



For ten years from June 1955 the 'Shell-BP News' put great paintings on its front page and for Christmas it chose one with a Nativity theme. Later the magazine had more oily and commercial illustrations, but it is pleasing to recall the rather classy approach to staff communications of nearly seventy years ago! In 1981 the '44 Club News', under John Higdon's distinguished editorship, reproduced the front page of the Christmas 1956 edition. We are pleased to repeat this forty years later and also to repeat then 44 Club Chairman A.L. King's message to Club members which in more ways than one has a resonance today:

"When you look back that massive merger in 1931 went so smoothly and successfully that there must have been something special about those involved. Perhaps that is why the activities of the 44 Club provide such good humour and good fellowship. Throughout the years much has changed, although unfortunately, in the nation's economy, there are many similarities today which we could do without. But the seasonal message remains what it always was – full of warmth, optimism, and concern for others. May I wish all a very merry Christmas and a happy prosperous new year"

A.L. King December 1981

Useful Contacts

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Welcome

Ninety Years On

Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd was formed on January 1st 1932

This is the 171st edition of the '44 Club News' and it marks ninety years since the formation of the company that was our great former employer. As A.L. King, who was one of SMBP's first employees in 1931, suggested forty years ago there is much to celebrate both about the 44 years of SMBP and also now about the more than 44 years of the Club that keeps its memory alive.

Club News number 14 in December 1981 looked back at SMBP's history as has every subsequent edition – all 157 of them! We are all a bit long in the tooth today and, of course, sadly the club is much smaller than it once was. Our youngest ex-employee member, who joined the company in 1975, is nearly 65 years old and comfortably a pensioner!

Nostalgia, it is said, is a file that removes the rough edges from the good old days. Fair enough, I think! This magazine doesn't look too closely at SMBP's occasional rough edges, which were anyway more a consequence of the mores of the times than of anything dysfunctional in the company specifically. The company was not very diverse and there were hardly any women in senior positions (though this began to change towards the end). We also mixed work and play during working hours in a rather indulgent way - though this created a family atmosphere which was genuine and memorable. Dress codes were rather formal though the rules that 'ladies were not allowed to the office without stockings even in the summer' were relaxed post war. Men were, of course, only allowed to wear sports jackets (or plus fours) on a Saturday morning even well into the post war years.

I was thinking about the SMBP family recently when we had the rather absurd tanker driver shortage which led to some panic buying of petrol for a short time. We were all involved in various crises during our SMBP years and later in Shell UK or BP Oil. From the harsh winter of 1963 through allocations when oil supplies were restricted and coping with real problems keeping our customers supplied during strikes like that of the seamen in the 1970s and the miners in the early 1980s. We worked together in those days – management, staff and drivers and other staff at the installations. I was particularly close to the Shop Stewards during the Miners' strike in 1984 and, one way and another, we kept our customers stocked. The 'contracting out' that is today's norm simply doesn't allow the sort of working together practices that we were all lucky enough almost to be able to take for granted.

Back in 1981 the Branches were in fine fettle and new ones were being added all the time. One event that caught my eye was held by 'South Midlands and Watford Branch' at The Node and organised by Lew Ellis. Must have been fun!

Paddy Briggs

Noticeboard



Branch Organisers

The social events run by branches offer an opportunity for members to reconnect with past colleagues and to spend some time reminiscing. This can only happen if someone is willing to help get them organised. Currently we have two 'vacancies': one in the North West, covering the Northwest coast and North Wales. This was once covered (for many years) by Norman Waterfall. The other is in the King's Lynn area. Tom Cannon has organised events in this branch for 29 years and now wishes to stand down. Both Tom and Norman have made a significant contribution to keeping both branches active and we are very grateful to them.

If someone could step forward to keep these branches alive, please let Colin Hill know. Help will be given from Colin at the Centre; particularly assistance in getting correspondence arranged and distributed. Basically, you find the venue and liaise with Colin. We aim to make it as easy as possible for these events to happen.

