year that John Perry joined Shell-Mex and B.P. as a nineteen-year-old fresh from school, was arguably the time that the company was at its apogee of fame and success. Fifteen years after the end of the War and fifteen years before Brand Separation SMBP had a dominant position in the British oil industry and it could afford to be very selective in whom it recruited. So when John applied for a job he could not guarantee that his three 'A' levels and his good reports from Wimbledon College would guarantee him a job. His first interview was with Brigadier Devereux of Staff Department who asked him which of the three armed services he had been in. When he said "none of them" as he was too young for National Service the Brigadier said he had never interviewed anyone who had not been in the services and so the interview was abandoned. He was passed to G.L.Gregory of Industrial Lubricants which was more straightforward and THAT was how he came to join that department!

John Perry was born in Sutton, Surrey in 1941 though his family had long lived in Battersea before heading into leafier surroundings in Stoneleigh just before the war. His father was with North Thames Gas and his mother was a model at Gorrings, the famous Department store. Wimbledon College was a Grammar School and John recalls that when he started work SMBP was full of public school and military 'chaps'. This was to be less prevalent in the new era that began about the time he joined. His exam results had been good enough for University but he decided that he wanted to work and save money to buy a motor bike. What did SMBP see in this eager young man? Perhaps there were signs of his ability to work without supervision and his love of 'process' combined with a logical mind. These were to be the characteristics which drove his very successful career.

With hindsight we know that anyone having a full career in SMBP/Shell/BP starting around 1960 would spend fifteen years in SMBP and twenty-five in one of the 'parent' companies. In John's case this was to be BP where he reached closer to the very top – something that he shared with

other SMBP alumni like Viv Thomas and Peter Cast. SMBP was clearly a good training ground for a senior oil executive with ambition. And John Perry certainly did not lack the latter. He started in 1960 as a junior clerk in Industrial Lubricants and then in 1962 became a senior clerk in Real Estate Department – the beginning of his long career in Retail. In 1964 he had a 'Sales Panel' and became a Real Estate Negotiator in the Midlands. By 1968, post McKinsey, he had risen to 'Head of Marketing Services' in Birmingham – his first management job (a department of 37) at the age



J A Perry
Head of Marketing Service,
Midland Region



of 27. By then he had studied for an HNC in Business Studies at City of London College on Day release and later he got a degree from a correspondence course at London University. SMBP encouraged and paid for these studies. In the same year John and Pat's first child was born – they had married in 1966. Two more were to follow fairly rapidly but then John said that was enough as you couldn't fit four children into an Austin 1100.

The McKinsey recommendations included the creation of Marketing Managers in Retail and Industrial - jobs that were deputy to the Regional Manager. In 1971 John was appointed to the Midland Region BP post reporting to Trevor Martin. It was a time of change in Retail with promotions galore and a new approach to site management pioneered by Gerald Ronson (at Heron) and Alan Pond. The BP brand in Birmingham copied Pond by creating 'Polygon' which grew to over 20 sites and John was at the heart of this – he was clearly on the

John Perry has a look 'downunder'



MIDLAND REGION BP Retail Marketing Manager John Perry (above) was recently "down under" to look at BP retail networks in New Zealand and Australia.

In New Zealand he also saw something of Europa Oil, the formerly independent company which joined the BP group last year and continues to market under its own name.

John Perry was accompanied on the study tour by Mr. F. O. Jeppesen Assistant General Manager of BP's Marketing Department in London. Mr. Jeppesen is on a two-year secondment to BP London from BP Denmark.

move. Geoff Sheppard, the legendary BP Retail Divisional Manager, had spotted that John was a special asset and in 1972 he spent three weeks in Australia and New Zealand. This brief international exposure made an impression on John and he thought that he would enjoy working internationally should the opportunity arise. It would!

As RMM in Birmingham John Perry had a structured approach to Retail planning, particularly in respect of site acquisition and development, that appealed to the BP Retail hierarchy and the Region secured some 80% of the capital budget – the golden prize of Retail resource allocation. In 1973 he was asked to apply this same approach in South Eastern Region and moved south to Knightsbridge to work with Gerry Long. It was around this time that he learned he would be going, unsurprisingly, to BP on Brand Separation in 1976.

But before then John's career took a surprising turn. John Riddle-Webster, the most senior SMBP man to be allocated to BP, called him in and asked him to take over as Marketing Manager for BP Aquaseal – a bitumen company and Joint Venture with Berry

Wiggins in Kent. This was described as a 'Development Job'. John labels the company as being 'run by the factory' with a strong Union and many Spanish practices. John introduced a proper branded marketing approach and managed to improve the efficiency of what had been a rather moribund and old-fashioned company.

After one spell in General Management another was to follow in 1978 when John returned to the world of Retail to be Director of Sealand Petroleum – a large BP company owned site chain which had absorbed Polygon. (The Sealand equivalent at Shell was City Petroleum). With 120 prime sites, 660 staff and a turnover of £90m this was a major business. He took over from Maurice Garwood and found that the buck very much stopped at his desk. One interesting learning point was that he found female site and area managers were generally much more attuned to the new world of Retail with its emphasis on shops than their male counterparts! Things were moving on fast from the rather male world of SMBP!

By 1980, the year in which John Perry celebrated his 39th birthday, he had built a solid business track record as he climbed the company hierarchy – especially in Retail. This led to his being appointed to his first International job in Britannic House as Manager of the Retail Branch in the International Marketing Department which worked with BP Associates around the world in the development of Retail strategy. In those days the power was with the country-based Associates so considerable subtlety, based on building good relationships with Retail managers worldwide, was required. One assignment was to 'brand separate' a number of Shell/BP joint ventures in Africa for which John had, of course, a recent personal experience.

By the early 1980s John Perry was firmly on the map in BP not just in the UK but worldwide. This was to lead to his secondment to BP Oil New Zealand in Wellington as Director and Assistant General Manager Marketing



and Operations. There were two separate BP Companies – BP New Zealand and Europa and each had their own Retail Brand. Mobil was market leader with 28%, then Shell 22%, Europa 17%, Caltex 17% and lastly BP at 15%. John thought if they could rebrand the Europa sites as BP it would give clear market leadership to BP. But that was, surprisingly, too big a step for the local management. The two companies did however merge marketing organisations, retaining the two brands. John says that, once again, experience in SMBP was invaluable. In 1989 the Europa sites were rebranded BP.

