



Looking back to 1919

In this edition of the 44 Club News we look back a hundred years to two notable births. In Teddington the 'Lensbury Club' was formed by Shell to offer staff sports and social facilities. Meanwhile in the Colony of British Guiana a British expatriate engineer, Alfred July, and his Belgian wife had a child they christened 'Denis'.

Whilst in 2019 we must sadly record that Lensbury, in its centenary year, is leaving the Shell family for good, Shell Pensioner and SMBP 44 Club member Denis July, ex Shell-Mex and B.P. and Shell for 32 years has celebrated his one hundredth birthday and has every intention of staying in the Shell family for a long time yet!



The early years of the Lensbury Club before the new Clubhouse was opened in 1938.

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Welcome

One of the more amusing sayings about Shell-Mex and B.P. was that of the late Sidney Colwell. He said that the company was formed by an alliance between "...some gentlemen of B.P. trying to be businessmen and some businessmen from Shell who were trying hard to be gentlemen"! This sprang to mind when I discovered the Henri Deterding quote reproduced on the back page of this edition of the magazine. Arguably this was the hard-nosed businessmen of Shell trying to be gentlemanly by doing something for the employees and creating the Lensbury Club – perhaps slightly reluctantly! This is an over-simplification of course but John Marsom once commented that in SMBP 'The Old Boys' answer to a problem came from B.P., the 'common-sense' answer from Eagle (the Mex of the company's name) while Shell chipped in with the money!

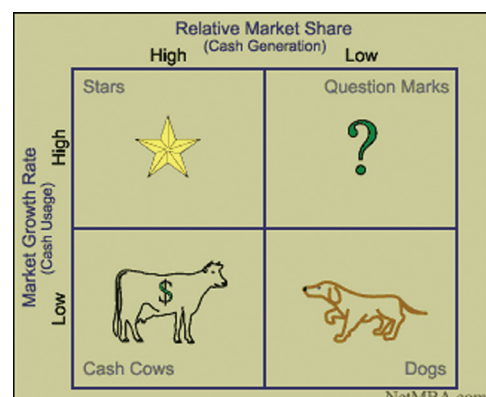
Corporate culture is an ephemeral idea that tends to be remembered when it isn't there anymore. If the principal driver of a company's activities is the bottom line – the pursuit of profit - then the culture will adapt to that. In my eleven years in SMBP I cannot recall profit being discussed once. Admittedly I was at a fairly junior level but I'm not sure that even further up the hierarchy profit motivation was top of the agenda. This was partly, of course, because as a private company with just two shareholders SMBP was not required to declare its profits and didn't. And profits are taxed so maybe with the clever manipulation of transfer prices there was an imperative to minimise tax liabilities rather than to maximise profits.

Anyway if the conventional bottom line drivers of 'Profitability' and 'Return on Capital' were not the main creators of the SMBP culture what were the drivers that took their place? Certainly cost control

was one and we can all remember the cost reduction imperatives of the likes of McKinsey in the 1960s. But it's also worth remembering the Boston Consulting Group's model for success (see graphic). The 'Star' companies were those that had a high 'Relative Market Share' (share relative to the biggest competitor) in a high growth market. That was SMBP's position for most of its 44 years and especially in the post war period once branded marketing returned in the early 1950s. In these golden years all the markets in which SMBP operated were

growing rapidly and the company was comfortably the market leader in most. In this situation costs are relatively unimportant providing the expenditure improved or protected market share or created new markets entirely. Coal to Oil conversions in the Industrial sector and the beginnings of the Domestic Heating market both of which SMBP pioneered are good examples of this.

Curiously Brand Separation was launched before the Oil Crises of the early 1970s, and the coincidentally simultaneous availability of North Sea Gas - both of which changed oil markets for ever. I don't think that the parent companies in any way anticipated the quadrupling of oil prices and that Brand Separation was a consequence of this. But it could only be that the creation of SUKO and BP Oil reduced the comparative Market Share advantage that SMBP had enjoyed and that this, combined with the disappearance of growth in many sectors, risked creating dogs where once there had been a star. That didn't quite happen - remember both companies were, initially anyway, run by SMBP men! But from the mid-1970s onwards there weren't too many 'Cash Cows' either!



Paddy Briggs



Change of Details

We usually get several magazines returned to the office that have been undeliverable ('Return to Sender'). Often this is because of a house move. If you are moving, please can you let us know? Shell Pensioners, please do not assume that by telling Shell Pensions Admin that they will notify us as they are not permitted to share your data with us under data privacy regulations. They do, however, send us monthly reports of members' deaths.

Those of you who are BP Pensioners – BP Pensions and Benefits do not advise us of any changes in circumstances (including address changes and the deaths of our members), so would you kindly let us have any changes/notifications please?

Lensbury Centenary Celebration

Tentative plans are underway to have a "Farewell to Lensbury" and celebration of the Club's centenary at a 44 Club Christmas lunch on Thursday 12th December in the Wimbledon Room at Lensbury. This will also be an opportunity to re-launch the "London West and Surrey" 44 Club Branch - but all Club Members from across the country (and wider!) will be welcome. We hope to have a celebrity speaker who will propose the toast to "The Lensbury Club and Shell-Mex and B.P." Please put in your diaries. Further details to follow in due course and any suggestions about how to make it a great event to Colin Hill please.

Club Website

The 44 Club website at <https://www.44club.co.uk/> is well worth a visit but as with this magazine it relies on members contributions. So if you have anything – a photo or a story – that you would like to share do please get in touch with the website Coordinator Elaine Ellen – follow the link on the website under 'Memories'.



Eco-Friendly Packaging

This issue of your 44 Club News has been wrapped in a new potato starch based polywrap, this is a compostable and Eco-friendly magazine wrapping material produced with potato starch. It is a biodegradable material which is fully compostable, it's different from being recyclable so instead of putting it in your recycling bin, you can put this into your garden, food or compost bin.

If you are unsure how to compost it, please check with your local authority.

Welcome New Members

Mrs Teresa Baker - Wadhurst
 Mrs Rosemary Brodie - Plymouth
 Mr George Douglass - Sunderland
 Mrs Dorothy Hall - King's Lynn
 Mrs Alice Keating - Sheffield

Denis July

– A survivor tells his tale

On his one hundredth birthday, on 24th May 2019, Denis July's family had arranged a surprise for him. The Royal Tank Regiment (RTR), which Trooper July had joined the year before the outbreak of the Second World War, sent a small posse of RTR men to greet him at his home in Teddington and to present him with some mementos to thank him for his distinguished service. Lt Colonel Paul Macro made a short speech and handed over the gifts all in the distinctive black, red and green of the Regiment. Like many survivors of traumatic times Denis speaks carefully and modestly of his experiences. But the sense of pride he had as the modern day soldiers paid tribute to one of their own was palpable. He spoke to the '44 Club News' about his remarkable life in war and peace – his memories little dimmed by the passing of time. We'll come to Denis's 32 years in Shell-Mex and B.P. and Shell in a moment. But first let's wind back a century to May 1919 when he was born in the (then) colony of British Guiana.



Lt. Colonel Paul Macro

Denis July's father Alfred was an engineer working on the railways and wharves of British Guiana and his mother was a Belgian lady who was also part of the ex-pat community of Georgetown. Alfred was of French stock and fairly aristocratic stock at that – the name 'July' is pronounced 'Julie' with a soft 'J' rather than like the month. But his parents were entitled to a British passport as indeed was Denis. It was a Roman Catholic family and Denis was educated at the RC school 'St Stanislaus' from which he graduated in his late teens. It was a comfortable life which included some extended periods in Europe in his mother's home city of Brussels. The family also moved around the Caribbean and Denis remembers happy days in the sunshine in other islands like Barbados and Martinique. He was a junior tennis champion, a good swimmer and clearly had a very good time indeed! But war clouds were gathering in Europe and he decided, at the age of 19, that he would volunteer. In 1938 he joined the Royal Tank Regiment in Bovington, commenced his training and when war broke out the following year he was ready for action.