If you could help out, please get in touch with Colin (remembering he works part-time!)

Job Vacancy – Shell Pensioner Programme Officer

A Pensioner Programme Officer vacancy has arisen covering the South West England and Wales region. This is a part time, homebased, remunerated position which involves:

- Providing information and support to Shell pensioners in need, on a range of issues.
- Helping Shell pensioners in financial hardship to access benevolence from the Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association.
- Dealing with referrals from Shell pensioners and their loved ones.
- Providing cover for the SPP helpline which is manned from 10:00-16:00 Monday to Friday.

If you would like to be considered for the role, please contact Natalie Edwards on 020 7934 1689 or email natalie.edwards@shell.com. If you are interested but it is the wrong area of the country for you, please let Natalie know she keeps a list of those who are interested and can contact them when the need arises.

This is a paid role. Please pass this to any of your contacts who might be interested in applying. Applicants do not need to have worked for Shell or BP to be considered.

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

Diaries

We have received several enquiries about 2022 diaries. In the last edition of the 44 Club News, we announced that, regrettably, the scheme has now closed. Sales were continuing to decline to the point where we were barely breaking even. In view of this, the Executive Committee decided to close the scheme completely. The SPA (Shell Pensioner's Association) has made the same decision. We wish to thank those of you who loyally supported the scheme over the years.

STOP PRESS!!

As you will have seen from the flyer that came with the magazine, we are planning a Members' Reunion preceded by our Annual General Meeting. It will take place on Thursday 26th May in Shell Centre.

We haven't been able to come together for so long, so we do hope you will be able to come and reconnect with friends and past colleagues.

Welcome New Members

Mrs Sylvia Human - Ely

The varied life of an itinerant writer

The wacky world of Norman Monahan

One of the advantages of working in Sales Promotion and Advertising was that, on occasion, you had the opportunity to go to places and to meet people that you would not, normally, have had. For instance, to go with the Marine Lubricants Representative on a tour of the SS Canberra from top to bottom (ten floors) and inspect the engine rooms (right). This was in order to write an article about 'a day in the life of' series.

Thus, it was that I had to go to the Isles of Scilly, with a photographer, to cover a proposed Ad. for Aviation to show the use of aircraft in remote places. The seats could be taken out of the Sikorsky helicopter, that connected the mainland to the islands, and pack in 550 boxes of flowers. In this way they could steal 24 hours on the market than transshipping by sea.

On that trip, I realised that the photographs were 'record shots' and did not need the expertise of a professional, so, when we repeated the exercise for the Orkney Islands I took my own camera, which was much cheaper. There, the Islander aircraft was used to ferry the Schools Road Safety Inspector around the islands to teach children. This was not necessary in the islands but many



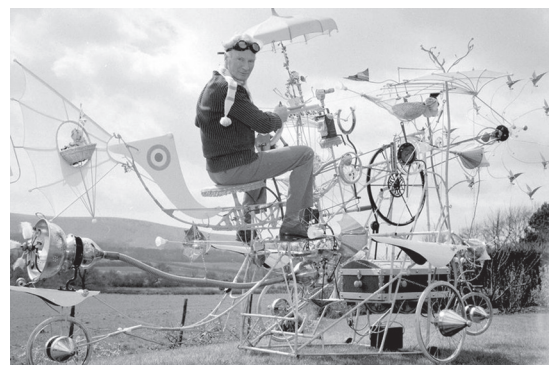
children went from the Mainland to Scotland, at 16 years old, to work since that was a scarce commodity in the islands. The visit included the shortish commercial flight in the world – Westray to Papa Westray - 90 seconds from take-off to touch-down.

