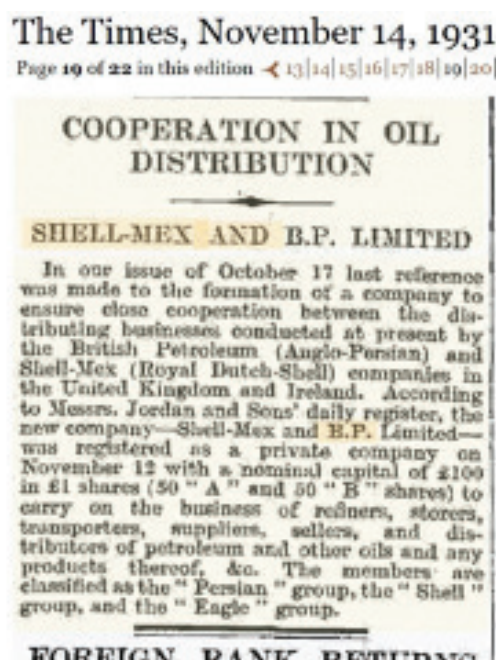




44 + 44!

In 2020 we 'celebrate' the fact that it is 44 Years since the demise of Shell-Mex and B.P. and discussions about the idea of forming an association for alumni of SMBP started. It is 44 years since the 44 years of Shell-Mex and B.P. came to an end - we look back to that time but also back over the nearly 44 years of the 44 Club's existence!



November 1931

The news about the formation of SMBP leaks and 'The Times' runs the story.



May 1971

The BP House Magazine celebrates the announcement of the dissolution of SMBP and the fact that BP will be given a 'positive identity' in the 'home market'.

Useful Contacts

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

The SMBP 44 Association

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Shell Centre
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Email: 44-club@shell.com

44 Club News

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The Shell Pensioners Association (SPA)

– For Shell Pensioners

Amanda Hunt SPA Secretary
Shell Centre
London
SE1 7NA
Tel: 020 7934 5129
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The BP Society

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

Administration Secretary
The BP Society
Chertsey Road
Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex
TW16 7LN
Tel: 01932 762029
Email: BPSociety@uk.bp.com

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



Welcome

The Chinese (allegedly but appropriately!) have a famous curse “May you live in interesting times”. Robert Kennedy said in 1966 “Like it or not we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also more open to the creative energy of men than any other time in history.” Well as we have contemplated the world from our bunkers in early 2020 the first half of the RFK quote is all around us and we must hope that some ‘Creative energy’ can be found from somewhere (if that is what it takes) to make the second half of the year happier than the first half has been. The Chinese word for ‘Crisis’ is composed of two characters, one meaning ‘Danger’, the other ‘Opportunity’ – maybe RFK was thinking of that. Maybe we all should.

I am sorry that this edition of the 44 Club News is late and has a slightly different style than usual. The editor’s ‘interesting times’ this year have included a couple of brief spells in hospital and the diagnosis of a nasty, if not life-threatening, illness. That the ghastly Coronavirus has coincided with this has not helped! As our age group is particularly vulnerable to the virus it is not a subject we feel that we can ignore. The 44 Club performs an important role in normal times, especially with the many Branch events that bring us together. Not to be able to meet as usual will have disappointed many and we hope that we can return to normal as soon as possible.



Family and friends are crucial in these difficult times but inevitably some of our members may be feeling particularly alone. So could we ask that all members think about fellow members who may be especially vulnerable and get in touch with them? A phone call could cheer someone up but also perhaps reveal a need for practical help in some cases. The Club either directly or via its branches will do all it can to help so please do give some thought to this. My editorial in Club News 165 about the attacks on our once Parent companies promoted quite a lot of interest (!) – not least from Club Member and former Chief Executive of BP Oil UK Vivian Thomas. We are pleased to publish Viv’s robust response in ‘Letters’.

Sadly our AGM and Reunion has had to be postponed – the first time that this has happened in our Club’s (nearly) 44 Years. All being well we will go ahead later in the year and if so we will have something extra special to celebrate. In the meantime this is a joint Spring/Summer edition of the Club News - let’s hope to be back to normal by the Autumn. But for now the very best wishes from the Officers of the Club and from me to you all. Stay Safe!

Paddy Briggs

Some items have had to be held over from this issue, including our ‘In Memoriam’ feature. They will reappear next time.

Noticeboard



COVID-19

Firstly, we sincerely hope that you all remain well during these worrying times. In our recent letter to all UK-based members we gave you details of organisations you can contact if you need to seek help.

Most of you will have received the letter through the post. However, we also sent over 700 by email. As you might expect, a lot of those sent by email were rejected/undelivered as the email address we had on record was outdated. If you have an email address and a) didn't receive the letter via email and/or b) you have an email address and received it through the post, can you please send an email to 44-club@shell.com. We can then update our records and, should there be a need to send a communication to all members, we can reduce the number being sent via Royal Mail. A copy of this letter is reproduced on the inside back cover of the magazine.

Members' Reunion and AGM

Included in the letter mentioned above was a notice informing you that the AGM/Reunion due to take place on 7th May has been postponed until we are told it's safe for us to get together. We will inform you when another date has been fixed.

If you have paid for attendance at the May Reunion and wish to have a refund, please get in touch with Colin Hill (44-club@shell.com or call 020 7934 5132) and he will

arrange it. Refunds can only be made by bank transfer though as we have no access to cheque books (they are in our out-of-bounds office at Shell Centre!)



Widows/Surviving Spouses

Until the introduction of the data privacy legislation known as GDPR we were often advised of the existence of a surviving spouse when one of our members had died. With this information we were able to offer continued membership of the 44 Club. Since GDPR, we are no longer given this information. This is to protect the widow or widower. If you know of anyone who has been bereaved and may wish to continue membership (free-of-charge), please pass their details to Colin Hill (with the individual's consent) and we will write to them.

Environmentally Friendly Wrapping

We have used a potato starch-based polywrap for the past few editions of the magazine. We intend to continue using this wrap despite a small increase in cost. It is fully biodegradable and can be placed in your food waste or compost.

Change of Address

Each month we have a number of magazines returned by Royal Mail 'undeliverable'. This is usually because of a move to a new address. Although you may have informed Shell or BP Pensions, due to data privacy regulations, they cannot pass on those changes to us. We have separate databases. Data privacy regulations also prohibit the SPA and BP Society from sharing members' information and vice versa.

If you move (or have recently moved) can we ask that you let Colin Hill know? You can write to the Club Office (The SMBP 44 Association, Shell Centre, London, SE1 7NA), email 44-club@shell.com or call Colin on 020 7934 5132 (leave a message if the office is unmanned).

Please note however, the London office is currently closed due to Covid-19 regulations. This means that post will remain unopened until the office reopens. In the interim, please call Colin Hill (020 7934 5132) and leave a message if necessary.

Welcome New Members

Mr Richard Coffin - Dursley
Mr Chris Harle - Hampton Hill
Mr Anthony Mansfield - Hemel Hempstead
Mr Stephen Stride - Bewdley
Mr Albert Ward - Mumby
Mrs Susan Warner - Bristol

Eighty-eight years of partnership

In 2020 it is forty-four years since the demise of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd a period of time which is, of course, equal to that of SMBP's period of trading. The SMBP 44 Association takes its name from the quantum of the SMBP years (44) and for our Club also to have lasted for the same period of time is certainly something to celebrate. (Technically the 44 Club dates from 1977 when a Committee was formed to launch it for the 9500 ex SMBP employees who were in the SMBP Pension Fund). The ex-Parent companies were supportive of the initiative and funded it.



