



## The Shell Heritage Art Collection

One of the most lasting legacies of Shell-Mex and B.P. is the magnificent 'Shell Heritage Art Collection' comprising hundreds of works of art commissioned as advertising by SMBP - many by world renowned artists. The Manager of the collection, Nicky Balfour Penney, is holding the original made in 1938 by the artist John Armstrong. On the wall is a lithograph from the painting which would have been used as a 'Lorry Bill' on a delivery vehicle. The story begins on Page 4.



## Useful Contacts

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

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– For Shell Pensioners

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### **The BP Society**

– For anyone who once worked for a BP company - including Shell-Mex and BP

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Please advise the Club Office (Email as under Colin Hill above) of your email address. You can also do this by visiting the Club website: <http://www.44club.co.uk>



# Welcome

This magazine generally avoids politics – especially Oil politics. But the attacks in the media on our once Parent companies prompts me to respond. The Royal Shakespeare Company's decision to refuse further BP sponsorship and the National Theatre's announcement that it will end Shell's membership from next year on the grounds that it plans to make itself 'carbon neutral' seem particularly inane examples of virtue signalling. And very silly. You don't need to be a 'Climate Change denier' (I'm not!) to see that we are where we are – there is a huge existential global demand for hydrocarbons and the oil companies are there to satisfy it!



Oil companies over the years have sometimes been rightly criticised for how we do what we do. The Environmental, Safety and Governance errors of both Shell (e.g. Brent Spar in 1995 or the 'Reserves scandal' in 2004) and BP (e.g. Deepwater Horizon in 2010) brought the whole industry into disrepute and didn't make us as employees or pensioners very popular. However the brickbats being hurled at oil companies today go beyond fair criticism and hit at the heart of their rationale as multinational corporations.

The charge that an oil company is irresponsibly operating an inherently malignant business is as ignorant as it is offensive. This charge when applied to 'Big Tobacco' was a fair one. It doesn't apply to oil. The Tobacco giants supplied and created demand for their lethal products. Oil companies do not, these days, create demand, they only supply it.

Change in the demand for petroleum products and other hydrocarbons is created by factors largely external to the oil and natural gas supply sectors. Economic growth, growth in transportation and travel, increasing populations, increases in wealth etc. all contribute to higher demand. Improved technology and efficiency, investments in alternative energy and legislation can and do reduce demand. It's a complex dynamic.

Oil companies are essential players in modern society. They supply products that drive progress and without them we would be poorer and our horizons would be very limited indeed. It is essential that these companies, especially Shell and BP for which we worked and which pay our pensions, do what they do in a principled, honest and legal way. But to criticise them for existing and for supplying demand that societies rather than they create is nonsense.

**Paddy Briggs**

Let's take the  
**OIL**  
out of Royal  
Shakespeare  
Company!

[cultureunstained.org/fossilfreetix](http://cultureunstained.org/fossilfreetix)







# Noticeboard

## 2020 Reunion and AGM

The 44 club reunion and AGM will be held on Thursday May 7th 2020 in Shell Centre. Further details to follow but put the date in your diary!



## Shell Pensioner Programme

The Shell Pensioner Programme (SPP) is a Shell-sponsored and funded service that is free of charge to Shell Pensioners who are members of the Shell Pensioners Association and who are in receipt of a SCPF or SOCPF Pension. It provides a range of free services to pensioners including support & guidance to find solutions to problems they are facing – it also facilitates access to benevolence assistance from the Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association and helps to access local community support

such as Citizen's Advice, Age UK, Dementia UK and advocacy services.

Pensioners in need of support can call the Shell Pensioner Programme Helpline on:  
**0345 850 8944**



## SPBA 'Christmas Bonus' 2020

Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association (SPBA). The Trustees are keen to ensure that all Shell pensioners who are in need, who are members of the Shell Pensioners Association and who may be eligible for a Christmas grant have an opportunity to be assessed as to their eligibility.

If you would like to be considered for a Christmas Grant, you may be eligible if you are:

- Single – and your total income, excluding attendance allowance, is under £1350 per month
- or
- Married – and your total household income, excluding attendance allowance, is under £1850 per month.

Please can you contact the SPBA's Ken Sleat before the end of March 2020 at SPBA, Shell Centre, London, SE1 7NA or e-mail him at [ken.k.sleat@shell.com](mailto:ken.k.sleat@shell.com) with your name, SPA number and your address. If you would like to discuss your eligibility you can also phone Ken on 020 7934 5131 or contact the SPP helpline which is 0345 850 8944.



## The Studio in Shell-Mex House

From the earliest days of Shell-Mex House there was a 'Studio' situated on the 5th Floor which produced artwork and a range of other creative items. The staff were encouraged to be rather more flamboyant and creative than elsewhere in the building! They designed their own furniture and had white rather than the standard black telephones. We have been asked by the keepers of the Shell Art archive whether members have recollections and/or memorabilia and photographs of the Studio which many will recall from the days of the great Tom Gorringer. Please let the Editor know.

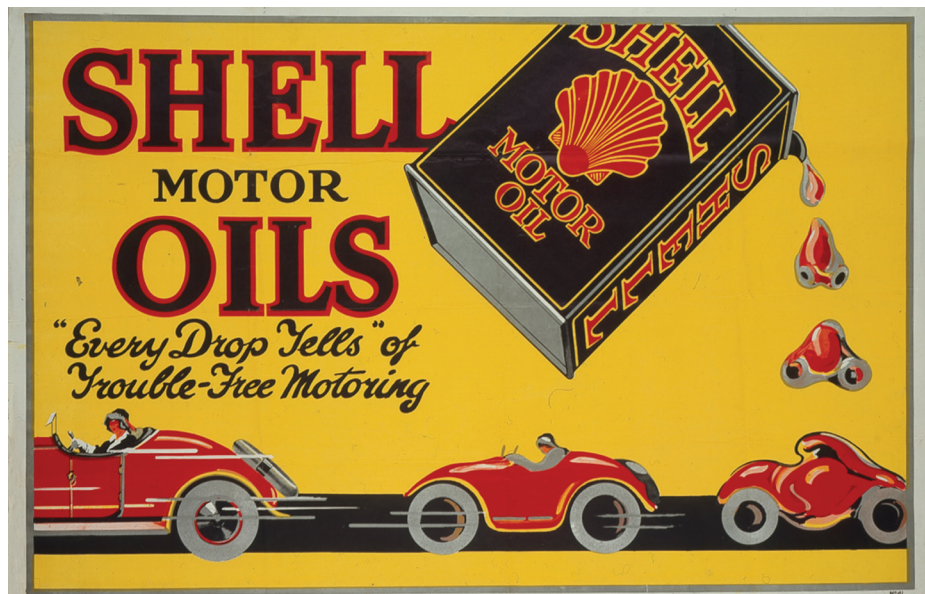
## Welcome New Members

Mrs Pamela Baroth - Brackley  
Mr Michael Bourne - Plymstock  
Mrs Linda Brightman - Berkhamsted  
Mr Frederick Freeman - Plymstock  
Mrs Lizzie Fulcher - Bedford  
Mrs Janet Leeder - Norwich  
Mr Ronald Lochhead - Glasgow  
Mrs Ann Righton - Jarrow  
Mr Andrew Slater - Steyning  
Mrs Isabella Wallington - Malmesbury