Another area where work was a pleasure – when you lookback on it - was the Farnborough Air Show. The problem was that Shell, BP and SMBP each wanted a hospitality area and the rule was that you could not have a hospitality area without having an exhibition stand. Therefore, we had to prepare three adjoining stands. One year we hoped to have a 3D model by Rowland Emmett - famous for his Oyster Creek Railway and for mad machines (right). I went to his home in Ditchling for lunch, which was a surreal affair. After lunch, while his wife and I did the dishes and talked business, he went into the garden and watered the roses. We agreed that

I would return in a week with a list of appliances at Heathrow to enable him to create his own version of an aviation fuelling system for Heathrow. However, two days after my visit he received a commission from Holden Cars in Australia to create a model and tour Australia over a period of two months with it. We couldn't compete with that

so had to find an alternative, and quickly.

We decided on a 'Toblerone' panel. This was about 9' long by about 4' high and was comprised of vertical triangular parts so that three images could be shown consecutively. An artist, Robert Johnston, painted the three pictures depicting Shell in the Commercial, Passenger and Military fields. Good! That was it - relax again. But no. On the evening before opening the motor rotating the panels broke down. Fred Hedley, our exhibitions man, dashed off to the



suppliers and returned with another. Frenzied connecting all the terminals and we tested it. Horror! It was wired in the opposite direction to the first so that the whole exercise had to be repeated. We got it working properly about fifteen minutes before the show opened.

There were many other occasions, too, some good and some not so good, worth recalling and, if Paddy is brave enough to use them, I will supply!

(Ed: Always ready for such great stories Norman!)



Calling out the troops!

As we get older, we realise that there is nothing new under the sun (there are exceptions!) The recent brief calling out of the troops to drive petrol tankers recalls (for our older members with good memories) events in 1953. Here is how the Times told the story at the time:



From 'The Times'
October 21st, 1953

"An unofficial strike of more than 2,500 employees of oil companies began in London yesterday. If it cannot be settled at once, garages and petrol stations in all parts of London may be without petrol or fuel oil by the end of the week. Supplies at some may be exhausted by tonight. Bus garages have enough fuel for the next two or three days, but services will probably be affected if the strike goes on. The strikers, who have promised to maintain supplies

to hospitals, police stations, and fire brigades, are drivers, mechanics, and storemen employed by four major oil companies and some smaller firms at storage depots and installations from which petrol and diesel oil are distributed to local garages. In a joint statement issued yesterday the companies said that the stoppage was being discussed with officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to which the men belong.

The strikers have two main complaints. They complain that one employer has recently begun to transfer a certain amount of distribution work to private contractors and that, although the contractors have engaged men made redundant by the change, some employees have found themselves without work. It is also suggested that some of the contractors employ men who do not belong to a trade union, and there is considerable bitterness among the oil companies' workers about this. The strike began on a small scale at a Fulham depot on Monday. By yesterday 1,000 men were on strike at this depot and the stoppage spread rapidly to several others including installations at Wandsworth, Barking, and Battersea. The number on strike is a large proportion of the men engaged on petrol distribution in Greater London."

From 'The Times'
October 27th, 1953

"A mass meeting of 1,200 of the oil distribution workers on unofficial strike decided at Stratford yesterday to resume work this morning. This decision, which was by no means unanimous, was reached on the recommendation of the strike leaders and officers of the Transport and General Workers' Union, on the understanding that service men would be withdrawn from the depots

and that the union would begin negotiations at once on some of the issues in dispute. As soon as the result of the meeting was known officers of the union arranged a meeting with the employers tomorrow afternoon. The War Office announced that no [further] troops would report for oil distribution duties unless they were specially called for. Mr. Arthur Deakin, general secretary of the T.G.W.U., said that all the men who had gone on strike would be accepted back into employment. The oil companies stated that if there was a prompt return to work to-day, supplies would be fully restored within a few days. A meeting of strikers at Wandsworth last night confirmed the decision reached at Stratford. The strike leaders took some hours to reach agreement on the recommendation which they were to put to yesterday's meeting. Their own preliminary meeting was attended by Mr. F. Cousins and Mr. F. Eastwood, the two principal officers of the commercial services group of the union. Renewing their efforts to persuade the strike leaders to recommend a return to work, these officers succeeded in convincing them that their demand for the withdrawal of five employees who did not belong to the union could not be successfully pursued. Men at the Fulham depot, where the five employees work, had already dropped this demand."