The first few months of World War Two were known as the 'Phoney' War – but this was soon to change when a 'British Expeditionary Force' was sent to France



to be followed by action in the early summer of 1940. Denis's Regiment, the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, became part of this in May shortly after the German



Army invaded France that month. Their role was to be part of an attack on Calais. Denis and his battalion were ordered south to reinforce Boulogne but by then the Germans had advanced though were not yet in control. For the RTR their equipment was poor, the tanks rather archaic and unreliable and ammunition was short. But they and the other British forces managed to delay the fall of Calais courageously allowing hundreds of thousands of BEF soldiers to escape at Dunkirk. Denis, not lacking in self-confidence, took control of his tank and when it was clear that defeat was only a matter of time he drove it into the sea – whether it is still there he isn't sure! He buried his revolver, as they had been instructed to, and waited for capture – which happened on May 24th, his 21st birthday!

**"For you, Tommy,
the war is over!"**

Along with thousands of other prisoners of war Denis was transported in overcrowded cattle trucks a thousand miles to Lamsdorf in South West Poland. The journey took nearly three days in

uncomfortable and insanitary conditions with little food and water. It was a rude awakening and an alarming foretaste of the next five years.

Life in the Prisoner of War camps was grim and Stalag VIIIb in Lamsdorf (pictured left) was no exception. The accommodation was rudimentary and bitterly cold in the winter. The food was starvation rations and the facilities unsanitary and Spartan. Red Cross parcels sometimes got through and there was the occasional attempt at entertainment – as here (right) where



Denis can be seen in the Chef's hat and with a guitar. There were working parties – this group, including Denis, were at a Cement Factory in Opole. Denis says, disarmingly, that at 24 he had "never really previously worked in his life"!

The camp had a wireless assembled in great secret by some of the POWs and from this they were able to keep in touch with the progress of the war. They knew about D Day and about the advances of the Soviet Army on the Eastern front. They could work out that they were right in the path of the Russian advance and hoped that as a consequence freedom would not be too far away. But there was to be one more dreadful chapter in this horror story. As the Soviet Army was advancing, the German authorities decided to evacuate the POW camps, to delay liberation of the POWs. There was the possibility that the prisoners would be used as hostages, or worse. From Denis's camp and dozens of others across the Eastern border of occupied Poland marches started westwards. There was no declared destination and the conditions, in temperatures well below freezing all of the time, made it seem like a death sentence for men already damaged by the privations of the past five years. Denis wrapped his legs and padded his body with newspaper as some protection against the cold. Many fell by the wayside.



Many were shot. They tried everything to survive – for example going into a village and asking the inhabitants for help saying (untruthfully!) that their German guards had given up on them. This particular ruse was defeated when a massive German armoured division appeared, by chance, in the locality! Soon personal survival became the only goal – comradeship even conversation stopped as each individual tried to last another day. Then another and another.

The story of 'The March' (numbers reached 80,000) has been documented and comprises thousands of individual tales like Denis July's. There is an element of luck in any survival story and Denis's was no more exceptional and no more heroic than thousands of others. But one can imagine what it must have been like when he realised that the tanks in the distance were American not German and that GIs were running towards him brandishing cigarettes and chocolate not weapons. The war was over and freedom beckoned. Denis was swiftly repatriated to England to begin rehabilitation. Physically he recovered quickly – mentally it took a little longer. When those modern day Royal Tank regiment men greeted him on his 100th birthday there was a tear in his eye. Friends and comrades had not made it back to Blighty, but he and his brother Jack, who was in the same Camp, had - through comradeship and mutual support and not a little luck. At 26 Denis July had learned more than his tender years would have suggested.

Denis July had never wanted to be a soldier but had volunteered as soon as he was able to, seen little more than a few weeks of active service and survived. It was to be a year before, clad in his ill-fitting demob suit, he was released to a civilian life that was completely novel to

him. His first job was in the Civil Service which was a 'bit of a bore'. He then, in 1947, applied to one or two companies including Shell-Mex and B.P. who liked him and he them. For the next 32 years Dennis became an oil man working in Finance in Shell-Mex House in areas like Management Accounts. He was popular, able and reliable. One senses that if he had wanted to he could have pushed himself further up the greasy pole. But a good job, with a decent salary and – above all, he says – good friends was enough for Dennis as he reflected that he was perhaps fortunate to be around at all !

Dennis's favourite hostelry was the Coal Hole – just a few paces from the entrance to Shell-Mex House. His home life was agreeable as well. He married in 1955 to a girl he met in a Dance Hall in Richmond – they had three girls and established a strong family. He played tennis (to a very high standard) and squash down the road at Lensbury. He travelled a lot (up to the age of 95), especially to Majorca where he was later to buy houses as he pursued a quietly profitable property portfolio. And today, at One Hundred and a widow for ten years Denis is still independent, living alone but with his three daughters not far away and care at hand. He's not as mobile as he was but his memory is good and there is rather a lot of that! It was a pleasure to talk to Denis July and a humbling experience.

The Royal Tank Regiment motto is 'Fear Naught'

– Denis is its living embodiment. **PSB**



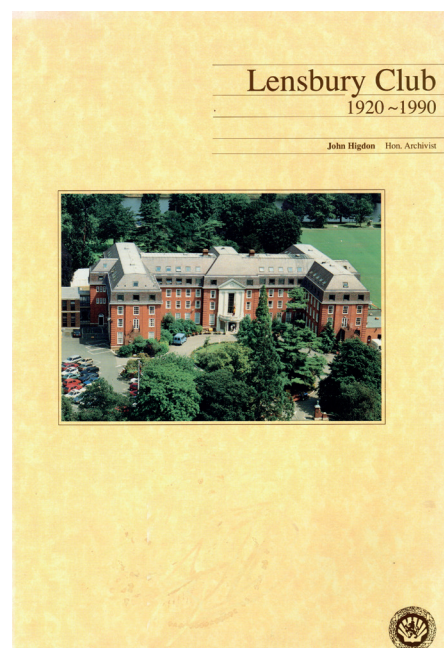
Farewell to Lensbury



In 1990 John Higdon, Shell-Mex and B.P. stalwart and the first Editor of the '44 Club News', published a comprehensive 70 year history of the 'Lensbury Club'. It is a marvellous book covering the ups and downs (mostly ups) of what is surely one of the greatest Sports and Social Clubs that any employer ever offered his staff. At the end of the book John asked *"Is it pretentious to wonder whether a study of this kind could be of some value to the social science student and possibly to the theorist about staff handling matters?"* It was a modest question to which, nearly thirty years on, we can perhaps answer as follows: *"No it is not pretentious at all. The rise and fall of the Lensbury Club matches perfectly the change from the old model of employer paternalism, matched by two-way loyalty, to the modern day system of higher risk and sometimes higher reward employment practices which may be performance driven but which seem to have an almost total absence of loyalty".*

In April 2019 Shell announced that it had sold Lensbury, for a reported £60m, to a property company 'London and Regional Properties' (L&R) which describes itself as 'One of Europe's largest privately owned property companies' and which includes a large portfolio of hotels ranging from 44

Holiday Inns to Cliveden. What L&R's plans are for Lensbury we do not know but we can be pretty sure that the preferential membership deals which Shell employees and pensioners get won't continue beyond April next year. There is a coincidental symmetry to the timing as it was a hundred years ago in



November 1919 that the earliest plans to create an employees' sports club were laid down and the following month two freehold houses in Broom Road Teddington were acquired for £12,500 along with land the other side of Broom Road. The name "Lensbury" was coined - the 'LENS' from St HeLEN's Court and the 'BURY' from FinsBURY Circus - the locations of the 'Asiatic and Anglo-Saxon Petroleum' offices. The Club grew rapidly both in respect of its membership and the diversity of its activities until in 1932 Anglo-Persian (BP) and Shell decided to form a joint marketing operation in the UK called Shell-Mex and B.P.! Although this was not the only cause of the creation of a joint Shell and B.P. sports and social club, at the same time it was a contributory factor and in the same year Lensbury and Brittanica House (the BP Club in Sydenham) came together as the 'Lensbury and Brittanica House Associated Clubs'. In 1936 even more land in Broom Road was acquired leading to the large estate you see in the photograph (page 6) and shortly after this plans got underway for the building of a new Clubhouse as at the centre of this photo. It opened in September 1938.

During the War years Lensbury was used as Shell offices and most Club activities ceased. However once hostilities were over it was to return to its role as what General Manager Peter Yarranton was to call (in 1990) "... the largest sports, leisure, social and training centre in Europe". The 'training' had been added when the Conference and Training centre (the wing on the left of the photograph) opened in 1967. Earlier in that decade Shell and B.P. had decided

to split their sports and social clubs back to their own Lensbury (Shell) and 'Brittanica House' (BP) roots - a precursor of Brand Separation perhaps. Those of us in Shell-Mex and B.P. were entitled to be members of both clubs as we wished! Your Editor played cricket at Sydenham and Rugby at Lensbury for many years.

