



# Norman Jarvis MBE JP – a life after oil of public service



Shortly before this edition of the Club News went to press we received the sad news that Norman Jarvis, our 'Life after Oil' subject, had died. With his family's permission we are running the feature as a tribute to him. Norman had thirty years as a Bitumen tanker driver at Stanlow, became active in the Institute of Advanced Motorists where he spread his passion for safe driving, and he was also a Magistrate as well as a member of the National Executive of the Shell Pensioners Association. His story, from pulling a handcart around the docks in Liverpool at 15, to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE starts on Page 4.

## Useful Contacts

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

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## Welcome

Most of us who joined Shell-Mex and B.P. in the mid nineteen sixties probably did not realise at the time the extent to which these years were in a watershed in the company's history. McKinsey, for better or worse, changed the organisation structure dramatically. Computer Centres at first Hemel Hempstead and then Wythenshawe introduced data processing on a huge scale to a previously manual part of the company's operations. 'Solus' in Retail, along with the switch to Company owned sites, gave our brands a major boost. New and larger carrying capacity road tankers had a big effect on how we delivered our products. And new business areas, especially the Domestic Market, changed our product and customer mix dramatically. Our people changed too, and you get a flavour of this in the features about Norman Jarvis and Tim Faithfull in this edition of the Club News.

One of my bosses, and in many ways my mentor, David Soame used to talk about how he and his great friend Bob Breese were, along with Tony Page, among the first of the graduates that SMBP employed. The company had always employed people with professional qualifications, especially engineers, but generalist graduates were few and far between in the post-war years. But societal norms were to change with the rapid expansion of red brick universities in the 1960s. The company I joined in 1964 was at the cusp of these changes – David and Bob may have been among the pioneers, but graduate recruitment was soon to become the norm. When Norman Jarvis was to leave school at 15 in 1953 further education was not, as he told me, an option. But when Tim Faithfull completed his schooling ten years or so later university entrance was becoming ubiquitous – at least for those with 'A' levels.

SMBP was one of a number of companies that seeing how things were going decided that it could have graduates but also grow their own timber by sponsoring suitably qualified staff to get degrees by means of the so-called 'Sandwich Course' - an academic degree course involving practical work experience in the company in addition to academic study. For me it stretched from early 1967 to the summer of 1970 and I loved every minute of it. It was a pretty good time to be a student in 'Swinging London' but more importantly the BA Hons course we did incorporated subjects that were interesting and, as it was later to prove, very useful in my career. As it was for our Club Chairman Rick Westley.

The switch to an increasingly graduate workforce in SMBP had its downsides and there was something of a divide between those with, and those without degrees. Norman told me that the management at Stanlow was 'Mostly ex-drivers' in his early days. By the time he retired this had changed completely. I recall the introduction of graduate 'Shift Managers' in the late 1970s to replace (mostly) ex Driver supervisors. This was not in all cases a success!

Tim, like me, clearly enjoyed his time as a Sales Rep and as an Area Manager. Neither of us thought that the Degree certificate tucked away in our drawer gave us any right to be listened to any more than those without that bit of paper. And a degree, in my case, didn't protect me when a coach operator in Harrow threw me physically out of his office when I called to collect a cheque. I went back the next day and he apologised (sort of) and paid up! Tim was in Retail which was a bit more genteel than the Industrial market, so perhaps he avoided this.

Shell-Mex and B.P. was a gentle introduction for young people to the world of business. It was almost an apprenticeship with kindly handholding of those of us very wet behind the ears. In later jobs I saw people parachuted into responsible positions in Shell companies in some cases without the on-the-ground exposure that I was fortunate enough to have had. A degree won't help you much when the workforce goes out on strike or the Minister of Energy calls you in to tell you to reduce your petrol prices !

**Paddy Briggs**

# Noticeboard

## Annual General Meeting on Zoom



You will have seen the enclosure informing you of our virtual AGM on 9th June 2021 at 11.00 until 12.00. This medium will allow those of you to join who have not previously been able to do so. The platform we are using seems to be the most popular one and that is Zoom. If you haven't yet downloaded it then use [www.zoom.us/download](http://www.zoom.us/download).

Our Secretary, Colin Hill, will need to send you an invitation to the meeting. If you are able to attend, which we hope you will, can you please send an email to Colin (44-club@shell.com). When we get closer to the date of the meeting, Colin will send you a link via email for you to join. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 1st June. As we are limited to 100 attendees, spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

## Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom



On 10th March, the 44 Club Executive Committee was held on Zoom. Here we are!

from top left: Colin Hill, Elaine Ellen, Paddy Briggs, Ken Longhurst, Rick Westley, Nick Preece, Brammer Allport

## Surviving Spouses

It is customary for surviving spouses to be invited to continue membership of the 44 Club following the death of their husband, wife or partner. This is at no cost. Before we were restricted by the current data privacy regulations, we had access to information that allowed us to extend the invitation. This is no longer possible. If you know of (or are) someone whose partner has died and wish to continue receiving the magazine and birthday cards (when eligible), please get in touch with Colin at the Club office: email [44-club@shell.com](mailto:44-club@shell.com) or call 020 7934 5132 leaving a message if the office is unmanned.

## Mrs M P Knowles

In the winter edition (No. 168) the death of Mrs Mary Knowles was reported. We have been told that Mrs Knowles was better known as Pat Knowles. Her last address was in Alkington, Manchester.

## 2022 Diaries

At a recent Executive Committee meeting we reviewed the sales of 2021 diaries. As you are aware the profits from the sales of diaries is put towards funding the very popular birthday card scheme. Diary sales have steadily declined over several years and with the Covid-19 sales this year were low, giving us a very small profit. If Shell hadn't kindly agreed to pay the distribution costs, we would have made a significant loss. We are now debating whether or not to sell diaries again. The Committee agreed to 'poll' our membership to see what support you have for the future of sales. We will make a decision soon and we would like to hear from you as we know some of you are loyal customers.

Please let Colin know what your views are ([44-club@shell.com](mailto:44-club@shell.com)) or leave a message on 020 7934 5132. The 'poll' will close in early May, so please let us have your views as quickly as possible.