# The Art of Shell 1920 – 1955

This year we celebrate the centenary of when, in 1920, Shell-Mex Ltd, one of the predecessors of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd (SMBP) commenced advertising the Shell brand in what was to become an enduring way – by the use of fine graphic art to promote the Shell corporate and product brands. The art works originally appeared on boards on the side of delivery vehicles and were therefor called 'Lorry Bills' (see the photograph on the front cover). This example (right) from 1921 was one of the first and promoted both the corporate brand and lubricants and promises 'trouble-free motoring'. The focus of the advertisements changed subtly over time and by the time Shell-Mex and B.P. commenced trading in 1932 had become confidently artistic. It was to be under SMBP that the great 'You can be sure of Shell' slogan first appeared in this very corporate Lorry Bill (below) from that year.

The first advertising manager in SMBP was the legendary Jack Beddington and under his stewardship some of the greatest artists of the 1930s contributed work. Among them were Edward McKnight Kauffer, Graham Sutherland, Duncan Grant, John Armstrong, Paul Nash, John Piper, Rex Whistler, Tom Gentleman, Edward Ardizzone, Ben Nicholson and many others. Exhibitions were held in the 1930s and opened by Sir Kenneth



Clark then director of the National Gallery. By the outbreak of war in 1939 there were over 500 works of Art in what had become a major collection.

## The Collection finds a home at Beaulieu

After the war SMBP continued to commission Art though by then of course delivery vehicles no longer carried 'Lorry Bills'. The enterprise final came to an end in 1955 and the collection was stored in Shell-Mex House where it remained in a storeroom until 1992 when it found a home at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu.

The works of Art were in various different mediums but they were all turned into lithographs for the Lorry Bills. The originals are either at Beaulieu or in some cases in museums. The Victoria and Albert in London have a Paul Nash and the Museum of Modern Art in New York has a Graham Sutherland (below). Some of the lithographs are valuable in their own right – it's worth checking to see if you have one in the loft! (The poster reproductions of the lithographs I'm afraid are unlikely to be of any value!).

The Shell Heritage Art Collection at Beaulieu is quite superb. The collection of over 400 Lorry Bills is looked after







in special storage and can be viewed by special arrangement. There is also a permanent display in the museum which is well worth a visit.

### The National Motor Museum

When visiting the Shell Heritage Art Collection there are more Shell memories in its home at the National Motor Museum. Along with the fabulous collection of cars – ranging from Victorian horseless carriages to a £310,000 2019 Rolls Royce – there is a Shell petrol station from the 1950s (right). It's all a petrolhead's delight but it's also excellent for the student of social history. And if you don't at least once stop and point and say "My Dad had one of those" I'll be surprised!

**PSB**



# London Airport Pipeline



The very first commercial pipeline to be constructed in the United Kingdom was built in 1959 by Shell-Mex and BP from the then Government (GPSS) depot at Walton-on-Thames to Heathrow Airport (Perry Oaks, Stanwell SMBP Depot).

In 2019 we marked the 60th anniversary of its construction. The SMBP archive has received a splendid donation of a book of photographs of the construction of the pipeline which took place between September

*continued on page 6*



and December 1959. The Contractor was William Press & Sons and the photo shows the SMBP people along with those from William Press. The pipeline crossed the Thames at Rivermead Island near Sunbury and progressed up French Street Sunbury and then on to Heathrow. It was quite a project and completed it seems to me rather more quickly than might be the case today! **PSB**



# Don Knight – creating a little piece of Japan in Wales - and raising money for Cancer and Care charities

You may be forgiven for thinking when you walk around Don and Ann Knight's garden that which you are in the far-off country of Japan, instead of the town of Llantwit Major in the Vale of Glamorgan. It is a Japanese inspired oasis, complete with dramatic Zen gate, red Pagoda, Torri gate, Buddha's head, a great Amazon waterfall and a five-thousand-litre Koi pond complete with 20 odd carp. Don started his career with Shell-Mex and B.P. in 1969, after serving 12 years in the RAF. His first job was refuelling aircraft at Manchester airport before he eventually became a trainer. Don left Shell UK in 1992 taking early





retirement and continued his career as a self-employed ADR instructor for various transport companies. He finally retired at the end of 2010.

For over 35 years Don's passion (Ann would say obsession) has been Bonsai, both growing and designing them. He has been invited to display them at various horticultural shows including The Royal Lancashire show, where he won best in show. About 20 years ago he decided that his Bonsai trees needed to be better displayed so he designed and built an Oriental garden in keeping with the style of his trees. He has done this every time he has moved to a new house (4 in total). The Llantwit garden recently won the National Trust for Wales 'Garden Proud' competition and it has appeared on S4C and ITV.

For the last five years Don and Ann have opened their garden for the 'National Garden Scheme' raising thousands of pounds for cancer/caring charities. Don also does talks to local groups and the money he receives is donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital for children with cancer.

The South Wales 44 Club, SPA and BP Society joined together to visit the garden.



Ann did us a lovely afternoon tea so everyone was able to enjoy the delights in convivial conversation.

For our party we collected £90 and Don hopes by the end of July he will have well over £250 to contribute

to his chosen charity. Don and Ann applied for a SPBA grant and Shell has donated £350 to the Great Ormond Street children's charity that is so very much appreciated. They thank everyone for their contributions. **Viv Perry**

# Birthday Thanks

Members will know that for many years Peter and Bridget Cast handled so well for us all the sending out of birthday cards. We are very sad to report that Bridget died a few months ago and we pass our condolences to Peter.

