



# Bill Allen – It's never too late to join the 44 Club



In April, the Club received an application to join the 44 Club from William R P (Bill) Allen who left SMBP in 1974, just over a year before Brand Separation. The form had been passed to Bill by his old friend and long-standing 44 Club member Peter (PHE) Martin. Even though Bill lives in Biggar, fifty miles from Glasgow and Peter in Sevenoaks, Kent they have kept in touch and now, at last, Bill was persuaded to join his old comrade in arms and 2500 others in the Club! He is very welcome. Bill's personal SMBP story is on Page 4 of this edition of the Club News.

## Useful Contacts

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

### **The SMPB 44 Association**

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### **The Shell Pensioners Association (SPA)**

– For Shell Pensioners

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### **The BP Society**

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

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## Welcome

It is pleasing to be able to report in this edition of the Club News a Branch event or two. It's been a long time! By the time you receive this COVID restrictions should mostly have been lifted and the rhetoric will be 'Back to Normal'. Clearly, we will all make our individual decisions as to how we respond to this. It is not the role of the SMPB 44 Association to offer advice on such matters and we don't. But for what it is worth my own decision is to continue to act with a high degree of caution.

To the majority of our members who were born after the end of World War 2 it is not an exaggeration, I think, to state that the COVID pandemic has been the most threatening and deadly event of our lifetimes. Some of us will have been personally touched by losing friends or family or by seeing them ill. All of us will have lived a life for more than a year for which we were ill-prepared. In the main I think we coped well and maybe even benefited from the forced moments of reflection that the pandemic gave us.

I have heard stories from Club members about how their children or grandchildren working in healthcare heroically worked to help save life in hospitals and care homes. I have family members who did this, and it made me realise the difference between an ordinary job, and a vocation. These fine people eschew the 'hero' tag and even more the 'Spirit of the Blitz' labels. As a cousin of mine who is a nurse said, "I was doing my job".

It is the doctors and nurses who will be top of my mind when deciding what I should do over the remainder of this year. If through lack of thought I expose my self to infection and get ill, it will be they who will have to try to put me back together again. So, I'll be self-quarantining until I'm sure that there is no risk to me or to those who would have to look after me.

There is a bit of an air of entitlement around these days, including within our 'lucky generation'. These are not times to let that air come to the fore. Home grocery deliveries, Amazon, Deliveroo meals and home delivery from Majestic (with whom I now have 'special customer' status) will continue to be my norm for quite a while!

My very best wishes to you all.

**Paddy Briggs**

# Noticeboard



## AGM

Many of you were not able to attend the virtual AGM in June. A copy of the Annual Accounts is available on request. Please get in touch with Colin (44-club@shell.com) if you wish to have a copy. Otherwise, the statement of accounts is on our website (details as below).

## Club Website



If you haven't already visited the website, please take time to have a look ([www.44club.co.uk](http://www.44club.co.uk)). It contains many back copies of the 44 Club News and also allows access to branch-specific pages. If you have items for inclusion please get in touch with our Web Editor, Elaine Ellen. ([elaine.ellen@btinternet.com](mailto:elaine.ellen@btinternet.com))

## Diaries – the end of an era

You may recall we asked you for your thoughts about whether we should discontinue the diaries. There were some responses saying you would like them to continue. However, the demand for sales has significantly dropped over recent years, and we can only see this decline continuing. The Executive Committee has now decided that we will not be ordering any 2022 diaries and the scheme will close. We wish to thank all of you who have supported us by purchasing them over many years.

## Surviving Spouses

The Club News has previously published contact details for the Shell Pensioner Programme (0345 850 8944) and the bp Benevolent Fund (0203 401 4223)



who offer help to pensioners who may need it. There is also the independent 'Silverline' which provides information, friendship and advice to older people (0800 470 8090).

In this issue we would like to briefly introduce the concept of 'Befriending'. The Government Minister and active charity worker Baroness Barran has said "The chances are we've all been affected by Loneliness, either directly or through someone close to us. We can all do more to try and make a difference and make our country a less lonely place."

Befriending offers supportive, reliable relationships through volunteer befrienders to people who would otherwise be socially isolated. Around the UK, there are befriending projects which organise effective support for older people.

The results of befriending can be very significant. Befriending often provides people with a new direction in life, opens up a range of activities and leads to increased self-esteem and self-confidence.

Learn more at <https://www.befriending.co.uk/directory/> or if you prefer to telephone Age UK is a good contact (Age UK Advice Line: 0800 678 1602)

## Welcome New Members

Mr Bill Allen - Biggar

Mr David Coles - Amersham

Mrs Isobel MacKenzie - Inverness

Mrs Jennifer MacKenzie - Newport, IOW

Mrs Sue Patstone - Sutton Coldfield

Mr Dennis Thomasson - Chester



# Bill Allen – Memories of Shell Retail in SMBP in the 1960s

I joined Shell-Mex and B.P. in Murray Street, Belfast on my 18th birthday in November 1961. My joining letter shows that I started with a salary of £420pa. Exactly double what I was earning at York Street Flax Spinning Company which was on the point of closing down. The interview had been conducted in the office of the Regional Director in Murray Street who had a signed picture on the wall from the great WW2 plastic surgeon Archie McIndoe - I was well impressed. Not forgetting that I was working out my notice, I still told them I would think about it! My mother had words.

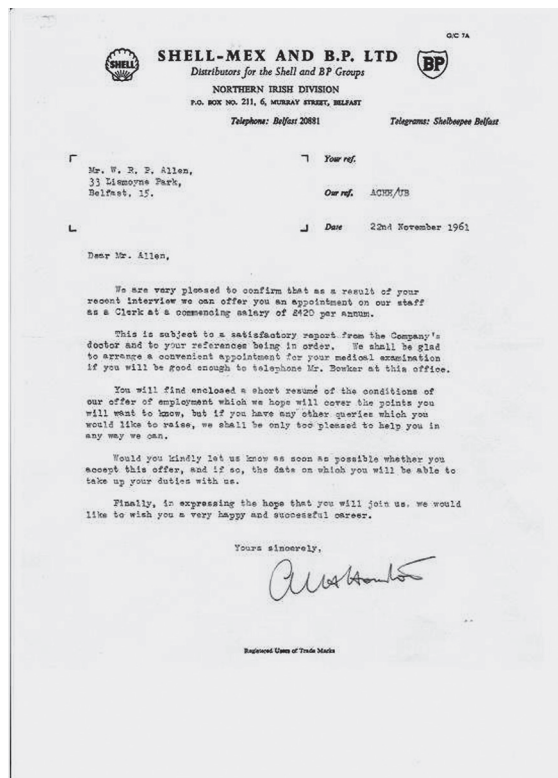
Dropped into Pricing and Stocks I managed within the first six months to undercharge our AFOA (Authorised Fuel Oil Agent) Joseph Fisher, Newry some £800 by miscalculating the numbers on fuel oil invoices! I thought I was heading out the door, however they were kind to me. I was moved to Accounts, which was safer all round. I then found myself placed on an Outward Bound Course in Eskdale in the Lake District for a month – in February! It was 'Career development' – a euphemism for 'toughening up' I think.