## Welcome New Members

|                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr Norman Atkinson - Barnetby-le-Wold | Mrs Anne Gladwell - Orpington |
| Mrs Joan Beard - Stanford-le-Hope     | Mrs Dorothy Haywood - Hull    |
| Mr Ronald Flatt - Bognor Regis        | Mrs Joyce Povey - Wirral      |
| Mrs Janet Fuller - Royston            | Mr John Whittaker - Durnoch   |



# Norman Jarvis MBE JP

In the Liverpool of the 1930s goods were still moved around mainly by horse and cart each with its own dedicated 'Carter' – and it is also true to say that Liverpool carters and their horses kept supply lines open during two World Wars. One of them was Norman Jarvis's father, John, whose speciality was coal. It was a long and hard day with one hundredweight sacks to be manhandled from cart to coal storage in the houses reliant on coal for their heat. Those working horses now have their memorial statue in the city. But after the war nothing could stop the trend towards petrol power, and by the 1960s horses had largely disappeared from the streets of Liverpool. And Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd was a key part of that social change and that was where Norman continued his father's transport role – albeit that the horsepower was rather different!



Norman Jarvis was a proud Liverpudlian from the Red side of the city. He was born in 1938 so his early years were as a war baby. Liverpool was heavily bombed and among Norman's first memories were the air raids and the dash to the shelters. But there was a celebration to remember on VE Day. Norman went to local schools but when he left school in Coronation year he also had to cope with the early loss of his father. Further education was not an option, but jobs were available as Liverpool started to recover from the war and post war



austerity. He was, he said, a willing and helpful boy. Norman's first job was pushing a handcart at the local builders but there was a better wage available as a labourer at the Fish Market where he progressed from delivering fish on a bicycle to learning how to be a fishmonger. He got a job as the manager of a fish shop in Ellesmere Port on the south bank of the Mersey. The job had a company van attached to it and Norman went to the market at 6 o'clock every morning to buy fish for the day's trade. He met his future wife Pat in this job - a courtship made easier by his 'wheels'. They were married in

1960 and celebrated their Diamond Wedding last year. They have three children.

Ellesmere Port was home to the huge Shell refinery at Stanlow and nearby the Thornton Research Centre. After a couple of years Norman tired of fish and took a temporary job as a test driver at Thornton and this led to his moving to his becoming a driver with Shell-Mex and B.P. just down the road at the Stanlow Installation. Stanlow was one of the biggest of SMBP's facilities handling all the main products from its location at the refinery fence. Stanlow had started back in the 1930s as a Bitumen plant and the 'black stuff' was still one of its major product lines and after his training Norman chose to be a bitumen tanker driver.

The bitumen drivers were rather a special breed. Unlike the more locally focused white oil and black oil tankers bitumen had to be delivered to customers far and wide. The vehicles were specially made – like this Scammel 22ft tandem axle bitumen round tank semitrailer. Norman was to stay a bitumen driver for 25 years. There were twelve at Stanlow in Norman's day – the 'Boys from







the Black Stuff'! The management at the Terminal were mostly ex-drivers in those days and there was a good camaraderie. Friendships with the likes of Dave Parry, Jack Burroughs, Clive Fogey and others endured long after the working years.

Bitumen is a tricky product to handle because it had to be kept heated in the tank to facilitate delivery. Some drivers were reluctant to deliver bitumen because of the HSE risks, something that became very apparent to Norman after an accident when the delivery hose broke at a customer. Hot bitumen sprayed everywhere including on his face and hands. He said that colleagues were worried about him because he suddenly went silent, not his normal state! After a three-hour operation at Chester City Hospital (who were helped by the Medical Centre at Stanlow Refinery) he opened his eyes again and all was well. Five weeks later he was back on bitumen deliveries.

Ironically, Norman was the HSE representative at the Terminal and his own accident led to improved operational safety procedures and equipment. Personal Protective Equipment was much improved.

Stanlow's Bitumen plant closed in 1992 and Norman was to retire a couple of years later after thirty years' service.

Safety was to become a lifelong crusade for Norman in particular through his involvement in the 'Institute of Advanced Motorists' (IAM). 44 Club members will recall that SMBP fully supported the IAM and Norman was among the many who took the IAM HGV test. He also took the passenger car test so for more than forty years he displayed both the Red (Passenger cars) and the Blue (HGV) badges on his car.

Norman was an active member of the IAM to such an extent that he became Chairman of the Liverpool Branch and later President of the local group in the Wirral. He was also a member of Ellesmere Port Road Safety Unit and chairman of the Lorry Driver of the Year committee. In 2012 he was awarded the MBE for his work for road safety.

Road Safety is one area where Norman Jarvis was active both during his SMBP/Shell years and after retirement. Indeed 'Retirement' was a misnomer for Norman's 'Life After Oil'! He was a Magistrate for twenty years and Chairman of the Bench for a time. I asked him if he enjoyed the latter role and he said he found it 'interesting' – He feels that to enjoy a job which sometimes involved

sending offenders to prison can hardly always be enjoyable, a sensitive and honest answer.

Last but not least Norman was an active member of his 'Shell Pensioners Association' (SPA) branch and was also elected to the SPA National Committee. Norman came a long way from pushing a handcart at 15! His sudden death so soon after talking to the Club News was a shock to his family, friends and colleagues. But there is the consolation that he had a full, long life well lived. **PSB**



# Tim Faithfull writes about his first job - in Shell Retail in Shell-Mex and B.P. back in 1968

I joined Shell International as a Marketing graduate in late 1967, the sole Brit alongside four Dutchmen. At the end of our three-month training programme, covering the gist of Retail Marketing (as seen by SIPC) and concluding with visits to Shell's rather grand retail operations in the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Finland, the five of us received our postings. I was sent to Shell-Mex and B.P. to be a Retail Sales Rep in Manchester.

**It was the best thing that could have happened to me!**

I spent four years (1968 to 1972) in the Shell Retail stream at SMBP, and as I was fortunate to move around fairly often - I saw a great deal of the company and learned a lot which stood me in very good stead for my later career.

My sales territory was central Manchester and Salford, under Tom Britland, Area Manager and Victor Skone-Rees, the Regional Manager. Tom, though of course I would never have called him that, had two advisors. Harry Brown focused on lubricants and held my hand as I embarked on my first sales campaign, Anti-Freeze - in May. Cyril Rawnsley taught me a great deal about dealer relationships - he displayed toughness as well as humour and guile!