Lensbury added a fine indoor swimming pool in 1978. Peter Yarranton retired in 1993 and although Lensbury members did not realise it at the time this was to be the signal for huge changes to take place at the Club. By the end of the decade the core rationale of the Club, sports and especially team sports, ceased under pressure from Shell management to reduce costs and to reposition the Club not as a Staff benefit but as an independent business. Most of the land on the opposite side of Broom Road was sold to St Mary's College and continues as sports grounds. Although Shell employees and pensioners continued to have preferential membership arrangements the main target of the Club's business became the general public who were invited to join to use the well-equipped gym, the pool, tennis courts (which were retained) and the dining facilities. The word 'Club' was dropped from the name and the definite article added - it became a noun 'The Lensbury'. A bizarre pitch and putt golf 'Court' was added on what had once been the First XI cricket pitch (shock horror) - this was a short-lived failure, but the damage had been done.

Despite the total change in Lensbury's activity Shell continued to own the facility. This prompted much speculation - running hotels, and leisure clubs

was hardly core business! There was conjecture that Lensbury's real value to Royal Dutch Shell was as an emergency office in the event that Shell Centre was temporally unable to operate for some reason (9/11 was a recent happening) but this was never confirmed and may well be tittle-tattle!

One hundred years on Lensbury has now left the Shell family - although for many of us it had really left a decade or so earlier. The changes happened swiftly and brutally - for example the bowling green, a happy pastime for many older members, (lower left in the photo) disappeared when St Mary's bought the sports grounds. To return to John Higdon's question we can say that the grand vision of Henry Deterding and Sir Marcus Samuel and others at the top of Shell to, as Deterding put it, 'look after the interests of personnel' were delivered for nearly ninety years at the Lensbury Club. But times change and in modern times 'looking after' staff does not extend that much from the workplace or the years of employment. The Lensbury Club was a symbol of different times. We were lucky to have had it. **PSB**

Let us have your memories of Lensbury!

This article summarises the bare facts appertaining to the Club but with all its many sections, its wide range of sports and its other activities (like the Club facilities in Shell Centre and The Lensbury Players) there are many more stories to tell. Please let the Editor have them.



Lensbury 'A' versus Barclay's Bank 1965

An enjoyable 44 Club Reunion and AGM



AGM

Chairman of the SMBP 44 Association, **Rick Westley**, welcomed eighty Club members to the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Association and members reunion held in Shell Centre on Thursday May 16th 2019. Rick commented that at forty-one (and counting) the Association was approaching the forty-four year lifespan of Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited! (Ed: The inaugural meeting of the Association took place on 26th April 1978 in the cinema in Shell-Mex House. The 44th Anniversary will, therefore, be on Friday

26th April 2022. Please put the date in your diaries!).

Treasurer **Nick Preece** advised the meeting that the Club was in a reasonable financial position with income slightly down and with around £11,000 in the bank. He

thanked Malcom Bury for having audited the Club's accounts.

The Chairman then gave his report. He thanked Monika Khullar Shell's Vice-President Human Resources UK for the company's continued support for the Club and welcomed visitors from Shell and the Shell Contributory Pension Fund to the event. Rick paid tribute to those active members who had sadly left us over the past year including Archie Johnston, Frank Irving and Tony Blackburn and mentioned particularly former Club officers Peter Gobell and Barry Clarke who had contributed so much to the Club's work. The Branches were represented at the meeting by Jim and Audrey Broughton and Brammer Allport and whilst branch activities were a little sporadic in some areas many were still very active and well-attended and revived branches in Bournemouth and South Wales showed what could be done. Rick thanked Peter and Brigitte Cast who had run the Birthday Cards activity for over five years and had now handed over to Barry Russell.



Chairman Rick Westley

Rick then introduced **Arthur Lothian**, Chairman of the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association (SPBA) to say a few words. Arthur said that it had been a difficult two years for the Association coping with Shell's decision to close the 'Pensioner Liaison Representative' scheme. The forty-five PLR's had been the eyes and the ears of the SPBA and the management of the charity was much more difficult without them.



Nick Preece



Arthur Lothian

However Shell had bowed to pressure from the SPBA, and others, and introduced the 'Shell Pensioner Programme' (SPP) with a central helpline and six officers around

the country to help. The identification of potential beneficiaries of the SPBA's help was more difficult not least because pensioners had to make their own representation to the charity rather than being identified by the PLRs as in the past. There had initially been a fall in applications as a result of these changes but that was now picking up again – suggesting that there was genuine need in parts of the pensioner community. 40 special grants had been made over the year as well as annual grants to 400 recipients. The SPBA was financially sound and received generous legacies (£800,000 in 2019 alone) and had over £2m in reserves.

Arthur explained that all Shell pensioners were potentially entitled to support providing that they were also members of the Shell Pensioners'

Association who sponsored the SPP scheme and helped administer it. Around 23,000 of the 29,000 Shell Pensioners are members of the SPA (including those who became Shell Pensioners when the Shell-Mex and BP Pension Fund was absorbed into the Shell Contributory Pension Fund in 1997.)

Richard Springett (SPA Chairman) said that the SPP was being well managed



Charles Madge

and over the year had over three thousand contacts and 400 pensioner visits had been made.

In response to questions from the floor Arthur Lothian said

that he would encourage all 44 Club members in receipt of a Shell pension to join the SPA. 44 Club News Editor Paddy Briggs said that he would put another notice in the magazine to this effect. Paddy also reminded the meeting that the SPBA and the SPP were only open to Shell Pensioners and that 44 Club members who were BP Pensioners had their own Club (the 'BP Society') and

benevolence charity (The BP Benevolent Fund) supported by a team of 20 Pensioner Liaison Officers.

Another question from the floor was about the continued problems in respect of



Colin Hill

advice about the deaths of members. 44 Club Secretary Colin Hill said that despite determined efforts BP still refused to advise the 44 Club about member deaths and he relied on being advised informally – and by scouring the 'BP Society' magazine in search of 44 Club members in the Obit. He said that Shell continued to advise him of deaths but that they were no longer prepared to give surviving spouse information which was a shame as the Club wanted to invite all widows and widowers to be members and the lack of advice made this more difficult.

Before the meeting morphed into the Reunion (signalled by a conspicuous ringing of glasses in the room) the Chairman thanked all who had attended.



Reunion



Charles Harrison with ex Aviation colleagues



A rose between two thorns. Mary Corrie with Ian Anderson and Rick Westley



Ken Longhurst and Andy Hull



John Jordan and Granddaughter



Tony Varey



Rosemary Richards



Lisa Clunie - the designer of the 44 Club News

The opening of Haydock Terminal – fifty years on

SMBP's Haydock Terminal was a remarkable development. It was completed and opened in June 1969, when it was hailed as the largest inland fuels storage facility in Europe. It was opened by Royalty but became obsolete soon after it was opened – although it didn't close until 1987. **David Roberts** tells the story.



From left, Lord Bessborough, D. J. Grieve, Princess Alexandra and T. R. Grieve

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OPENS HAYDOCK

Princess Alexandra opened Haydock Terminal, on 12 June, when she pressed a button to change the lights on the traffic control bridge system to green. One by one, six giant tankers passed beneath the bridge and went to the gantry for loading.

'Commercial Motor' reported the opening of Haydock:

"A fleet of 100 road tankers will carry out distribution from the new £3m Shell-Mex and BP oil terminal which opened this week at Haydock, Lancs. They are scheduled to deal with 22m gallons of white oil and 42m gallons of black oil a year.

Inviting Princess Alexandra to open the terminal yesterday, Mr. T. R. Grieve, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. said it will be the largest inland oil distribution centre in Europe. Haydock replaces two existing depots in the area and has a staff of 260, including 170 drivers working on a two-shift and six-day week system.

An automatic traffic control circuit is used to direct road tankers to vacant loading bays at the gantry filling stands, the purpose being to facilitate speedy vehicle flow, particularly during peak periods, and to assist in the handling of some 5,000 tons of oil products daily. The control system, the first of its kind to be used by this company, was brought into action by the Princess in performing the opening ceremony. The storage capacity of the terminal is nearly 1m tons. The area covered is 90 acres, of which 50 acres have already been developed."