Back in Belfast I found myself working for Norman Grimshaw as the Shell Retail marketing assistant. Norman ran the biggest hard-drinking bunch of rascals I have ever met but it

was wonderful fun for a youngster. During the Make Money frenzy in 1966, I spent several weekends driving a white van around the North of Ireland loaded with vouchers to replenish desperate dealers. During the time it ran I think the volume swing was in the order of 30%. Quite astonishing. Next I got the offer of a Shell Retail Representative's position in Scotland and I moved there in 1968. I attended a Sales training course at The Node. In the photo I am in the middle row – third in with the glasses. Behind me you can see Vince Timmins and Sandy Livingstone to his right. As a Rep I was placed initially where I could do the least harm, in Montrose working for Frank Nuttall. The first winter was hell and my A40, black with a grey roof, was a fridge. After six months I was moved into the Central Belt and had a blast looking after Company Owned and Dealer Owned sites. After the success of Make Money Shell went promotion bonkers – glasses, stamps – Green Shield and S&H Pink stamps. We also flirted with cut pricing! My new Boss was Sam Glass. After one

successful but torturous renegotiation with a large Dealership in Falkirk we went to the office at 10.00am to sign the contract. All parties duly happy especially when the Dealer takes out a bottle of very fine Malt Whisky and pours us all a drink. How could we refuse? I was 29 years of age and learning on the job!

The Regional Director in Scotland was the famous Gordon Hunter, a man who didn't smile a lot, his secretary was Nancy Brown who did. Dick (RM) Wolverson was Gordon's Marketing man who always achieved the impossible and was quickly, and rightly, known as 'Tricky Dick'. We were then in the run up to Brand Separation. At the time I was sharing a flat with Peter Martin. He was allocated to BP whereas I was to go to Shell. There were questions asked about the appropriateness of different brands under the same roof!





I left SMBP in April 1974 and joined an Industrial Fuels Distributor, Cawood Wharton with whom I stayed until I retired. Shell-Mex and B.P. was an astonishingly good Company to work for and I have wonderful memories of those I worked with.

Happily, it wasn't all work and no play.

Bill Allen



## Norman Monaghan remembers the days of SMBP newspapers and the characters who produced them.

And so the Club News reaches its 170th Edition! Love and congratulations to all!

Shell-Mex and BP seems so long ago now, yet, still so clear that it all seems like yesterday. It was the early sixties. I was in Marketing with Power Petroleum, and I had been running, their in house magazine, 'Power Topics' as an 'extra curriculum' activity. It appeared that there was a vacancy in Sales Promotion and Advertising (SPA) for a writer and so I attended a rather strange interview with Arthur Barton-Jones for the job. I, obviously, survived it as I was asked to report to the Service Section where I would take over the job of editing the, then, two newspapers, one for Shell Service Stations and one for BP Service Stations. That brought me into contact with Harry Hossen, who had been with Shell Film Unit but was now with Random Films. Harry had solved the job of paying for holidays by going

on holiday, then, on return, writing a 'thriller' set in that country, with his 'hero', Max Heald, to cover the cost. I think some of these books are still available! Harry was a seriously mad driver and sadly eventually died in a car accident.

I was also to be 'third man' to a unit dealing with forecourt marketing, then considered new although I found, later, a mention of shops on forecourts in 1929. This small unit was run by Colin Angwin and I went in for an interview. He sat me down in front of his desk opposite to him but, as soon as he started speaking, got up and started pacing up and down. This was in one of the offices on the river front which were long and narrow and, after a couple of minutes, I got fed up with this and, waiting for him to get to the other end, got up and started doing likewise. We crossed about twice, then he burst out, "all right, sit down you b\*\*\*\*r and we'll carry on".

We got on quite well after that.

Then I was wheeled to meet the head of the Department, one Philip Rose. It was a Friday and I was unprepared for the ritual. Philip had a corner office at the upstream end of the building so, as you walked in, you looked at an alcove with a window looking out to Big Ben. In the alcove, on a settee, reclined Philip. There was an oriental atmosphere about the room and, as I walked in, I became aware of a seated Buddha in the far corner, with wreaths of incense curling into the air.

It was then that I realised that I was in a completely new world.

I remember Philip, when Colin Angwin left, to go freelance, likening his spell with the Company to 'feeling rather like country parson who had been given the prophet Isaiah as a curate' Shortly after I joined, the then head of the Service Section came rather a cropper and had to resign, and leave the Company. In consequence,

I was asked to take over the Section. We, then, were responsible for the introduction of two more periodicals, one for the Commercial and one for the Industrial divisions. This was the start of 'the rest of my career' for it brought me into contact with two polymaths, Stanley Simmons and Ronald 'Reg' Leach, from whom I learned so much.

Stanley was rather like a cross between Winston Churchill and Arthur Marshall – a buffoon on the exterior with a rapier mind underneath. I remember being on a course in Bournemouth and was leading a syndicate on a project when, at 11p.m., the door to the room opened, and there was Stanley, with a bundle of slides and a script under his arm, peeking in and beckoning. I went out and, together, we sorted out the slides and tapes (those were the days), ready for his 9a.m. session. He stood up, made a joke, showed a slide, made another joke, showed another slide and one could hear stirrings in the audience until they realised that each joke was pertinent to the subject. After an hour-and-a-quarter something happened that I had never seen before – a standing ovation for a speaker! But that was Stanley and I am forever grateful to have him as a mentor.

As a result of these contacts, I moved to the new Industrial Advertising Section where I sat opposite Reg for a year before I discovered that he was an MA.Geol. from Cambridge, where he had read the subject in his spare time while working on radar with Watson-Watt, was a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a founder member of the Airship Society. He was, also, of the opinion that hovercraft would never replace the Channel Ferries since they were only a 'two gin journey' as opposed to the Ferries 'three gin trips!'

All this was in the day when the unwritten law was 'to sell product, make profit and to have fun – and, if all are achieved, not necessarily in that order'. We worked as long as the job required, sometimes in what would be called 'very unsocial hours',

which often brought us into conflict with the clock watcher i.e. if the studio had worked until, say, 10p.m. on an urgently needed design, I would say 'Right, you needn't come in until 10a.m. tomorrow', at which hands would go up in horror, but, with field work, exhibitions, agricultural shows etc., the clock just did not exist.

The atmosphere in those days was buzzing. Then, if you thought it was necessary, you could book an appointment with the Chief Executive and, once you were in his office and the door was closed, you were on first name – and he knew yours – terms, because, "You can't argue if you have to call me 'sir'". It succeeded and everyone worked in a hectic, but, relaxed manner.

Many of the characters we knew then have now passed but I know that those of us still remaining remember them with great affection.

Norman Monaghan



Norman Monaghan (left) with his ten year's younger brother – a stripling of 87! They are at the Royal Auxiliary Air Force Memorial at the National Arboretum

# Brian Schofield

## He's a poet and it's time to show it

From the land of garlic breezes  
"Ooh! La La" and whiffy cheeses  
Comes this thank you just to say  
For my card which came today

Here I sit in sunny splendour  
Dreaming of a coming bender  
No such luck – so I've been told  
All imbibing is on hold!

You may wonder what I mean  
What I've done or where I've been  
So now I give to you the reason  
It was a product of the season

Some weeks ago there was a freeze  
When one could move but not with ease  
Some icy steps at a nearby wall  
Caused poor Brian to have a fall

With ankle broke and leg in air  
I'm still in dock for full repair  
So when I'm fit I cannot say  
No doubt by then I'll have my say.

Brian Wordsworth-Schofield





It was 12th February and as I was to discover there was black ice everywhere. I went base over apex sliding down a flight of steps and fracturing my right ankle. I called the emergency number and was whisked off to Chinon Hospital; twenty minutes away. I am pleased to report that your poetical scribe is recovering well and attending physiotherapy. I've been vaccinated and will soon be getting back to normal.

Brian Schofield



## Birthday Thanks/Your Letters

We always put full addresses alongside letters from members unless, of course, they ask us not to. The reason for this is well explained in this message from Paul Valentine:

It was a birthday card 'thank you' in the 44 Club News a year or two ago that gave me John Nowill's address in Torquay. I worked with John in the Leeds Regional Office when I first joined SMBP in 1967, but I lost track of him when he left BP in the late 70s. When I was getting married, he kindly gave me an introduction to a cutlery manufacturer in Sheffield (he had family connections to the industry) and we purchased our cutlery and a silver plated tea and coffee service there.