Tanker driven by a soldier leaves Shell Lensbury, Fulham



Birthday Thanks/Your Letters

Your letters are the lifeblood of the magazine. They serve to remind us of happy times and have also reunited colleagues – which is why we print addresses. We understand that not everyone will want their address to appear so if you prefer not to show it with your letter let us know. **Ed**

Memories of Peter Palmer

Stuart McGrory and I have been reminiscing recently about our good friend Peter Palmer, whose death was reported in the Winter 2020/21 edition of the 44 Club News.

Significantly both our first encounters with Peter were very similar, though many years apart. I first met Peter in

1966, a few months after joining SMBP. I was working in the North East Region Group Technical Services department as (unofficial!) PA to George Lees, the GITSO. Mr Lees (surnames only

in those days, not

to mention suits, collars, and ties) thought it would be beneficial for me to go to a sales meeting at Monk Fryston Hall Hotel, so of course I did as I was told. There I was in a room full of GCRs and suchlike, the new boy on the block, totally ignored by the busy throng, and wondering how to get involved. Peter saw my plight, came across, introduced himself, took me under his wing, and introduced me to everybody. I never forgot his friendliness or kindness. Stuart's experience was similar, shortly after his appointment as Commercial Field Manager Knightsbridge when he attended his first meeting with his fellow Field Managers. Coming from a lubricants background, Stuart knew only one of them, and it wasn't Peter. However, it was Peter who introduced himself and welcomed Stuart into the group. Both for Stuart and me these



initial encounters with Peter were the start of long and loyal friendships.

Our first experiences say a lot about Peter, and I have yet to find anybody who didn't enjoy working for him or with him. He had wisdom, wit, and a ready smile, and a great way with people. The obituary in the 44 Club News was for Peter Palmer of Selby. Peter loved Selby. Over his many years with SMBP and BP, Peter had a very successful career as a Sales Manager, and the remarkable thing is that he achieved all this without ever leaving his beloved Selby. I can't think of anybody else who managed a career at his level without leaving their home town. It indicates how highly he was regarded by Senior Management, who clearly valued his abilities. Mind you, I'm not sure that it did Peter's health any good to commute daily for several years across the M62 from Selby to Manchester.

I was tasked with writing an 'ode' to be read at Peter's 25 year service lunch with BP, which I did in an 'Albert and the Lion' sort of format. Looking at it now, there are a few lines in it which illustrate his relationship with Divisional Managers, firstly Trevor Marsden, and then Viv Thomas. These lines are: -

But perhaps his most startling achievement, is that he's achieved it at all, without ever moving from Selby, from Palmer's Baronial Hall. Trevor Marsden called him on telephone, "Now look here Peter" said he, "I've a right good job for you here lad, on round about grade twenty-three. I know that you've got the potential, for I'm sure that you

can go far, If John Riddell-Webster stops smoking, 'cos it's not allowed in your car!" Peter answered quietly but firmly, "Trevor what you're saying is true But I'd rather stay living in Selby, if it's all the same sir to you". Thus chastened then TM relented, but remained as good as his word, For there was never a move for Peter, no matter what changes occurred. Then came a change in the management "I'll crack the bugger" thought Viv "If I offer sufficient inducement, then something is certain to give". So he showed young Peter his Jaguar, and said "There's one down south for you. You can choose any colour you like, lad, and one with a telephone too" Peter was indeed sorely tempted, but his answer was quick and quite clear "Nay bugger the colour and telephone, I'll just have a black one up here!"