The longevity of the 44 Club is attributable not just to the robust health of our members but also to a key decision taken early in the Club's life to welcome (as it was described) "any person who was regularly employed at some time between 1st January 1932 and 31st December 1975 by any company in the SMBP Group...provided he or she is receiving a pension from any fund associated with BP or Shell or SMBP." So those of us who went to Shell and BP on Brand Separation and had careers with the Parent companies became eligible to 44 Club membership – the vast majority (all?) of our current 2500 members are in this category.

The Times, July 25, 1931

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SHELL-MEX HOUSE

COMMANDING BUILDING ON HOTEL CECIL SITE

The site of the old Hotel Cecil, the last vestiges of which disappeared at Easter, is now undergoing rapid transformation. The erection on the site of **Shell-Mex House**, the future headquarters of Shell-Mex, Limited, has reached a point at which 400 tons of steelwork are being raised each week, some 1,600 tons being already in position. It is hoped to finish the whole building by December of next year. When that stage is attained the Victoria Embankment will be dominated by one of the largest, and certainly the most commanding, commercial buildings in London, the cost of which is estimated at £1,500,000.

The ground slopes steeply from the Strand

So let's go back to the formation of SMBP in 1932. The press cutting from The Times on the front cover of this edition of the magazine tells the bare facts about the coming together of BP and Shell-Mex (Royal Dutch Shell). Shell-Mex was already a partnership (since 1921) between Shell and Anglo-Mexican (Eagle). The marketing of oil products in the UK had been

controlled since 1928 by what was known as a 'Pool Association' – this also included the American companies – Standard Oil New Jersey, Gulf and Standard Oil Indiana. It was what we today would call a 'restrictive trade practice' and essentially allocated volume by agreement rather than it being a consequence of competition. But the merger of Shell and BP's operations went a step further – though up to WW2 SMBP had to stick to the Pool Association arrangements. SMBP from the start was a cost reduction exercise driven by the very difficult economic circumstances of the times. The Wall Street crash on 1929 had dire consequences around the world of course though the creation of SMBP (we all might argue) was a positive among all the negatives! Although austerity was the mark of the times we can only marvel at the vision of the founders of Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited – not least the commissioning of Shell-Mex House which was formally 'opened' in January 1932 and occupied a year later. Shell-Mex House broke new ground for offices



in London both in respect of its scale and architectural design. It was a statement of intent of a potentially very confident company. It is interesting to note that the first press report about Shell-Mex House predated by six months the announcement of the formation of SMBP and in that report it is described as the 'Future headquarters of Shell-Mex Limited'. The plans for the creation of SMBP were discussed in great secrecy but the scale of Shell-Mex House is such that a decision about the formation of SMBP clearly pre-dated the decision about its construction.

The company initially had 15,000 staff though this fell to 12,400 by 1939. With the staff reductions came also rationalisation of facilities as depots and offices merged and closed. The Petroleum Board which was formed for the War (and beyond) was dominated by SMBP people and, as John Higdon put it in his History of SMBP, "...SMBP had carved a position or pre-eminence in the domestic oil industry which was to last its life time to the chagrin of its major competitors. Also to the surprise of its parents!"



By the time that growth took off in the post-war years and also as competition returned, rather slowly, in the early 1950s when branded marketing recommenced SMBP was very much in pole position to benefit, and we did! SMBP created the modern downstream oil industry in the UK and there was no part of the British economy that we didn't supply and in many cases expand. That we were in the right place at the right time is true but that shouldn't underrate the

innovation. Coal to Oil conversion; sophisticated lubricants; the Domestic Fuel market; Aviation Fuels; Solus petrol stations, Self-serve; packed LPG; Bitumen and virtually every other oil-related initiative of the 1950s and 1960s was pioneered by SMBP.

So why separate?

It seems that the first rumblings of the possibility of Brand Separation took place around the mid-1960s. There was, you might recall, a Labour Government at the time and intuitively this suggests that concerns about a referral to the Monopolies Commission may have been in mind. SMBP was certainly a monopoly in many areas by a strict application of what a monopoly is. However I can find no evidence that SMBP was in Harold Wilson's sights (though there had been an investigation into 'Solus'). Much more likely is that post McKinsey in 1964/65 there was a trend towards greater branded marketing – albeit under the SMBP umbrella. In Shell tentative discussions took place and various studies occurred – mostly in great secrecy. By 1970 meetings between Shell and BP commenced in earnest and by the end of the year a recommendation to separate was put together. The Board of SMBP was 'consulted and consented'. This report of what happened does not, however, explain **why** it happened! SMBP was undoubtedly a profitable enterprise fulfilling the Boston Consulting Group's criterion of a 'Star' – operating in (mostly) High Growth markets and with a high market share in them. Don't rock the boat you'd think.

Tony Page, a member of the Brand Separation team, wrote some twenty years ago that in his very personal view the drivers of Brand Separation were not 'cerebral' but gut reaction – that there was an '...instinctive dislike by each parent company of the other's philosophy'. Readers will have their own views about this – it rings true to this old boy!

After the Ball was over

That Shell-Mex and B.P. was much more than 'just' a business is surely self-evident even from the above very brief sketch of its history. It was quintessentially British in construct and operation and it was very rare for assignments from or to Shell or BP to take place and there was hardly ever a non-British national in any key job. Post Brand Separation this changed and many of us were lucky enough to work abroad once we were in either Shell or BP. In the years since the mid-1970s both Shell and BP have gradually centralised their global decision making. The freedom to operate that we had in SMBP was matched later in the operating companies of Shell and BP but by the time of the new Millennium this had changed and the OpCo became a much less autonomous and independent unit. The construct of Shell-Mex and B.P. would certainly not work in the new world of downstream oil!

After the ball is over
After the break of dawn
After the dancer's leaving
After the stars are gone.
Many a heart is aching
If you could read them all
Many the hopes that have vanished
After the ball.

And so to the 44 Club...

It was a Ball, but it was over. But on 1st January 1976 the SMBP Group disappeared, except for the SMBP Pension Fund which had 9500 members. Continuity was assured for these pensioners despite the fact that the Fund was one of the first 'Heritage' Funds – it would never have any new members. The Board of the Fund was made up of senior executives from Shell UK and BP Oil and John Greenborough was its Chairman. But what about providing a Pensioners Association for these

continued on page 6

SMBP Pensioners? That's where the idea of the 44 Club came in. It's worth recalling its original 'Objectives' (right):

I think that we can say that these objects have been met and continue to be though (c) faded somewhat when the SMBP Fund was absorbed into the Shell Contributory Pension Fund.

...and the Benevolence Association

In 1983 a major step forward was made when the 'Shell-Mex and BP Pensioners Benevolence Association' was formed and although this was a separate entity from the 44 Club and the Pension fund it was closely linked to them. The photo shows the Association's first Chairman Tom King and the then Finance Director of Shell U.K. John Bonds

Let me now, with a bit of a smile, say what was originally said about the 44 Club back in 1977:

"... actuarially it will take twenty-two years to reduce the number of people in the SMBP fund to half what it is now. We therefore concluded that our Association could enjoy a useful existence for ten to fifteen years at least and was therefore well worth proceeding with"



Chairman of the newly formed SMBP Pensioners Benevolence Association, Tom King (left) gratefully receiving the Shell contribution of £66,000 from John Bonds, Finance Director of Shell UK

- A. To keep the family spirit alive amongst the retired staff of the SMBP Group.
- B. To collect and circulate interesting news about members and former staff of the SMBP Group.
- C. To provide, as may at any time be required, a means of representing pensioners of the SMBP Group on pension and associated matters.
- D. To facilitate maintenance of the friendships existing between members
- E. To co-operate, where possible and desirable, with pension liaison officers and other organisers in the promotion of social events for members.
- F. To collaborate, where mutually beneficial, with other similar organisations in the oil industry
- G. To do all such other things as may from time to time be necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of these aims.