Gill and I were in Torquay a couple of weeks ago, and I rang him and we went round and had tea and a lovely chat with John and Eva, his wife. They are both 96 now, but you really wouldn't believe it – they are both great for their age. They are very keen bridge players and have really missed it during lockdown. Both still drive, and both have got speeding tickets! Apparently, Eva was a Wren working at Bletchley Park during the war, and survived a strafing attack by the Luftwaffe!

Paul Valentine

### Inter-Divisional Football

Two of your correspondents in the Spring edition where erstwhile colleagues of mine in H&A in the mid-70's, so I offer this photo of the Divisional football team that united us. We didn't play frequently but certainly enthusiastically - especially when David Burchell received any sort of inter-divisional challenge. I note the players (a loose term) right.

And by way of a PS and with reference to your Welcome note last edition, another link is that Ricky Ritchie (as he preferred in those days), alluded to by Barrie Knight, was a delightful if slightly eccentric



Top: Ernie Sudron, Graham Firth, Rick Westley, Paul Valentine, Colin Steel, David Burchell (gk), Alan Street, Alan Collinge.

Front: Dick Tinson, Viv Perry, Mike Treasure, Tony Varey.

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## BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

fellow Sandwich Course student on my intake in 1969.

**(Ed:** I did try and get in touch with Mr Richie but unsuccessfully. He seems to have had a fairly successful BP career)

Rick Westley

Paul Valentine refers to a football match in 1971 for which I am pleased to enclose the programme. It sums up the teamwork spirit upon which we all thrived. As an example, the driving force behind it was the very senior David Burchell. The rest of the teams were of rather more humble status.

Charles Madge

**(Ed:** The programme records the participants – mostly in less than totally respectful terms about their character and skills! There are some well-known SMBP names there apart from Burchell (who was the 'net custodian') and Madge ('on the transfer list'), though whether Pele played we can't be sure (he was shown as 'doubtful'). Mike Treasure is called "a small crock at the end of the rainbow" whose presence 'adds stature to the game'. This may be a little satirical. David Burchell in view of the 'array of talent' in front of him is described as being "... almost an unnecessary luxury, and few would argue with that.")

**75th** I can't possibly be 75 years old! I was born on the first anniversary of VE day, so I suppose it must be true then.

In January 1971 I started work at Shell-Mex, in the old (impressive) Hemel building, which straddled the Marlowes, following the course of the old 'Nicky line' railway spur. At that time, I was in Sales Input and decimalisation was being introduced

– "A litre of water's a pint and three quarters." Offices were very labour intensive in those days and Les Hall had to manage over 40 of us 20 – 30-year-olds, in order to process thousands of paper delivery tickets every day.

As the age profile was quite young, we had a lively social club, very well attended. I worked with a neighbour of mine, Carole, who was engaged to my friend, Bill. Carole said that Bill's sister was very nice and that I should meet her. Without our knowledge, Carole arranged for Bill's sister to attend a local social club dance, knowing I would be there. That's when I met Irene.

I nearly missed out, because I thought she wouldn't be interested in me, but she came over and apologised, for the subterfuge. We married in 1973 and she is still interested, and still very nice. I was Bill and Carole's best man and he was mine.

I worked in several parts of Shell-Mex, until Brand Separation. Bert Jordan consulted all of us, in the Price Queries team, to persuade us to be seconded to Wythenshawe in order to split the Shell and BP accounting systems. He had a list of YES, MAYBE and NO. As I had not been married long, I said NO but Bert ignored his list and we all went to Wythenshawe. It was actually a very pleasant time, working with some lovely people. I came back to BP Oil Hemel, in Retail Support Accounts, under the leadership of the splendid Don Hey. Don was assisted by John Gibson and our team leader, Paul Green, as well as Richard Searle, Robin Smith, John Marsden, Colin Walters, Geoff Church, Alistair Cowe and .....er ... well I am 75 years old!

Irene and I really enjoy the 44 Club lunches and Christmas meals. We are still friends with many work colleagues, and it is nice to meet up with them and with people we haven't seen, for a while. One club member insists that I am Steve Townsend but I am fairly certain that I am not. I look forward to us all meeting up again

soon. Thanks for remembering my birthday.

Roy Lainton

**77th** I It was a pleasure to receive the birthday card on the morning of my 77th year which showed Shell Mex House. It brought back many happy memories of the days in the mid/late 70s when, whilst enjoying the job, I also visiting the hostelrys and wine bars opening in Covent Garden together with the Editor, Colin Jones, James Hilliard, our boss Brian Lakin... and many more, too many to mention.

**(Ed.** It took my liver years to recover from those days Vince. It was just after Brand Separation and in retrospect it was remarkable how quickly we settled into the new world.)

Vincent Timmins

**81st** Last year on my birthday I parked my car in the supermarket car park and family members were permitted to approach, socially distanced of course, to take a piece of cake from the car boot. This year we had all progressed to the garden for my 'Colin the Caterpillar' cake. Here's to 2022 and maybe a normal 82nd birthday!

Colin Peachey

**IT WOULDN'T  
BE YOUR  
BIRTHDAY  
WITHOUT A  
CATERPILLAR  
CAKE**



\*OTHER CAKES ARE AVAILABLE

**81st** I have been living away from home since June last year when I broke a pelvic bone. I have had my second COVID jab and hope that I can get back to some sort of normal living and maybe in July I'll be back on the dance floor!

RW Newey

**81st** The Card brought back many memories of The Node! I first went there in 1965 for the National Benzole New Entrants Course, and attached is a Photo of the Group, with myself front row 2nd from the right, next to Norman Gentry who is sitting in the middle, back row 2nd left is Richard Ward. We were all from Midland Region. Missing off the photo, on that day, but also on the Course with us, was Clive Rowlands, the former Welsh Rugby Captain, who had been called to a Meeting in Downing Street, with Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, as he was the Representative for Sport for Wales. Happy memories of another age! I wonder if there are many of us left who were on that Course?

[Ed: Let us know!]

On my Birthday, I had a special cake that bore the Manchester City F.C. Badge!

Bryan Goodwin

**83rd** I have been living in Avon Lake, Ohio on Lake Erie for some years but I do get home regularly to see family in the Whitby area. Also, my old friend Ces Tate from Teesport – we reminisce about those times spent working there. I spend most of my time at home in the summer tending my vegetable garden.

Malcolm Reynolds  
(Ex Shift Manager and ex PLR)



Avon Lake

**83rd** Another year gone by and another thank you message to all those in the 44 Club admin team for the Birthday Card greetings. An interesting reminder of an event from the past, a course at The Node.

Thank you for the Club News. With such a large and varied organisation as SMBP and, later, Shell UK, amongst the letter writers, or those about whom articles are written, there are always a few names I recognise even though I might not have known the people personally. Invariably this leads to a few moments of nostalgic memories and sometimes sadness when one recognises another name in the Obituaries columns.

It was interesting to read the article about Norman Jarvis, who became a far better and more useful citizen than I did following his retirement. Particularly of interest, as we were born in the same year and shared similar

memories from our childhood. Air raids and lurking in the shelters, one of which for me was a night sleeping on an underground station platform.

I was fortunate it was just the one night; many London children spent many a night cloistered down there. My own was part way through a journey from Yorkshire back to Kent, where, on arrival back home, my mother and I found the house opposite and that at the end of our garden as just piles of rubble. Blast from the explosions had left most of the windows in our house shattered, front door lying on the pathway and French doors scattered around the back garden.