When John Perry had his feet firmly on the career ladder as BP Retail Marketing Manager in 1971 (his first 'branded' job) he thought that the height of his ambition was one day to be BP Retail Division Manager – the



top job. In 1986 this dream came true when he returned from New Zealand to take over in Victoria Street, and soon to BP's new offices in Hemel Hempstead. With Viv Thomas as his boss as Marketing Director and Peter Cast as Finance Director there was an SMBP flavour around. Brand loyalty being what it is one of his first tasks was to tackle a problem that the petrol station next to where the new BP office

was under construction was a Shell site! Who was John's Shell opposite number – no less than his old SMBP colleague John Bamberg! A battle ensued with Bamberg holding out for a site swap between Shell Hemel and one of BP's star sites elsewhere. It was a hard-nosed battle and a deal was eventually done - the site remains BP branded to this day (see photograph). During John's time as Retail Manager there was the task of rebranding the National sites, developing Convenience Stores, and being involved in the Monopolies Commission investigation into petroleum retailing on behalf of BP.

After two years as UK Retail Manager in mid-1988 John moved back to Britannic House as Manager of a re-imaging Project across all businesses of BP Oil International worldwide. BPs image varied from country to country and the 7000 sites in the USA, for example, were under 6 different logos as a result of past acquisitions. Project Horizon was a \$500 million programme to standardise BPs logo, colours and décor on all 22,000 filling stations and all vehicles, products and facilities around the world. John

worked with design companies and other suppliers on this huge project. Green had always been one of BPs colours and a colour not used by the major competitors. It was decided to maximise the use of green so it would become synonymous with BP in the marketplace. It also involved the updating of the BP Shield logo. After a number of other assignments including a major one at the time of the Mobil acquisition John, now a member of the BP Leadership Team (the top 300 people in BP worldwide), retired in 1999 as 'Global Retail Development Manager' with nearly forty years' service. But his BP (and re-imaging) days were not done. With the Amoco merger it was necessary to create a new Brand identity for the USA that would have a global application. A design and implementation team was set up and BP asked John to join it. He was re-engaged by BP, through an agency, as a consultant. They managed to



introduce the BP brand on all sites in the US and apply the colour green. The BP shield, however, had to be replaced and the new logo you see today (known as the "Helios") was introduced. The graphic shows the logo as it was used in SMBP from 1947 to 1975, the modified Shield introduced in the John Perry managed project in 1989 and the new logo introduced following the review in 1999 to which John was the prime contributor as a consultant.

John Perry's long career in SMBP/BP was a steady progression upwards and he pays tribute today to the essential part that SMBP played in his first fifteen years. John is convenor of the 'Grandfathers' Club' membership of which comprises ex senior Shell-Mex and B. P. staff who are grandfathers. John qualified in 2001 when the first of a new generation of Perrys was born. Talking with John three things are particularly apparent. His utter loyalty to SMBP and BP. His devotion to his family and finally his passion for Chelsea Football Club. And why not! (Please don't write and tell me, this is a rhetorical question). **PSB**

EVOLUTION..... SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG



1921 SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG 1921 SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG 1922 SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG 1930



1947 SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG 1958 SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG 1989 SHEBANIAN.COM/BLOG 2000

Birthday Thanks

75th Just a short note to thank you for my birthday card, which came as a complete surprise.

It hardly seems any time at all that I was walking into Shell and Lensbury Terminal, Townmead Road, Fulham to start my first job as a Laboratory Assistant. Where does the time go? I would also like to thank all those involved with the 44 club for the work that is carried out on our behalf.

Bob Huntley

80th Well, for sure, that won't happen again !! My time 'off the payroll' now equates to my years of continuous service with SMBP / 'Shell'. Thus came the day of my 80th birthday and the kind & timely card in February conveying those best wishes from 'fellow members in the 44 Club'.

I look back with great affection to a 40 year career which defied the normal 'flow' of crude oil to the pump by starting in King's Lynn terminal handling finished products on to the business, in the 1990s, of trading licences for Shell Expro's development of offshore E&P prospects across the UKCS.

I have happy memories of facing a range of challenging and quite different roles which took me through distribution, UK primary supply (rail and shipping) and to opportunities for international travel during my seven years as Commercial Manager for Shell Tankers (UK). I worked with some great role models on the way and have met so many interesting people. Thanks to all with whom I had the pleasure and good fortune to work with.

Neville A. Brown

82nd The years since I retired from Hemel Hempstead in 1989 have simply flown by.

After 21 years with Citizens Advice, I am now truly retired but, nevertheless, living life to the full. My very best wishes to members and all involved in the 44 Club.

Roger Cook

84th I have just returned from an excellent three week cruise! Friends will note (below) that I have moved house to Godalming – a delightful town with a good bus service to Guildford. I moved from Pirbright because our bus service there was cut from one an hour to one every two hours – as our only local shop was a butchers a good bus service was essential.

Gwyneth Parker

84th It is lovely to be remembered – my late husband would be so pleased at this recognition of his service.

Eileen Readman

84th Another year passed and the welcome card received on time, thank you. I am active in good health and being well looked after by family since Nanette my wife died. Hope my colleagues from Retail Glasgow and Distributer Trade are also wearing well.

Anyone from SMBP live near Perth W. Australia?

A.O. (Sandy) Hogg

Prompted by Sandy's question we took a look at the list of our Club members living outside the UK. The list as known to the Club is as follows:

- Ireland 15
- Spain 13
- Australia 11
- United States 9
- Canada 4
- France 3
- Cyprus 2
- Malta 2
- New Zealand 2
- Brazil, The Philippines, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Trinidad all one each.

85th I have my interest in Opera (I am a friend of the English National Opera and am able to attend rehearsals as well as performances), theatre and of course my garden. It is now 34 years since I took early retirement from Cashiers in BP Oil, Victoria Street having completed 28 years with SMBP/BP. Whilst I am certainly a "Senior" I am not able to match Denis July who is approaching his centenary! He and I go back to 1957! Congratulations Denis.