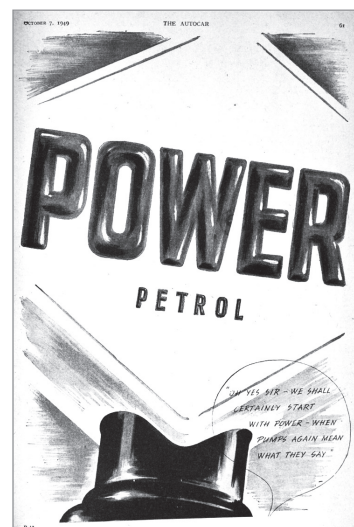
Well forty-four years later here we still are! Obviously the decision taken early in the Club's life to invite those ex SMBP employees who went to Shell or BP on Brand Separation but who then retired with a Shell or BP Pension to join the Club was crucial. The Club now has just under 2500 members – a fall of course from the 3230 of five years ago, but still respectable. In 1983, eight years into the post SMBP life, the Club had 5250 members - this was to fluctuate over the years. The Club is less active than it once was, there are fewer Branches and fewer events. The potential is there to do more but that requires volunteers and none of us is any younger. But there is no reason for pessimism. The magazine is well-received and there is enormous goodwill for it as well as for the Branches.

We have been fortunate over the years in those who have given us leadership – especially the administrators from Geoffrey Baines via Charles Madge to Colin Hill and the Chairmen from Geoffrey Sentence to Rick Westley. And I am proud to be in the line of 44 Club News editors from John Higdon, via Barrie Dugdale and Mike McMonagle – eccentrics all of us as it should be! From the start the Club News had contributions from members and I am pleased that this tradition is very much maintained today. Also from the start the newsletter/magazine did not take itself too seriously and there has been a

consistent lightness of tone. Even the Obituaries remember the happy times rather than indulging too much in mourning.

When the SMBP 44 Association was formed in 1977/8 there were still one or two ex-employees around who had joined SMBP on its foundation in 1932. Today we are all veterans of the post war era of the Company – a golden age during which the Shell, BP, Power, National Benzole and other Group brands genuinely led the Oil industry in the UK. The Club and this magazine nostalgically remember those days and the achievements. But above all we remember the friends we made and the good times we had.

PSB



Power preparing for the return of brand competition in 1949



Wedding Anniversaries

Blue Sapphire (65)

Norman and Enid Waterfall

26th March 2020

Colin and Barbara Nash

1st January 2019



Norman and Enid Waterfall



Colin and Barbara Nash

Diamond

Pat and Brian Burggy

27th February 2019

David and Gill Best

24th October 2019



David and Gill Best



Brian and Pat Burggy



Bill and Pat Topham

Golden

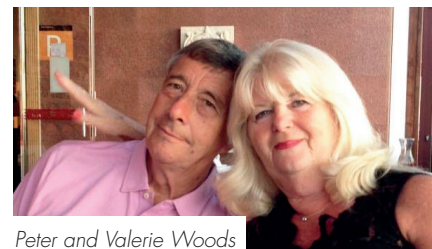
Bill and Pat Topham

28th February 2019

Peter and Valerie Woods

21st June 2019

Vince and Kay Timmins



Peter and Valerie Woods

19th July 2019



Vince and Kay Timmins

Birthday Thanks

75th Thank you for my birthday card. After leaving Shell, my husband Norman and I became licensees of a BP Petrol Station. It was hard work but we both enjoyed the challenge, however, we love retirement. We spend a few months a year at our place in Spain or enjoying some wonderful cruises.

Grace M Austin



(Ed: Glad to hear that you are still a petrolhead Vince. You didn't send a photo of your V8 beast but a quick Google gave me this which I guess is the same? I've put an A40 alongside it for old time's sake! We were early adopters of the Hatchback weren't we (not that we had much choice). My A40 had a starting handle which was used rather frequently.)

Vince Timmins

75th It was a delight to receive the reminder of my advancing years, and the photo on the card of Teddington Lock. It brought back happy memories of staying at Lensbury both for leisure and on training courses and the relaxing walks along the river bank.

With the COVID-19 virus rampant, Kay and I spent the day on our own driving my Ford Mustang Convertible 5.0 (the one that roars and keeps Shell in profit with its petrol consumption and pays our pension) to Scarborough. We strolled along the seafront in the bracing Yorkshire



weather followed by a lunch of local cod and chips (scrumptious). It was a pleasure to drive on near empty roads just like yesteryear – and rather better than the clapped out company A40s we both had.

80th What a nice surprise! I suppose I am not alone in being surprised at having got there! Many thanks to all who keep the records and send the cards. Much appreciated. I arrived in Shell-Mex House on the morning of 1st January 1971 to meet my new boss Alan Davis, Retail Training Manager. In those days the first of January was not a public holiday. I had travelled up from Hampshire having seen the New Year in. Decimalisation was looming, and much work went into preparing for this event the following February. Can anyone remember the Programmed Learning booklet with those magnificent cartoons by Len Crawford? I wish I had kept a copy. Retail Training was part of Retail Services Division, managed by Derek Robinson. RSD continued to provide support to the Brands until full Separation. I have attached a photo taken in 1975 of the main protagonists of Retail Training. I don't know how many, if any, have



survived:

Back row: Alan Davis, Rodney Dale, Bill Kirkland, Barrie Herbert (BP Retail), Bob Cottam, Pat Lucas

Front row: David Leatherbarrow, David Henderson, Mike Fuller, Derek Robinson, France Goode, Harry Bownass.

Rodney Dale

80th My family and friends held a birthday party for my 80th at the local Golf Club in Kirriemuir where I play twice a week with friends. We had a fantastic evening. I sing in my WI choir and I am still a member of the Kirriemuir Amateur Operatic Society. Kirriemuir is the birthplace of JM Barrie of Peter Pan fame (see photo below).



My late husband Bill Cable retired in March 1987 after 39 years' service. He had joined the Petroleum Board in Forfar when he was 15. After National Service he had a long career with Scottish Oils and Shell-Mex and later BP Scotland and National Benzole. We had 20 years together after Bill's retirement and were married for 45 years. We spent

many years touring Europe in our camper van and we also visited our son and my sister in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii.

Unfortunately our 44 Club Branch in Dundee had to close a few years ago and I have lost touch with SMBP friends. In the "good old days" we attended the annual dances held in the Central Hotel Glasgow – we both loved to dance. The ladies were presented with lovely gifts which I still treasure today.

Gail Cable



85th The picture of the Footbridge at Teddington on my card brought back pleasant memories of weekend breaks at Lensbury with friends from Shell Transport at Stanlow.

(Ed: It's still there Bob!)

Bob Lloyd

81st Many thanks to all in the 44 Club who spend their time and effort in reminding us of our birthdays. It is always a great pleasure to receive a card. The photo of Lensbury waterfront brought back a lot of happy memories working and playing in that beautiful facility, unfortunately no longer part of the Shell family. And the photo of Shell Mex House brought back further good memories.

Geoff Wragg

85th Thank you to the Members of the 44 club for remembering me. The picture on the card was of the Teddington Lock from the Lensbury Club. What happy memories Don and I had of Lensbury. Those New Year's Balls with the great food, the bands and the fireworks. What wonderful times. Thank you for reminding me of those youthful years.