Our journey had been to return from family in Yorkshire, with whom I had been evacuated earlier in the war. My father was a Yorkshireman from Wakefield, moving south to find work in the 1930's, where he met my mother. Strange how life moves in circles, as years later my daughter met another Yorkshireman at university. They married and are now settled back in Yorkshire, but in East rather than the West Riding. Having determined to 'downsize,' my wife and I determined to move back to Yorkshire, where very conveniently, we have found a bungalow the garden of which backs on to that of my daughter. Through the gate and we can exchange visits for morning coffee or Sunday lunch! As is not uncommon in these cases, our sale is just one of a chain, so we are largely dependent on those below us sorting out their own transactions before we can make our move.

Tony Wilson

**87th** It's surprising to think that it was 61 years ago that I joined SMBP, as a Domestic Fuel Superintendent, working out of the then Leeds Branch and having most of the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire as my



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## BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

area. Those were very happy days, and I had some great friends and colleagues.

May I wish all members successful future and that we can all get back to some sort of normality post Covid.

Paul Halstead

**87th** Whilst I am trying to forget my ever increasing annual birthdays, your efficient system will not let me forget as your reminders tell me I am a year older each passing year. Notwithstanding this I am very grateful to the 44 Club for keeping in touch. SMBP and Shell UK were marvellous companies and I consider myself so fortunate to have worked for them for almost 30 years.

Fred Batty

**88th** I was delighted to receive the card with the painting of Shell-Mex House by Sir Henry Rushbury - it is possibly the best one of the many of that great Art Deco building. It's a very fine choice by the club to feature one of Britain's most prolific artists who painted well known buildings.

Somehow it conjures up the atmosphere of when as a teenager I entered Shell-Mex House in 1949 to be placed in 'Hope's Box'. There was still a whiff of wartime as the Petroleum Board (Continuity) still had a small unit in place. Members of Hope's Box were in a good position to witness the comings and goings on the top management floor which resulted in the resignation of C M Merrick as Managing Director and the emergence of C T Brunner as the most dominant Director.

I was asked to help out with the filing in Fuel Oil Dept who were housed in the remnants of the Cecil Hotel, known as Cecil Chambers. They must have liked me because I joined that department on a permanent basis. After National Service (which counted as pensionable company service) I



returned to Fuel Oil but soon joined Distribution Dept with Fred Hills and later Maurice Bloomfield.

Apart from a spell in the Authorised Distributor set up I remained in Operations for the rest of my time. I was very fortunate in being able to treat my job as a paid hobby. I transferred to BP on Brand Separation and after a total of 40 years' service I was still able to retire early. I was asked to stay on part-time for 6 weeks but 30 years later I was still around and my 88th birthday is the first one since 1949 that I have not been in some kind of paid work for SMBP/BP. The 30 years after official retirement had tremendous advantages in that it was all work with no chores such as Budget Control meetings.

David Roberts

**88th** Like so many here and abroad I did not have a great 2020. Four visits to hospital (not the virus!) and then the doctors telling me that although



my halo was still intact, they were 'clipping my wings' and I would not be allowed to fly to Australia to have my annual visit to family and friends.

They also withdrew my right to drive so away went my licence and my two-year-old car. On top of this they said I would not be able to live alone as I have done since my lovely wife died several years ago. I was given the choice of a nursing home or living with relatives in Crook of Devon a small village in Kinross-shire. I

chose the relatives! The village was infamous in the 17th century for its witch trials and executions, so I have locked my cauldron away. I have bought myself a little mobility scooter fitted with a 'Twin Super Charger' so that on a good day, and with the wind behind me, I can get it up to its



top speed of 6mph. This allows me to get from one end of the village a mile to the other end in less than four minutes. Memories of Roger Bannister. If Lewis Hamilton comes along, he will need to pay attention to his rear-view mirror.

Please keep up your great work – its very much appreciated by this old (but speedy) codger.

Alex Orr

**89th** I hope that my fellow Club members have avoided COVID. Being 'shielded' I have not been allowed any visitors, but kind neighbours have done my local shopping and a cousin takes me to medical appointments. I have done a lot of my shopping online. I'm also into 'Zoom' and even play the accordion with fellow folk club members! Let's hope that we all soon get back to normal.

Len Boyns

**90th** I didn't quite have the 90th birthday I'd sort of hoped for but a few local people were able to come to lunch which was nice. I saw some of the younger ones in Sale (my first long outing for ages) last Wednesday and hopefully at the end of July I shall host a lunch for the rest of the



family, but it is still a bit doubtful re COVID rules. We shall see.

Greta Chandler

**90th** Thank you for my 'Node' birthday card. That brought back some happy memories of various training sessions. I am lucky to still be in fairly good shape, still driving and keeping body and mind active. And with my two pensions (Shell and State) I enjoy a comfortable life style and I cannot complain. I have just enjoyed Bristol's first 44 Club lunch event for 18 months. It was good to meet up with some old friends and colleagues after all this time.

Maurice Husbands

**92nd** My wife Yvonne and I look forward to receiving the 'Club News' and particularly to reading the letters and news of former colleagues – although there are sadly fewer of these as time goes by. Our general health is good though the age-related aches and pains to restrict our



activities – plus the weather and rules and regulations! Seaford Promenade is only 50 yards from our apartment so we get plenty of exercise and fresh air. We moved here from Devon seven years ago. We no longer have our own transport but in normal times we enjoy excursions and pub lunches. Our daughter and her husband are only eleven miles away and they look after us. My eyesight is weak but with a 20 inch screen and an electronic reader I can read and write – with Yvonne's help!

Roy K Lucas

**92nd** Thank you once again for remembering my birthday. The card of "The Node" brings back memories of courses that I attended there. It also brings back a funny memory. Because I was going to be away for a few days, I thought I should teach my wife how to change a spare wheel on our car. I did demonstrate it to her.



Then there was a programme on TV, showing how a lady could change the spare wheel without getting dirty. I persuaded my wife to watch it with me. She said "I know a better way. Stand by the car and look helpless"! While I was away, she took the family to Liverpool. On the way she got a puncture. A passing police car stopped and changed the wheel for her. When she was back home, she told me about the Police changing her wheel, and said "I told you, my way works"

Sadly, my lovely wife went to heaven peacefully, here with me, with Covid and other health problems, in December 2020.

Neil Norman

(Ed: Thank you for your letter Neil, please accept our condolences for your loss.)

**92nd** The picture of Shell-Mex House brought back many happy memories of friends made in SMBP/Shell. Our village has been extra kind to the over 60s (I comfortably qualify!) and much is done to make us feel part of the community. From Christmas gifts to daffodils, hot muffins, scones and cake! We are helped with the collection of prescriptions, taking us for our COVID jabs and checking our wellbeing. The volunteers talk to us in a friendly way at the front door – suitably distanced and masked of course!

My daily walks are extended by distanced talking to "strangers" – names not required they are identified by the friendly dogs! But I'm looking forward to having family to stay again and especially to seeing new great-grandchildren.

Shiela Dunn

(Ed: Our thanks to Mrs Dunn for her donation to our Birthday Card mailing costs)

**93rd** I'm still managing on my own with twice daily visits from a carer. I had a big toe amputated last month. I wish all members good health and to be free of COVID problems.