Ray Large

88th Recently I decided to venture out for a walk, between Royal Weddings and other ceremonial occasions, on the streets of Windsor. I soon saw a little girl coming towards me, pushing a doll's pram. She stared at me closely, turned to her mother

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BIRTHDAY THANKS

and said in a loud voice "Oh look Mummy, isn't he OLD!!" I muttered some nonsense to the child that "Once upon a time I was exactly the same age as you are today", brushed off her mother's apologies, and tottered on my way, consoling myself with the fact that, at least, I still had a thick thatch (albeit silver) and active "marbles" aloft.

Gerald Arthur

90th I started my petroleum career in 1943 as a mailing boy with the Petroleum Board Eastern Region in Ipswich until I did my National Service in the RAF. After this, when the Petroleum Board was dissolved, I was offered a job by SMBP Eastern Division – in the same office as before! On Brand Separation I was transferred to BP Retail Midland Region as a Retail Finance Advisor. I took early retirement in 1983. I enjoyed my 'Life in Oil' but I now have virtually no contact with former colleagues and acquaintances but I

look at the pages of the Club news for mentions of those I knew.

Roy K Lucas

90th It's scary that this time of the year seems to get here quicker as my age changes upwards! I do greatly appreciate the work that is done by you all keeping us 'Oldies' in the picture with eventful 'goings on' and much, much more. All the very best, from a slightly older pensioner

Lawrence Townsend.

91st As each year passes I receive fewer and fewer birthday cards so the one from the 44 Club is especially treasured. Thank you.

N. Murrell

95th I still enjoy reading the 44 club news and attending the local branch meetings.

I have many happy memories of working at SMBP and can't believe it is fifty years since I retired.

Jim Morne

Thanks also received from: John Emms (81), Des Brown (89), Robert Wright (83) – plus donation, - Thank you. Dennis Parkes (85), Pater Mann (89), Terry Morley (87), Leslie Sewell (94), Leslie Ball (91)¹, Dick Tinson, Brian Fausset (90), Mavis Humphries (88), Eira Griffiths, Anne Curry, David Sims (81), Nick Edmonds, John Nowill (94), Ian Purches, Bramwell Hill (87), David Yorke, John Clements (80), Ted Hunt (82).

¹ Mr Ball died shortly after this birthday. Our condolences to his widow Patricia.

Wedding Anniversaries

Blue Sapphire

Jim and Mary Currie

2nd April 2019

Diamond

Mr and Mrs Calthorpe

7th March 2019

Emerald

Tom and Rosemary Cannon

8th February 2019

The Club does not hold details of Wedding Anniversaries on its database. So if you would like a big anniversary to be marked in the magazine you will need to let us know – preferably by Email to The Editor but also by any other method. If you enclose a picture it will also feature.

Your Letters

Lydd Airport

It was good to be reminded of Lydd Airport on the Romney Marsh in Kent. I was a tanker driver based at Shell Haven in the 1950s and 1960s. One of our tasks, in which I was involved, was the road feeding off Lydd with Aviation gasoline (Avgas). It was a round trip of over 150 miles and we made deliveries every Monday, Wednesday and Friday – a fifteen hour “all day” job. We used tankers with 3600 or 4000 gallons capacity. The airport was very busy in those days and it was a big task to keep it fully fuelled!

I retired in 1980 and am now 94 – I have very happy memories of Shell-Mex and B.P.

Leslie Sewell

know me who have remarked how much I have changed, but also several letters from people who I have not heard from for

over thirty years

and that is wonderful. Thank you for publishing my letter! For the avoidance of doubt I am the shy person behind Ian in the photo and should the authorities need to identify me further I attach another one that is unobscured!

John Nunn



The real John Nunn

compared to those who live alone, are too disabled to do things for themselves or live in dirty or cold conditions. It is good that we ‘take an extra minute to brighten someone’s day’.

David Willis

(Ed: David also sent me various pranks that he and Tim Green wrote for April Fool’s day when they were in Shell-Mex House. These included an announcement of the formation of ‘Scotia Shell’ which reflected devolution. The head would be called the ‘Laird’ and he would be supported Bailies, Gillies and Crofters. Its products included ‘Sporran Squeak Oil’ and ‘Bagpipe flushing fluid’. It’s very funny, but sadly pressure on space means that it cannot be reproduced here.)

Mistaken Identity

In the Winter Club News you showed a picture of Ian Hacker with the outrageous allegation that it was me! I do hope that Ian is not in a state of shock to discover that he has transformed into me. The photo below was taken at a very jolly outing of Bristol Branch and Ian is the distinguished chap in the striped shirt on the extreme right in the front row. (I was going to be more slanderous, libellous or defamatory about Ian but good sense prevailed). I have had several phone calls from people who

A Prankster writes

I have just had an enjoyable evening reading the latest issue of the 44 Club News. Thank you for keeping us so well informed of what is going on with fellow SMBP alumni. I particularly liked your ten ways in which we could make a difference to the lives of lonely over-65s. About fifteen years ago I joined Fairwood Helpers, a local organisation that takes the old and infirm to a GP, hospital, dental and other appointments as well as doing their shopping or simply reading to them. I have found it a great way of appreciating how well-off one is

Getting out and doing something

I’ve just opened the winter 2018 Club News and read about the problem of loneliness. I retired at 75 after 22 years of working in the Middle East for some of the National Oil companies and then finding myself back in Blighty! I realised after a few months settling into retirement that I must get out and do something, so I signed up for two sessions a week at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford doing circuit training with some of the 60+ and younger ones. You get to know them and chat. As for walking, well you don’t have to necessarily ask someone to go out walking as there are hundreds of Rambling organisations all over the country that you can contact and be a walker and the enjoyment of meeting so many



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YOUR LETTERS

different people, many who have retired and found the enjoyment in getting out into the countryside.

Having started my career in the aircraft industry and later working for Shell, I became a Volunteer at Brooklands Museum near Weybridge. Again a very sociable mix of retirees who worked in the Industry and of course many visitors who can talk about their lives down to the grandchildren's age who are always asking questions.

All this takes up four or five days of my week but if other things crop up I can drop out of my schedule for a day or so and get back into my routine. Now at 81 I feel reasonably fit and have contact with a good bunch of people from different walks of life.

It is amazing how many retirees are around doing so many different things!

Howard Hancock

Rock bottom for the artefacts

In the last Club News we are asked what other SMBP branded artefacts can readers remember?