There was no better way to starting in retail oil marketing than to run a territory of about 40 sites, including both Company Owned and Dealer Owned, - as well as one or two large groups. It was a rough and tumble time, with the challenges of finding and developing licensees, keeping



the credit index in line. In those days a Green Shield Stamp franchise could transform a mundane site. It was quite a contrast to the neat and tidy world described in our initial training. It was the real world!

I also spent some of the summer of 1969 as a sales advisor in Ken Fidler's Midland Region, in support of John Parker in East Anglia. My main focus was assisting with some major contract negotiations. That was my first involvement with the real estate team in SMBP, who looked after all the SMBP brands. They demonstrated professionalism, skill and patience in complex negotiations.



The Editor wrote in the last Club 44 news of Andrew Slater, Shell Retail's Advertising Manager. I moved to Shell Mex House to work for Andrew (and was later a frequent customer of his in his Greek restaurant!) on the coin promotions, 'Man in Flight' and 'Historic Cars', the latter from its inception, alongside our agency, Ogilvy and Mather, and the sales promotion developers Glendinning. I remember seeking help from Don Lindsell's MEGP team to try to verify our calculations on numbers and distribution of coins. One could already see the tension in Shell between a more purist, and historic, faith in the Brand, and the more commercial focus on promotions - the latter was later to take us into steak knives, glasses and beyond.

Whilst in Shell-Mex House, I encountered the senior Shell Retail management, Walter Wilson, then John Bradley, and below them Denis Hodder, and his successor Stan Thomas, with whom I became good friends. I also enjoyed, as did we all from time to time, the Rose of England, the pub in the foyer of the building.

My last assignment was in 1970 as Area Sales Manager, in Southampton - coincidentally my home town. The area extended from west of Bournemouth to Portsmouth. I reported to Ken Williams in Bristol. It was excellent experience, with the full range of sales, marketing and development challenges. I had to learn to manage a team that was varied in age and experience, as we sought to make the most of new opportunities in network development, as well as the usual



dealer contract negotiations. Having worked in Shell Retail in Head Office, I learned early on how to keep track of our investment cases, as they wound their way (not always successfully) to John Bradley's desk.

Shell Retail South West held an annual gathering of its Areas and the Bristol office staff, at the end of which each area had to perform a skit. One of my team, Rodney Coffin, was a cine enthusiast. We decided to make a comedy film of our activities, which turned out well. It brought the house down and was later shown at a national meeting.

By 1972, the Retail market was undergoing great change. Self-serve was growing. Heron had appeared and shown what aggressive direct management as well as tough real estate and financial nous and muscle could bring. Shell began its own efforts in direct operations with City Petroleum. And by then the decision had been made in favour of Brand Separation, with colleagues of different marques beginning to move to the planning teams.

While in Southampton I met my future wife, Prue, who was not put off by my company car, a dark maroon Morris Oxford in which I turned up for our first date.

I left Southampton in the Spring of 1972, to work in the Marché Auto of Shell Francaise, dealing with their first efforts with small supermarkets in stations, and road-side restaurants. From there I moved to run Shell du Laos, in September 1973, having just got married. Being on the edge of the war in South East Asia and coping with the first oil embargo on supplies was a far cry from my four years in SMBP, where I'd cut my teeth, but there was much I had learned that came in handy.

I never worked again in the UK market. I did return briefly to Shell-Mex House in 1996, when Shell Trading and Shipping STASCO, where I was VP Crude Oil Trading, moved into the new trading complex.

By then there was no Rose of England however - probably for the best!



Tim with his late wife Prue  
– they met in his SMBP days.

**Editor's note:** Tim reached the highest echelons of Shell around the world including General Manager Kenya Shell in 1989, Area Coordinator Shell International, 1989-1993, Vice president Crude Oil trading SITCO, 1993-1996, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, of Shell Singapore 1996-1999 and President and Chief Executive Officer, Shell Canada Ltd., Calgary, Canada, 1999–2003. In retirement he was a Director of the Shell Contributory Pension Fund.

## Birthday Thanks/Your Letters

### The AEC Mammoth Major

I certainly drove one of the splendid vehicles shown in the last Club News at Northfleet Terminal in the early 1960s. It is a AEC Mammoth Major and our three had the registration



numbers 261 DUL, 267 DUL and 268 DUL! They were a pleasure to drive – not the most comfortable but still a delight! They carried 4000 gallons in six compartments – 2x 500 glns, 2x 700 glns and 2x 800 glns. They had a fifth gear!

Frank Collins

### John Burke-Gaffney

I was saddened to learn that John had died. I was a member of his

team in Agricultural Dept which he managed with panache and with a tremendous amount of good humour. This included hilarious mimicking of senior management. Many of us were delighted to see him at the last 44 club annual re-union held in Shell-Mex House.

My most vivid memory of John is his masterly interview on BBC Radio 4 when he was director general of British Red Cross in the mid 1980s. A political party had used the Red Cross symbol in their campaign

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literature which breached the Red Cross's political neutrality. Views were expressed that the Red Cross were quibbling and under a slightly hostile interviewer, John

put forward the Red Cross position with eloquence and clearly won the argument and the offending literature was withdrawn.

David Roberts

### Keeping in touch

I'm so pleased that we have had the 44 Club News over the last 12 months to keep us in touch. I greatly enjoyed the Editor's Welcome in the Winter 168 issue and agree with his comments that there should be a long-term future for oil and gas in both heating and transport alongside the new energy sources that are being introduced. It does however need some deep thinking by our Government.

After all the rain and cold weather, it is good to have a little sun and to be able to get out into the garden again, to do some exercise getting on top of the weeds, trim the bushes and losing a bit of weight. No doubt I will put it back on when the pubs reopen!

Roger Gamlin,

**75th** I blame Covid. And lockdown. Oh, and the weather. There, I think that just about covers every reason for it having taken me almost four months to get round to writing to thank you for the Shell-Mex House card that arrived to mark my 75th birthday. And for anyone who says that it is merely laziness on my part, all I have to say to them is – you're probably right.