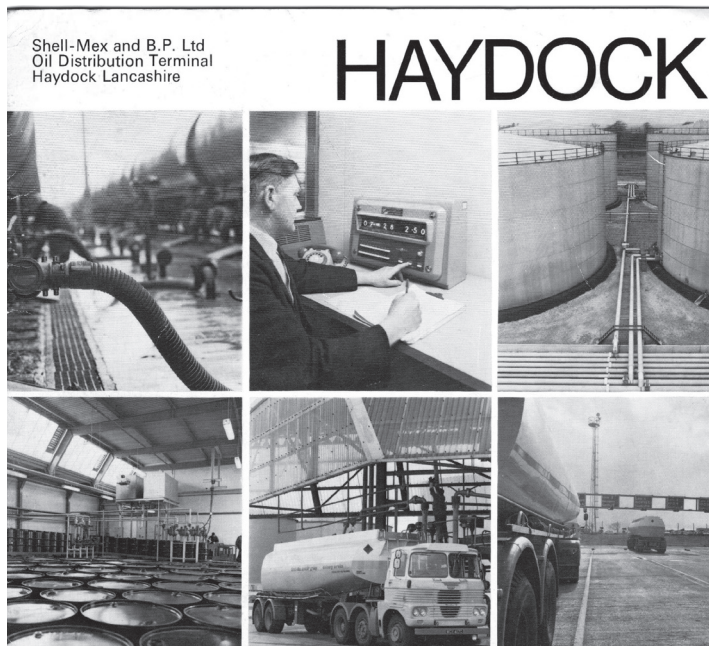
In the early 1960s, SMBP's storage in the Merseyside area was in a deplorable state. Eccles, an old barge fed depot was replaced by Partington in 1963 – it was pipeline supplied for both white and black oils. The other main installation was Dingle Bank on the north shore of the Mersey. Dating from 1919 it was a pre World War II entrepot depot which had imported refined products prior to the building of refineries in the UK.

Taking Dingle out of commission was becoming urgent as it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain its aging plant to an acceptable operational condition. A ninety acre site was acquired at Haydock, near St Helens for a replacement. The new installation was opened by Princess Alexandra on 13th June 1969. The photograph shows her alongside Dennis Green, the Haydock manager, and Tom Grieve, SMBP's chief executive, at the opening ceremony.

Haydock initially delivered over one million tonnes per annum of product by road tankers, two thirds of this being Fuel Oil. At one million tonnes of storage (four times the size of Dingle) it became Europe's largest inland storage point. It was supplied by pipeline from Stanlow Refinery for motor spirit and middle distillates and by rail for Fuel Oil from Stanlow and Heysham refineries. Most of the storage was allocated to black oil.

The demand for Fuel Oil was still rising in the 1960s and peak demand was in the winter. This posed a problem for the refineries as a production programme that included a heavy Fuel Oil element was difficult to maintain when there was also a commercial need to produce

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

HAYDOCK

demand which reduced from 25 million tonnes pa in 1976, to 10 mtpa in 1980 and to 2 mtpa by 2000. This was why Haydock can be described as obsolete not long after its commissioning.

The disposal of the site in the mid 1990s had some drama. Although Shell owned the major portion of the site, BP owned some of the land. Being

in Merseyside, its re-development was eligible for EU funding and St Helens Borough Council wanted to encourage local enterprises. But after protracted negotiations, including those on planning consents, the large development company Caddick emerged as owners of the whole site.

Inexplicably Dingle Bank had not been closed entirely on the opening of Haydock. Some of its storage continued to be used spasmodically until the late 1970s. Initially there was a happy new beginning for the Dingle Bank site as it was chosen

middle distillates and motor spirit. The solution in the case of Haydock was to supply Fuel Oil into its storage evenly throughout the year with stock being built up during the summer so that there was sufficient to sustain the winter peak. Hence the need for the massive amount of storage which was designated "Seasonal Reserve Storage".

At its opening in 1969, the emergence of North Sea gas in the mid 1970s was not foreseen. However as Gas production came on stream it had a devastating effect on UK Fuel Oil

to be included within the Liverpool Festival Garden in 1984 - one of several festivals from a central government initiative to rejuvenate old industrial sites including cleaning up contaminated land. But after the Liverpool festival was over the site was not looked after and it became derelict again. Subsequently the whole festival site has been redeveloped for housing and public access parkland.

David Roberts

POSTSCRIPT

Ed. In the early 1990s I was the Manager, working in Shell International, for the "Retail Visual Identity" project which re-designed the appearance and facilities of Shell petrol stations worldwide. We were looking for a site, away from the public gaze, to build a prototype Petrol Station in the new design. Shell UK offered us a site on land on which Haydock Terminal had once stood and here, from ground up (there were no tanks!) we built that full scale prototype. The Haydock Thistle nearby became our home and to launch the design we had a meeting there attended by the top thirty Retail managers from across the Shell world! **PSB**

Birthday Thanks

75th It was a great and a joyful surprise to receive the 44 Club greetings. On seeing the photo of Shell Mex House, it brought back many happy memories. I'm sure that the Editor shares these of the days when we worked together just post Brand Separation in Pricing and

Terms under Brian Lakin. In those days, together with James Hilliard and Colin Jones, we had the fortunate job of exploring,

for marketing purposes, all the local hostelrys and oversaw the phoenix of Covent Garden from the old fruit and veg market into the weekly opening of new wine bars (all of which, of course, had to be tested out!).

I now run my post-Shell business at arm's length (through choice, it keeps the grey matter working) whilst Kay and I continue our travels and enjoy the delights of 5 grandchildren. Kay is like the proverbial butchers dog and looks after her ageing husband who still thinks

he is a 20yr old but the body tells a different story.

Vince Timmins

(Ed: The early years of SUKO were heavily SMBP influenced both at work and play. Brian was a good if not over abstemious boss and the four of us learned a lot in a short time from him and each other – generally over a two hour lunch. Within a few years



BIRTHDAY THANKS



of working in the Unit I was posted to Shell in Rotterdam where their idea of a celebratory lunch was an extra kroketen with the mineral water.)

80th I celebrated my big birthday with my family in Stockport. At 80 I realise that I have been very lucky to have got this far with no major problems. I keep fairly active in the garden and get out and about whenever possible. I have lived here in the Loire for twenty years – the area is not well known and I really do have to speak French! Sadly my wife Diana passed away in 2016. She was a talented cook as well as a linguist. I am in good health (must be the wine).

Brian Schofield



meal. My brother organised a cake for my dad representing his proud associations. The cake was the Shell emblem decorated with his family Crest and his TA regimental badge. My father is an avid reader of the '44 Club News' and would love to see his picture with the cake!

Karen Smith

81st Another year has passed - where did it go? After taking early retirement in 1990, if you do the sums, you can

of both Colin Hill and Mrs R-P the Club Branch is up and running again and has been for the four years that we have been in the area. I am grateful to our members for their enthusiasm and support that makes our Branch so vibrant, happy and successful.

Tony Reeve-Parker

82nd Thank you once again for remembering me - it's lovely that you take the trouble to remember us oldies. Much appreciated. I always look into the entrance to Shell-Mex house when I walk by and think about all the happy memories of working and enjoying a drink in the Rose!

Jennifer Ramsay

85th My husband Michael Howlett has asked me to thank you for the greetings – since having a stroke six years ago his writing (which was never very good) is hardly legible! Michael's birthday is on ANZAC Day and when the card arrived his face lit up! 25th April is a great day to have a birthday in Australia – it's a public holiday and we watched the parade from Melbourne.