When I was working in SMBP Bristol Wine Street we were about to go out for Christmas lunch. Bomb threats were not uncommon in those days and having left the office there was a major bomb scare in the centre of Bristol so I suggested to our group that we get a taxi to my flat in Westbury on Trym to await the 'all clear' hoping it would be in time for us to have our lunch.

Once home I went into the lavatory only to notice a roll of utility lavatory paper that I had nicked from Wine Street. Every sheet was over stamped 'Shell Mex and BP Group' in very prominent ink. Mortified that anyone should think I was that cheap (I was always forgetting something in



the supermarket) I quickly chucked the incriminating loo-roll into my bedroom.

I popped to Henleaze to buy something for them to drink and on my return noted that someone had clearly needed the loo as there was the remains of a Barclays Bank Statement floating therein. I quickly gave it another flush.

Tony, my partner, said you should have gone in and said "...and one of you is bloody overdrawn." I never perfected his instant and witty riposte.

George Lush

A warm re-union

Last January, my wife Gil and I took a trip away from the British gloom to the Cape Town area of South Africa. It was a splendid opportunity to meet up with Mike Baker and his wife, Christine. They have lived in Cape Town for the past three years, joining their son in the area.

Mike started with SMBP in 1965, three years before me. He trained around the London Terminals and we met when he was a supervisor at Northfleet during one of my spells in training there. Mike was always one for fast cars and I was duly envious. He still is and now has a stunning Jaguar.

Much of my later career was overseas so we lost touch until retirement and attending some of the 44 Club Kent and Sussex lunches. Mike was an organiser supporting Charles Richards, Hughie Shaw and Bernard Smith.

The four of us enjoyed a wine tasting session (as one just has to do in the

Wineries region) followed by an excellent lunch and Mike wished to be remembered to those who knew him back in the UK.

Richard Springett



Welcome New Members

Mrs Barbara Allberry - Benfleet

Mrs Ann Cordell - Basildon

Mr Iain Hewitt - St Catherines, Ontario

Mr Dennis Human - Ely

Mr David John - Bovingdon

Mrs Jean Laidlaw - Stourport-on-Severn

Mrs Marion Petrie - Winchester

Mr Michael Pugh - Hemel Hempstead

Mrs Ann Smith - Bedford

Mrs Marilyn Woodward - Swansea

News from the Branches

Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary 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

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

In November 2018 we welcomed Mr Watt and his son to host a special edition of the Antiques Road Show – 44 Club Glasgow style! Members and guests brought along their valuables, hoping to discover untold riches.

Although there were a couple of things that were worth more than a few



Mary Currie (Glasgow)

pennies nothing mind blowing was seen! We did however hear a lot of historical details about several items and the meeting was most definitely a success.

Our Christmas Lunch on 13 December was well attended and Fratelli Sarti, Renfield Street, Glasgow provided a delicious meal. Much chat (and of course liquid refreshment) took place and this was an excellent start to the Christmas Festivities.

In January, our first meeting in 2019, we welcomed Louise Bustard from Glasgow Botanical Gardens. Louise took us on a tour of her favourite Scottish gardens. Louise is an extremely knowledgeable speaker and

we could almost 'smell the roses' (or should that be the compost)! The icing on the cake, so to speak, was the discovery that one of our members had a personal connection to the garden at Brodick Castle, Arran – his grandfather was the Head Gardener there.

February saw the return of Christine

Miller, our genealogy expert. This time she moved away from family history to the history of family houses. She gave us some excellent tips for researching houses and as always, her talk was enjoyed by all present.

We hold a raffle at all our meetings apart from Christmas Lunch and thank everyone who donates prizes and buys tickets. Coffee/tea and chocolate biscuits are also an important precursor to each meeting.

Coming up:

We will hold our usual summer lunch (date to be confirmed) and the new season starts in October. Details will be on our website in due course. We would love to see more ex-colleagues at our meetings, please get in touch if you are interested.

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitt

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

On December the 12th sixteen members met at The New Crown Inn South Shields for our Christmas lunch. A very tasty meal was enjoyed by everyone followed by lots of friendly banter after which all the ladies were given a box of chocolates and the men a bottle of very nice wine. Many thanks to Keith and John for



Glasgow Branch

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Northumbria Branch

organising a very enjoyable afternoon. We were pleased to welcome our first canine member - Vespa the lurcher, Andrew Jeffcott's dog.



Coming up:
Wednesday 10th April, Lunch 1200-1230, The New Crown Hotel, Mowbray Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 3NG

West Riding

Contact (provisional): Terry Morley,

Coming up:
Wednesday 17th April 2019, Lunch 1200-1230, The Queens Arms (A61), 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds LS7 3PT

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate

This year our Christmas lunch was held on the 6th of December at The Jet Miners Inn, Great Broughton - our second visit there. Nineteen members attended and enjoyed an excellent meal. Each lady received a present from Doreen Ces's wife. It was good

to meet up and talk to old friends but all too soon the afternoon sped past and it was time to leave, but promised to meet again in the Spring.

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

Coming up:
Tuesday 9th April 2019, Lunch 1200-1230, The Holiday Inn (A1M Junction 36), High Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster South Yorkshire DN4 9UX

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

Coming up:
As last year we joined our colleagues from SPA at Sale Conservative Club for our Christmas Lunch. In all 44 members and guests attended in the spacious lounge with bar and members' reduced prices. Lunch was served promptly and was enjoyed by all. This was followed by the ever popular raffle. Our thanks to SPA, and particularly Bryan Clarke and we thoroughly recommend this venue for next year when we hope to see our friends again.

Coming up:
Manchester branch has 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

Twenty-four members and guests gathered for our Christmas Lunch on 12th December. An excellent lunch at the Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham gave everyone a good start to the Festive Season. As usual a raffle was held for Teenage Cancer Trust.

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

Our second Skittle games this year was again held at The Squirrel, Alveley. Nr Bridgnorth, on 17th October and was attended by 32 members and guests who enjoyed a light lunch during the break when our usual raffle was held. There were a lot of wonderful prizes, all supplied by some of our members and guests. Our thanks as usual go to them for their support. Our last game was a knockout (so much fun and laughter) and was won by one of our Guests, who very kindly donated the prize money towards the club funds for which we gave our grateful thanks.