Be that as it may, it was both cheering

and depressing to receive the card. I will start by concentrating on the positive. The painting of Hotel Cecil, as was, is particularly poignant as it features the very windows to the last office that I worked in at the place, just to the right of, and below, the clock. The photo (right) is from when I worked for Ken Armstrong in 1972. Later I was a something or other working for none other than Mike McMonagle in what I think might have been called Heating & Agriculture, though it might have been Domestic Heating. Or possibly something else entirely. Ah, come on, it was 45 years ago, and far too much alcohol has passed between my lips since then.

I do, however, recall the names of the three other chaps (no women, not in those days!) that I spent my days chatting to, and swapping lies, frequenting the local hostels and, very occasionally, doing some work with: Alan Street, Robert Coupe and Jim Gretton. We all kept in touch for a few years after I left in 1976 but, like too many things, other stuff got in the way and that was all she wrote.

I learned a few years ago from my ex-wife, with whom I remain on good terms, that Jim who she knew by the happenstance of their going to the same church, had died. He'd not been the most robust of chaps back when we worked together but I'm hopeful that the other two are still around. If they are, then perhaps Alan could confirm that he indeed did take out a fly in mid-air with an expertly aimed rubber-band and Robert could let me know if he ever did get round to writing the Pink Paraffin Guide to London's restaurants.

The latter project grew out of the almost unbelievable fact that the department, which did little travelling and even less representation, had a budget of £2,500 to spend on T&R. That's over eighteen grands-worth of



used oncers in today's money so it isn't perhaps surprising that we knew (a) the menus of the Strand hostels better than we did those of where we lived and (b) that it couldn't last, and it didn't.

Looking back even from a few years later in the dog days of the winter of discontent and the imminent arrival of Maggie, it all seemed to have been a dream: looking back from the perspective of over four decades, it's the kind of thing that even a writer of the most lurid fantasy might hesitate to include.

After eleven years at SMBP, starting as a computer operator and ending up as whatever it was that I ended up as ('analyst' was in the title, but I truly cannot recall what it was I was supposed to be analysing), I left for pastures different, driven out by a passing comment from a Shell bigwig that without a degree, no one could hope to progress in the company. I took the hint and went to Air Products and then Whitbread where I wound up as their chief economist. OK, chief and only economist, but it's the title that counts, isn't it?

I look back, if only vaguely as you can tell, on my time at SMBP with bemused wonderment. I know that the past is a different country, but it often also feels – every time I receive my quarterly 44 Club news, coincidentally – as if it's one that was inhabited by a different person whose name I just happen to share.

I had been hoping to conclude with some deathless prose written by our very own Charles Madge, back in late 1971. He was previewing a football match that was about to take place featuring a team comprised of the old lags of Domestic Marketing. I didn't get into the department (though since I actually played for BP at the time, I might have got into the team) until after the match had taken place but what I still recall is the wit and humour that Charlie employed.

Unfortunately, I can't find the piece of paper though I know it's somewhere in the house but, if I am to be honest (and why not – it's much easier),



that is my main memory of SMBP, certainly during those last few years in Marketing: it was a good laugh such as I probably never again had, not in my business so-called career, anyway. So, thank you again for the card and for the trip down (Failing) Memory Lane that it gave me.



Finally, I realise that I have not touched on the depressing aspect about receiving a 75th birthday card, but I don't need to, do I – the number says it all, unfortunately. The photo (left) from a year or two back shows how

little ravaged by time I am. I will end, therefore, with the hope that you all, like me, have remained Covid-free and are look-ing forward to the end of lockdown and the reopening of pubs and, even more importantly, hairdressers!

Paul Valentine

**80th** What a lovely surprise - the picture of the clock reminds me of a boat trip on the Thames when the guide pointed out that the clock on Shell-Mex House is larger than Big Ben. He referred to it as Big Benzole! It is a shame that the iconic building no longer goes by the name we all remember - it's now simply 80, Strand.

Memories are always stirred when I receive the 44 Club News. The last edition included an article by Andrew Slater. He refers to the Market Research Unit under Peter Bennelick. I worked with Linda Chalker and Mike Livesey in that unit and remember her well. She was involved with the Young Conservatives in London and regularly received phone calls from senior members of the Conservative government. I remember taking messages from Rt. Hon Duncan Sandys, for example, asking for her to ring them back. Before she became Baroness Chalker she was MP for Wallasey. Another member of the Unit was Richard Ritchie who was very close

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to Enoch Powell. He would regularly update us on Enoch's views and would frequently tell us he had been to lunch with him. One of the several books Richard has written since is a biography of Enoch Powell.

One fairly useless piece of information to share with you is that the date of my birthday this year was not just a palindrome but also an ambigram - it can be written backwards, forwards or upside down. Thanks to grandchildren for pointing that out!

Barrie Knight

(Ed: What happy memories Barrie. Linda (below) was the Supervisor for my BA project on Agricultural Shows in 1970 and I can date



Linda Chalker



Richard Ritchie

back my enthusiasm for Market Research to those days and her wise counsel. I was, much later in SIPC, to coordinate Shell's biggest ever international Retail Market Research project and what I learned from Linda all those years earlier played a big part in that. She was a very decent One Nation Tory (a breed now extinct). Richard Ritchie (top right), who went to BP on Brand Separation, was from the opposite Conservative wing to Linda, became Enoch Powell's archivist and was later BP's director of UK Political Affairs.)

**84th** Very many thanks! These are strange days when a vaccination on the 16th of January is such a welcome birthday present. It is many years ago that I joined the local AD

in 1964 and then Shell Mex & BP and so on to Shell UK. Many happy days.

John Swan

**84th** What a bonanza edition the last Club News was, it reached me in so many ways. My IT skills have markedly deteriorated from an initially low base. My autobiography should be 'On the crest of a slump'.

Thank you muchly for the card. Jack Barclay jumps to mind, endeavouring, suitably fortified, to kick the hour hand of the Shell Mex House clock at the inauguration party in 1932. So much more to add but for now God bless one and all and thank you.

Jim Chivers

(Ed: That story about Barclay and the clock has passed me by Jim! I would be happy to hear more !)