Mrs B Howlett



Château in The Loire Valley

80th My Father William Mainie Adair, who joined Scottish Oils and Shell-Mex in 1974, was a proud SMBP/Shell employee up to 1997. He loved the company and was forever praising Shell to anyone who would listen. He reluctantly took an early retirement package at age 58, but continues to speak with pride of his time with the company. He also loves to remember the annual dances, the hospitality and the social side of the company. He celebrated his 80th birthday with a trip on the flying Scotsman and a family

see that I have been retired for 29 years which is nine years longer than I was in the Company's employ. My time was all spent in Commercial - in the latter years as a Sales Engineer in Industrial Lubricants. On retirement I served eight happy years as a PLR covering Norfolk and Suffolk. I was also an active member of the Ipswich branch of the 44 Club until we moved down south. Once there I was approached as to whether I could resurrect the then defunct Bournemouth, Southampton and District Branch and together with the support

85th 85! I don't quite believe it but unfortunately my Birth Certificate, which I had to find recently, confirms it! It's now 68 years since I had the good fortune to join, straight from school, the Asiatic Petroleum Company at St Helen's Court in Leadenhall Street in London in April 1951. I was an "Administration Assistant" – 'Office Boy' to you or me. My starting salary was £187 per annum and I saved money on that (I am a Yorkshireman). At my interview I was told that it would be a "Job for Life" – did I want that? "Yes please", I squeaked in my half-broken voice. And so it proved to be.

continued on page 14

BIRTHDAY THANKS

I have the highest possible regard for SMBP and Shell – I have been looked after for 68 years, 31 as an employee and 37 as a Pensioner. My Pension is secure for the rest of my life and it doesn't come better than that. Thank you for the fact that you care.

86th Thank you for all the work by volunteers who produce the '44 Club News' with all its news and information – and memories. I was an Airfield Operator at London Heathrow from 1964 to 1991.

Ray Poole

87th I have always been pleased to be a pensioner who once worked for Shell-Mex and B.P. I know that you will always remember me.

My wife and I still travel with our touring caravan as we have done now for over 40 years but we no longer cross the English Channel and confine ourselves to camp sites not too far from home. Birthday presents this year were all the same - bottles of wine. The family claim I have everything else I will ever want but can still appreciate a good bottle of red. Thank you.

Malcolm Blake

87th Your greetings very much appreciated. May I send my best regards to all who knew me from my time at King's Lynn Terminal, Southern and Northern computer centres, Shell-Mex House and Expro? Thanks for the magazine and all the memories from me now residing in God's waiting room at Eastbourne.

Brian Farmer

87th I feel very lucky that I still live an active life, my 42 yard garden sees to that. I also belong to three clubs which meet once a month along with my Church's 'Recycled Youth Group'. I enjoy my hobbies – Art, Music and Photography.

Len Boyns

(Ed: I was intrigued by the idea of a Club for "Recycled Youth" and checked the Church's website – what they say about it is in the box. Sounds great!)

BORSTAL BAPTIST CHURCH 'RECYCLED YOUTH GROUP'

"We believe there is a need for men to get together for no particular purpose but to get to know one another better and put the world to rights – because that is what men do.

We go out on day trips once every two months. Recent trips have included a steam train trip, Hornby Museum, Dover Castle, and two London museums."

87th Thanks to all who keep all the records and organise our greetings! It always brings back happy memories of the years I spent in Shell-Mex House and many other places. Thank you all.

Ken Parker

89th Very many thanks for the 44 Club birthday greetings. These also served to remind me happily that this year marks the time when my service with BP and Shell International is matched by my time as a pensioner. For many pensioners of long service this is also a sign of the power of compound interest, which for them results in a pension that matches the salary on which they retired. In this context, for somebody like myself whose job was involved with the joint Pension Fund of both of my employers, there is

another reason to be grateful - that is for stalwart Trustees like Ken Longhurst and his colleagues who developed an excellent tradition of agreeing with the policies proposed by the fund's investment management team - but only after giving them firm scrutiny first, of course!

Alan V Hall



89th Here at Thornley House Hotel in Teignmouth (Google it!)

my life is simple, doing what I can, enjoying my battery-powered folding bike, sharing the bungalow with my cat family (don't ask how many!) and the rest of my extended family who mean everything to me. I cannot fault the NHS who have cared for me - along with having been a member of the SMBP/Shell family for half a century. What a lucky chap!

Jim Chivers

89th It is good to have one's memory jogged and to remember old friends and colleagues and happy days under the SMBP and Shell flags. What wonderful days they were – I enjoyed all thirty years of them. And another thirty years on I remember my days in 'Scottish Oils and Shell-Mex' and Shell with great affection.

Peter Boys-Smith

89th I was delighted to receive greetings from fellow members of the 44 Club but I have to say that my delight was somewhat tempered by the reminder that I have now entered my 90th year. Not that I feel that age and my last MOT gave me a clean report save that my legs do not obey my brain as I would wish. The secret, of course, is to abide

by the advice given when I was a young Army recruit - lead a clean, honest and sober life and I can honestly say that I have steadfastly observed two of those!

Bob Blake

90th I am the widow of a once very enthusiastic member of the SMBP 44 Association [Ed: of Henry Dunn, a Senior Sales Engineer]. I had a super birthday with celebrations with family and another with friends. After a church service I received warm greetings from all, a few choruses of 'Happy Birthday', a birthday cake with candles and many cards and gifts. I'm enjoying life still with gardening and plenty of time for reading thanks to the visiting library van. I also have plenty of outings to make life interesting and the loving support of family who make life run smoothly. The continuing support from the 44 Club and from Shell (especially my pension!) means I have no financial worries. My sincere thanks to the team who give up their time to keep us in touch - this 'Old Dear' appreciates their kindness.

Sheila Dunn

(Ed: Mrs Dunn sent us a financial contribution for Club funds for which we are very grateful.)

91st I have decided, like the Duke of Edinburgh, to surrender my Driver's Licence in my nineties to make the roads safer for all!

RG Munro

91st A big vote of thanks to those who keep the Birthday Cards going - and a big drink for their diligence in always remembering our birthdays. SMBP was a very well-run company through those days when survival mattered! And we never took it for granted, which is a good reason why it remains in our memories after very many years!

Bob Breese

(Ed: Mr Munro sent us a financial contribution for Club funds for which we are very grateful.)

95th My thanks to the dedicated team at the 44 Club who unfailingly remembered me again - card received this week for my 95th natal day. The cards keep alive memories of dear old SMBP - the happiest years of my working life were spent in Shell-Mex House.

Muriel Reed,

95th Thank you for all your good wishes. I still enjoy reading the '44 Club News' and attending the local branch meetings. I have many happy memories of working for SMBP and can't believe it's 50 years since I retired.

Jim Morne

97th It seems just a few weeks since my 96th! It was 1940 when I started work at the Petroleum Board - I then spent

over four years in the Royal Artillery before returning to the PB and then SMBP. I worked at two or three depots around London gaining experience in Distribution before transferring to Fulham Motor Repair Centre. There I worked on the maintenance of the vast fleet of road tankers, vans and cars that the company had. In 1957 I moved to Motor Department in Shell-Mex House which later became a section of Purchasing Department. I went to BP on Brand Separation and retired from BP Oil Victoria in 1980.

I would like to thank Peter and Bridget Cast for their work in keeping us oldies in touch via the Birthday Cards. Thanks also to Barry Russell for taking on this important task. Best wishes to all my old friends and colleagues.

Jack Scandrett

Thanks also received from: Don Shields, Brian Cemm (80), Marjorie Elliott (92), Vivien Wilkens (89), Myrtle Richardson, Joan Jarrett (81), John Broomfield (89), Brian Evans (80), Geoff Clemens (75), Nora Ashton (89), Yorath Trebble (82), Ernie Choules (87), Bill Robertson (82), Barry Hiscock, Roy Hunt (83), Robert McCann (82).

R 4

THE PETROLEUM BOARD

No.4 Sector,
Townmead Road,
Fulham, S.W.6.

Our ref..... WLR/JMT/ST Your ref..... Date..... 18th December, 1940.

Mr J.T.Scandrett,
65, Mayford Road,
Balham, S.W.12.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your communication of the 15th instant and note that you are prepared to accept the position of Temporary Clerk with the Petroleum Board, at the rate of salary 35/0d. per week. In this respect therefore I shall be glad if you will report to Mr Wale, District Operator in Charge, at our Wandsworth Installation, The Osiers, Point Pleasant, Wandsworth, S.W.18. on Monday the 23rd instant at 8.30 a.m.

The letter of contract covering your appointment is herewith attached, which, please sign and return to this office at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
FOR THE PETROLEUM BOARD.

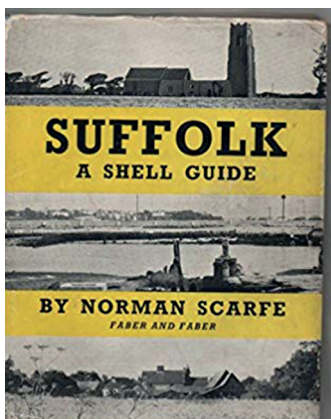
W. J. Scandrett
DISTRICT MANAGER.