Anne Curry

87th I am pleased to say that I am still an active member of the 44 Club. I worked for National Benzole at Lincoln and later at Torksey where I completed 32 years as a driver.

Jim Broughton



(Ed: Jim & his wife Audrey are organisers of branch activities in South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire)

87th The photos of Shell-Mex House (my home on three tours of duty) and of the Lensbury scene brought back

so many happy memories. It is good to be remembered.

Nigel Keen

87th What a lovely surprise to receive a birthday card from the SMBP 44 Association. I thought it was only for former SMBP employees. Thank you so much. It made my day.

Susan Warner

(Ed: Your personal membership of the 44 Club as George's widow has been processed and we will be sending you a Birthday Card every year!)

88th I am still actively celebrating the passing years but with somewhat less vigour than before. Only another four pension years to go to match my time in the 'firm' – who'd have thought it possible when many earlier family members rarely achieved 60?

Ernie Choules

(Ed: You make a good and humbling point Ernie. We are living much longer, on average, than our parents and grandparents generations. Lucky us!)

89th I have many happy memories of working for a great company and with great colleagues in Aviation Department on both sides of the river – they were the best days of my working life. The 1960s, 1970s and 1980s were very interesting times to be in the Aviation industry!

Jim Norris

continued on page 10

BIRTHDAY THANKS

90th Best wishes to any members who remember me from way back - all those years ago. Memories still abound of the 21 years I spent in Shell-Mex and B.P. from Hope's Box (where the training could be compared to a London cabbie learning 'the knowledge') through various positions in Aviation and Real Estate and elsewhere. The photo of Teddington Bridge recalled the excellent social life at Lensbury Club – musical evenings, Fancy Dress balls and the rest. There were always fantastic buffet suppers at attractive prices. We were all privileged to have worked for an organisation whose care and contact with us has continued over so many years. Thank you to all those members who volunteer to assist the 44 club in so many ways.

Colin Kirk

90th I am wondering whether Cliff Quarrell and I are the only surviving ex-employees of the Fulham Domestic Heating Centre.

(**Ed:** Any more out there?)

Des Brown

92nd I'm still independent with the help of carers who check on me three times a day ! Wishing you all the best of health despite the Chinese disaster.

Robert Munro

(**Ed:** Thank you for the generous donation Robert)

94th Thank you so much for a card for my 94th birthday. It is very nice to be remembered so long after Tony* retired in 1980. Best wishes to all of your team.

Paddy Driver
(Lady Patricia Driver)

100th On the 10th November 2019 Douglas Brewer celebrated reaching 100 years old and a number of events were held with close friends and family at the Care Home where he has resided for some 2 years. Douglas started his working life in 1936 working for Shell-Mex & BP before finally retiring in 1979 from Shell. During his career he worked in various locations including The Strand and held senior positions in both the Aviation and Finance sectors of the business. Although the years have taken their toll on his memory, he still retains a good sense of humour and a cheeky smile. Long may he continue smiling!!

Alison Bremeyer
(Douglas's daughter)



Thanks also received from:
Norman Murrell (86), Francis McIntyre (91), Nat Heyes (80), Bob Newey, Mavis Humphries (89), Nancy MacDonald (82), Terence Harvey (83), Brian Rowsell (85), Doreen Smith (78), Miriam Donovan (nee Weeks) (87), Mary Rawlings (81), Tony Sewell (79), John Swan (83), John Nowill (95), Roger Cook (83), Ian Purches (83), Lawrence Townsend (91), Robert William Wright (84), Colin Peachey (80).

**Sir Antony Driver died 7th January 2002. He was General Manager – Industrial BP.*

Your Letters

Tired of dodging the brickbats

I wish to congratulate Paddy Briggs for his excellent Editorial contribution in the last editorial of the Club News. He has expressed with eloquence, but with some force, the opinions of many of us and specifically the biased and hostile treatment of the oil industry as a whole by the media, various pressure groups and naive Swedish girls! I have no intention of repeating the points Paddy has already adequately made other than



to say I believe society as a whole has benefitted over many years from the contributions made in the areas both financial (for example their dividends support many pension funds) and of research, thereby directly contributing to the quality of life in no small way.

I also believe, as an extension to this debate, that society in general and politicians in particular must learn to manage their expectations. Aiming for a 'carbon free society' by 2030 an impossibility unless, for example, motoring, flying, shipping are either banned or seriously reduced in the immediate term and 2050 is still aiming high! But this is a complicated, wide ranging and very important subject and I agree not suited to this publication's hallowed pages. However we can (should) send a message to the Boards of our old employers such as "We are tired of dodging the brickbats. Please openly and positively defend our position and put some reality, practicality and balance into the overall debate".

To avoid challenge I am not a climate denier either - but maybe an agnostic.

Vivian Thomas

(**Ed:** Viv (see profile in the Autumn 2016 Club News) joined SMBP in 1958 and retired from the oil industry in 1992 having been Chief Executive of BP Oil UK. He is pictured above defending the Oil industry and BP when in that job.

The Shell Heritage Art Collection

An interesting side story to the Art collection is that, when I moved over to Shell from Power at the end of 1963, by a series of occurrences it is not necessary to go into, within a very short time I was put in charge of the section. One of the first things to happen was that I was contacted by Estates to say that there was a load of rubbish in the cellars which they thought was ours and would I make some effort to get rid of it since they needed the space. I went down and found bays full of Shell posters, rolled in bundles.

I applied for space to store them but without much luck – nobody was interested. I continued to fight for space with much the same result when, by a happy coincidence, a poster, - Journalists prefer Shell – came up for sale in a West London Gallery. It fetched £1,500 (this is 1964, remember) and rated a story in a daily paper. Armed with this I pointed out that we had over 20 of that poster and about 6,000-7,000 others. I, immediately, was allocated a room Dexion racking, plastic sheaves etc. and we were able to preserve them.

When, in the late sixties, I was transferred to Industrial Advertising, we used to buy in the Retail calendar.



Then, for some reason, they changed direction in their design e.g. nudes with furry animals, and Reg Leach and I decided that was not for us. We returned to the Shell tradition of nature and the use of artists, selecting a well-known artist one year and then a new artist the following year, using a name to write the accompanying copy e.g. when I found Audrey North, then unknown, I got Phil Drabble to write the copy. We used some good artists, Peter Newcombe, Keith Shackleton etc. and, when I retired, we were printing over 80,000 copies a year and they were being sold in Shell garages!

Norman Monaghan

The Studio

The Studio was part of the 'S.P. & A Department' which occupied the whole of the 8th floor Clock Tower corridor, with the Studio at the Savoy end, until after McKinsey. I arrived to work for Bill Sands in the new section set up for Domestic Heating Advertising in April 1959. Within my first hour I was taken along to the Studio, which had a separate area for displays. There I was introduced to an Account Executive and an Art Director from S.H. Bensons Advertising Agency. Heady stuff for a young man fresh from Aylesford Terminal!

continued on page 12

YOUR LETTERS

I helped them to pin up the designs for the Mrs 1970 campaign - mock-ups of consumer leaflets, designs for Appointed Merchant and Installer signs, van painting guides etc. etc. This was all for a presentation to Management, I'm not sure if it was to Departmental or to the Board.

At that time the Studio carried out varied design work. Exhibitions were a prime advertising tool at that time - Agricultural Shows, Smithfield and later the Ideal Home Exhibition. The plans for these were all done by the Advertising Studio. They also worked on smaller, sometimes personal, items. When I got married in 1960, a colleague kindly collected good luck signatures and these were bound into a folder designed by Al Hotham, who was one of the artists. I still have it somewhere but don't climb into the loft as often these days!