We had a change of venue for our Christmas Lunch which was held on 18th December 2018 at The Granary, Kidderminster. It had been some years since we visited there so thought we would give it a try. We had 45 members and guests attending our lunch, but we were a little disappointed in the main course although the starters and desserts were wonderful. The weather was not very kind to us, as it rained most of the day which was a little



Teesside Branch



North Midlands Branch

disappointing although this was much better than the dreaded snow!

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 & 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.

Coming up:

24th April. Skittles at The Squirrel. Alveley nr. Bridgnorth.

19th June. Carvery Lunch. Bodenham Arboretum. Kidderminster.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

Branch members enjoyed another full year of activities in 2018 and the undoubted highlight was our annual Christmas lunch held at Berkhamsted Golf Club in December. Amongst our superb attendance of 97 members and guests we were delighted to welcome some friends and former colleagues from the BPA Wednesday Pensioners Lunch Club. Once more, the occasion typified the essence of the 44 Club with the enjoyment of an excellent meal in the convivial company of many old friends including Colin Hill, our Club Secretary, who was our invited guest. Menu choices, table plans and overall organisation of the day was co-ordinated once more by Malcolm Bury in his usual faultless style. The proceeds from our raffle have enabled us to donate £200 to the Chilterns MS Centre which is a local charity offering treatment



South Midlands Branch

and support to people with multiple sclerosis. We shall be returning to the Golf Club again on Friday 13th December for our 2019 Christmas lunch.

After lunch we held our usual brisk AGM. After many years of loyal service to our Branch David Down has decided to retire from the Committee and, on behalf of all members, our Chairman Ken Longhurst thanked him for his work. Ken and the remainder of the current Committee were all unanimously re-elected. In his closing remarks Ken said that he looked forward to another busy year of events and hoped that these would enjoy the customary strong support of Branch members.

Coming up:

Wednesday 22nd May: pub lunch at The Greyhound, Wigginton, near Tring HP23 6EH from noon onwards. Brian Lovell (01442 822214) is the contact for any queries.

Tuesday 2nd July: pub lunch at The Oak, 119 Green End Street, Aston Clinton HP22 5EU from noon onwards. Closer to the date, a separate note will be sent to all active members giving full details. Malcolm Bury (see above) is organising this one.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

The branch's Christmas lunch was held at Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club on 13th December. This is the third year that we have been there and members again enjoyed the good food and atmosphere along with a successful raffle. We had a lower number of 48 compared with 80 last year, mainly due to a holiday of one large group and others with health problems. The Golf Club



Chelmsford Branch

donated a £30 voucher for Sunday Carvery.

Members have been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our chairman, Peter Gobell, in January. Peter made a major contribution to the success of the branch over many years as committee member and Chairman and will be sorely missed.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

The Ipswich Branch Christmas Lunch was held on 13th December at the Best Western Hotel, Copdock where 39 members sat down to a 2 course lunch followed by mince pies, mints and coffee. In times where we see our numbers diminishing, it was heartening to see such a good attendance. It was good to catch up with those members who have not been able to attend too many of our functions during the past year and we were appreciative of those members and guests who had travelled a considerable distance to be with us. The lunch was then followed by our



Ipswich Branch

annual Grand Christmas Raffle which saw most members take home at least one of the many excellent prizes on offer.

We look forward to 2019 which will see the Ipswich Branch celebrating its 40th anniversary, having held its first ever function in May 1979 which consisted of a simple ploughman's lunch.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

The first meeting of the New Year was at Sketty Hall, Swansea on Wednesday February 13th. Glyn and Barbara Stead joined the group helping to expand our numbers once more. Sketty Hall accommodated us very well in that we were able to have a private room (free of charge) so conversation was thoroughly enjoyable within a lovely environment.

We have decided as a group to meet bi-monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. So fellow members will know without having to have written invitation every time we come together. The dates will be published on the South Wales Branch website (address above) where there are also some more photographs. <https://www.44club.co.uk/south-wales.html>



South Wales Branch

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

The branch held its AGM and Christmas Lunch on December 4th. Once again the venue was The Henbury Golf Club in Bristol. Our chairman / event organiser, Roger Gamlin, had again arranged a beautiful day for us, slight frost but very sunny. Our guests of honour this year were Roy and John Weedon, all the way from Camborne. Roy is an honorary member of the 44 Club and is Chairman of Mitchell and Webber Ltd. His son, John, is Chief Executive. We were delighted to see them. We were also pleased to welcome back Geoff. and Barbara Clemens who had travelled up from Plymouth to be with us. And Richard Coffin who we had not seen for many a long year, plus Bernard Amos, our bobsleigh man, recently back from running a Shell training course in The Hague. The remainders were the usual suspects from around the Bristol area who loyally support all our events.

There was plenty of time to chat with colleagues of yesteryear and wander down memory lane. Many photos were on display plus a published book on the history of Mitchell and Webber Ltd and a few other items of memorabilia. The food, the service and the room were excellent. The raffle organised by Bert and Maureen Baseley contributed £118 to our branch funds. The current committee members were once again voted en bloc to continue for another

year under the leadership of Roger Gamlin who was warmly thanked for arranging an excellent event.

Coming up:

It is our intention to hold four events during 2019. More to follow.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker

On 12 December our club members made their way to The Amberwood at Walkford for our annual Christmas Party Lunch. This is the second time we have been to this venue, and we were again not disappointed. The Christmas fare was delicious, well up to the high standard expected. We were down a bit on numbers due to various reasons - clash of dates with other functions, cruises, hospital appointments etc. For the first time ever we had a proper draw with Mrs Reeve-Parker doing a sterling job selling the draw tickets and folding the stubs with a little help from members. The star prize was a ticket to see Bournemouth play Spurs play at Wembley on Boxing Day (thanks to your Magazine Editor who donated this !) There was a pretty fair division of prizes with just about everyone going home with a win of some sort - thank you everyone who donated prizes. All in all it was voted another very successful event for Bournemouth & District.



Bournemouth and Southampton Branch

Coming up:

Spring get-together: Green Dragon Pub at Brook near Cadnam (a new venue for us) on Wednesday, 8 May 2019.