The reference to Riddell-Webster reflects that on a 'field' visit he spent some time with Peter, and Peter politely told him to put his pipe out because smoking was not allowed in his car! When we worked with Peter, he didn't discuss his life in Selby, and it is only after his death that I have discovered just how much he was a part of his local community. There is, apparently, a society (or Fraternity) called the Selebians, who are the heart and soul of Selby. Both Peter, and his father before him, were prominent members of this group, and indeed Peter is the only member in the Fraternitie's long history who was President twice, first in 1986 and then in 2015. Peter was also a magistrate, governor of two local schools, and was a board member of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Stuart had the pleasure of visiting Peter's house on a couple of occasions, and Palmer the horticulturist was very proud of his garden, which he had divided into 'rooms'. As a member of the Round Table, Peter raised money for charity and helped with the restoration of the town's Riverside Garden. He was a thespian, a musician, and a great raconteur. Multi-talented indeed! One of his proudest achievements was being part of the campaign to retain the name of Selby War Memorial Hospital when it was rebuilt in 2011. He also had a pivotal role in the campaign to prevent the Bowling Green from becoming a car park.

Looking at his obituary in the local Selby press, I see that I have barely scratched the surface of the list of his many achievements. But Mr Peter Palmer, Mr Peter Selby, was a pleasure to all who knew him, and it seems that there were so many such people in Selby that 'a walk down Gowthorpe' could involve a dozen conversations with friends and acquaintances'.

He will be fondly remembered by all.

Paul Heseltine

(Ed: Thank you Paul and my apologies for missing the last edition. Sorry also for attributing your letter on Page 7 of the last Club News to Paul Valentine rather than to you. Rather a 'Pauls Up' all round.")

Memories of South Eastern Region Ops

I really enjoy getting the 44 Club News so thank you for all that you do. Inevitably at my (our) age, one's eyes scan the obituaries. Too many of my exact contemporaries or people with whom or for whom I worked are now included with the only bright spot being the number of them who are in their 90's!!!

This past edition included the news of the death of Terry Jewell. When I was the Regional Personnel Relations

Advisor for the South East, Terry was Terminal Manager at Portslade and one of the earliest of the managers to invite me to visit, meet his Works Committee etc., I got to know his family and attended the wedding of his eldest. He and Anne subsequently came to my Blessing Ceremony in Bedford, by which time he was Road Transport Manager at Buncefield and had moved to Haynes, near my home town of Bedford.

Terry was one of several Master Mariners in the Distribution function at that time. My former manager at St. Leonard's Wharf, John Hornsby, being another. They brought with them an ability to manage and motivate as well as a practical engineering sense which made them ideal TMs.

The South East Region Ops team was a formidable one under the leadership of John Burke-Gaffney, Phil Wilkinson and Harry Mitchell. As I recall the Terminal Managers they included Dennis Glover at Poole, (and his wife's death was also in this edition of the news), Ray Pedder at Silvertown, Harry Pullen at Shell Haven, Harold Greenfield - formerly at London Airport but then at Royston, Andy Vanderhook at Hamble, Ray Smith at Wandsworth. Each of these was a character in the true sense of the word, and all treated me as a callow youth, with great kindness. I learned much that I have used in my career since then.

Sadly nearly all of these are now deceased. Andy Vanderhook and I still correspond but I fear all the rest are no longer with us.

Julian Dalzell



Colin Harris - a man of steel

Another very interesting edition of the Club News - congratulations on keeping us well posted about friends and former colleagues during these trying times.

Apologies if it has already been drawn to your attention that the player in the back row of the H&A football team (fifth from left) on page seven is Colin Harris (not Steel). He was by far the best player



in the team and in his time played some professional football. Perhaps calling him Steel was understandable because I seem to remember that if he was tackled his opponent invariably bounced off him. Please keep up the good work.

Dick Tinson

Hold the Front Page

I've just received my copy of the 44 Club news. I've never been on the front page of anything until now and with my brief bio also included inside. Thank you. I trust that those mentioned will not be seeking damages or recompense for character misrepresentation! Peter Martin phoned up to say that I didn't look as old as he thought I might.