Robert G Munro

## Unusually we have several 100+ in July:

Mrs ME Jones	108
Mrs E Matthews	107
Miss MM Green	106
Mrs P Field	101
Mr W Rumsey	100



Thanks also received from Mike Grimwood (80), Paul Woods (87), Wendy Keys (78), Joe Sanders (81), Tony Clegg (78), Bryan Mayor (91), Norman Dye (86), Frank Sadlier (91), Clive Barker (84), Charlie McPherson (75), Gerry Hunting (88), Anne Barton (83), Mike Howard, Maureen Howard, Tommy Anderson (79), Reggie Soder (81), George Steane (78), Malcolm Blake (89), Gerard Varley (87), Alan Clark (91), Rex Hutchinson (93), Ron Durling (87), Yorath Trebble (84), Jennifer Ramsay (84), Peter Parsons (87), Geoff Sullivan (79), Michael Chapman (86), Margaret Bray (84), June Nicholls (76), Bill Bell (87), Lady (Paddy) Driver (95), Garry Conacher (86), Bryan Farmer (89), George Douglass (90)



Happy 90th Birthday to George Douglass of Sunderland, and once of SMBP Newcastle Airport

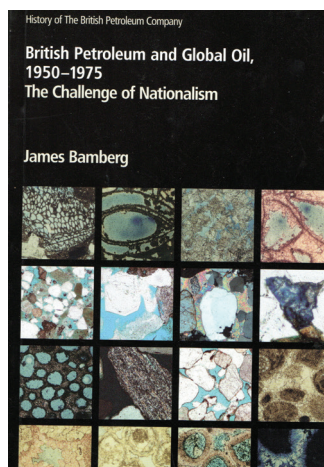
# BP and Brand Separation

Although it was published twenty years ago 'The History of the British Petroleum Company' second volume 1950-1975 still throws some interesting and remarkably candid light on Shell-Mex and B.P. and Brand Separation. It's a valuable resource for those interested in the rise and eventual fall of SMBP.

The author, James Bamberg, describes the origins of SMBP in this way: "In 1932 the Company [BP] went still further in reducing its scope for independent competitive marketing by merging its UK marketing subsidiary, British Petroleum, with Shell-Mex, the joint marketing company of Shell and Mexican Eagle... the new company, Shell-Mex and BP, was split 40:40:20 between the Company, Shell and Eagle respectively. Their supplies of products to SMBP were fixed by quotas on the basis of the market shares at the time of the merger. Managerial control of SMBP ... was shared equally between the Company and Shell. The formation of SMBP confirmed that the main thrust of the Company's marketing policy in the 1930s was to avoid or restrict competition, rather than to engage in it"

Bamberg calls BP's approach to marketing as 'backward' and that (later) its 'perennial problem' was having 'more production than markets'. In Britain as far back as 1914 it had become the 'prototype national oil company when financially overstretched and fearing takeover by Shell it had turned for help to the British government'. The Government retained a significant share in the company until the late 1980s – but that's another story!

Bamberg says that BP's marketing culture generally was such that in a substantially commodity product culture "... success in luring customers required imaginative marketing, powerful brands and trademarks with popular appeal.



These were not BP's strong points." The UK in the post war years was by far BP's predominant market – via Shell-Mex and B.P. of course.

When competitive marketing returned to Britain in February 1953 SMBP had four brands – Shell, BP, Power and Dominion- and three years later it was to add National as well. By 1960 SMBP's brands had a 50% market share. However, the Shell brand was absolutely dominant. Shell had 25% but BP's share was less than half of this. SMBP provided massive support to the BP brand, but BP petrol stations still had 'substantially lower average sales than Shell stations' and research showed that BP was seen as 'old fashioned, conservative and stodgy'.

The key to all this in 1960 was that BP as a shareholder in SMBP was "... content for BP to take its 40% share of SMBP's profits "regardless of the brand". The BP Chairman Maurice Bridgman did 'not consider it to be his job to use BP shareholders money to improve the brand image of BP products in the UK' (!!). In a way the situation was extraordinary. BP benefited hugely from the strength of the Shell brand but suffered (as did Shell) for its own brand weakness.

It was in 1966 that Shell first suggested that SMBP should be split up and this story tells us why. BP "...did not welcome the idea", hardly surprisingly! James

Bamberg summarises the position like this "A split would leave BP in an uncompetitive position not only because of the relative weakness of the BP brand, but because BP would have higher distribution costs than Shell." The higher your volume the lower your average operational costs per gallon.

BP 'held out for favourable terms' in the Brand Separation discussions. Bamberg reports that BP "succeeded in securing its main demands" which included some changed arrangements outside of the UK (e.g. in South Africa) and acquiring the National brand in Britain. The deal was done but it's worth remembering that Shell had initiated it and was arguably the prime beneficiary – though the fact that "... for the first time in forty-five years BP was marketing on its own account in the UK" was obviously emotionally important to a company that was still, at that time, a 'national oil company' and was emphatically British Petroleum.

Looking back we can see that the drivers of Brand Separation were a sense of unfairness on Shell's part that BP was benefiting from the Shell Brand's success but also that BP was to a significant extent not able to determine its own destiny on its own home turf. My own memory is that of being a Group Commercial Representative in the early 1970s. When I presented my business card with both the Shell emblem and the BP shield on it the receptionist would invariably phone the buyer and say "It's the man from Shell here Mr...". And Rotella was easier to sell than Vanellus! And ten year's later when I was a Shell Sales Manager in Scotland in the post brand separation world it was not just my personal

charm that helped me nick some business from BP (Sorry!). It was the Pecten on my business card. **PSB**



# Colin Hill looks back on the 52 years since he joined Shell-Mex and B.P.

It all began in May 1969 as I had taken my exams at school and wanted to get to work. My mum found a small ad in the local paper asking for 'Computer Support Staff' and she encouraged me to apply. I told her that I didn't have the required exam results, but she told me to give it a go, which I did! The advert made no mention of the company who was recruiting so, until I was asked to attend an initial interview, I was oblivious to it being Shell-Mex & BP. Two interviews took place, one of them with the late Bill Russell. Due to my age (I wasn't even 16 at the time), he called the headmaster at my school for a reference.

The report of my first interview described me as "A neatly dressed young man who showed a keen interest and was not afraid to ask questions. Worth a further interview." There was a second interview in May 1969 after which Bill said that I was "A pleasant young lad in both clothing and general appearance. He displays some confidence and it was easy to conduct a conversation with him. Despite the fact he is not yet 16, I would recommend acceptance forthwith". Thank you, Mr. Russell - very perceptive of you!

The first job I had was in the old SMBP Southern Computer Centre working in Customer Master Records (CMR). It entailed decollating the reams of reports that came in four layers. I had to make the four layers into four separate piles. Challenging stuff! After some practice I became quite skilled and fast! With me in CMR were others who stayed a long time with either Shell or BP, including Carol Lang (now Lovell), Sue Hopkins (now Croucher), Steve Lester among



many others. I also had a cousin, Jean Connolly (now Broom) who worked in the Punch Room where she met her husband, Graham. In the Tower, away from the clerical teams were Ken Longhurst and Mike Howard.

In 1972, I was offered a job in Industrial at the Knightsbridge Regional Office, which was under the command of Douglas Booth who was, of course, very ably assisted by Alex Murray-Trimmer (soon to be Sard). Having worked in Hemel supporting the Area and Regional offices, I now found myself a marketer amongst them as a Marketing Assistant in LPG - Don Gunn was my supervisor. I loved the job and the challenges it brought.

In 1976 along came Brand Separation, which, as a young man, I must admit didn't fully comprehend. My fate was very different to most of my friends and colleagues in that I went to Shell and they went to BP.

After some time in Knightsbridge a vacancy occurred at Watford Area Office and I was transferred working under the Area Manager,

Tony Seales, with Senior Marketing Assistant, Carol Jones, John Fitzgibbons and latterly Ivor Williams, it was the time of the Oil Crisis in late 1973 and we had to manage 'Allocations'. I remember having to work New Year's Day to help our customers. The phones were ringing non-stop and we were making frequent calls to all the Installations in an effort to prioritise supplies.