They also had the best Christmas parties and obviously the best decorations.

Brian Burggy

I was the office junior from 1949 – 1954. The Studio staff included Tom Gentleman, Tom Gorringer, Tom Palmer, Len Crawford, Blythe Ellis and Chalky White. Palmer and Crawford used to sub their salaries by sending cartoons to Punch, Reveille etc., having tested them on me first. We saw the reintroduction of branded petrols and the launch of Shell X 100 motor oil. In house work by Studio staff peaked when the Mithras Temple was discovered under Cannon St - we had adverts in the lunchtime papers! Aviation Ads began with series like 'From Vimy to Viscount'. Introduction of ADs occurred with a need to promote Agricultural products (Tractor Oil Universal etc). SMBP had to give up our trademarks for DERV and TVO because of common usage! Production of Lorry Bills continued and a Schools edition of posters were issued - 'Flowers of the Countryside'. There were Shell Valentine cards and the return of

Motor racing sponsorship established a specialist section. There was also the 'Film Service' under the direction of Geoffrey de Gruchy Barkas who had been a leader of the art of camouflage during the war. The maintenance of historic artwork and records was one of my prime jobs.

Paul Donovan

Norman Monaghan adds:

When I joined the SPA division of SMBP in December, 1963, Tom Gorringer was, perhaps, past his glorious best but I have fond memories of him scuttling - Tom never walked - along the corridor. He would come in each morning from his cottage in Essex, always enthusiastic about something, whether it was the project in hand or his beloved amateur dramatics.

When I, a little later, took over the Studio the old guard had gone but it remained an area of controlled anarchy. Now it was the domain of younger people, mostly from The Hackney School of Art. I am afraid that names now elude me but one or two stand out. Bob Billington, who spent his spare time developing a new type-face which, eventually, was included in the official list, and Kate. Kate came in for interview with Stanley Simmons (of blessed memory) and myself and, after ten minutes of excruciatingly hard work to get a coherent word from her, we bit the bullet and asked to see her portfolio. We almost recoiled from the enthusiastic, ebullient girl who emerged - and her portfolio was superb. No brainer, and she was a great asset whilst she was with us.

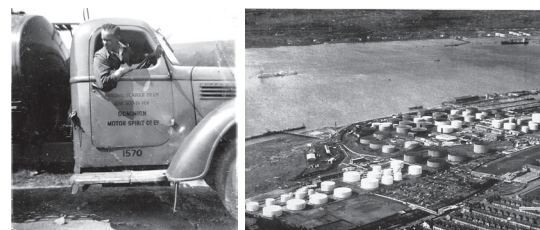
Retail had a habit then of going out to designers for ideas for, say, can design, ignoring the studio. I insisted that their designs were put into the test mix and, to our pleasure and their chagrin, more than once the studio design came out top. And all of this was in the old 'cut and paste,'

literally, days. I wonder how many people remember 'lorem ipsum dolor...'

I used to take the four of them out to lunch at Christmas and I think they wanted to test the 'old man'. We ran the gamut of Indonesian, Thai, Japanese etc. until I wondered what had happened to my taste buds! But they were great days, a talented, hard-working team of which I was proud to be a part.

Dingle Bank

Reference the article about Dingle Bank in Club News Autumn 2019 my friend Norman Kelbrick worked for Shell as a Tanker Driver at Dingle Bank, Haydock and Stanlow. My late



father in law Ceril (Otch) Bowles also worked for Shell at Dingle Bank. We both grew up in Dingle and Dingle Bank was a big part of our lives. I have some photos which some of your readers may find of interest. The first is a Road tanker with my late father-in-law in the cab, then a view of Dingle Bank looking across the River Mersey to the Tranmere Terminal and finally Dingle Bank after it was demolished and before the Liverpool International Garden Festival.

Thanks for your excellent magazine.

Eddie Keavey



Dress Codes

The editor's story about being sent home to change into a suit reminded me of when, years ago, Mike Shaw, who was then my Staff Manager, asked me into his office to discuss the possibility of allowing women to come to the office wearing trousers. We felt that it was definitely a fashion



which was coming and should be allowed. He decided to issue a circular stating that women could come to the office wearing trouser suits but NOT beach wear. This was obviously the thin edge of the wedge as both men and women now turn up in just about anything! The days of smart wear, ties, etc. are unfortunately things of the past!

(Ed: Here's the Dress Code for one major American employer in the City of London today Greta. Looks like you're right!)

Greta Chandler

Domestic Heating Centre

I did enjoy Cliff Quarrell's letter about the DHC at Fulham and the late Ken Tuvey. I did nearly ten years in the Domestic Heating market in

several roles and recall the many courses I attended there to learn about central heating systems and oil fired boilers. We were usually accommodated in second rate hotels in the Cromwell Rd area of London though later on, after some complaints the standard of hotels improved somewhat! We used to have some good evenings out, eating at restaurants, such as the Contented Sole in Kensington where the fish was outstanding, and a pianist playing all the old London songs. Some chaps went to Soho to see the sights!

I worked in the Norwich Domestic Area under a lovely manager, Jack Farnell, an absolute gentleman and became a Domestic Markets Representative (Developer) in Suffolk. My job was to call on builders etc. with a view to installing oil fired heating in new houses. Oil was a cheaper fuel than gas at the time but the oil fired boilers were usually more expensive which did not appeal to developers. There was also two DMR (Householder) Reps who signed up the owner when they had their own tank. The idea of a central tank supplying an estate of houses was already under way (Central Storage). This new set up started on 1 November 1965, under Regional manager Bob Breese.

Ken Tuvey was not on the staff then but joined us in 1966 as a Technical Service Representative - he was a very forthright chap, who definitely called a spade a spade, and was such an expert on heating systems and their foibles. In 1967 he installed a Husqvarna boiler for me in my old cottage. He would do anything for most people.

I had thirteen years with SMBP, 10.5 with Shell UK, and 13.5 with Shell International as a Pensioner Liaison Representative. And 26 years ongoing as Secretary of King's Lynn 44 Club Branch.

Tom Cannon

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,
57 Southwood Drive,
Surbiton,
KT5 9PJ

News from the Branches

We are pleased to record the final Branch events before the coronavirus caused us to have what we hope will be a temporary shutdown of all our activities. So no 'Coming Up' in this edition. Best wishes to all.

Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

It seems a long time ago now but on 12 December 2019 we had a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch. There was a lot of chat and sharing of memories and a great time was had by all. In January we travelled, from the comfort of our chairs to Kamchatka - Land of Fire and Ice. Kathleen Cartwright's excellent photographs and commentary held us spellbound and fascinated by this remote place. In February Christine Miller continued her stories about her family research. It is quite amazing how much you can discover when you know what you are doing and as always Christine had plenty to tell us.



Glasgow Branch

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

Our annual Christmas lunch was held on 13th December - we had a good turnout of 17 members at the Donaghadee Golf Club overlooking the Irish Sea with Scotland in sight as it was such a good day. This year we had a secret special prize event for everyone there and that turned out to be good fun. It was unanimous that we do the same next year.



Belfast Branch

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

On December 11th nineteen members and guests gathered at The Sea Hotel, South Shields for our Christmas lunch. The food and service was of the usual high standard and enjoyed by everyone. Each lady received a box of chocolates and the men a bottle of wine. Thanks to Keith and John

for organising a very enjoyable afternoon. The hotel was certainly looking its best after a total refurbishment taking twelve months to complete.