**87th** It is nice to know that we are still remembered as part of the SMBP/ Shell historical background. I often reflect on the time I spent working for National Benzole, SMBP and then Shell U.K Oil, Working at Willesden Motor Repair Centre, Shell Haven Terminal and then Shell Mex House Motor department. My jobs involving repairing, supervising and planning road tanker Repair and Maintenance. A challenging but most enjoyable experience - I would not have wished to change any part of it.

David Morgan

**87th** Always good to receive the Club News with its reminders that SMBP provided security and stability and that the 44 club continues this tradition in a time when these things seem in very short supply.

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## BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

Richard Tinson

**88th** I really look forward to the Club News. I remember several of the Bristol Club members in the photograph in a recent edition. I also remember the lovely photographs taken of my sons with Father Christmas in the event in the Hall opposite Bristol Infirmary. And the Annual dinner dance held at the Berkeley – especially the one at which my foot caught in my ball gown and I



fell down the stairs landing at the feet of the dignitaries!

Mrs M D Ball (widow of HK Ball)

**88th** In spite of all the difficulties your birthday card reached me here in Perth – the Australian one! I often think of the learning and training I received in SMBP/Shell and have applied these business techniques in my retirement years, especially in my volunteer work for 'Wheelchairs for Kids'.

We have now made over 46,000 wheelchairs and we send them all around the world. We also make blankets and all help in the factory on the shop floor! A personal initiative was to place collecting tins in businesses and this has raised over \$110,000 over the last nine years.

A.O. (Sandy) Hogg



Look back at January to April 2010... on page 6

**89th** Very many thanks for the birthday card. I have received many over the years and none more welcome than last year because as a result of my response on that occasion I was contacted by an old colleague from Accounts General (7th floor Shell-Mex House) of the 1970's with whom I have been conducting correspondence over the past year, recalling our times there and sharing our joint interest in our respective football teams! thanks to the 44 Club for enabling us oldies to renew acquaintance. Keep up the good work!

Bryan Farmer

**91st** Another year and another birthday greetings card from fellow members of the 44 Club. Thank you, I don't feel a year older. I must say I love the picture of Shell-Mex House which brings back so many happy memories of serving three sentences (is that the right word?) there. The first in an office overlooking the forecourt which I shared with fellow member, Viv Thomas. The second was when I returned to SMBP from my secondment to Shell International and I occupied an office in the wartime roof extension overlooking the Savoy Hotel. The third was in an office overlooking the river and Embankment Gardens and on a line 25 minutes past the hour of that wonderful clock-face. I have just finished writing about those days at the behest of one of my grand-daughters who begged me to record my story for the future entertainment of my family.

Bob Blake

(Ed: Greetings from one of your once young charges Bob. We would love to publish your memoir of the Shell-Mex House days – suitable expurgated to protest the guilty of course!)

**91st** I think I am so lucky to be here with a regular pension coming in and a lovely view over the Solent. I

hope the 44 Club get-together goes ahead this year and if so, we will certainly be there to meet up with old colleagues.

Arthur Dixon,

**92nd** My wife Yvonne and I look forward to receiving the 'Club News' and particularly the letters and news of former colleagues – although sadly these get fewer as time goes by. Our general health is good though the physical aches and pains at our age do restrict our activities a bit – as do the lockdown rules at the moment. We have a sea view, and the promenade is only 50 yards from our apartment, so we are able to get plenty of exercise and fresh air. We moved to Seaford from Devon seven years ago and we do miss Devon but as we no longer have our own transport it was necessary. We made the right move at the right time to the right place.

We enjoy excursions and pub lunches when we can. Our daughter and her husband live eleven miles away and look after us well. Although my eyesight is weak with the help of a 20 inch screen for my electronic reader I am just about able to read and write – with my wife's help!

Roy K Lucas



Thanks also received from Carol Hannah (78), Brian Fausset (92), Bill Wright (85), Eileen Readman (87), Pat Withers (78), Barry Hiscock (85), Andrew Mabbett (78), Robert McCann (84), Susan Warner (88), George Purkiss (89), Gail Cable (81), Chris Openshaw (84), Betty Morris (99), John Heyes (81), Roger Cook (84), Mary Rawlings (82), Colin Jones (75), Doreen Smith (79), Peter Williams (75), Will Sephton (84), Lionel Reece (84), Mavis Humphries (84)



# News from the Branches

## Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

## Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

## Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

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

It is hard to believe now that at our last meeting in February 2020 we had no idea what was in store for us! As of the time of writing I think most, if not all, of the Glasgow members have had at least their first vaccination and by the time this is in print we might even have had our second.

It is still too soon to make any arrangements, but we are hopeful that, perhaps by late summer, we might be able to meet (somewhere spacious and well ventilated!) and at the very least have coffee, cake and chat!

In the meantime, I am sure we will all continue to follow the guidance and stay safe!

## Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

We are looking forward to having a happy and joyful party to celebrate our society at Christmas. We will be arranging the date once the venue is open to do a firm booking, hopefully all our members will make it their plan to attend and meet all their old friends

again. We will be in touch to give everybody the firm details.

## Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

## Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

## West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

## Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport

## South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

## Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

## North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall

## North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

## South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

During the first months of 2021 our Branch, like so many others, has remained firmly suspended in lockdown mode. However, using the guiding star provided by the Government's timetable for a return to normality, the Branch Committee has decided that it will meet later in April to consider a provisional events programme for the second half of the year. By then we shall also have a clearer idea of which of our usual pub lunch venues has survived extended closure to fight another day and will be able to welcome us back once more.

Encouraged by the success of the vaccination programme, we can be more confident that our Branch activities will be able to resume from late June and we hope that our collective appetites for socialising with old friends and colleagues will not have diminished in the meantime. As soon as our Committee has finalised the list of events for later in 2021 it will be circulated to all members on our active list.

## Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

## Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or Contact: David Cattermole

*continued on page 12*

### King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

### South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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

The 44 Club South Wales branch programme was suspended due to COVID but we have a chat group on WhatsApp where we can stay in touch. Don't forget you can see what is going on in the branch on the Club website - the link for the South Wales page is above.

Everyone has had their first vaccination and many have been isolating without even going to the shops using online Tesco facility. We are hopeful that with restrictions beginning to be lifted in Wales by the Senedd we can come together soon.

### Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

There is light at the end of the tunnel, and it is not coming from a train coming the other way! The opening up of the economy hopefully from the 21st June means we can consider planning a summer social event, possibly a return visit to The Woodford Lodge, Chew Valley Lake during July. Followed by an Autumn pub lunch during September (your suggestions welcomed) and a Christmas lunch together with the AGM during December, hopefully at the Henbury Golf Club. It would be really good to meet up with so many of you again.

### Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker

We very much hope you are surviving the virus and lockdown. It has been a bit of a long haul, but the end is in sight. Fingers crossed and a fair wind we should be able to meet later this year if we can all read and understand the roadmap. When we do manage to meet up, Stella and I would love to

hear how everyone filled their time - we have had an awful lot of it - but we are on the homeward straight pushing forward to the finishing line.

By the time you read this, I would think just about everyone will have had their first jab and looking forward to the second no doubt. This is our passport to freedom - yippee! We will see you all soon.

### South East

Branch in abeyance

### London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

### Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

## Wedding Anniversaries



### Blue Sapphire

Bill and Anne Scott

26th January 2021

### Diamond

Oswald and Jayne McCombe



Bill and Anne Scott



Oswald and Jayne McCombe

28th January 2021



**Emerald**

Graham and Marion Cowdery

12th February 2021



Graham and Marion Cowdery

**Golden**

Viv and Chris Perry

1st May 2021

Andrew and Janet Stephenson

27th February 2021



Viv and Chris Perry



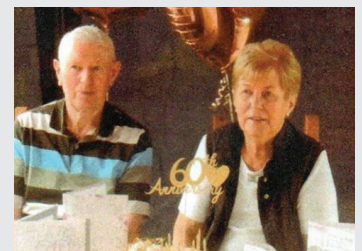
Andrew and Janet Stephenson

**Knowing your Conachers from your Morgans**

A gremlin reversed the captions on the photos of Garry and Thelma Conacher and Vivian and Sheila Morgan in the last Club News. Apologies. Here they are the right way round!

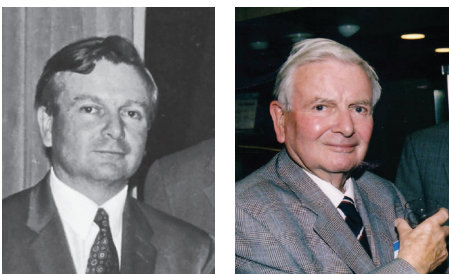


Garry and Thelma Conacher



Vivian and Sheila Morgan

# In Memoriam

**Tony Page**

Ken Froy writes. I was sorry to see in the last Club News that Tony Page had died. Tony and I commenced our SMBP careers on the same day in 1957 in Porstlade Branch. Fred Eaton was the Branch Manager and Freddie Couchman was the Sales Manager. Two year later Tony moved

to Head Office where he became a real expert on the internal workings of SMBP which made him a natural choice to work on Brand Separation including the idea of joint Shell and BP terminals (Wet Dry).

Tony's knowledge of SMBP led him to contribute five very readable chapters to "A History of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. His own feelings were revealed (as if we didn't know!) when he wrote in that history "... could not SMBP have been reorganised not disintegrated?" Indeed so.

**Ed:** Tony filled his 95 years both at work and in his local community. He was an Effingham (Guildford)

Parish Councillor, and Chairman of the Council from 1968 to 1980. He also served as the Surrey County Councillor, as a Guildford Rural District Councillor (1966-68) and as Guildford Borough Councillor (1983-95) for Effingham Ward. He was Mayor of Guildford in 1992-93 and an Alderman. His widow Jessica died a few weeks after him.

**Derek Higgins**

John Smeddle writes: Derek was a really decent man. His wife died about two years ago after a long fight with Parkinsons. I last saw him at the Distributor Trade Reunion in 2018.

*continued on page 14*



The occasion in the photograph (above) is a farewell lunch for Derek in the River Suite in SM House when Derek had been appointed to a role in Shell Centre from H&A Dept. In the picture are: Me; Eddie Morton (partly hidden); Graham Smailes; Derek; Maurice Husbands; Geoff Bryant; Mike Howard; Dick Tinson; Maelor Jones.

I first worked for Derek reporting to him as Head of Projects and Planning in Consumer Division in December 1968. He was an excellent boss, calm and a good accountant, and a man of real principle. He had qualified as an accountant before joining SMBP, first in Accounts, then as the number two in Consumer Markets Division, first under Bob Ingle, and subsequently Ted Trees. He was very well regarded by all who knew him, and a regular attendee at our Distributor Trade reunions. It is a pleasure to have known him.

*Mike Howard adds:*

I first met Derek in the 50's whilst on Internal Audit then later in Group Finance. After my posting to Hemel Hempstead in 1967 I returned to Shell Mex House for a job in Distributor Trade in 1973. Derek was in hospital with a heart problem at the time and Brand Separation was the major task. The new organisation saw Derek posted to Shell Centre so Graham Smailes arranged a farewell lunch in the River Suite for the Distributor Trade Managers. It was then agreed we would arrange a DT Reunion every year after our retirement which I agreed to organise. Derek attended the first few.



Derek became Treasurer of the 44 Club and many years later we were both appointed Vice Presidents of the 44 Club and so met up at the annual Xmas lunch. I was invited to Derek's retirement lunch at a posh

French Restaurant in Chelsea and met several old Finance colleagues. He was a very loyal friend and has left me with a lot of happy memories. A truly great friend lost.

## Dennis Brennan

*David Dungate writes:* It was with great sadness that I read of the passing of my old colleague Dennis Brennan last year. We worked together at Birmingham Airport from 1981 to 1989 where he was a Senior Airfield Operator and one of the great crew who understood the high standards of fuel quality control and customer service that were the basic requirements of that business. They also looked after me, a newly appointed terminal manager.

My eight years at Birmingham were some of the happiest of my almost 40 years with SMBP/Shell therefore it goes without saying that I was not a great supporter of the later UK Aviation senior management decision to hand over the operation to a contractor!

My thoughts are with Hazel and Dennis's family.

# Obituaries

**A'BEAR (87).** Mr Dennis A'Bear of Rochester died on 23rd December 2020. He was i/c Print Production Control, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1985 after 19 years.

**ANDREWS (80).** Mrs Sheila Andrews of Gillingham (Dorset) died on 26th January 2021. She was the wife of Mr John Andrews, who once worked at Birmingham.