Your Letters

Suffolk Tales

I was delighted to be the winner of the Crossword competition in Club News 161, not least because the prize was Norman Scarfe's "Shell Guide to Suffolk". I believe that there is an interesting background to Scarfe's book in that in the first edition in the description of one of the Suffolk villages there was mention of a footpath not open to the general public. This description was deemed to be libellous and the edition was withdrawn! We had a copy in the SMBP Ipswich office when I joined in 1971 and it was closely guarded and you took it home at your peril. I wonder if any 44 Club members remember the story?

Tony Grayston



(Ed: There were quite a few editions of the book the first published in 1960 (see illustration). It was one of the great Shell guides in the years of John Betjeman, and later John Piper's, editorships.)

Lydd Airport

My good friend Les Tones and I completed our Retail Sales Representative course in the

autumn of 1970 - Les was based in Faversham and I was located in Ashford, Kent (both of us with Bob Gathercole). There was no formal hand over, so armed with my "Hodder Bag" full of files and papers, I headed off in my old Austin A40 along the Kent coast road to Brenzett Corner. I did find Lydd Airport and the derelict retail site with mono pumps and a glass kiosk on the pump island. Not much future for this outlet I thought! I had been told that this was the only retail site in the UK to have above ground spirit tanks. I think this might have been the site's only claim to fame.

John Blackmore

Wedding Anniversaries

Diamond

Bill and Val Loades

28th March 2019

Carol and Frank Collins

5th September 2019



Carol and Frank Collins

Don and Barbara Shields

12th September 2019

Tony and Stella Reeve-Parker

20th June 2019



Tony and Stella Reeve-Parker

News from the Branches

Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering



Inverness Branch

Coming up:

We continue to meet for coffee, chat and a raffle on the last Thursday of every month at the Kingsmill Hotel, Culcabock Rd, Inverness – we generally have 15-20 members attending. The Kingsmill is a nice venue and we are always made welcome. Our outing planned for this summer will be to Gardens in the area, possibly Inverewe.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

Coming up:

There will be no meetings during the summer. Dates and venues for October, November and December to be advised.

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

14 March 2019, the final meeting of the season, was preceded by our AGM and also saw the return of the Jim Currie Quiz. There is no doubt

that this was an extremely competitive event – indeed, one of the teams got so carried away with excitement they forgot to look at the questions on page 2! Many thanks to Jim Currie for organising and for being Quiz Master.

Coming up:

There will be a Summer Lunch in August and our next meeting will be in October. Once details are known they will be sent to all our members and will be on the website.

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

Coming up:

Unfortunately nothing is arranged for summer activities but look out for our Christmas Party lunch – it is always a good event; meeting your friends and enjoying yourselves.

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

Coming up:

Wednesday 12th June (Also second Wednesday in every month) Lunch 1200-1230 The New Crown Inn, Mowbray Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 3NG

West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

Coming Up

Thursday 29th August Lunch: The Queens Arms (A61), 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS7 3PT



Teesside Branch

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate

On 18th April our spring meeting was held at The Bay Horse Inn Great Broughton. Fourteen members attended and enjoyed an excellent lunch and the warm spring sunshine.

Coming up:

Thursday 22nd August: Lunch 1200-1230, The Castle Eden Inn, Stockton Road, Castle Eden, TS27 4SD

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

Coming up:

Tuesday 27th August: Lunch 1200-1230 The Holiday Inn (A1M Junction 36) 36 High Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN4 9 UX.

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.

continued on page 18

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall

After our successful visit last year we decided our early Spring lunch would again be at Bellis Bros Farm Shop in Holt Nr, Wrexham. Although the weather was very changeable this did not stop ten of us having a very enjoyable visit and an excellent lunch. Our Spring lunch at the Sandpiper, Near Ormskirk was more like a winter one. The temperature almost matched the date – May 8th. But the eight weather-beaten members and their spouses, who braved the motorway system with constant rain and spray, all had a very nice lunch! Unfortunately various members or wives were hospitalized and couldn't make the lunch - we wish them all a speedy recovery.

(Ed: Great Photo!)

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

As in the last few years our first functions of this year saw 35 members and guests gathered at The Plough,



North Midlands Branch

Far Forrest, Bewdley, on Wednesday 27th February 2019 which is a very popular venue and not just with our group. There was a lot of chatting



North West -Western Branch

going on amongst our group, who were fortunately the first to be served as once again that place was very busy. Everyone agreed it had been a great afternoon and a wonderful meal. We were once again very lucky with the weather, which seems the norm when visiting The Plough!

Our first Skittle games this year was once again at The Squirrel, Alveley. Nr Bridgenorth, on 24th April 2019 and was attended by 28 members and guests.

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

Coming up:

August: Lunch at The Island Pool followed by Bowls at Cookley.

October: Skittles and Lunch at The Squirrel. Alveley.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

Our 2019 programme of pub lunches got underway in late March with a very well supported event at The White Horse, Bourne End near Hemel Hempstead which is one of our regular venues. Over forty members turned out on the day and contributed to a very convivial couple of hours or so with old friends and former colleagues. Thanks to some very efficient organisation by Christine Cowie, the lunchtime ran very smoothly and the pub staff responded well to the challenge of serving so many people in a short time.

Coming up:

2nd July: 1200 noon onwards. Summer lunch at The Oak, Green End Street, Aston Clinton HP22 5EU.

A separate notice and booking form giving full details will be sent to members. Contact Malcolm for further information.

4th September: Visit to The Frogmore Paper Mill, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9RY followed by an optional buffet lunch. Full details and a

booking form to follow. Contact Ken Longhurst for further information.

9th October: 1200 noon onwards. Pub lunch at The Black Horse Inn, Chesham Vale, Chesham HP5 3NS. Full details will be circulated later in the year. Contact Brian Lovell (01442 822214) for further information.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

The branch started the year with lunch at an old favourite, Top Meadow Golf Club, on 18th March. Fifty-seven members and guests enjoyed the excellent meal though the occasion was slightly marred by a very noisy party taking place on the other side of the restaurant.

Our second function was at Langdon Hills Golf Club on 30th April which was attended by 43 members and guests as a result of the coincidence of other events and incapacity. Nevertheless, we had a successful meal and raffle, particularly for table 3 which managed to scoop the lion's share of the prizes! At the brief AGM, Tony Scott-Russell observed that following the deaths of Peter Gobell and Phil Hadley he was now the only surviving committee member and asked for other volunteers to come forward to help with running the branch. Finances of the branch were still in a healthy state despite some erosion last year but he pointed out that maintaining them is heavily dependent on levy payments and continuing support for the raffles.

Coming up:

9th September: Lunch at Beauvoir Arms, Downham.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or Contact: David Cattermole

Twenty-eight members sat down to an excellent two course lunch at the Ipswich Ski Lodge restaurant on 11th April. It is a tried and tested venue which seems very popular with members and is very reasonably priced. The customary raffle followed which allows proceeds to go towards prizes held at the branch's grand Christmas event in December. At the event three of our long serving members who have all passed away since the beginning of the year were remembered and remain in our thoughts.

Coming up:

Tuesday 25th June: 40th anniversary of the branch. Lunch at Rushmere Golf Club, Heath Road, Ipswich IP4 5QQ. Meet from noon for 1pm.

Tuesday 24th September: Autumn lunch at Bramford Golf Centre. Loraine Way, Bramford, Suffolk. IP8 4JS. Meet from noon for 1pm.

Tuesday 3rd December: Christmas lunch at Rushmere Golf Club followed by the annual Grand Christmas Raffle. Meet from noon for 12.45pm.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

All 25 of our members, spouses and guests enjoyed another splendid carvery lunch at the Foldgate Inn, Stradsett. It was good to see our

friends from Ipswich branch again. This was the occasion for the 38th AGM and Steve and Tom agreed to carry on organising our lunches. Tom asked those present if they would prefer another carvery lunch to a finger buffet at Sandringham Club in the summer. The majority voted for another carvery lunch. Tom thanked those who had given lifts to other members who would otherwise have been unable to attend. This really shows the good spirit of members towards each other. Sadly, not long after the lunch, we lost our second oldest member, Len Hall, who was 92, after a short illness.