**75th** It's a joy to receive something through the post rather than by email! I look forward to the '44 Club' lunches which Jim and Audrey Broughton arrange. I have made new friends and it makes for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Carol Smith

**77th** I was surprised and delighted to receive a birthday card from the 44 Club today.

This is a thoughtful gesture and I would be grateful if you would pass on my appreciation to whoever is responsible. As the years roll by we can appreciate how fortunate we were to work for a great company with such considerate colleagues.

John Long

**77th** The clock is still ticking, I'm happy to say and it's really nice to be remembered after all these years. Let's hope we all survive another one without mishap, despite the imminent challenges on every side. Here's to the future, going forward!

Kenneth Guthrie

**80th** Lilian and I celebrated by climbing Snowdon (by train!). An area of Wales I know well from childhood being brought up in Old Colwyn.



It doesn't seem like 30 years since early retirement from heading up the Shell Lubricants admin team in Birmingham and looking after a Manager and a friendly bunch of Engineers.

Most of our social time is now spent being members of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) within Tewkesbury Branch of Gloucestershire CAMRA. Since losing my left arm to cancer 7 years ago I have now found out what my right arm really is for!

David Sermon

**81st** I was surprised to receive a card as I thought that after getting one for my 80th I would have to wait until my 85th! Thank you very much. Could anyone tell me where the last twelve months went as I thought that as you grow older time slows down but it seems to be the opposite!

(Ed: We now send out cards on a member's 75th birthday and every subsequent year!)

John Nunn

**81st** My late husband Richard would have been so proud to know that I was still being looked after by the SMBP/Shell family – I am grateful for the continued contact with you all. We spent many hours in the past with SMBP friends when Richard worked in Cecil Chambers and later in Cheadle Hulme – before than he was at Barton. I keep active with my dogs, my painting and my membership of a quilting group. And my eight grandchildren and now a great granddaughter give me plenty to think about! Best wishes to all of you working on our behalf!

Eileen M Watson



**82nd** I would be grateful if you would pass on my grateful thanks to those volunteers who send out the birthday cards and help us feel that we are still part of our great company. It is very much appreciated. My years with SMBP were very happy and I have many joyful memories.

Eileen Davies

**85th** My thanks go to those of the team who keep the records and arrange for the cards to be sent. The 44 Club does a great job in assisting pensioners to remember and retain contacts with ex colleagues.

John Bamberg



continues to provide a valued update on old friends.

Roy Fielder

**86th** Thanks to the volunteers. I joined Scottish Oils & Shell-Mex Ltd 69 years ago as a junior mailing clerk on £3 per week at Bothwell St Glasgow. I spent most of my career there going round the different Departments. They were happy times and a great bunch of people. I enjoy going to the 44 Club meetings which are really well organised by Elaine Ellen. We are getting a bit thin on the ground these days. The magazine is so appreciated. My best wishes to all those that are left from the Bothwell St. days.

Alistair Forrester

**88th** I would like to send my best wishes to old colleagues Ken Redwood, Gordon Robins and Area Manager Mike Crozier. I remember all the good times we had!

Peter Phillips

**88th** It is so thoughtful to be remembered. I am still trying to come to terms with the fact that I can no longer do the things which I have always done - but have to look on and pay for others to do the jobs for me! On reflection though perhaps it isn't such a good idea anymore to stand on the top rung of the ladder to clear the leaves



from the gutters! All strength to the Magazine.

Ken Doran.

**90th** I left the company in 1966 and there is nobody who will remember me after 53 years! I had a very interesting and varied working life with about twelve different jobs. I have taken my fun where I've found it and I'm still celebrating down at the pub. I'm still going on fairly well despite a few 'old man maladies'. Thanks to all in the 44 Club.

Pater Farr



**92nd** I remember Colin Hill the Club Secretary when he was Admin Manager in Watford and I held a similar position in Birmingham – keep up the good work Colin! I like reading the Club News but look often in vain for news of Power Petroleum colleagues (Ed: See Letters in this edition Barrie). SMBP was a wonderful company to work for and those of us who joined in the late 1950s had the best time of all...

Barrie Wilson

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## BIRTHDAY THANKS

Thanks also received from:

John Wells, Alice Brown,  
Roger Smith (78), Brammer Allport  
(75), Doug Quayle (87), Ray Large,  
John Smith (80), Harry Macquaker

(82), Michael Randle (79),  
Tom Cannon (83), Rosemary Brodie  
(78), Donald Stephen (86),  
Gordon Pattenden (85), Liz Kershaw  
(88), Nita Curran (82), Les Thacker

(80), Rex Hutchinson (91), Ed Hunt  
(83), Dennis Parkes, Martin Spankie  
(87), Donald Cotton (82),  
John McGuire (87), Anthony Evans  
(78).



## Wedding Anniversaries

### Diamond

Leslie and Iris Davis

*6th September 2018*



Leslie and Iris Davis

### Diamond

Mary and George Norris

*5th September 2019*



Mary and George Norris

### Golden

Ann and Mike Eggleton

*13 September 2019*



Ann and Mike Eggleton

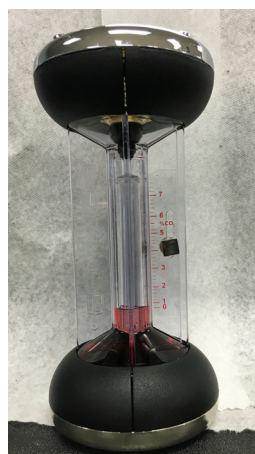




# Your Letters

## Mrs 1970 and all that

I much enjoyed Maurice Husbands nostalgic look back to the Mrs 1970 Campaign. (Autumn 44 Club News) Happy days! He is probably right that not enough praise for its success found its way into company folklore. SMBP was surely one of the prime movers in having full home heating, rather than the one coal fire in the living room. Perhaps though, on second thoughts, with today's anti CO2 bias, we should let it slink quietly away.



What it certainly did, on a positive note, was to give many of us a career change into the world of 'oil', SMBP and all the attendant benefits. For me, having completed my enforced two years National Service in

the army (we are now a dwindling breed), I came back to work in 1960 for the local electricity board where I had done my apprenticeship. Life with a nationalised industry soon palled, so I cast my eye around for a better challenge. The local heating contractors were looking for someone to install and look after all the electrics for these new-fangled 'oil fired' boilers. They had just become 'appointed installers' for the Mrs 1970 scheme II.