Following this I went back to Knightsbridge - shortly before a decision was made to move into two Regional offices, one at Watford and the other at Norbury. I went to Watford into the Commercial Regional Office was headed by Frank Downes with Paddy Briggs as the Business Planning Manager. The Admin Manager, my boss, was Mike Moss. It wasn't long after we moved that Mike moved on, leaving a vacancy as Admin Manager. I put myself forward and was successful in getting the job. I had a great team with me whose support in the job was amazing. Among them were Tony Grayston, Lorraine Marshall (now Mrs Downes!), Simon Graham and Edna Taylor-Hawkins who were both later to be PLRs. It was a great team and we worked hard and played hard too. My opposite number at Norbury was a long-standing friend, Andy Hull.

During my time as Admin Manager, I was being trained (as we all were) in various things such as Interpersonal Skills, Presentation Skills. I found myself being drawn to training and thought this might be my next career move and eventually I did become a Training Officer in Commercial working alongside Brian Veasey with Peter Gobell as the administrator. That job lasted a year before I



## LOOKING BACK

moved from Shell UK Oil to Shell UK Limited as a Development Trainer in the Central Development Training Department. This was in the early 1980s. This was headed by the late Robert Hill (no relation, but I often called him "Dad"). My supervisor at the time was Bernard Amos and latterly Tony Crompton. Margaret Neal was also in the Department: someone I was to meet again later. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop my career, and I was delivering training to a wide range of people from different parts of the organization. My dress code became the subject of some conversation! When I left in 1995 David Black, my manager in Brunei, commented on my colourful choice of ties, and my former boss, Robert Hill, commented on my "appalling socks".



During 1988, Robert (Hill) talked to me about a potential overseas posting. This was an exciting thought and one that I really had to consider. I felt I was making a real impact in my job with Tony Crompton and also I had to do what was right for my wife and two very

young children. In the end a decision was made together, and at the end of 1989, we set off for Brunei. What a great opportunity. The role was ideal, and I had scope to change the way training was being delivered in Brunei Shell. My Bruneian colleagues helped me enormously as did the expats. I will always be grateful to David and Hilary Black for their warm welcome. David was to be my boss and what a great boss he was. One memorable incident was one of the admin team, Ivy Wong, whose offices were in a separate and older building running through the grounds screaming, having seen a full-length python sliding under the stilts of her office! Sharks are not uncommon in a Shell career, but a Python was new.



At Brunei Shell we collaborated with other Operating Companies in the Region in delivering regional training. I was a member of this regional team and worked in Jakarta, Kota Kinabalu, Labuan, Singapore, and Phuket.

All good things had to come to an end, and the next step was that I was posted to The Hague. By this time our family had grown by one, so all five of us arrived in a very different country and a new challenge. Three full years was spent as a "Learning Advisor" to the Contracting and Procurement function at a time when Shell was downsizing, so my role varied between providing learning to the Operating Companies globally and providing support to the many transitions that were taking place. It was in The Hague that Margaret Neal and I got to work together again. Also working close to me there was Ray Barruffo who had come to The Hague from a role in Materials at Wilmslow.

In 1995, at the end of the Dutch assignment there were no opportunities for work in the UK as most of the Learning and Development function had been outsourced. So twenty-six years after joining SMBP and after conversations with my old friend Robert Hill, who by this time was a Planner in HR in Shell Centre, it was agreed I would take Voluntary Severance and leave.

My background in Learning and Development was the foundation of a freelance career. It had peaks and troughs, bumps and scrapes but it was a good and learning was plentiful. I worked with some big names such as Oracle, Glaxo Smith Kline, Heineken (thanks to my

Dutch neighbours), and I became associated with an organization based in Brussels which gave me a great opportunity to work with and in many different countries and cultures. Often, I would be the only native English speaker in groups I was working with. Assignments with these organisations took me to fantastic places like Poland, Hungary (working with Heineken in an old castle), Beirut (fascinating city), Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and many others.

Several years after leaving in Shell I was contacted with a view to take over as the Secretary of the 44 Club. That resulted in a welcome return to the SMBP/Shell family. Taking over from Charles Madge was never going to be easy. Charles was (is) a legend and so many people talk fondly of him and his time as Secretary. John Burton and Charles were well-known whereas I was less so due to my six years of expatriation and several years working independently. They were a hard act to replace.

Looking back over the 52 years since I joined SMBP as a boy so much has changed, yet the loyalty to the company by those long-serving employees remains a constant. Shell has adapted, by necessity, to changing environments yet remains one of the top organisations in terms of being an attractive employer. Long may that last.



# News from the Branches



Pride of place must go to Bristol branch who held the first 44 Club Branch event for fourteen months on 14th June.

How good it is to see the happy smiling faces!

## Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

## Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

## North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall

## Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

## West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

## North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

## Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

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

## Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport

## Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

## South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

It has been a long time since we met up but here's hoping that all our members have kept themselves safe over the last sixteen months during this very trying time. To date, no functions have been arranged and until there is a reduction in the rise of new confirmed cases, even though restriction are being reduced, I think it is safer to leave it that way. As soon as things are moving the right way, I shall notify you later and Frank and I are looking forward to meeting up with you again to enjoy our Skittles, Bowls and Lunches. Take Care.

## Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

## Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

## South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury



### Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

### Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

### King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

### South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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

### Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

Our first event for 2021 was a return visit to the Woodford Lodge restaurant, situated on the side of Chew Lake,



held on the 24th June. This was our first event for 18 months. We were just 15 in number but a good start. The weather was reasonable so we were able to sit at one table and move around. We met for coffee from 11am which gave us plenty of time for chat. There was a lot of catching up to do! The food was excellent as was the service. No staff shortages at the Woodford! Our Chairman and Event Organiser, Roger Gamlin was congratulated for remembering how to organise such an event. We all went away with a smile on our faces.

Roger will now be arranging a committee meeting to organise an Autumn Lunch meeting and to start preparing for a Christmas lunch and AGM. COVID permitting. Remember to look at the 44 Club website and enjoy the photos of our events. Plenty of ex colleagues faces to admire and recognise!

### Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact:  
Tony Reeve-Parker

At the time of going to press the Branch was hoping to hold an event at the Amberwood Inn in the New Forest on 28th July. We hope to report on it in the next edition of the Club News.

### South East

Branch in abeyance

### London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

### Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

## Wedding Anniversaries

### Diamond

Vivian and Sheila Morgan  
2 Bafford Grove  
Charlton Kings  
Cheltenham  
Glos GL53 9JE  
20th August 2020



Thanks to Sheila and Vivian for their patience whilst the Editor struggled to match the right photograph with the right names! Vivian worked in SMBP/Shell Retail in Guildford, Bristol, Birmingham and South Wales. On the day of their big Anniversary, they celebrated happily in 'socially distanced slots' with their large family.



Vivian and Sheila Morgan



# In Memoriam

## Bill Carter

**Bob Blake** writes: I was saddened to read that Bill Carter is no longer with us having handed in his chips at the ripe old age of 101. He was a member of what the wretched outsiders used to describe as the 'Fuel Oil Mafia'; those whose experience, dedication and hard work resulted in the dominant position of SMBP in the rapid expansion of the industrial fuels market following the passing of the 1956 Clean Air Act. I first met him in 1962 when I was appointed Sales Engineer, Industrial Fuels Department and was involved in the development of new applications for fuel oils in industry. Our paths crossed and ran in parallel from time to time in various appointments until 1975 when we had the most unusual experience of changing jobs, he to Birmingham as Regional Manager Industrial, Midland Region and me to Head Office as Marketing Manager Industrial Fuels and Bitumen. The swap could have resulted in a tricky situation but for the mutual regard we had for each other.

**Vince Timmins** adds: I first met Bill when he was GTSSO in Knightsbridge and Brian Squires was his admin, they organised the training programme/induction for new CMR's I was training as a Commercial Rep having moved down from Chester in March 1968. Later he was my boss in Fuels Pricing and Terms prior to the swap with Bob Blake. He was highly respected and unstuffy.