**AUSTIN (90).** Mr George Austin of Cardiff died on 10th January 2021. He worked in Lubricants at Birmingham when he left group service in 1975 after six years.

**BAILEY (95).** Mr Frederick Bailey of Aylesford died on 10th January 2021. He was a Driver at Northfleet when he left group service in 1977 after 27 years.

**BANGERT (91).** Mrs Christine Bangert of Fareham died on 13th October 2020. She was the wife of Mr Norman Bangert, once a Scientist at Egham.

**BATEMAN (74).** Mr Nigel Bateman of Cardiff died on 18th January 2021. He was Chief Engineer, Marine, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1992 after 17 years.

**BATHER (87).** Mr Lionel Bather of Lancaster died on 10th January 2021. He was a Senior Job Evaluator, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1986 after 29 years.

**BEARD (91).** Mr Percival Beard of Stanford-le-Hope died on 18th February 2021. He was a Master on Estuarial Craft, Shell Haven when he left group service in 1983 after 31 years.

**BENNETT (71).** Mr George Bennett of West Drayton died on 9th February 2021. He was a Senior Airfield Operator at Heathrow Airport when he left group service in 1995 after 21 years.

**BROWN (91).** Mrs Beatrice Brown of Nottingham has died.

**CAGEHIN (86).** Miss Maureen Cagehin of Enfield died on 15th February 2021. She worked in Public Affairs, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1980 after six years.

**CARTER (101).** Mr W R (Bill) Carter of Market Harborough died on 30th December 2020. He was Regional Manager, Birmingham when he left group service in 1979 after 25 years.



**CHEETHAM (92).** Mr Roy Cheetham of Rhos-on-Sea died on 21st December 2020. He was Shell Retail Representative, Manchester when he left group service in 1987 after 31 years.

**COLLINGE (89).** Mr Stuart Collinge of Richmond (Surrey) died on 14th January 2021. He was a Representative at Eastern Region (Watford) when he left group service in 1984 after 16 years.

**DALEY (86).** Mr Derek Daley of Carlisle has died. He was Terminal Manager at Dalston when he left group service in 1985 after 30 years.

**DEMUTH (81).** Mr David Demuth of Orpington died on 19th December 2020. He was a Marketing Executive with Duckhams when he left group service in 1996 after 27 years.

**DUNNE (87).** Miss Nuala Dunne of Northampton died on 17th December 2020. She was Secretary, Heating Training Centre, Shell UK Oil, Fulham when she left group service in 1980 after 22 years.

**DYBALL (88).** Mr Anthony Dyball of Harrow died on 19th December 2020. He worked in Distributor Trade, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1989 after 18 years.

**EDGE (93).** Mr John Edge of Headley Down died on 22nd January 2021. He was Distributor Sales Manager (LPG) at Manchester when he left group service in 1987 after 20 years.

**ENGLAND (95).** Mr Albert England of Corringham died on 17th January 2021. He was a Supervisory Assistant at Shell Haven Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 34 years.

**EVANS (87).** Mrs Jane Evans of Llangollen has died. She was the wife of Mr Desmond Evans who was once a Driver.

**FULLER (87).** Mr Claude Fuller of Royston died on 16th September 2020. He worked at BP, Royston when he left group service in 1979 after 28 years.

**GLADWELL (89).** Mr Raymond Gladwell of Orpington died on 1st January 2021. Mr Gladwell was seconded to BP International, Britannic House when he left group service in 1990 after 33 years.

**GLOVER (92).** Mrs Doris Glover of Christchurch died on 27th November 2020. She was the wife of Mr Dennis Glover, once an Admin & Planning Manager at Plymouth.

**GREENWOOD (90).** Mr Les Greenwood of High Wycombe died on 2nd December 2020. He was Lubricants Area Manager, Watford/Norbury when he left group service in 1990 after 28 years.

**GUSSMAN (86).** Mr Roy Gussman of King's Lynn died on 23rd December 2020. He was Group Chief Engineer, Shell-Mex House

when he left group service in 1990 after 27 years.

**GUTCHER (76).** Mr Anthony Gutter of Walton-on-Thames had died. He was Distribution Coordinator at Llandarcy when he left group service in 1995 after 24 years.

**HAIGH (88).** Mr Brian Haigh of Leeds died on 2nd February 2021. He was a Senior Admin Assistant at Leeds Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 31 years.

**HARMER (79).** Mr John Harmer of Ashford (Middx) died on 28th November 2020. He was an Airfield Operator at Heathrow Airport when he left group service in 1990 after 32 years.

**HARRIS (71).** Mr Ron Harris of Torre Vieja, Spain died on 23rd January 2021. He was Controls Manager, Shell Oil Products UK, Shell Centre when he left group service in 2000 after 32 years.

**HAYMAN (93).** Mr David Hayman of Leatherhead died on 16th January 2021. He was Production & Supply Manager, Lubricants Division, BP, Victoria when he left group service in 1984 after 37 years.

**HIGGINS (91).** Mr Derek Higgins of Farnham died on 11th February 2021. He was Controller, Shell UK Limited, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1989 after 30 years.

**HILL (93).** Mr Stanley (Joe) Hill of Helston died on 5th January 2020. He worked in VMS, Ponsharden, Penryn when left group service in 1988 after 18 years.

**HUGGINS (87).** Mr Kenneth Huggins late of Haywards Heath died on 18th January 2018. He was Senior Development Engineer – Lubricants, BP Oil Victoria when he left group service in 1989 after 28 years.

**HUNTLEY (77).** Mrs Jean Huntley of Bognor Regis died on 28th January 2021. She was the wife of the late Mr Bryan Huntley who was a Retail Representative at Norbury.

**JANES (83).** Mrs Mavis Janes of Berkhamsted died on 25th December 2020. She was the wife of Mr Anthony Janes, once a Driver at Buncefield.

**JONES (88).** Mr Stanley Jones of Ellesmere Port has died. He worked at Stanlow when he left group service after 18 years.

**KNIGHTS (81).** Mr Peter Knights of Chelmsford has died. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1990 after 23 years.

**LOCKE (93).** Mr A J Locke of Padstow has died.

**McDOUGALL (92).** Mr John McDougall of Glasgow died on 13th January 2021. He worked in Purchasing Department at Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 35 years.