Bill Allen

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BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

92nd It is always a great pleasure to be remembered with a 44 Club birthday card. Thank you so much. I am a bit surprised to have reached 92 but have no plans to stop yet. Many landmarks have passed by - I was married for 65 years and have played bridge for over 70. I was glad to see young Peachey's name in the summer edition.

Michael Hancock

90th Thank you very much for the Birthday Greetings which you recently sent to me. After all these years it is wonderful to continue to be remembered in this way.

Ken Doran.

90th Thank you very much for remembering my birthday yet again. '90 not out' was the theme for my birthday barbecue lunch on the Cricket field at Goatacre, where I played for 30 plus years. Those were the days, just a spectator these days if I am able to get a lift. Thanks once again for your support.

Bryan E. Jenkinson

(**Ed:** Goatacre is a very distinguished Wiltshire cricket club which won the prestigious national Village Cricket championship in 1988)



89th I expect members will be surprised to hear from me after all this time, but I wanted to thank you all for their greetings! It is always a great pleasure to receive the card.

I much enjoyed reading the story of my old friend Colin Hill's career with the Shell Group, and I must confess I had not realised how varied it was. I remember meeting Colin for the first time at 195 Knightsbridge, early in the 70s, when I started under Arthur Tucker, as a Marketing Assistant - our manager in those days was Joe Clarke. It was a remarkable time, when we dealt with such matters as Fuel Allocation, and the many 'Alarms', caused by the IRA activity, when we were often evacuated to Hyde Park.

I can still picture so many colleagues, in Industrial Division, and, later Commercial Division, at Norbury. It would be difficult to list them all, but I shall never forget dear old Frank Gosse, who was such a personality! I have kept in touch with Ron Hodgson, and we speak on the phone every week. We discovered, by chance, that we were married on the same day of the same year. He mentioned the other day, that he had received a telephone call from Edna Taylor-Hawkins, who went from Knightsbridge to Watford.

Sadly, my dear wife of over 65 years has Vascular Dementia, but I look after her at home now, with the help of Carers. I do enjoy reading the quarterly club magazine. Long may it continue!

John McGuire

88th Very many thanks - I never thought that I would last so long. I also owe SMBP for my marriage to Joyce Smith for 60 years on 3 June.

One of the few benefits of getting old is that it gives one perspective that was not obvious in my younger years. Thirty-three years in SMBP/BP plus fourteen years as a management consultant have made it clear to me that Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd was an

exceptional company which taught me a great deal.

Roy Fielder

88th Very many thanks for my lovely card received on my birthday and to the volunteers who send them out on time. I joined the group 71 years ago. The beautiful pictures of the Node reminded me of a time I attended what I believe was a Supervisors' course. One afternoon I was given a script to learn for the next day for a role play exercise. I could hardly believe its content but I spent the evening learning it. The next day I was shown into a studio office on video with my appointed supervisor. I had been accused of some misdemeanour. It was the most 'hard luck' story you could ever imagine! The more I went on the bigger the interviewer's eyes got and I could hardly keep my face straight especially when I heard the laughter in the next room. One of the lads said to me after - how did you remember all of that and a colleague from Glasgow said that I had been typecast. Oh what memories!!

Alistair Forrester

87th My grateful thanks, once again, to all members of the 44 Club, for the regular birthday card I receive.

I very much liked this year's card design with its various pictures of The Node [right] - it brought back many happy (mostly) memories spread over my 35 years of service. I attended various courses and meetings there in four decades - the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. The most recent of these that I remember was a meeting in, I think, '86 or '87, when the decision was taken that the heads of the business



Divisions- Retail, Commercial, Distribution and Supply (apologies if I've forgotten anyone!) - would become Directors of SUKO reporting directly to the Managing Director.

I retain very fond memories of my many friends and colleagues from that era - some of whom I happily still meet from time to time.

John Bamberg

87th Images of 'The Node' recalled many happy memories of attending courses in the sixties and seventies. There were lots of laughs and much fun, and the beer was good as well!