West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

The festive season starts early for the West Riding Branch to avoid the Christmas rush (!) and a small but happy band met up at The Queens Arms in Leeds in November. After lunch memories of past festive outings passed up and down the table we all parted planning to meet again next year.



Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport

Our Christmas lunch this year was held today 5th of December at the Bay Horse Great Broughton. Seventeen members attended and enjoyed the excellent food served by very friendly staff. Many thanks to Bram and Moira Allport for organising it. Could we take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Ces and Doreen Tate for organising our meetings over many years.



Teesside Branch

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall

Forest Hills at Frodsham is our regular location for our Christmas Lunch. Twenty six members, wives and guests enjoyed an early start to the festive season. As usual my wife persuaded all present to part with money for a raffle. She sends her very grateful thanks on behalf of Teenage Cancer Trust for the very generous amount of £68.71.

We all missed our friend Dave Decker who sadly died on December 12th after a short illness.

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

For our Christmas Lunch this year we decided to try Wharton Park Golf & Country Club Bewdley again - we had given them a miss last year as we felt their standards had dropped. What a surprise when on Wednesday 18th December 2019, the 37 members and guests attending had what can only be described as one

of the best Christmas Lunches we have ever had! Everything was hot including the plates and the food was cooked to perfection. Many in our party complimented on what can only be described as a wonderful feast and their compliments were passed onto the staff including the chef. After lunch we had our usual Christmas Raffle with some prizes supplied by members and guests and others being purchased out of Club funds raised by members and guests at raffles held during the year. Many thanks to them all for their support. What made this year's Christmas Raffle especially great was the fact that everyone won a raffle prize as there turned out to be exactly 37 prizes!

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

Another successful year of Branch activities was completed in fine style with our traditional Christmas lunch held at Berkhamsted Golf Club in December. This major social event and reunion in our year attracted a remarkable record attendance of 107 members and guests who enjoyed an excellent meal in the relaxed and convivial company of old friends and colleagues. Once more, we were very pleased to be joined by Colin Hill, our Club Secretary, as our invited guest. Menu choices, table plans and overall organisation of the day was co-ordinated in his usual superb fashion by Malcolm Bury. Our raffle, organised by Brian Lovell, was very generously supported. From the proceeds we have made another donation of £300 to the Chilterns MS Centre which is a local charity



South Midlands Branch

offering treatment and support to people with multiple sclerosis. We plan to return to the Golf Club again on Friday 11th December for our 2020 Christmas lunch.

After lunch we held our usual brief AGM. After many years of loyal service to our Branch two of our Committee members have decided to retire. Mike Howard was first elected in 2001, serving as Chairman for twelve years and his commitment to our Branch during that time has been immense. Brian Lovell has also made a very significant contribution to the Committee's work over the last eight years. On behalf of all members, our Chairman Ken Longhurst thanked them both for their work. Ken, Christine Cowie and Malcolm Bury were unanimously re-elected and Stephen Tipton and Bernadette McConville are joining as new Committee members. In his closing remarks Ken said that he looked forward to another busy year of events and hoped that these would continue to enjoy strong support from Branch members.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

The branch returned to Langdon Hills Golf Club for the Christmas lunch on 18th December. 61 members and guests were at the event, the highest



Glasgow Branch



Chelmsford Branch

continued on page 16

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

attendance of the year. As usual, we were made very welcome and the food and service were again good. A successful raffle was held with no fewer than 35 prizes due to generous donations by members.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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

Due to the loss of our regular venue at Sketty Hall Swansea (being redeveloped as a Medical Management Training Centre), we reverted to a place we met many years ago with the late Viv Howells - The Norton House Hotel, Mumbles for our Christmas celebratory drinks and festive joy. It has an aspect of charm, character and sophistication and our visit was one we shall remember. Our number was just 12 and the ladies favoured the top table away from the men. The men enjoyed a great deal of reminiscing of time gone by whereas the girls well their subjects were far ranging as you would expect. Our meal was a traditional Christmas fayre lunch



Left to right is Glyn and Barbara Steadman, Yvonne and Alan Davies, Rowena and Dave Sanders, Sylvia and Graham Cork, Flo and Clive Hillman, Christine and Viv Perry.



South Wales Branch

with turkey and the trimmings with Christmas pudding.

The venue for our next meeting was the Mountain Gate, Ammanford on Wednesday 8th January. Meeting came together at 11:30 for coffee and a chat with light lunch at 12:30. We did enjoy a very convivial atmosphere with our numbers expanding to 17, many of whom travelled quite a distance. A very many thanks for the special effort in so doing. We were assigned a private room so the atmosphere had a more 'free and easy' ambience.

The Branch is doing pretty well since its regeneration and from a membership of 80 we welcome more to come and join in on the fun. When we can ! We have enjoyed great support from SPA South Wales branch chair Geoff Gaen and BP co-ordinator Elaine Bush whom we give our sincere thanks.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

The Greater Bristol Branch held its AGM and Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, 3rd December 2019 at the Henbury Golf Club in Bristol. Our Chairman and Event Organiser, Roger Gamlin, had once again arranged a beautiful sunny day for us. We were pleased to welcome Richard Coffin and we have been able to persuade him to finally join the 44 Association. Bernard Amos, our bobsleigh man, also attended, between running training courses for Shell and others.

We were 27 in total, a bit down on last year. There was plenty of time to chat with ex-colleagues and to peruse various items on display. The food

was excellent, as was the service and the dining room. The raffle was, as usual, run by Bert and Maureen Baseley, and contributed £130 to our branch funds.



Greater Bristol Branch

There being no new nominations for the committee the current four members were voted en bloc to continue for yet another year. It is the intention to again arrange four events during 2020. Roger proposed a toast to absent/ lost friends. He was warmly thanked for arranging another excellent event.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker

This year we went to the Carpenters Arms at Bransgore for our Christmas Party Lunch. The attendance at our Christmas functions is always among the highest of the year and this is in spite of losing 2 active couples due to serious illness - we all wish them as well as can be expected. However, we welcomed a new couple into our branch, Paul and Alison Knight to whom we extended a very warm welcome. We had a private room this year which was ideal for our celebration.

The menu we were given for this year was both Christmas fare including

a Christmas pie on the mains list and traditional dishes for those who wished to have something different. The food and service was faultless with more than adequate portions. A good proportion of members wore Christmas sweaters and hats which all added to the fun. We rounded the event off with the grand draw, following the success we had last year. Our thanks and gratitude to members who kindly donated prizes for this draw, which enabled everyone to go home with a prize. We all agreed that



this final event of the year was a fun-packed very enjoyable party.

South East

Branch in abeyance

London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,
27 Elm Ave, Ruislip, HA4 8PE
☎ 020 8866 8452
✉ gretalon@gmail.com

Obituaries

ADAMS (91). Mr Michael Adams of Claygate died on 19th October 2019. In his last job he was with SUKO, Retail Division (Managing Motorways) in Shell-Mex House. He left group service in 1985 after 32 years.

AUSTIN. Mrs J Austin of Winscombe died on 31st January 2020.

ALTOFT (92). Mr George Altoft of Deeside died on 17th January 2020. He was a Driver at Stanlow when he left group service in 1987 after 22 years.

ARCHIBALD (92). Mrs Elizabeth Archibald of Dumfries died on 1st November 2019. She was the wife of Mr Andrew Archibald who once worked as a Commercial Representative, Industrial Markets Division in South West Scotland.