Soon I was on a course at the Domestic Heating Centre Fulham (DHC) under the beady eye and unique lecturing style of the late Ken Tuvey where half a dozen of us were introduced into the mysteries of 'pressure jets and wallflames'. Also to be learned and inwardly digested were 'chimneys and flues', 'oil storage', 'fire valves', and a weird piece of kit called 'Fyrite' (Ed: A Fyrite

is a volumetric gas analysis device – see photo).

Sitting there listening to Ken after one of Motor Repair Centre's lunches (we ate in their canteen in those days), little did I dream that in two and a half years' time I would be a colleague of Ken's in a much expanded DHC. It would be me doing the lecturing II. Even less did I dream that in thirty five years' time I would still be talking 'pressure jets' to a course of induction service engineers for Shell Direct in a room adjacent to Kingsbury Oil Terminal. A great career? 'Yes' and I owe it all to Mrs 1970. Not quite what Dickie Mott had in mind perhaps, but many of us are very grateful.

The Editor asked if there was anyone out there, other than Derek Howcroft, with the triple whammy of having worked for SMBP, BP Oil and Shell UK. I don't know if this would count? I was employed by SMBP for ten years then BP Oil for another ten years. And then, over the next 20 years as a training consultant I was paid by Shell Distributors (Shell Direct) for courses I ran for them. (Ed: Nice try Cliff but not really!). Happy days and very happy memories.

Cliff Quarrell

## Swadders

I was fascinated to read the item about Chris Swadkin for a couple of reasons. I was fortunate to know Swadders as a member of the same Britannic House football team, where he would fly down one wing, and I sometimes the other. Probably like him, I got hooked into playing for Britannic as an SMBP employee, before Brand Separation in 1976, though unlike him, I had no deep-lying affinity for Kent, or playing 'home games' in Sydenham, which was miles away from my shared

rented flat in Earl's Court SW5. The Southern Amateur League, in which both Britannic and Lensbury played, was a well-spirited, strong, and sporting amateur league with many clubs all over London, from West Wickham in the South to Alexandra Park/Palace in the North. It was often a challenge to find one's way to some of the venues on public transport, (tube/BR and/or bus) as I was without a car for many years. We had football coaching there on a Tuesday night, taken by David Payne of Crystal Palace F.C. Rumour had it that we were coached on a Tuesday, so that our muscles could recover in time for the match on Saturday.

Chris's interview for the graduate entry scheme, where his interviewer concentrated on his cricketing prowess and background and its potential role in developing management skills, was, quite clearly, as good a reason as any to choose the "right candidate" for the vacant post. It obviously worked out well. I do not think that the rules by which we now play would allow such a 'line of questioning' any more. As I recall from the noughties onwards, all interview questions needed to be based on a list of controlled pre-agreed questions testing the skill and competence of the interviewee to perform the job as described in the job description and also aligned with any Open Resourcing advert. Maybe a lot fairer, but not as much fun as asking people what they do in their spare time. Applying those rules under that new regime, I might even have inadvertently offered a job to a Man United fan!

Delighted to read of Chris's role at Kent CCC. Well done him.

Gerry Flanagan

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## And another...

I read the profile (44 Club News no. 164) of Chris Swadkin with great interest and admiration. It is mentioned that Chris joined Shell-Mex and BP in September 1970 from York University. The total graduate intake that year was 20, and four of us joined straight from the Economics Dept, at York. Economics was a trendy subject at the time, and I assume our Professor knew someone in SMBP! Ten of that intake are in this photo – it was taken at 'The Node' in our second week with the company. Needless to say we males were mighty impressed at the 50/50% female/male recruitment ratio, though sadly I think that all of the ladies had left within 2 years. The blond-haired young man at the right end of the back row is now the distinguished, bespectacled and bearded President of Kent CCC! Next September will be the 50th anniversary of that gathering; I wonder how many we could trace for a reunion?!

Chris Sloan

## More Power to your elbow

Roy Hennefer (Club News Autumn 2019) is by no means the only Power ex-employee left! I joined Power Petroleum in 1948. We were, then, in Bedford Chambers in Covent Garden, with the luxury of a hydraulic lift with matching conveniences. We then came down to Cecil Chambers where I was in an office directly over the Strand entrance to Shell-Mex

House forecourt. You know, in summer, if you had the windows open you choked on the Strand traffic fumes, if you kept them shut you became over-heated.

One problem



Back row: Geoffrey Baines (Manager at The Node), Richard ....., Jon Chadwick, Chris Sloan, Jeremy Coke-Smyth and Chris Swadkin.  
Front row; Erica Denby, Judy Sherwin, Christine ....., Jan Cousins and Heather Jones.

in those days was that we were a division of SMBP whilst being a company ourselves. This meant that we had to get our returns in that much faster from our divisions in order to meet the SMBP deadline.

We also had to perform tasks for which we were not really prepared. Prior to the coming of Ray Jackson we had no chemist so that I had to sit on the committee determining the formulas for anti-freeze and also on that for the Clean Air Act!

Later, the company started a magazine called 'Power Topics' which was produced by the Advertising Manager and our Ad. Agency. I contributed some articles and then was called into the MD's - Mr. Howard-Rice - office and asked to take on the magazine as an 'extra curriculum' activity i.e. do it at home – I got a fee of £10 a quarter! I wrote a history of Power in that magazine but, sadly, do not now have a copy. It was as a result of that spare time job that I was asked to join SMBP's SPA department in late 1962. Good fortune with Power ceasing to exist in – what was it – 1964. That £10 a quarter job was well worth the effort!

Incidentally, two things stick in my memory. I think that Power was the first company, in 1928, to have an individually shaped globe. The other was a reflection of the times. I remember a sales rep. coming into head office on a Friday afternoon in sports jacket and flannels to be

greeted by the Company Secretary with 'On holiday, Jones?' Those were the days!

(Ed: My first Christmas in SMBP was in 1964 in Agricultural Department in Shell-Mex House. The last day was a Saturday – we worked some Saturday mornings in those days. I was going to Yorkshire for Christmas that afternoon so wore to the office a very smart Harris Tweed Jacket I thought appropriate for the north. Well it wasn't appropriate for Shell-Mex House! I was sent home to change into a suit!)

Norman Monahan

## Road Tanker Speed Limits

David Roberts' article (Autumn Club News) brings to mind similar experiences when SMBP was in the throes of negotiating a new Productivity Agreement with the TGWU in the 1960s. Part of the negotiations was an agreement to drive at 40 mph 'when it was safe and reasonable to do so'.