South East

Contact: Charles Richards

Guildford, Kingston & London West

Contact: to be advised

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

Branch in abeyance

The early days of Shell-Mex and B.P.

The United Kingdom was economically and politically in a difficult state in 1931. "A crisis of muddle which no one properly understood led to a General Election [in October] of unrivalled confusion" as AJP Taylor later put it. 'There was a run on the pound, budget and balance of payments deficits and chronic unemployment. There was a political battle between those who favoured protectionism and those who supported free trade. The climate for business continued to be unpropitious – still suffering from the Wall Street crash of 1929 and the collapse of employment which affected demand and led to extreme hardship.

The senior management of Shell-Mex Limited (Royal Dutch Shell's UK subsidiary) and British Petroleum opened talks in secret to see if there was scope for a defensive efficiency-driven merger of their operations. There was however a leak and 'The Times' of October 17th revealed the plans in outline - 'Last night an official announcement was issued to the effect that the Anglo-Persian and Royal Dutch-Shell groups are creating a company to ensure close

cooperation between the distributing businesses conducted at present by the British Petroleum and Shell-Mex companies in the United Kingdom and Ireland...this cooperation should result in substantial economies' On November 14th they revealed that a new company 'Shell-Mex and

B.P.' had been registered (see press cutting below). SMBP had been held two days earlier, though the staffs of the merging companies had to wait until 18th December for the official announcement! The rest, as they say, is history! **PSB**

COOPERATION IN OIL DISTRIBUTION

SHELL-MEX AND B.P. LIMITED

In our issue of October 17 last reference was made to the formation of a company to ensure close cooperation between the distributing businesses conducted at present by the British Petroleum (Anglo-Persian) and Shell-Mex (Royal Dutch-Shell) companies in the United Kingdom and Ireland. According to Messrs. Jordan and Sons' daily register, the new company—Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited—was registered as a private company on November 12 with a nominal capital of £100 in £1 shares (50 "A" and 50 "B" shares) to carry on the business of refiners, storers, transporters, suppliers, sellers, and distributors of petroleum and other oils and any products thereof, &c. The members are classified as the "Persian" group, the "Shell" group, and the "Eagle" group.

¹"A History of England" 1965

In Memoriam

Tony Blackburn

Tony Blackburn, who had died at the age of 91, joined National Benzole in 1957 and worked in Retail in the Shell-Mex and B.P. Group, and BP, for the rest of his forty-year career. Starting as a Real Estate Representative he progressed to Real Estate Manager, London Division for National and then for SMBP in Eastern Division in 1963. He was Head of Retail Reorganisation from 1971-1973 preparing for Brand Separation and at BP he headed up the Retail Strategic Planning unit and was later Manager of the Retail Estate Branch. In 1985 he was project manager for the construction of the £7m South Mimms Motorway service area on the M25 described at the time as the 'most advanced in Europe' with 19 pump islands and a range of restaurants.



Tony Blackburn

Tony retired in 1987. He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement and often had difficulty fitting everything in. He and his wife Julia had a large garden with twenty-four vegetable beds, a fruit cage, 70 odd fruit trees and a pond. He also played short mat bowls, went bird-watching and on rainy days and in the winter he prepared his stamp collection which is now part of the Spanish Civil War Collection in the British Library.



He had a stroke in 2010 and, although it seemed to have little effect at the time, it gradually became apparent that some areas of his brain had suffered quite badly so that lots of ordinary things became quite difficult. He went to live in a local care home in July 2017 where he was well looked after.

PSB/Julia Blackburn

John Perry adds: "Tony was a Real Estate Professional with an analytical mind. He was a colleague in BP Retail, SE Region and a key member of the team that selected sites which had to change brand to achieve the 60/40 split at Brand Separation."

Peter Gobell

Peter Gobell had completed thirty-five years' service with SMBP and Shell when he retired in 1992 - he was an accountant - mostly in support of various marketing departments. When he found himself assigned to Industrial Fuels in the 1970s he was greeted by the eccentric James Hilliard who



Peter Gobell

told him that as there were already too many Peters in the Department he would be called 'Jimmy' - he didn't argue and throughout the rest of his career, and in retirement, he answered happily to either name! Peter was that valuable colleague who was a safe pair of hands. Shrewd, hard-working, loyal and reliable he was often the essential glue which held things together when those with more flashy egos strutted around! He is pictured, left, with colleagues including Andy Hull, Mike Howard and Colin Hill at an Administration Managers Course in 1978.

On retirement Peter threw himself whole-heartedly into helping to run the SMBP 44 Club both locally in East Anglia, where he became Regional Coordinator, and centrally where among other things he administered the 44 Club Diaries. Club Chairman Rick Westley has said "Peter was a fabulous 44 Club contributor and such a force in the East for us and all his members. He will be sadly missed."

Peter's family was the most important thing in his life and at his funeral in February his three children, grandchildren and friends paid a moving tribute to a man as loved at home as he was respected and liked at work. RIP Jimmy.

PSB

Barry Clarke

I had known Barry Clarke for nearly 60 years in SMBP and Shell, albeit from a distance, as my line of work rarely caused me to deal with the Finance 'Heavy' that he undoubtedly was. This all changed in 2001 when I had the good fortune to become Secretary of the 44 Club and the Benevolence Association, the latter of which Barry was Chairman and therefore my boss.

Barry was a pleasure to work with. Approachable, shrewd, experienced and knowledgeable his guidance

was invaluable to me as a Charitable Trust rookie. His approach to requests for financial assistance from SMBP Pensioners was always positive, sympathetic and realistic, never losing sight of the Charity's resources and its overall aims. Furthermore tactically and strategically he used his considerable management heft when necessary to ensure the continued and healthy existence of the Trust. He was

also, later, a guiding light as President of the SMBP 44 Association. Personally Barry was a delightful and kindly man, blessed with an excellent sense of humour. In his youth he had been a considerable rugby player which gave us something other than our work to talk about, he will be remembered warmly and much missed.

Charles Madge



Barry Clarke

Obituaries

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

BECK (84). Mr David Beck of Gravesend died on 19th December 2018. He was a Terminal Operator 1 at Northfleet when he left group service in 1981 after 10 years.

BLACKBURN (90). Mr Anthony (Tony) Blackburn of Diss died on 27th October 2018. He was Real Estate Manager, BP Victoria when he left group service in 1987 after 29 years.