ASHEN (78). Mr Ernie Ashen of Lewes died on 29th January 2020. He was a Driver at Wandsworth when he left group service in 1989 after 25 years.

BAKER (90). Miss Jessica Baker of Eastbourne died on 16th January 2020. She was a Pensions Adviser in Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1985 after 37 years.

BAVERSTOCK (86). Mr Roy Baverstock of Bury St Edmunds died on 8th December 2019. He was a Driver at Northfleet when he left group service in 1982 after 16 years.

BINGHAM (98). Mrs Mary Bingham of Urmston died on 26th October 2019. She worked in Secretarial/Reception at Manchester Regional Office when she left group service in 1981 after 11 years.

BIRD (93). Mr George Bird of Ipswich died on 4th December 2019. He was a Senior Marketing Assistant at Ipswich when he left group service in 1979 after 37 years.

BROOKS (91). Miss Odilie Brooks of Upminster died on 9th November 2019. She was a Restaurant Assistant in Shell-Mex House when she left group service after 17 years.

BROWNING (85). Mr Nigel Browning of Weston-Super-Mare died on 22nd October 2019. He was Manager, Dealer Group Unit, Shell Mex House when he left group service in 1978 after 20 years.

BUNN (99). Mr Raymond Bunn of Colchester died on 8th January 2020. He worked in Marketing Services, Eastern Counties Branch when he left group service in 1953 after 17 years.

CLENCH (75). Mr Bruce Clench of Axbridge died on 3rd December 2019. He worked in HR, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1995 after 28 years.

CROSS (90). Mr Leslie Cross of Southampton died on 5th March 2020. He was a Driver at Hamble when he left group service in 1987 after 12 years.

DECKER (78). Mr David Decker of Frodsham died on 6th December 2019. He was Business Development Manager, Manchester when he left group service in 1993 after 22 years.

FARMERY (82). Mr John Farmery of Llangefni (Anglesey) died on 16th February 2019. He was Head of Office Services, Land Division, BP Exploration when he left group service in 1990 after 24 years.

FERGUSON (92). Mrs Elizabeth Ferguson of Warrington died on 31st December 2019. She was the wife of Mr Joseph Ferguson once a Driver at Haydock.

FOSTER (92). Mr William Foster of Edinburgh died on 23rd January 2020. He was a National Trade Supervisor, SUKO, Scotland when he left group service in 1987 after 29 years.

FRYER (98). Miss G D Fryer of London died on 7th January 2020. She worked in Retail Services, Knightsbridge when she left group service in 1970 after 20 years.

GRAINGER (68). Mr Leonard Grainger of London died on 2nd December 2019.

HERRING (95). Miss Lilian Herring of Maidstone has died. She was a Financial Assistant at BP Victoria when she left group service in 1985 after 11 years.

HOLLIDAY (90). Mrs Winifred Holliday of Faversham died on 31st December 2019. She was the wife of the late Mr P W Holliday once a Tanker at Faversham.

HOSIER (87). Mrs Kathleen Hosier of Thundersley died on 23rd January 2020. She was the wife of the late Mr Albert Hosier once a Driver at Shell Haven.

HUGHES (74). Mr Edmund Hughes of Huntingdon died on 6th February 2020. He was M&R Supervisor at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1993.

HUNTLEY (76). Mr Robert Huntley of Burton-on-Trent died on 13th January 2020. He was a Quality Analyst, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1993 after 18 years.

JOHNSON (100). Mrs D Johnson of Saffron Walden died on 1st December 2019. She was the wife of Mr Arthur Johnson, who once worked in the Vehicle & Design Unit, Shell-Mex House.

LAWRENCE (94). Mrs Doris Lawrence died on 12th January 2020. She was the wife of the late Mr Edward Arthur Lawrence, once an Operations Controllers Assistant, Heathrow.

LEWIS (84). Mrs Marion Lewis of Chandlers Ford died on 5th December 2019. She was the wife of Mr B H Lewis.

LIVERMORE (89). Mr Keith Livermore of North Ferriby died on 23rd March 2020. He was a Driver at Saltend when he left group service in 1981 after 29 years.

LOADER (81). Mrs Patricia Loader of London died on 2nd January 2020. She worked in ODLC/211, Shell International, Shell Centre when she left group service in 1994 after 26 years.

MERCER (90). Mr Keith Mercer of Lindfield has died. He was an Administration Supervisor, Retail, Croydon Area Office when he left group service in 1984 after 17 years.

MORLEY (88). Mr Terence Morley of Leeds died on 7th April 2020. He was a Driver at Leeds when he left group service in 1987 after 26 years. Terry was also the organiser of 44 Club branch activities in the Leeds area for many years.

MOSELEY (98). Mrs L Moseley of Roehampton died on 11th January 2020. She was a Messenger at Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1981 after 10 years.

MUNDY (92). Mr William Mundy of Steeple Claydon died on 17th December 2019. He was a Driver at St Leonard's Wharf when he left group service in 1976 after 13 years.

OSBORNE (88). Mr Anthony Osborne of Tewkesbury died on 28th November 2019. He was a Fire Adviser, Distribution Division, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1981 after 33 years.

PRATT (97). Mrs E L Pratt of London died on 7th November 2019. She was a Waitress at Shell-Mex House when she left group service on 1982 after 16 years.

RICHENS (89). Mr David Richens of Bristol died on 11th December 2019. Mr Richens worked in UOMK/19 in Shell-Mex House when he left group service after completing 30 years.

ROBINS (95). Mr Gordon Robins of Cardiff died on 4th December 2019. He was Area Manager, Retail, Shell Midland & Western Region when he left group service in 1993 after 28 years.

SHERWOOD (86). Mr Terence Sherwood of Middlewich died on 4th March 2020. He was a Team Leader in Accounts Receivable at Wythenshawe when he left group service in 1989 after 22 years.

SIMMONS (88). Mr Brian Simmons of Penrith died on 13th December 2019. He worked for Shell UK Oil, Manufacturing, Supply & Trading, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1984 after 36 years.

STEED (91). Mr Ronald Steed of Swaffham died on 15th February 2020. He was a Construction Supervisor at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1988 after 34 years.

STEWART (94). Mr Jack Stewart of Renfrew died on 27th December 2019. He was BP Retail Sales Representative, Glasgow when he left group service in 1975 after 28 years.

WATSON (85). Mr Robert Watson of Lisburn died on 28th February 2020. He worked in the Vehicle Service Department at Belfast when he left group service in 1991 after 26 years.

WEBBER (94). Mr Lew Webber of Bristol died on 10th February 2020. He was a Training Officer in Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1985 after 30 years.

WHERLOCK (101). Mr Ernest Wherlock of Chepstow died on 6th January 2019. He was a Driver at Avonmouth when he left group service in 1975 after 42 years.

WHITEHOUSE (87). Mr Richard Whitehouse of London died on 10th February 2020. He worked in Marketing for BP at Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1981 after 27 years.

WILKINS (89). Mrs Vivien Wilkins of Stoke D'Abernon died on 12th February 2020. She was the wife of the late John Wilkins Regional Manager, SUKO Retail, Norbiton.

WOTTON (69). Mr Roger Wotton of Tring died on 22nd November 2019. He was Value Assurance Manager, London when he left group service.

WRIGHT (99). Dr Edgar Wright of Calgary died on 24th January 2020. He worked in Fuel Oil Department, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1950 after 13 years.

WRIGHT (75). Mr Leslie Wright of Leeds died on 17th March 2020. He was a Technician at Leeds Terminal when he left group service in 1995 after 32 years.