**METCALF (95).** Mrs Annie Metcalf of Fulham died on 13th February 2021. She was the wife of Mr Robert Metcalf once a Terminal Operator at Lensbury Terminal.

**MONTGOMERY (92).** Mr John Montgomery of Banstead died on 1st December 2020. He was Head of Legal Division and Company Secretary, Shell UK Limited when he left group service in 1988 after 18 years.

**MUNRO-FAURE (98).** Mrs Elenora Munro-Faure of Wallingford died on 23rd November 2020. She was the wife of Mr Charles Munro-Faure, once a Retail Network Representative, SUKO, Eastern Region, Watford.

**NORRIS (94).** Mr George Norris of Warrington (originally from Liverpool) died on 23rd February 2021. He was a Driver at Haydock when he left group service in 1981 after 33 years.

**PEPPER (96).** Mr Robert Pepper of Corringham died on 8th December 2020. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service after 31 years.

**PRENTICE (86).** Mr Thomas Prentice of Bangor (NI) died on 21st January 2021. He was a Driver at Belfast when he left group service in 1987 after 23 years.

**REDWOOD (96).** Mr Kenneth Redwood of St Albans died on 19th December 2020. He was Area Sales Manager, Bristol when he left group service in 1982.

**ROBERTSON (92).** Mr George Robertson of Glasgow died on 24th February 2021. He was the husband of Mrs Dolina Robertson, who once worked in the General Accounting Unit, Glasgow.

**SHOESMITH (86).** Mr Gordon Shoesmith of Guildford has died. His last job was International Accounts Manager at Hemel Hempstead.

**SMITH (87).** Mrs Annie Smith of Falkirk died in January 2021. She was the wife of Mr Livingstone Smith, who worked for Shell UK Oil, Grangemouth.

**SMYTHE (93).** Mrs Vivyan Smythe of Royston died on 8th November 2020.

**TWIGGS (95).** Mrs B Twiggs of Gloucester has died.

**TYLER (93).** Mr Gordon Tyler of Harrow died on 19th January 2021. He worked in Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1987 after 25 years.

**WHITE (83).** Mr George White of Towcester died on 2nd February 2021. He worked at Wandsworth Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 26 years.

**WOODS (82).** Mr John Woods of Immingham died on 26th November 2020. He was a Driver at Killingholme when he left group service in 1990.

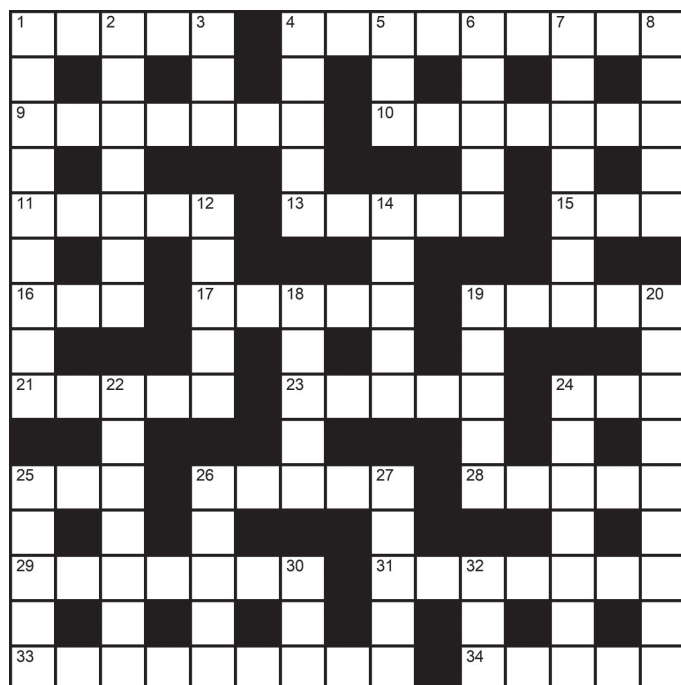
# and Finally ...

## Quotable Quote

"Joining Shell-Mex and B.P. was the best thing that could have happened to me."

Tim Faithfull

## Prize Crossword



### Across

- 1 Rainbow Fish (5)
- 4 Occupied by Israel since June 1967 (9)
- 9 Part of Tim Faithfull's Sales Territory (7)
- 10 Major truck from AEC (7)
- 11 Tell again (abbreviation) (5)
- 13 You are (5)
- 15 Melvyn (abbreviation) (3)
- 16 A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion (3)
- 17 Computer controlled machine controlled that performs jobs automatically: (5)
- 19 Mrs Chalker (5)
- 21 A ship's dock (5)
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_, steady, Go ! (5)
- 24 Can you hear it drop ? (3)
- 25 Hot and Cross ? (3)
- 26 The Atlantic to the West of us (5)
- 28 SMBP Regional office in Yorkshire (5)
- 29 Attorney (7)
- 31 Ethyl alcohol (7)
- 33 She was in 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks' (9)
- 34 Good friend (5)

### Down

- 1 Pub with good food (9)
- 2 Pedestrian Light Controlled Crossing (7)
- 3 A Valley specialising in yoghurt (3)
- 4 The Editor (5)
- 5 It landed on the moon, and took off again (3)
- 6 The battle started on 1st July 1916 (5)
- 7 Ferric comic book hero (4,3)
- 8 CH2CH3 (5)
- 12 Sandy Hogg's Australian home city (5)
- 14 Shell Helix advanced formulation (5)
- 18 Transported oil up the Thames (5)
- 19 Giving or showing firm support (5)
- 20 A person or thing set up as an easy target for criticism (4,5)
- 22 Resuming something after an interruption. (7)
- 24 (Of a bird) tidy and cleaned its feathers with its beak. (7)
- 25 The bottom part of a ship where dirty water collects (5)
- 26 Cinema chain (5)
- 27 My sister's daughter (5)
- 30 Gliding over show (3)
- 32 Central part of a wheel that connects the axle to the wheel (3)



Closing date for next issue  
30th June 2021

## Last Issue's Crossword

A bumper 20 correct entries from which our in-house Univac selected that of David Holmes of Aylesbury as the winner. Bruce Watkin's classic 'Shell Guide to Buckinghamshire' wending its way to you David.