However, it was not all frivolity and both courses provided a platform for meeting up with people from other disciplines within the Company and created a great atmosphere for a healthy exchange of ideas with normal human interaction. This is, of course, in quite stark contrast to the current trend towards WFH (working from home) and virtual meetings. No doubt good reasons in terms of economics and efficiency can and will be found, but one wonders if some of the subtle aspects of human communication will be lost in the process.

Gordon Pattenden

(**Ed:** Some of us worked from home from time to time – especially Sales Reps. But surely Gordon is right that teams need to be together to communicate. A Zoom meeting is better than nothing I suppose but nothing beats face to face. Especially if there is a pint in hand.)

86th Thanks to the 44 Club for remembering my birthday once again. I wonder who will be the last man or woman standing - will he or she send themselves a card! Looking at the age profile in the Obits of our quarterly magazine that event is a long way off!

My card depicts 'The Node' - what memories. To use Paddy's words- 'SMBP was a gentle introduction for young people to the world of business'. I don't think I would survive in today's technology driven world of commerce. I wonder how many of today's young executives will have the pleasure of a retirement club.

Thanks again 44 Club.

Trevor Harvey

84th Many thanks for the card and the reminders of The Node. I seem to recall that the place was viewed with a degree of apprehension and awe with tales of being effectively locked in after arrival and being put through something of a mental wringer. The reality was very different having enjoyed more than one visit there and having to confess to breaking a window in the billiard room during a late boisterous session of inappropriate use of the balls!

My wife Sue and I have just celebrated our diamond wedding (15th July) with our family gathering having to be confined to the garden as we were just ahead of the lifting of restrictions. We are getting used to urban living and looking forward to accessing more of the Cheltenham Festival events that were sadly cancelled over the past 12 months.

Jerry Barr

83rd My thanks to the 44 club for my birthday greetings. The pictures of The Node Training Centre brought back happy memories of when I was sent on a Personnel Dept course. It was instructive as well as being a lot of fun! Sadly, as I am now 83 years old, I don't think there are many of us left who attended the course back in the mid-50s!

Thank you for rolling back the years!

Gill MacGregor (nee Dunn)

83rd Thank you so much for the lovely birthday card.... such a nice surprise to receive it. I like all the aspects of the famous Nodesuch a lovely building which holds many happy memories for lots of people. I do appreciate your very kind and thoughtful gesture which helped to make my day even more special.

Ann Evans

82nd What a pleasure to receive the 44 Club birthday card today. It brings back so many memories of my commercial life with SMBP, Shell and finally BP. I was so very fortunate to enjoy exciting times with those companies and the enduring friendship of so many colleagues.

Les Thacker

79th Thank you for your card remembering my 79th birthday. I'm presently recovering from a hernia operation and celebrations are somewhat restricted. However, I am still able to continue one of my hobbies over many years, writing verses and revised lyrics for well-known tunes for all occasions, including the current pandemic, and I thought you may be interested in a verse I wrote for my 78th birthday last year:

We can't help growing older, no matter what the date,
The days and weeks and months and years go by at such a rate.
So make the most of all your time,
whatever's on your plate,
I'll try my best ignoring - I've just made 78.

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BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

Back in the nineteen fifties a 78 was great
When rock and roll was paramount
for teens to celebrate.
Bill Haley and Fats Domino and Elvis
all the rage
Cliff Richard and the Shadows were
icons of the age.
Along with Buddy Holly and the
Crickets best of all
And too Jerry Lee Lewis hit the
heights as I recall.
Then 78 was finished - replaced by
45,
The Beatles, Stones and Beach Boys
maintained the big beat drive.
All LPs played at thirty-three, but
singles led the charts,

Cassettes, then CDs took the stage as
vinyl disc departs.

So 78 is not so bad, there's history
on its side,
Add forty-five and thirty-three my age
can't be denied.
As I play my IPOD Shuffle - nostalgia
to the fore,
I listen to the hit sounds I heard in
days of yore.

The classic rock and roll songs - I
hear them by the score
And other top recordings which I
cherish ever more.