Staying in touch

On 23rd March the Club sent a letter to all members which is reproduced here. We would like to repeat and reinforce some of the points made and add some further contact details about support organisations:

During this difficult time when we are expected to self-isolate and keep our distance, we may find ourselves feeling lonely, especially if we cannot see friends and family. Many people are using technology to bridge the gap. It cannot replace the physical contact, but it can provide something more than the odd phone call. Some groups (families, friends) are having virtual meetings such as a cuppa (or stronger), a quiz evening and other activities but without having to leave home.

There is a range of options, some requiring a computer and others just access to a smart phone. The most popular seems to be Zoom which has no restrictions on how many people can join. Other options include WhatsApp which can be used for video meetings; Facebook Live and Hangout are other choices.

Where to get support – Shell Pensioners

The Shell Pensioner Programme is a Shell sponsored and funded service that is free of charge to SPA members in receipt of a SCPF or SOCPF Pension. The service provides friendly reassurance, support and guidance to help find solutions to problems you are facing:

- Help to access benevolence from the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association.
- Signposting or referring to local community support and professional support eg Citizens Advice, Age UK and others.

Pensioners in need of support can call the **Shell Pensioner Programme Helpline** on **0345 850 8944** (10am – 4pm, Monday to Friday exc. public holidays).

Organisations that provide support for anyone:

The Silver Line – offering confidential information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Tel: **0800 0 70 80 90**
www.thesilverline.org.uk

Age UK – it's the leading charity for older people. Tel: **0800 055 6112**
www.ageuk.org.uk

Samaritans – a free-to-use service for anyone experiencing distress or despair. Tel: **116 123**
www.samaritans.org or email jo@samaritans.org Available round-the-clock.



Secretary: Colin Hill

THE SMBP 44 ASSOCIATION

Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA
Tel: 020 7934 5132
E-mail: 44-club@shell.com
Web: www.44-club.co.uk

23 March 2020

Dear Member

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the 44 Club.

Firstly, we do hope you are keeping well during these difficult times. The COVID-19 virus is having a huge impact on all of us, and the 44 Club is no exception. The wellbeing of our members is our priority during this period of uncertainty. It is for this reason that the Members' Reunion and AGM scheduled for 7th May 2020 is now postponed. We aim to hold it later in the year once it is safe for us to gather together. If you have already applied and paid to attend, we will hold the funds unless you wish to have a refund. Please contact me if a refund is required and we will do this as soon as we can.

Branches will be suspending any social gatherings until the virus has passed. Please keep a lookout in the 44 Club News or visit our website (www.44club.co.uk) for updates once the advice from the Government has changed.

For unrelated reasons, the Spring edition of the 44 Club News will be delayed. It was due to be issued in April, but it will now be published at a later date. We will update the website when the publication date is known.

We realise that this may be a difficult time for you, especially if you must self-isolate.

WHERE TO GET HELP/SUPPORT

The Shell Pensioner Programme is a Shell sponsored and funded service that is free of charge to SPA members in receipt of a SCPF or SOCPF Pension. The service provides friendly reassurance, support and guidance to help find solutions to problems you are facing:

- Help to access benevolence from the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association.
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Pensioners in need of support can call the **Shell Pensioner Programme Helpline** on **0345 850 8944** (10am – 4pm, Monday to Friday exc. public holidays).

ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT

The Silver Line – offering confidential information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Tel: **0800 0 70 80 90** www.thesilverline.org.uk

Age UK – it's the leading charity for older people. Tel: **0800 055 6112** www.ageuk.org.uk

Please stay well and I am sure you will wish this unprecedented period to come to an end as much as the members of the Executive Committee do.

Yours sincerely

Colin Hill
Secretary

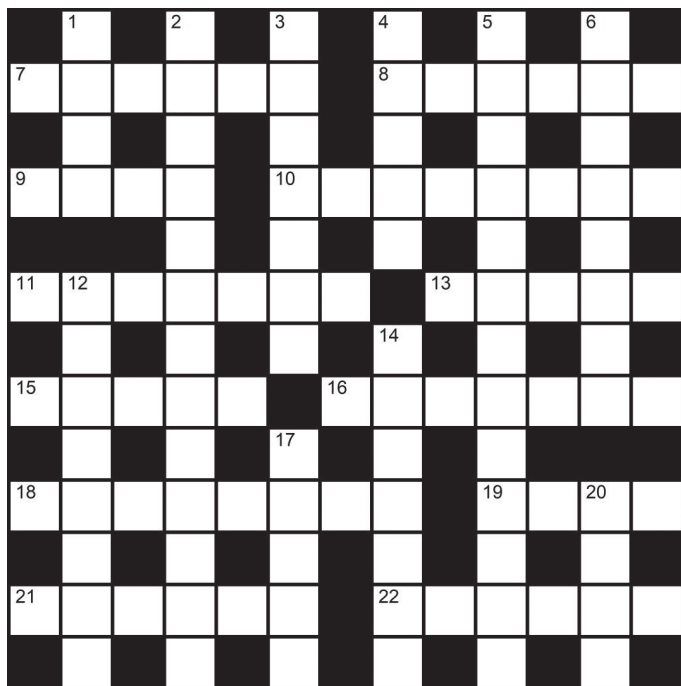
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"...Society as a whole has benefited...from the contributions made [by Oil companies] ... contributing to the quality of life in no small way"

Vivian Thomas

Prize Crossword

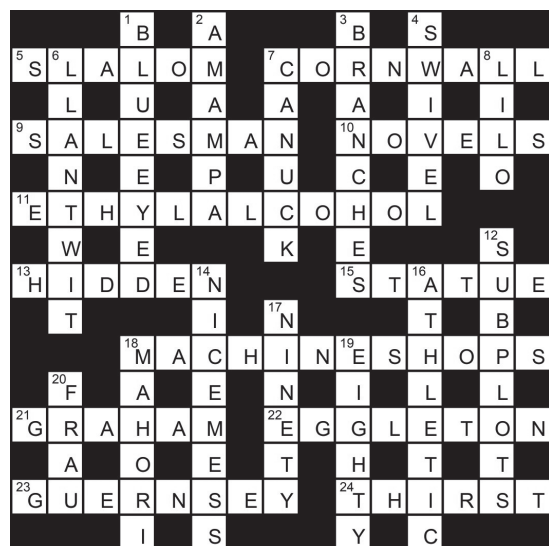


Across

- 7 Season of mellow fruitfulness (6)
- 8 A hydrocarbon which contains a carbon-carbon double bond. (6)
- 9 Israeli airline (2,2)
- 10 e.g. a delivery made by an AD rather than directly from the Terminal (8)
- 11 RFK (7)
- 13 A duty of a citizen (5)
- 15 Golfing Cup (5)
- 16 Of more than average size (7)
- 18 Petrol (UK) Gas (US) refuelling places (8)
- 19 American equivalent of the Royal Mail (4)
- 21 A Middle Distillate (3,3)
- 22 Mr Thomas the BP head honcho (6)

Down

- 1 Liquid power for an engine (4)
- 2 In a diesel engine. (4,9)
- 3 Relaxes (7)
- 4 Golden Wedding celebrant (5)
- 5 As we know more we climb it (8,5)
- 6 To dunk in our tea (8)
- 12 Citizen of (e.g.) Cairo (8)
- 14 Active (antonym) (7)
- 17 We try to achieve (or score) them (5)
- 20 In a Pod ? (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

A tricky crossword which still secured five all correct answers. Well done. The winner was Michael Lugg of Grayshott who wins the prize of a good copy of the vintage Shell Guide to Surrey (Published 1977).



Closing date for next issue
20th August 2020