**Colin Jones** adds: I swapped letters with Bill only a couple of years ago. I worked for him twice, firstly as a Marketing Assistant in SE Region/Ind/GTSS, 1966-68, when Bill was the 'GTSSO', and, secondly, in 1975, when he was Manager, Ind Fuels, and we were in Pricing & Terms. What a pity that Don Maddin, Brian Squires and Brian Lakin are no longer with us as they all worked very closely

with Bill and would have had good stories to tell. I believe I'm right in stating that Bill started his working life as an apprentice engineer in York for the London & North Eastern Railway, just prior to the creation of British Railways.

**(Ed:** I think I always called him Mr Carter as we did in those days. Both he and his successor gave us a lot of freedom despite our inexperience. I later visited Bill when he was in Birmingham – he and his wife had a lovely bungalow in Four Oaks. A quintessentially Shell-Mex and B.P. man. He was also a keen cricket fan and I saw him from time to time in the Lord's Pavilion. Often with Douglas Booth.)

## John Montgomery

**Bob Blake** writes: Another sad loss in the same issue of 44Club News as the report of Bill Carter's passing was that of John Montgomery, former Company Secretary and Head of Legal Division. He was the company secretary when I was chairman of Taybrite our coal subsidiary in the days when Shell was active in coal. It was an "extra" to our usual jobs and I always valued his wise council in the running of our affairs.

## Jimmie Robertson

**PSB** writes: Jimmie Robertson's name was synonymous with Lubricants in SMBP and the early years of Shell UK. He joined the company in the Manchester Divisional office in September 1951 as a Lubricants Representative at a salary of £600 pa. He progressed up the organisation steadily and by January 1970 he was invited by Tom Grieve to become a member of the Senior Mess in Shell-Mex House! He also became a member of the "Grandfather's Club" at the same time. The photo shows him with his



Lubricants team in the 1970s. Jimmie is top right. He was a popular leader with an inner Scottish steel who commanded respect and affection in equal measure. He retired in 1984 with thirty-three years' service and later moved to the Sunshine Coast of Queensland where he had family.

**John Smeddle** writes: Jimmie was a delightful, warm gregarious colleague with whom I had a lot of dealing on Retail lubricants. My lasting memory will be of the party in his office at lunch time on the first working day of January each year where we were entertained with whisky and Scottish shortbread. Always a great occasion.

**John Bamberg** writes: My most 'recent' memory of Jimmie was some 25 years ago when David and Lindy Soame and my late wife Shirley and I visited him and his wife in Noossa. None of us had met him for several years, but he was his usual cheery and hospitable self. John Bamberg.

# Obituaries

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members. We send our condolences to their families, friends, and past colleagues.

**BELLABY (88).** Mrs Marion Bellaby of Berkhamsted died on 21st February 2021. She was the wife of Mr Dennis Bellaby, once a Market Sales Assistant at BP Victoria.

**BREDDY.** Mrs Kay Breddy of Winscombe died in October 2020. She was the wife of Mr Roy Breddy, once MD of Burgess Fuels, Birmingham.

**BREEZE (81).** Mr Alan Breeze of Chester died on 19th March 2021. He worked for Shell UK Limited Aberdeen when he left group service in 1996 after 40 years.

**BREWER (91).** Mr John Brewer of Birmingham died on 19th January 2021. He was Section Head, Consumer Dept, Birmingham when he left group service in 1984 after 26 years.

**BROWN (92).** Miss Mary Brown of North Shields died on 16th February 2021. She worked in National Benzole at Newcastle when she left group service in 1975 after 19 years.

**CLARKSON (94).** Mr Derek Clarkson of Northampton died on 28th April 2021. He was Section Head, Group MIAC, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1971 after 16 years.

**CLEMENTS (92).** Mr Alan Clements of Spalding died on 14th February 2021. He was a Lecturer at Fulham when he left group service in 1980 after 16 years.

**COWL (86).** Mr John Cowl of Nottingham died on 16th February 2021. He was a Motor Inspector at East Midlands Airport.

**DALY (92).** Mr James Daly of Ashton-in-Makerfield died 9th April 2021. He was an Operations Instructor at Haydock when he left group service in 1983 after 35 years.

**D'ARCY (93).** Mr Raymond D'Arcy of Torquay died on 14th April 2021. He was Transport Planning Coordinator, Shell Coal International, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1976 after 24 years.

**DAVIS (92).** Mr Derek Davis of Snodland died on 7th March 2021. He was a Project Liaison Engineer with Shell UK Administration Services, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1985 after 32 years.

**DEAN (85).** Mr Robin Dean of Brixham has died. He was a Senior Analyst at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1987 after 29 years.

**DOO (95).** Mrs Anne Doo of Benfleet died on 19th May 2021. She was the wife of Mr Frederick Doo once a Driver at Shell Haven.

**DOWNHAM (75).** Mr Michael Downham of Chester died on 31st March 2021. He worked in Base Chemicals at Chester when he left group service in 2000 after 26 years.

**DRIVER (87).** Mrs Jessie Driver of Royston died on 19th January 2021. She was the wife of Mr Keith Driver, once a Driver at Royston.

**EVANS (89).** Mr Peter Evans of Hemel Hempstead died on 27th December 2020. He was a Senior Buyer at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1976 after 19 years.

**FOULGER (84).** Miss Barbara Foulger of Ipswich died on 18th May 2021. She was Section Head, Stocks at Ipswich Terminal when she left group service in 1984 after 31 years.

**FOWLER (81).** Mr Alan Fowler of Chesham died on 2nd April 2021. He was a Resource Manager, Information Systems at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1992 after 32 years.

**GIBBONS (86).** Mr Gerald (Gerry) Gibbons of Carnforth died on 8th May 2021. He was a Territory Manager, Manchester when he left group service in 1992 after 23 years.

**GIPP (92).** Mr Harold Gipp of Thetford died on 22nd April 2021. He was an Area Leader/Panelman at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1983 after 13 years.

**GLOVER (92).** Mrs Doris Glover of Highcliffe died in November 2020. She was the wife of Mr Dennis Glover, once Admin & Planning Manager, Plymouth.

**GOWE (91).** Mrs Mergena Gowe of Ealing, London died on 22nd January 2021. She worked in Catering at Shell-Mex House until she left group service in 1990 after 16 years.

**GUY (92).** Mrs Mary Guy of Herne Bay died on 10th March 2021. She was the wife of Mr Robert Guy, once a Driver at Faversham.

**GWATKIN (96).** Mr Howard Gwatkin of Newport, Gwent died on 6th May 2021. Mr Gwatkin was a Driver at Newport when he left group service in 1980 after 25 years.

**HANCOX (81).** Mr John Hancox of Alicante, Spain died on 2nd May 2021. He was a Driver at Swansea when he left group service in 1996 after 28 years.

**HEPTON (76).** Mr Ian Hepton of Aldeburgh died on 20th March 2021. He worked at Princes Street, Ipswich when he left group service.

**HERD (77).** Mr Paul Herd of Enfield has died. He was Lubricants Packaging Coordinator, Home-based when he left group service in 1993 after 32 years.

**HEWLETT (81).** Mr Richard Hewlett of Kendal died in 2019. He was Sales Support Manager, Coal Portfolio, National Trade, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1991 after 20 years.

**JARVIS (83).** Mr Norman Jarvis of Ellesmere Port died on 29th March 2021. He was an AQD Inspector at Stanlow when he left group service in 1992 after 29 years.

**JEWELL (87).** Mr Terence Jewell of Bedford died on 27th March 2021. He was Operations Manager, Shell Ghana, Accra when he left group service in 1990 after 28 years.

**LEVERMORE (93).** Mr Frank Levermore of Witney died on 21st April 2021. He worked in Distributor Sales Administration at Norbury when he left group service in 1984 after 27 years.