As one of the team of Routine Analysts, as the work study men were called, we were charged with the production of Time Value Maps. These gave the routing clerks an average time it would take a vehicle



to travel along the various stretches of road covered on the route to a customer(s). Together with loading and discharge times a standard time for any particular job could be determined.

Sitting alongside the drivers it was clear that it was often difficult for them to restrain the more modern vehicles to a maximum of 40 mph. Often one would have to advise the driver to slow down to 40 mph as otherwise the study would be invalid. If the driver was in a hurry to get to a particular transport café rendezvous, or get home early from a night shift, speed would frequently creep above the stipulated limit and the analyst would advise the driver that the study would be discontinued for that reason.

Frustrating as that might be on occasion, it was a helpful way of establishing good relations with the drivers. It also showed that we were not out to cheat them by recording times that were too low for any specified route. It was a good way to demonstrate to the drivers that an Analyst was an independent and neutral observer and not a management lackey! As a consequence I never had a works committee refuse to agree standards that I had established were acceptable. Whether they would agree to work to them was another matter. That was something that required some further debate between management and the Works Committee.

Tony Wilson

## The tanker revealed

On page 11 of the last Club News is a nice S type Bedford tanker. The picture was taken on the seafront at Brighton where the vehicle stood after completing the London to Brighton commercial vehicle run. It has been lovingly restored and looked great. As well as seeing it in Brighton I



also saw it at local show in Luton. Very sadly it was sold and is now in America.

Mike Wager

## Lensbury

My recent Birthday Card had a view of the Thames taken from 'Lensbury Wharf' and the day before I heard about the sale of the Lensbury Club. I remember attending a training course at Lensbury when Bjorn Borg was practising on the grass courts. He later came to the dining room in his whites ignoring the sign that said that "gentlemen must wear ties at all times in the dining room"! The highlight of that course was when three or four of us would borrow a boat and visit one of the pubs that backed onto the river. To tie up at the pub's landing stage, walk up through the gardens to the bar was, we thought, a cool way to arrive! Happy memories – but then most days with SMBP were good weren't they? Good colleagues made for happy memories...

(Ed: Thanks for the reminder, Roger, that the name coined by Shell for the new Sports and Social Club in Teddington, 'Lensbury', was used by SMBP for a wharf on the Thames and also, of course, for the installation and Lub Oil Blending Plant nearby. There is also a 'Lensbury Avenue' in Fulham to this day. Does anyone know the history of this?)

Roger Smith

## LEO: the World's First Business Computer

In the 1950s the giant British catering company, J Lyons & Co had enormous foresight and the innovation qualities that led to development and manufacture of LEO (Lyons Electronic Office) - the World's First Business Computer. A version of the computer was purchased by many blue chip companies including Shell-Mex and B.P. Today, the 'LEO Computers Society', a registered charity, thrives as an active organisation, most of whose members worked on LEO computers during the 30 year lifetime of LEO. The Society is keen to promote, to as wide an audience as possible, the general awareness of LEO and to seek support for the preservation of its history. To explore these issues now, the Society is currently working, together with the Cambridge Centre for Computing History, on a Heritage Project, funded by the National Lottery. This includes digital archiving of documents and collection of physical material, development of a virtual reality simulation of the original LEO and interviewing those who worked on LEO machines.

When LEO went into 'retirement' in the 1970s and 80s, some of those who were employed on it were allowed to keep items of hardware, documentation etc., as mementos. The Society now seeks help in obtaining such items as donations to the Heritage Project collection and to identify individuals who may have had LEO experience and are willing to offer themselves for interview.

*continued on page 14*

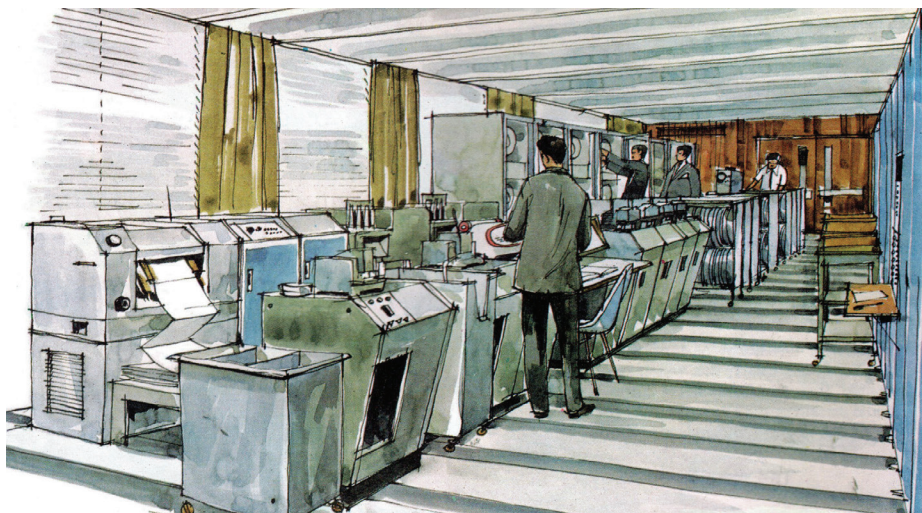
So, here is an appeal to your readers: The LEO Computers Society ([www.leo-computers.org.uk](http://www.leo-computers.org.uk)) would welcome contact with anyone who has LEO material of any description and would be prepared to donate it for the Heritage project or offer themselves for interview about their LEO experiences. Please contact [secretary@leo-computers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@leo-computers.org.uk)

Neville Lyons  
The LEO Heritage Project

### Memory of MEGP

It was a lovely surprise to see the photograph of and to read the article about Chris Swadkin in the recent 44 Club News. I took over from Mike McMonagle in MEGP and Chris was the senior member of the small section I ran. I also played cricket at that time, though not to Chris' standard.

He would spend some time each Monday morning remonstrating how Blackheath could have played better at the weekend!



The magazine continues to be a welcome read. One of the things that has always impressed me over the many years I have been receiving it is the way that, in the Obituaries, everyone is treated equally; the same formula of words, be it a driver, a salesman or a Director. (Ed: Not just in the Obits I hope Dennis. We follow the Shavian principle of treating

a flower girl as a duchess... and sometimes an alderman as Alfred Doolittle!)

Dennis Doe,

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# News from the Branches

## Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

### 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.

## Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

### Coming up:

Monday Events to be held in Michies coffee shop 391 Union Street Aberdeen.