BURROWS (84). Mr Robert Burrows of Manchester died on 14th December 2018. He was Section Head, Corporate Oil Accounting, Shell UK Oil, Wythenshawe when he left group service in 1990 after 23 years.

CLARKE (89). Mr Barry Clarke of Ashted died on 12th February 2019. He was Finance Director, Billiton UK Ltd when he left group service in 1986 after 25 years.

CLEMENTS (94). Mr Maldwyn Clements of Newport (Gwent) died on 4th December 2018. He was Terminal Superintendent at Newport Terminal when he left group service in 1980 after 33 years.

CORDELL (85). Mr Peter Cordell of Basildon died on 30th October 2018. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1987 after 31 years.

COTTON (86). Mrs Margaret Cotton of Peterborough died on 30th November 2018. She was Assistant Cashier – Banking, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1987 after 22 years.

CRAIG (97). Mr Henry Craig of Comber, Co Down, formerly of Belfast, died on 19th December 2018. He worked at Belfast for SMBP when he left group service in 1975 after 38 years.

DAVISSON (91). Mr E Davisson of Horndon-on-the-Hill died on 9th December 2018. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1981 after 33 years.

DONOHUE (86). Mrs Eileen Donohoe of Cheadle died on 12th November 2018. She worked in CSWO at Wythenshawe when she left group service in 1982 after 13 years.

GOBELL (79). Mr Peter Gobell of Colchester died on 11th January 2019. He was Total Quality Management Adviser, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1992 after 35 years.

GRAY (76). Mr Peter Gray of Cheadle died in Macclesfield on 8th November 2017. He worked in Salaries & Wages, Shell UK Oil, Wythenshawe when he left group service in 1990 after 25 years.

HAMILTON (81). Mr Ronald Hamilton of Cumbernauld died on 20th December 2018. He was Group Fleet Engineer, Bishopbriggs when he left group service in 1990 after 20 years.

HARROW (90). Mrs Doreen Harrow of Edinburgh died on 2nd December 2018. She was the wife of Mr William Harrow, once Opening Events Manager, Shell Expro, Mossman.

HESSEY (87). Mrs June Hessey of Welwyn died on 16th January 2019. She was the wife of Mr John Hessey once a Shell Retail Representative, Knightsbridge.

continued on page 18

HIGGS (88). Mr Derek Higgs of Cowbridge died on 26th December 2018. He was a Personnel Officer at Barry Factory when he left group service in 1982 after 28 years.

HOWDLE (86). Mr John Howdle of Bath died on 30th October 2018. He was Retail Development Engineer, Manchester when he left group service in 1991 after 31 years.

HUDSON (84). Mr Leslie Hudson of Holton-le-Clay died on 11th December 2018. He was a Driver at Stanlow when he left group service in 1987 after 21 years.

JOHNSON (87). Mr Harold Johnson of Lowestoft died on 4th February 2019. He was a Driver at Wandsworth Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 21 years.

KATTENHORN (82). Miss Doreen Kattenhorn of Carnoustie (formerly of London) died on 16th January 2019. She was a Personnel Assistant, BP, Victoria when she left group service in 1989 after 23 years.

KEATING (86). Mr Peter Keating of Sheffield died on 7th December 2018. He was Group Terminal Manager (Aviation), Manchester Airport Group when he left group service in 1990 after 27 years.

KEHR (94). Mr William Kehr of Sevenoaks has died. He was Terminal Manager, The Shell Haven Terminal when he left group service in 1980 after 32 years.

LEWIS (83). Mr Brian Lewis of Chandlers Ford died on 8th November 2018. He was Regional Surveyor, Central Region when he left group service in 1992 after 37 years.

LISK (94). Mrs Kathleen Lisk of Glasgow died on 29th January 2019. She was the wife of Mr George Lisk, once a Regional Manager, Industrial. Bristol.

McARDLE (99). Mrs M McArdle of Leeds died on 8th January 2019.

McELWEE (79). Mr Brian McElwee of Ballymoney died on 15th January 2019. He was Shift Manager, Bishopbriggs Terminal when he left group service in 1992 after 31 years.

MANSFIELD (85). Mr Peter Mansfield of Hailsham died in December 2018. He worked in Retail Finance, SE Region, Croydon when he left group service in 1983 after 25 years.

MEREDITH (85). Mrs Frances Meredith of Plymouth died on 15th January 2019. She was Senior Operations Assistant, Plymouth Terminal when she left group service in 1980 after 30 years.

NAPPER (89). Mr Wilfred Napper of Bournemouth died on 11th November 2018. He was a Senior Section Head, Support Accounting, Wythenshawe when he left group service in 1984 after 25 years.

NOAKES (93). Mr Peter Noakes of Wisbech died on 1st January 2019. He worked in Internal Audit, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1979 after 25 years.

PEARCE (83). Mr Ralph Pearce of Pont Ebbw died on 2nd January 2019. He was a Driver at Newport when he left group service in 1975 after 15 years.

PRIDMORE (77). Mrs Maureen Pridmore of Tamworth died on 23rd October 2018. She was Area Support Assistant at Birmingham Regional Office – Retail when she left group service in 1978 after 16 years.

PULBROOK (81). Mr Robert Pulbrook of Clacton-on-Sea died on 30th January 2019. He was a Messenger at Shell-Mex House when he left group service.

PYNE (89). Mr A F Pyne of Royston died on 17th December 2018. He was Area Sales Manager (Retail Division) when he left group service in 1985 after 38 years.

RAMSKILL (86). Mr Mortimer Ramskill of Sanderstead died on 2nd December 2018. He was National Buyers Manager, Watford Regional Office when he left group service in 1987 after 28 years.

REID (86). Mrs H A Reid of Grangemouth died on 2nd November 2018. She was the wife of Mr Robert Reid once a Shift Manager at Grangemouth.

SKINNER (86). Mr George Skinner of Inverness died on 16th September 2018. He was a Driver at Uttoxeter when he left group service in 1992 after 18 years.

SLATER (90). Mr H W Slater of Basildon died on 16th December 2018. He was Shift Manager at Shell Haven Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 30 years.

VARLEY (76). Mr John Varley of Leeds died on 27th December 2018. He was a Driver at Leeds Terminal when he left group service in 1995 after 31 years.