Coming up:

We are all looking forward to the next lunch which will probably take place in early July.

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

<https://www.44club.co.uk/south-wales.html>

South Wales rejuvenated branch has now been going for 12 months and is enjoying some expansion in numbers. Although small, the quality of meetings are pretty good. I can honestly say that should you be in the neighbourhood of Sketty Hall, Swansea you will hear a lot of laughter. We are very fortunate to have picked a venue where we can gather around a table in a private room overlooking wonderful gardens and thoroughly enjoy the conversation mainly around friends and colleagues worked with in the past. Next page are a couple



King's Lynn Branch

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

of pictures taken on the day – for reasons I am not going to try and explain all the ladies congregated to the top of the table for lunch and a chat and the men to the bottom!

Memories of an unusual and happy meeting seem to linger. We did have an absolute break-down trying to arrange a date for the next two meetings – confusion prevailed and the situation is not worth relaying except it caused uproar in laughter.

Coming up:

The next scheduled meeting is for Wednesday 10 July at Sketty Hall at 11:30 a.m. with coffee (or stronger if you wish) with lunch around 12:15 to 12:30.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

Our spring event took place on Thursday, April 19th – a return lunch-time visit to The Failand Inn, Failand which is situated just a few miles south of Bristol on the Bristol to Clevedon road. We were twenty-one in number and the choice of menu was, as ever, excellent. There was plenty of time for a chat and to reminisce. The event was organised by our chairman, Roger Gamlin who had arranged an unusually hot and sunny day for us. He was 'warmly' thanked for his efforts.

Coming up:

Thursday 4th July: Our next event will be a return trip to the 'The Woodford Lodge', situated on the banks of Chew Lake just outside of Chew Stoke. For details please contact Roger.



South Wales Branch



Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker

Wednesday 11th December: Christmas Lunch with Christmas Draw, has been booked at the Carpenters Arms in Bransgore.

South East

Contact: Charles Richards

On Wednesday, 8 May, our stalwart members made their way to a new venue for us, the 'Green Dragon' at Brook, a lovely old thatched pub well into the New Forest.



It was good to see that so many members had made the journey. The food was delicious - particularly the dolcelatte sauce with the chicken dish. For those who opted for the 'pie of the day' they were served with more than adequate sized portions. The desserts were varied with a spin on some English favourites, all very delicious. All in all, this new venue got the 'thumbs up' for coming up to our expectations.

Coming up:

Autumn Lunch: Date to be advised in September, where we will pay a further visit to the Kings Arms at Longham. This is one of our favourite pubs where we hope to enjoy once again their award-winning cuisine.

Branch in abeyance

London West and Surrey

Contact: To be advised

Coming up:

12th December: Provisional 'Farewell to Lensbury' pre-Christmas buffet lunch (See 'Noticeboard').

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

Coming up:

Thursday 18th July: Lunch Pisces Fish & Chip Restaurant, 168 Field End Road, Eastcote, HA5 1RH 12.30 Thursday, 18th July 2019. This is about 100 yards from Eastcote Station (Met/Piccadilly Lines). Cross the road, past traffic lights and Pisces is on the left hand side of road. The 282 bus from opposite the station stops outside the restaurant. It is only one stop.

There is a public car park behind the shops opposite the restaurant. Please advise Greta if attending as she has to advise them of numbers.

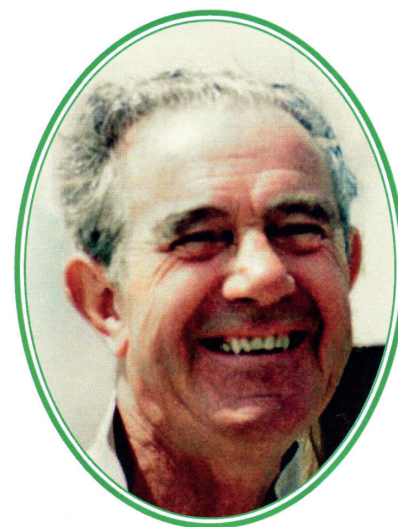


Greater Bristol Branch

In Memoriam

Archie Johnston

Archie Johnston, who has died at the age of 93, was a hands-on Engineer learned as an apprentice (from the age of 14) in Glasgow. He joined SMBP as a Technical Sales Engineer in 1958 and with the Company's assistance he became a Chartered Petroleum Engineer. He rose through the Industrial Fuels hierarchy. A proud Scot he nevertheless came down south and stayed, moving to Guildford – a favourite town for SMBP's Fuel Oil specialists and Managers. He had a successful career in SMBP, went to Shell on Brand Separation and was a popular colleague. Much of that popularity came from his sense of humour and his Billy Connolly like ability to tell a tale. He retired in 1982 and at his retirement party at Lensbury he recited his take on 'Goldilocks and the Blee Threars' - a version of the fairy tale complete with Spoonerisms in every line. Clive Moulton recalls that *"Grown men were rolling on the floor clutching their sides. A truly memorable performance from a genuinely nice man."*



Archie Johnston

Mortimer Ramskill

Mort Ramskill, who has died at the age of 86, was one of the outstanding Sales Professionals of his time in SMBP and later in Shell UK. He was also, as Clive Moulton puts it, *"a hugely entertaining and rewarding friend. His business relationships were of the old school variety and cemented by regular hospitality"*. Andy Hull adds *"I have many fond memories of Mort from way back but the most memorable was at Norbury whilst colleagues and I were on our way back from lunch in Mort's car when a suspected burglar dashed across the road being pursued. A collision was unavoidable and the unfortunate chap's head hit the windscreen smashing it - but he got up and continued his sprint. Mort, who was an ex Police Officer, stopped the car and ran after him saying he would need medical attention and instructing me to take his car back to the office. He was that sort of caring person."*

Peter Keating

David Dungate recalls Peter Keating who died on 7th December 2018 at the age of 86. Peter, he says, was a hard act to follow as Manager of Birmingham Airport Terminal. He continued to provide advice and guidance even when he had moved on from the job. He was, says David, *"An extraordinary man and personality. His energy, enthusiasm and humour were legendary in a joyous Aviation Department so ably lead by John Rutherford, Philip Wilkinson and Chris Fear."*

Do you have a memory of a colleague recently departed?
The magazine would be please to include brief tributes in the
'In Memoriam' feature. Emails or letters,
to The Editor please.

Obituaries

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

BALL (91). Mr Leslie Ball of Skewen died in November 2018. Following retirement, he became a Pensioner Liaison Officer with BP.

BARKER (93). Mrs Kathleen Barker of Bishops Stortford died on 17th April 2019. She was the wife of Mr Edward Barker, once a Refuelling Supervisor at Stansted Airport.

BAROTH (87). Mr Eric Baroth of Brackley died on 14th May 2019. He worked in Eastern Region Consumer, Watford when he left group service in 1982 after 19 years.

BLACK (88). Mr Douglas Black of Glasgow died on 6th April 2019. He was Manager, LPG, Glasgow when he left group service in 1988 after 32 years.

BOYCE (93). Mrs Sylvia Boyce of Santa Rosa, USA died on 1st June 2018. She was National Accounting Machine Operator at Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1973.

BRODIE (92). Mr John Brodie of Plymouth died on 12th February 2019. He was a Shift Manager at Plymouth when he left group service in 1985 after 23 years.

BURTON (96). Mr R J Burton of Torquay died on 21st March 2019. He was a Training Officer at Leeds when he left group service in 1975 after 19 years.

HADLEY (84). Mr Philip Hadley of Southend-on-Sea has died. He worked in Distribution Division, Operation Services Branch, BP International, Britannic House when he left group service in 1992 after 28 years.

HALL (92). Mr Leonard Hall of King's Lynn died on 12th April 2019. He was Group Terminal Operator when he left group service in 1979 after 31 years.

HINDS (89). Mrs Betty Hinds of Whitchurch died on 6th April 2019. She was the wife of Mr Robert Hinds, once a Driver at Northampton.

HOLLAND (88). Mr George (Mike) Holland of Thame died on 4th March 2019. He was a Driver at Thame when he left group service in 1990 after 24 years.

HONOUR (92). Mr George Honour of Ivybridge died on 5th May 2019. He was a Driver at Thame and latterly Plymouth when he left group service in 1973 after 15 years.