Monday 10th February: 10:30 to 11:30 for a coffee morning

Monday 10th March: 10:30 to 11:30 for a coffee morning

## Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

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

Our first meeting of the season was held on 10 October and was preceded by our AGM. Thirteen members gathered to catch up on what had happened since we last met and to listen to our speaker. We held our usual raffle, many thanks to all those who donated items for it. David Hunter from the Loch Lomond Steamship Company gave an interesting talk about the past and the future of the Maid of the Loch – Loch Lomond's paddle steamer.





Glasgow Branch

### Coming up:

As always new members will be made very welcome, please contact Elaine if you would like more details.

Thursday 16 January: Kamchatka – Land of Fire and Ice. Kathleen Cartwright takes us to far flung places.

Thursday 20 February: Family History and more. Christine Millar returns to continue her stories.

Thursday 19 March: The Jim Currie Quiz

## Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

## Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

## Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

### Coming up:

Wednesday 8th January: Lunch 1200-1230 The New Crown Inn, Mowbray Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 3NG Contact Keith Taylor.

Wednesday 12th February: as above.

Wednesday 11th March: as above.

Wednesday 8th April: as above.

## West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

### Coming up:

Wednesday 15th April: Lunch 1200-1230, The Queens Arms (A61), 201 Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PT

## Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate

### Coming up:

Thursday 30th April: Lunch 1200-1230, Venue to be announced.

## South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

### Coming up:

Tuesday 7th April 2020, Lunch 1200-1230, The Holiday Inn (A1M Junc.36), High Road, Warmsworth Doncaster, South Yorks. DN4 7UX. Contact Jim & Audrey.

## Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

### Coming up:

Monthly pub Lunch on the second Monday of the month. Contact Pat for details.

## North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall

## North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

Our second Skittle games this year was once again at The Squirrel, Alveley. Nr Bridgenorth, on 9th October 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. There was lots of laughs and jokes during the afternoon when skittles were left standing. I think we could all do with some practice. Our last game was a knockout and was won by one of our Guests, Jenny Rutter who very kindly donated her prize money towards the club funds, for which we thank her.

## South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

In early September a group of 26 members and guests visited the Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley, Hemel Hempstead. This historic site



South Midlands Branch

continued on page 16

is the birthplace of paper's industrial revolution and in 1803 the world's first commercial papermaking machine was installed and operated there. Over 200 years later and still making specialist types of paper, the Mill is now run as a charitable trust. During our visit we were given an introductory talk about the history of paper, followed by a conducted tour of the site and the opportunity to 'have a go' at making our own sheet of paper during a papermaking demonstration.

For our final pub lunch of the year in October we visited another new venue at The Black Horse in Chesham Vale. The pub was packed to overflowing point with a splendid attendance of nearly 50 members including several friends from the British Pipeline Agency who were sharing their monthly lunch with us. It was a particularly convivial occasion which completed our lunch programme in some style. Our particular thanks are due to Brian Lovell who pulled all the organisational strings for the day and to the staff of the Black Horse who coped calmly and efficiently with our large numbers.

Once more this year our selection of pub lunches has been very well supported by Branch members and the Committee looks forward to continuing this success with its programme of events in 2020.

Coming up:

Our first pub lunch of 2020 will be held in early/mid-March and the actual date and venue will be chosen at our next Committee meeting in January. Our usual diary circular giving full details of our 2020 programme will be circulated to all active members in February.

### Chelmsford

**Contact:** Tony Scott-Russell

The branch returned to the Beauvoir Arms Italian restaurant on 9th September for its first autumn lunch which was attended by 39 members and guests. As usual, the selection and quality of the food was excellent though the occasion was slightly marred by the slow service. However, as one member remarked, it did allow for plenty of time to catch up with friends old and new in pleasant surroundings.

The second autumn lunch was held at the Orsett Hall Hotel on 30th October. The coincidence of half term holidays and other commitments meant that numbers were down on last year but 51 of us still enjoyed the high quality food and service that we have consistently received at this venue. Car parking proved something of a problem as our event took place at the same time as a children's Halloween party which seemed to have attracted most of the local population. However, our stalwart members remained unspooked by the experience!

Our Christmas lunch and raffle was held again at the Langdon Hills Golf Club on 18th December – more next time.

### Ipswich

**Contact:** Tony Grayston

On 24th September 28 members made their way to Bramford Golf Centre for the annual Autumn lunch. This was a new venue for us and didn't disappoint as the service and fayre produced was of the highest standard which immediately prompted calls for a return visit next year.



Chelmsford Branch

A big thank you to those members who bought Christmas raffle tickets at this early stage which allowed for spending to commence for draw



Ipswich Branch

prizes. By the time this goes to print The Grand Christmas Raffle will have taken place after our Christmas lunch which was due to be held on Tuesday 3rd December at Rushmere Golf Club.

### King's Lynn

**Contact:** Tom Cannon

A group of 20 members and guests enjoyed another excellent roast lunch at the ever popular Foldgate Inn. Our friends and old colleagues from Ipswich branch also enjoyed meeting up with us for some spirited reminiscing about the good old SM&BP days. It was agreed that we should return to the Foldgate Inn for our first event in the spring of 2020. It was agreed to return to the Foldgate Inn for our final lunch of the year on 31 October.



Kings Lynn Branch



## South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

Since the last Club News we have had two meetings: Wednesday 18th September 2019 at The Norton Hotel, Mumbles, Swansea and again on Wednesday 13th November 2019. We have had to change venue as Sketty Hall has closed. We are now actively looking for alternative venues so if anyone has any suggestions please let me know. The photo shows us all at the new venue in September – more came to the November gathering including Dave Sanders who was warmly welcomed having been unwell. Don and Ann Knight have also returned from their holiday and we were celebrating Don's 80th.

At Christmas we went to, The Norton Hotel, Mumbles, Swansea and in January a new venue in Ammanford – more next time! Sincere thanks to Alan Davies who has done some sterling work in reviewing locations for our Christmas gathering. Alan has had a couple of health issues lately but as usual puts on a very brave face and just remains positive and confident – we appreciate everything he has done.