WALKER (92). Mr Brian Walker of Eastbourne died on 28th December 2018. He was Operations Manager, Shell Ghana, Accra when he left group service in 1982 after 28 years.

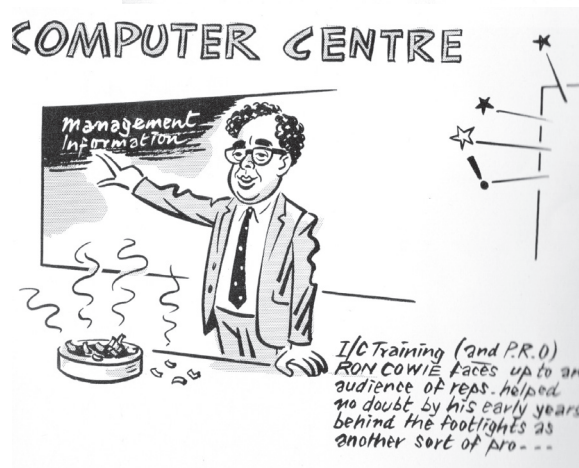
WATSON (96). Mr Reg Watson of Maidstone died on 20th January 2019. He was Manager, Planning & Operations, Road Transport Department, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1975 after 15 years.

WRIGHT (87). Mr F Wright of Corringham died on 7th November 2018. He worked for Shell UK Oil at Shell Haven Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 22 years.

Remembering David Langdon

For many years in the 1960s the distinguished cartoonist David Langdon contributed cartoons to "The Magazine of the Shell-Mex and B.P. Group". He would visit an SMBP location and draw around ten cartoons of the people who worked there. It was something of a coup for the magazine as Langdon was

one of Britain's best-loved cartoonists covering a wide range of stories and people including politics, sport and business. Here are a few of his cartoons from the late 1960s, from Heathrow, the Domestic Heating Centre, Hemel and Belfast



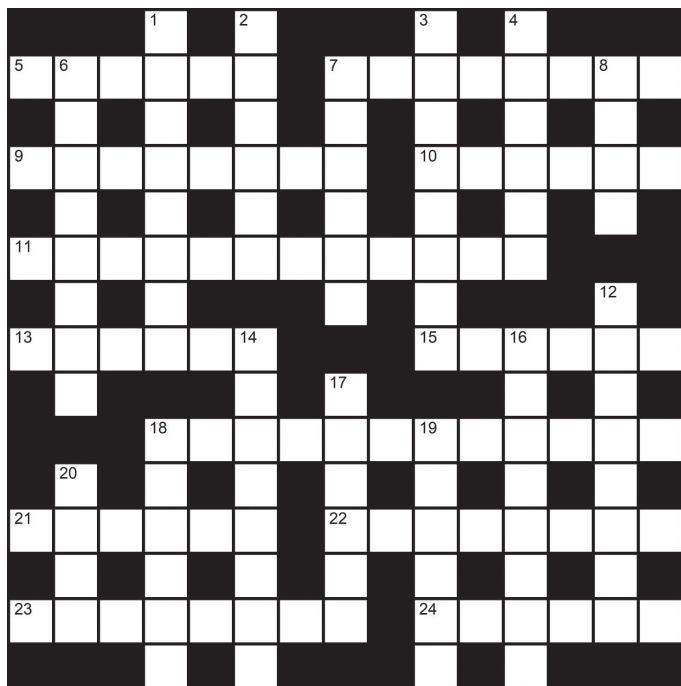
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"Those who went the BP route on Brand Separation had a number of benefits including the fact that the move from Shell-Mex House gave us a more or less clean break with the past. Fewer ghosts or shadows"

Peter Cast 1999

Prize Crossword

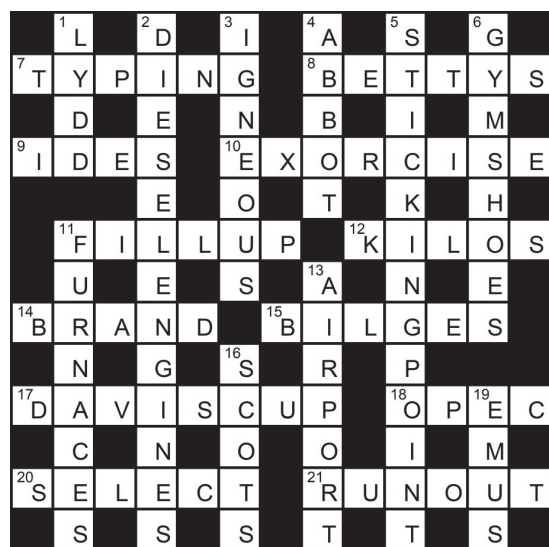


Across

- 5** Struck with overwhelming shock or amazement (6)
- 7** Irregular soldier (8)
- 9** Ships are launched along them (8)
- 10** Gwyneth is 84 (6)
- 11** Indicates the anti-knock properties of a fuel (6,6)
- 13** John Perry's birthplace (6)
- 15** It moves oil on land, sea and rail (6)
- 18** Intermediate boxing weight (12)
- 21** OPEC Member (6)
- 22** A case of mistaken Identity (4,4)
- 23** Matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid (8)
- 24** Bird that names the Baltimore baseball team (6)

Down

- 1** There was one at Bacton (3,5)
- 2** Used as a feedstock for ethylene production. (6)
- 3** Temperature below which water droplets begin to condense. (3,5)
- 4** For offshore drilling (3,3)
- 6** The one at Henbury the venue for Bristol's Xmas lunch (4-4)
- 7** Flanders and Swann sang that he "cometh" (6)
- 8** Welsh vegetable (4)
- 12** CH₃OH (8)
- 14** Last decade of the Century (8)
- 16** Someone who is not an Eskimo ! (2,6)
- 17** Airbreathing Jet Engine which compresses incoming air (6)
- 18** Where the nuts come from (6)
- 19** An American restaurant chain for Mexican food (6)
- 20** Dundee was famous for it (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

A record twenty-five correct entries from which our new Univac has selected **Tony Grayston** of Ipswich as the winner. A vintage copy of Norman Scarfe's famous Suffolk – 'A Shell Guide' is on its way to you Tony.

Closing date for next issue
10th May 2019