**LOADES (85).** Mr William Loades of Stanford-le-Hope died on 24th May 2021. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1993 after 32 years.

**LIGGETT (93).** Mrs Rose Liggett of Lytham St Annes died on 29th March 2021. She was the wife of Mr William Liggett who once worked in Telecommunications at Wythenshawe.

**LISTER (99).** Mr Charles Lister of Woodbridge died on 14th February 2021. He was an Engineer in South East Regional Office when he left group service in 1969 after 14 years.

**McCOULL (96).** Mrs M C Mc Coull of Kirkcudbright died on 1st February 2021.

**McKENNA (89).** Mr James McKenna of Bannockburn died on 31st March 2021. He worked at Grangemouth Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 24 years.

**MacKENZIE (91).** Mr Norman McKenzie of Inverness died on 4th December 2020. He was AirBP Manager at Inverness Airport when he retired in 1985 after 35 years.

**McKENZIE (89).** Mr Gerald McKenzie of Wirral died on 18th March 2021. He worked at Shell UK Oil, Stanlow when he left group service in 1983 after 27 years.

**METCALF (95).** Mrs Annie Metcalf of Fulham died on 5th April 2021. She was the wife of Mr Robert Metcalf, once a Terminal Operator at Lensbury Terminal.

**MORRIS (99).** Mrs Betty Morris of Gloucester died on 5th April 2021. She was a Senior Marketing Assistant, Shell Industrial, Gloucester when she left group service.

**MUDFORD (97).** Mr John Mudford of Chichester died in November 2020. He was a Senior Systems Analyst, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1982 after 18 years.

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

**NOTT (92).** Mr Thomas Nott of Kingswinford died on 14th April 2021. He was a Retail Lubricants Representative, Birmingham when he left group service in 1988 after 23 years.

**PATSTONE (83).** Mr Neville Patstone died on 19th April 2021. He worked in Distribution at Kingsbury when he left group service in 1996 after 24 years.

**PAXMAN (91).** Mrs Eileen Paxman of Grays (latterly in Northampton) died on 18th April 2021. She was the wife of Mr Cyril Paxman, once a Driver at Shell Haven.

**RENDLE (79).** Mr William Rendle of Belvedere has died. He was a Driver at Isle of Grain when he left group service in 1992 after 31 years.

**ROBERTSON (94).** Mr James (Jimmie) Robertson of Queensland, Australia died on 18th April 2021. He was General Manager, Supplies & Operations, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1984.

**SANDERS (96).** Mr Peter Sanders of Falkirk died on 28th April 2021. He was an Engineer at Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1988.

**SHAER (81).** Mr Victor Shaer of Watford has died. He was a Senior Analyst at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service.

**SIMPSON (96).** Mr George Simpson of Kingston-upon-Thames died on 28th May 2021.

**SLOAN (79).** Mr Hugh Sloan of Ayr died on 7th April 2021. He worked for Shell UK Oil at Gatwick Airport when he left group service in 1991 after 25 years.

**STEER (91).** Miss Patricia Steer of Bognor Regis died on 3rd February 2021. Her last job was a Word Processor at Shell-Mex House.

**STOREY (91).** Mr Bryan Storey of Radcliffe-on-Trent has died. When he left group service Mr Storey was working in Leeds Commercial Area.

**STEVENS (86).** Mr Terence Stevens of Burgess Hill died on 27th April 2021. He was the husband of the late Diana Bulley.

**TAYLOR (92).** Mrs Sylvia Taylor of Tadley died on 17th January 2021.

**TEMPLE (89).** Mrs Johanna Temple of Aberdeen died on 2nd January 2021. She was the wife of Mr Jim Temple, who worked for Shell Aviation at Dyce Airport.

**TROTTER (81).** Mr John Trotter of Blackburn died on 25th May 2021. He worked for Shell UK Oil at Cheadle Hulme when he left group service after 33 years.

**WALKER (98).** Mr Kenneth Walker of Benfleet has died. He was a Driver at BP Coryton when he left group service in 1979 after 19 years.

**WEBB (94).** Mr Thomas Webb of Twyford died on 22nd April 2021. Mr Webb was working for Shell UK Oil Products when he left group service in 1985 after 19 years.

**WEST (92).** Mr Ivor West of Hyde died on 5th March 2021. He worked at Barton Lubricants Plant when he left group service in 1998.

**WHARTON (96).** Mr Peter Wharton of Harrogate has died.

**WOOD (87).** Mr Mark Wood of Retford died on 14th February 2021. He was a Marine Sales Manager, North England & Southern Scotland when he left group service in 1991 after 21 years.

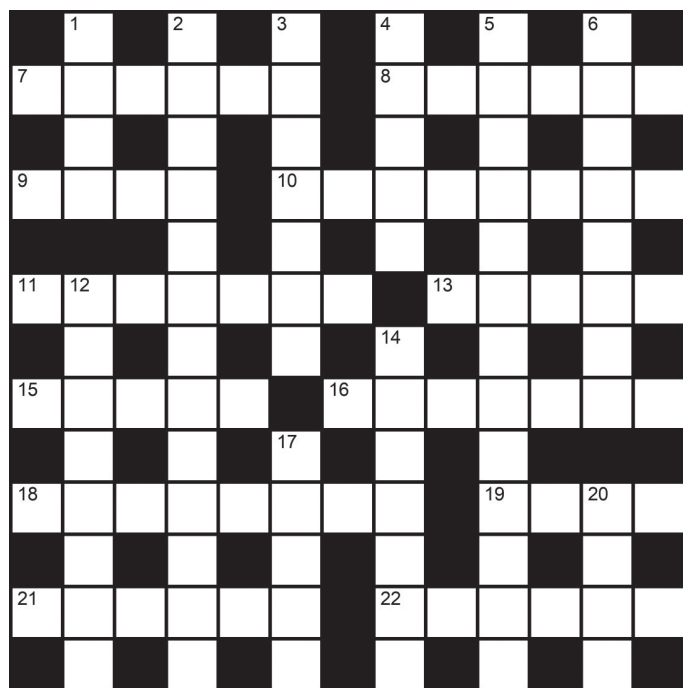


# and Finally ...

## Quotable Quote

"BP did not welcome the idea of splitting SMBP  
History of the British Petroleum Company 1950-1975.  
James Bamberg, 2000.

## Prize Crossword



### Across

- 7 A Shell engine oil (6)
- 8 Shell-Mex House was the Head one. (6)
- 9 Oil producers' cartel (4)
- 10 George is 90 today (8)
- 11 Branch with first post lockdown event (7)
- 13 The Golden one went from London to Dover (5)
- 15 Poker player's deceit (5)
- 16 Keep going (7)
- 18 Very pleased indeed (8)
- 19 European currency (4)
- 21 English philosopher and author of Occam's Razor (6)
- 22 Ford car brand from 1968 until 2000. (6)

### Down

- 1 "---- I need somebody" John Lennon (4)
- 2 Phrase uttered by Long John Silver's parrot (6,2,5)
- 3 Home of the Merry Wives (7)
- 4 When a petrol station went to one brand it went \_\_\_\_ (5)
- 5 A crystalline, salty deposit that can occur on the surfaces of bricks etc. (13)
- 6 Instrument used for cutting cloth, paper, and other material, (8)
- 12 Regenerate - e.g. a brand (8)
- 14 44 Club Chairman and once a footballer (?) (7)
- 17 Authorised Distributors delivered to them (5)
- 20 Ferry for motor vehicles (2-2)



## Last Issue's Crossword

Once again, a bumper entry of 22 correct submissions from which our glamorous assistant Sylvia (who is she?) selected that of Peter Holmes of Southampton as the winner. This is the second Holmes in a row to win! The classic "Shell Guide to English Parish Churches" wending its way to you Peter.

Closing date for next issue  
30th September 2021