JOHNSTON (93). Mr Archibald (Archie) Johnston of Southampton died on 7th February 2019. He was Commercial Area Sales Manager, Norbury when he left group service in 1982 after 24 years.

MacFARLANE (100). Mrs Grace MacFarlane of Barking died on 1st February 2019. She was the wife of Mr George MacFarlane once a Mate, Thames & Estuarial based at Purfleet.

MAY. Mrs Joyce May of Saxmundham died on 2nd May 2019. She was the wife of Mr Derek May, once Transport Manager, Lusaka, Zambia.

MINNIKIN (88). Mr Thomas (Tom) Minnikin of Haywards Heath died on 23rd March 2019. He was Supervisor, Accounts Payable, SUKAS, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1990 after 21 years.

OWEN (92). Mr Frederick Owen of Marsacala, Malta died on 30th March 2019. He was Fire & Safety Officer, Offshore, BP, Aberdeen when he left group service in 1986 after 38 years.

PATERSON (95). Mr Archibald (Archie) Paterson of Ashted has died. He was H&A Regional Manager, SE Region, Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1979 after 28 years.

RIDING (78). Mr Christopher Riding of Johnstone died on 1st February 2019. He was Group Terminal Manager, Shell Aviation, Glasgow Airport when he left group service in 1992 after 35 years.

RUSSELL (85). Mr Stanley Russell of Gravesend died on 4th March 2019. He was a Captain, Estuarial when he left group service.

SPURGEON (86). Mr Keith Spurgeon of Tunbridge Wells died on 3rd March 2019. He was New Business Development Manager, Shell Lubricants outposted from Cheadle Hulme when he left group service in 1992 after 27 years.

TAYLOR (82). Mr Robert Taylor of Middlesbrough died on 11th March 2019. He was a Driver at Jarrow when he left group service in 1992 after 33 years.

TIBBS (75). Mr Geoffrey Tibbs of Truro has died. He was Terminal Manager at Falmouth when he left group service in 1992 after 27 years.

TYNAN (89). Mr Arthur Tynan of Bridport died on 8th February 2019.

The 'Shell Pensioner Programme'

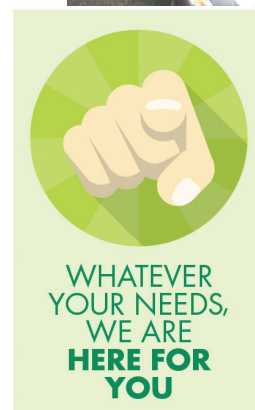
The 'Shell Pensioner Programme' described below is available to all Shell Pensioners (members of the Shell Contributory Pension Fund (SCPF) and/or the Shell Overseas Contributory Pension Fund (SOCPF) who are also members of the Shell Pensioners Association (SPA). This includes pensioners who are the widows or widowers of former Shell employees - it therefore also applies to those SMBP 44 Club members who fulfil these criteria. It does not, of course, apply to BP Pensioners who have their own Benevolence arrangements. It is recommended that all 44 Club members drawing a Shell pension also join the Shell Pensioners Association. The benefits are considerable and the SPA is good value for a one off payment of £10.

CASE STUDY:

Pensioner Mrs X is in poor health and has restricted mobility. Her husband used to be her carer, but sadly passed away last year. This left her on her own, quite vulnerable and lonely. The only way she could get out of the house was by asking for help from her son, who also has health issues. Mrs X's finances are tight, and she needed financial help from SPBA to get a mobile scooter. With support from SPP, Mrs X was successfully awarded benevolence to purchase a mobility scooter.

Mrs X explained that It has totally transformed her life and now she is able to get to the local shops by herself for the first time in 10 years. She now feels she has some independence back and is starting a new chapter in her life.

A small event can make a big change to your life, so never leave yourself wondering whether we can help you. If you're not sure, call us on **0345 850 8944**.



HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT SPP AND THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO PENSIONERS.

Spread the word and tell other pensioners about the Shell Pensioner Programme; who we are and what support we can provide.

Identify pensioners who are in need and help them get in touch with us.

Let dependent pensioners know they can apply for SPA membership and access our support when their spouse has passed away.

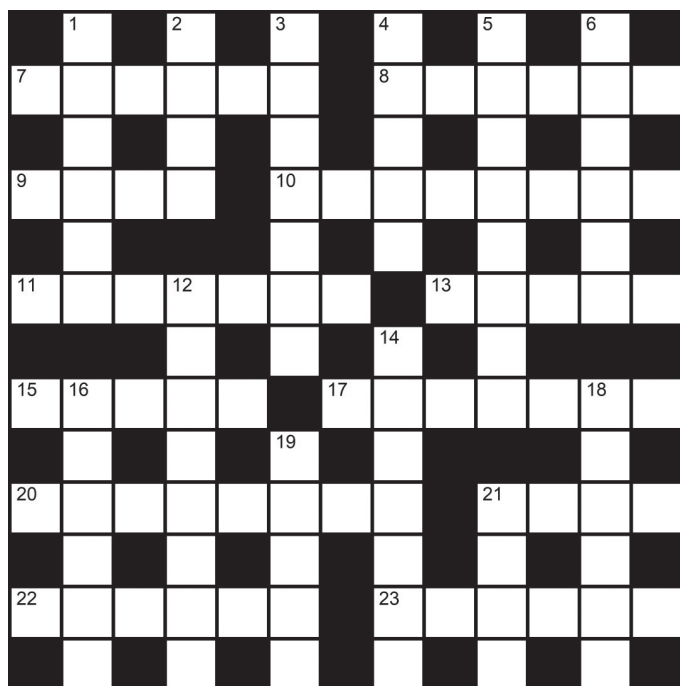
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"When we first started business here we had very little time to look after anybody, only the business and it is only of late that we have been looking after the interests of the personnel"

Henri Deterding on opening the "Lensbury Club" June 1920

Prize Crossword

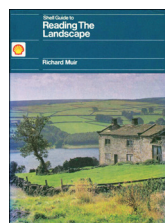
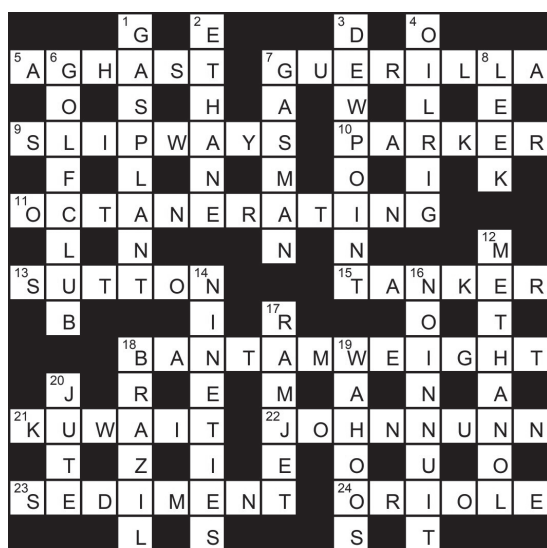


Across

- 7** Subtracted from the list price to give you what you pay (6)
- 8** At 82 she remembers drinks at the 'Rose'! (6)
- 9** Our centenarian (4)
- 10** Substances added to a system to cause a chemical reaction (8)
- 11** Archie Johnston's apprenticeship location (7)
- 13** British and Irish in Rugby (5)
- 15** No longer a child (5)
- 17** The ADs offered them a maintenance service (7)
- 20** A One hundred year old Club (8)
- 21** Teeside Branch contact (4)
- 22** Distributors acquired products to _____ (6)
- 23** A Ford brand (6)

Down

- 1** Fill up the tank (6)
- 2** A rose between the thorns at the AGM (4)
- 3** Shell Omala is designed for it (7)
- 4** Lakin was Vince Timmins boss (5)
- 5** The measures before metrication (8)
- 6** Had a Grease Plant (6)
- 12** Called on customers (5,3)
- 14** Large molecule composed of many repeated subunits. (7)
- 16** Compression Ignition engine (6)
- 18** Wankel was a _____ engine (6)
- 19** They were divided between Industrial and Automotive (5)
- 21** 'High ____' is advanced (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

Seven correct entries for what was obviously a tricky puzzle! Our antique Sinclair ZX has selected Peter Holmes of Southampton as the winner. A copy of 'The Shell Guide to Reading the Landscape' on its way to you Peter.

Closing date for next issue
31st August 2019