South Wales Branch

## Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

Our autumn pub lunch event took place on Tuesday, September 10th 2019 – yet another return visit to 'The Salthouse' in Clevedon. We met at 11am for coffee / tea and there was plenty of time to put the world to rights. We were 21 in number. Our chairperson, Roger Gamlin, had again arranged good weather for us. We again sat down for lunch in a reserved area and ordered from the extensive menu. We were well looked after by the staff. Roger was once again thanked for his efforts in arranging the day. And please look at our section of the 44 Club website and enjoy the photos of our events. Plenty of ex colleagues' faces to admire and recognise!

## Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker



Greater Bristol Branch

Our autumn lunch was held on 11th September at one of our favourite pubs on the west side of our patch -The Kings Arms at Longham. We have always enjoyed the cuisine at this award-winning pub and again this year was no different, just first class. We welcomed Trevor and Joan Harvey who joined us for the first time. Our numbers were well up. Our Christmas lunch was on Wednesday 11th December at the Carpenters Arms, Bransgore. More next time!

## South East

Branch in abeyance

## London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

## Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

### Coming up:

Thursday, 16th January 2020:  
12:30 Lunch Thursday, Sea Pebbles Restaurant, 354 Uxbridge Rd. Pinner, HA5 4HR (020 8428 0203). Please let Greta know if you are coming. Meantime she hopes everyone had a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

# Obituaries

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

**AUGUSTIN (95).** Mrs Daisy Augustin of Erith died on 21st October 2019. She was a Vending Operator at Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1984 after 9 years.

**BEDFORD (93).** Mr Bramwell Bedford of Totternhoe died on 11th July 2019. He worked in Credit Management, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1983 after 34 years.

**BLACK (84).** Mrs Helen Black of Grangemouth died on 15th August 2019. She was the widow of Mr Alexander Black once a Terminal Operator at Grangemouth.

**BRODIE (94).** Mrs Rhoda Brodie of Brockenhurst died on 19th September 2019. She worked in Communications at Southampton when she left group service in 1966 after 12 years.

**CAMPBELL (85).** Mr Alastair Campbell of Holmfirth died in May 2019. He was a Senior Marketing Assistant at Leeds when he left group service in 1979 after 22 years.

**CARTER (80).** Mr John Carter of Pontefract died on 13th October 2019. He was a Driver at Leeds when he left group service in 1992 after 28 years.

**CHALLINOR (84).** Mr Frank Challinor of Nantwich died on 22nd September 2019. He worked at Stanlow Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 16 years.

**CLARKE (84).** Mr Robert Clarke of Sutton died in October 2019. He was a Driver at Walton-on-Thames when he left group service in 1975 after 32 years.

**DAVIES (85).** Mr Alan Davies of Swansea died on 26th September 2019. He worked at Shell UK, Swansea when he left group service in 1987 after 38 years.

**EVANS (82).** Mr Jack Evans of Urmston died on 11th August 2019. He worked at Barton Lubricants Plant when he left group service in 1989 after 33 years.

**FAWCETT (99).** Mrs Bertha Fawcett of Ellesmere Port died on 22nd August 2019.

**GARWOOD (91).** Mr Maurice Garwood of Bedford died on 11th September 2019. He worked at BP Oil Ltd, Victoria when he left group service in 1984 after 35 years.

**HASTINGS (83).** Mr Brian Hastings of Maldon died on 20th September 2019. He was a Technical Lecturer at Fulham when he left group service in 1977 after 6 years.

**HAYTER (86).** Mr Stephen Hayter of Basildon died on 21st July 2019. He was a Driver at Coryton when he left group service in 1985 after 32 years.

**HEMMINGS (75).** Mr David Hemmings of Hythe died on 16th September 2019. He worked in Personnel, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1973 after 11 years.

**HUDSON (94).** Mr Joshua (Joe) Hudson of Ossett died on 28th September 2019. He was Group Fleet Engineer at Leeds when he left group service in 1985 after 25 years.

**JEFFCOCK (84).** Mr Brian Jeffcock of North Shields died on 17th November 2019. He was a Fleet Transport Engineer at Jarrow when he left group service in 1992 after 32 years.

**KING (81).** Mr Peter King of Northampton died on 24th August 2019. He worked for Shell UK Oil, Northampton when he left group service in 1987 after 16 years.

**MANATON (95).** Mrs Esther Manaton of Worcester Park died on 19th September 2019. She was the wife of Mr Christopher Manaton, once a Driver at Wandsworth.

**MARTIN (87).** Mrs Pamela Martin of London died on 15th August 2019. She was the wife of Mr Alan Martin once i/c Personnel Administration at Bristol Regional Office.

**MAY (89).** Mr Ronald May formerly of Benfleet died on 14th October 2019. He was a Fitter at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1980 after 27 years.

**MEIKLE (67).** Mrs Yvonne Meikle of London died on 25th August 2019. She worked in Shell Retail Marketing, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1991 after 19 years.

**MILLER (89).** Mr David Miller of Upminster has died. He worked at Northfleet on the Estuarial Fleet when he left group service in 1986 after 17 years.



**MOORE (93).** Mr Leslie Moore of Wigan (formerly of Leeds) died on 8th August 2019. He was a Driver at Leeds Terminal when he left group service in 1979 after 19 years.

**MORTON (85).** Mr Christopher Morton of Solihull has died. He was Group Terminal Manager based at Kingsbury when he left group service in 1991 after 34 years.

**MOTHIO (97).** Mrs Muriel Mothio of London died on 7th September 2019. She was the widow of Mr Mark Mothio.

**PARMENTER (87).** Mrs Vera Parmenter of Horndon-on-the-Hill died on 14th July 2019. She was the widow of Mr James Parmenter once a Craftsman at Shell Haven.

**PATTERSON (95).** Mr Edward Patterson of Stockton-on-Tees died on 30th September 2019. He was a Lubricants Engineer at Manchester when he left group service in 1984 after 28 years.

**RICHARDSON (88).** Mrs Myrtle Richardson of Norbury, London died on 30th August 2019. She was Secretary to Mr G A Baxter, General Manager, Operations, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1972 after 23 years.

**SCOURFIELD (77).** Mr W R (Bill) Scourfield of Narberth died on 17th September 2019. He was a Driver at Haverfordwest when he left group service in 1993 after 18 years.

**TUTTON (73).** Mrs Paulette Tutton of Wallington died on 2nd September 2019. She was the wife of Mr Maurice Tutton once a Retail Territory Manager, Shell UK Oil, South East Region.

**VAUGHAN (76).** Mr Rodney Vaughan of Cheltenham died on 9th September 2019. He worked in Public Affairs for Shell UK Limited when he left group service in 1993 after 26 years.

**WALLINGTON (90).** Mr David Wallington of Malmesbury died on 27th August 2019. He was a Retail Representative at Bristol when he left group service in 1979 after 14 years.

**WILKINSON (72).** Mr Paul Wilkinson of Stoke-on-Trent died on 20th October 2019. He was a Driver at Uttoxeter when he left group service in 1995 after 20 years.

## In Memoriam

### Myrtle Richardson (née Groves)

**Greta Chandler writes:** Myrtle first joined SMBP in 1947 and worked mainly in Finance departments though she also stood in for many secretaries when they were on holiday. She was very well-known in Shell-Mex House. She was also a familiar figure in her local church, St Oswald's Norbury, where she headed up the 'Action Group' which provided support for church activities providing tea and coffee after services, flower bunches for Mother's Day etc. She also sang in the choir and was a bell ringer and the church was full for her funeral service. Myrtle's sudden passing was a great shock to everyone as, up to the very day before she died, Myrtle had been so active. Her death was so unexpected and sudden that an autopsy had to be carried out. Two of her god-daughters took part in the service and many of us went on to the crematorium. Afterwards we had a

lunch in the Church Hall - enough to feed the proverbial 5,000. On each of the many tables was an apple from Myrtle's garden. Her ashes will be buried in Godstone where she grew up and lived before her marriage to Alan. My over-riding impression and

memory will be of her cheerful face and behind it the kind, helpful person that we all knew. She will be much missed and I and many other people will feel that we have lost a really good friend.



Myrtle Richardson (Left) with Greta Chandler

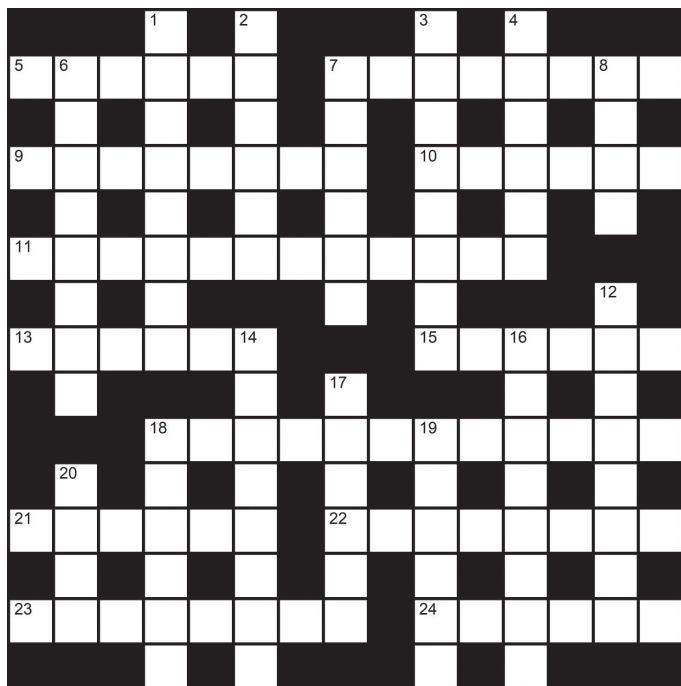
# and Finally ...

## Quotable Quote

"In the 1930s... Shell-Mex UK also took responsibility for the marketing of BP's petrol"

John Hewitt, Introduction to the "Shell Poster Book" **Oops!**

## Prize Crossword

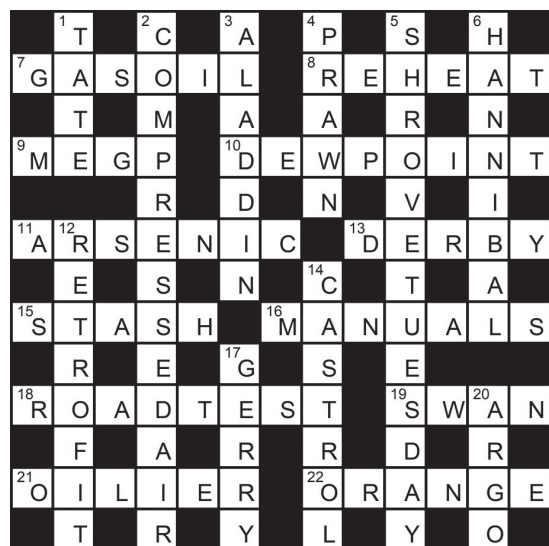


### Across

- 5 Twisty skiing (6)
- 7 One of the Shell guides by John Betjeman (8)
- 9 Calls on customers (8)
- 10 Fictional works (6)
- 11 Ethanol (5,7)
- 13 Not visible (6)
- 15 Sculpture of a person (6)
- 18 Often used lots of lub oils (7,5)
- 21 Sutherland the artist (6)
- 22 Golden Wedding cruiser (8)
- 23 Fuel Supplies (CI) operated there (8)
- 24 You quenched it in the Rose (6)

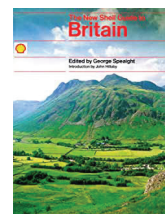
### Down

- 1 The boy who is the boss's favourite (4-4)
- 2 State located in the northern region of Brazil. (6)
- 3 The heart of the 44 Club across the country (8)
- 4 To pivot freely (6)
- 6 Site of Don and Ann Knight's garden (8)
- 7 Canadian (slang) (6)
- 8 To lie on, by or in the pool (4)
- 12 Secondary stories in a novel, film or drama (8)
- 14 What Stan Laurel got Oliver Hardy into (4,4)
- 16 Charlton the football club (8)
- 17 Peter Farr's birthday (6)
- 18 Cambodian and Thai classical music ensemble (6)
- 19 Ken Doran's birthday (6)
- 20 Mrs (German) (4)

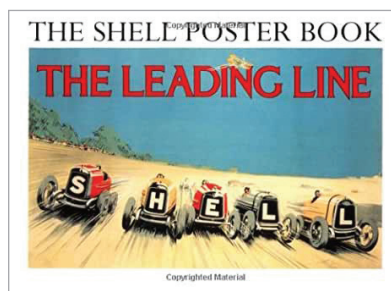


## Last Issue's Crossword

A remarkable nineteen correct entries in the last competition from which Mr L. Graham of Dunstable was randomly chosen as the winner. The Shell Guide to Britain on its way to you!



This edition's crossword is quite tricky with some fairly obscure clues which might require a Google to solve. The 'Shell Poster Book' will be the special prize.



Closing date for next issue  
20th February 2020