Alan Fitzgerald

Thanks also received from Liz Kershaw
(90), Michael Randle (81), Harry
Macquaker (84), David Forward,
Donald Stephen (88), John Hoare
(83), Anthony Baille (93), Peter John
Blackmore (77), Don Davis, David
Carter (86), Mike Ross (83), John R
Smith (83)

Hotel Cecil: The story of Europe's largest hotel, and of Shell-Mex House which was built on the same site

The advent of the railways was
to transform the Strand from a
residential area to a transport hub.
When Charing Cross station was
opened 350 metres away in 1864,
it became a popular departure
point for wealthy Brits travelling
to the continent. As more hotels
started cropping up in the late 19th
century, the area became even
more urbanised when the Victoria
Embankment was built in the 1860s
along with Joseph Bazalgette's
(1819-1891) new sewage system,
narrowing the River Thames in
the process. The fate of Cecil and
Salisbury Street was sealed. In
1888, then-Prime Minister, Robert
Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of
Salisbury (1830-1903), sold off the
family's land.



*Hotel Cecil overlooking the Victorian Embankment. Circa late 19th cent/early 20th century.
(Wikimedia Commons)*

With such a prime location just a short walk from Charing Cross and with views over the river, the Salisbury estate was quickly snapped up by hoteliers. The Savoy Hotel had already been opened next door in 1889 by Richard D'Oyly Carte (1844-1901). Cecil and Salisbury Street were consigned to the history books and demolished. In their place, the Hotel Cecil was built in 1890-96 to a design by architects John Tavernor-Perry (1842-1915) and Frederick Henry Reed (1851-1909). The nine-storey hotel was designed in a neo-classical style, made with 7,500 tons of steel. Politician Jabez Spencer Balfour (1843-1916), was an early investor, but fled to Argentina in 1892 and was later jailed for fraud. When the Cecil opened in 1896, it was the largest hotel in Europe and one of the largest in the world. In the 1920s, it boasted the largest banqueting space in London and could accommodate 600 diners in the Grand Hall, another 350 diners in the Victoria Hall and a further 200 diners in the Prince's Hall. The Hotel Cecil soon became renowned in London for being a great dancing hotspot.

During World War I, the hotel was requisitioned and became the first headquarters for the newly formed Royal Air Force (RAF) from 1918-1919. During the 1920s, the Cecil regained its popularity as a leisure venue, with many jazz nights taking place in the hotel's entertainment spaces. However, just 34 years after opening, the Hotel Cecil was closed in February 1930 and was largely demolished in just 16 weeks. The Strand-facing façade and arched entrance managed to survive and still remains today, with shops operating out of its ground floor.

Victoriana makes way for Modernism

In 1932, petroleum companies Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum (BP) merged their UK marketing operations to become Shell-Mex and BP Ltd. They required new headquarters for their merged company and took over the Hotel

Cecil land. Architect and artist Frances Milton Cashmore (1892-1971) from Ernest Joseph's (1877-1960) firm Messrs. Joseph was contracted to design an Art Deco building. The results were a bold modernist, Portland Stone building 15 storeys high, with two basement levels. The river-facing façade's upper storeys step inwards and is crowned by a short tower with large clock face. The tower allowed the architect to circumvent the city's height restrictions at the time, because the upper levels were for decoration, not for office space. Shell Mex and BP later extended upwards with a two-storey extension after height restrictions were relaxed following World War II. The building is 58 metres high and has 49,000 square metres of floor space. When Shell Mex House officially opened on 25 January 1933 (but, as was common at the time) not everyone was a fan of this modernist architecture style!

The biggest clock face in the UK

The clock was a big talking point due to its sheer size. At 7.62 metres in diameter, it eclipsed Big Ben's 7 metre clock faces. It was manufactured by Gillett & Johnson (est.1844) of Croydon. Either side of the clock is a pair of hieratic, marble figures by sculptor William Charles Holland King (1884-1973). The clock was nicknamed by Londoners as 'Big Benzene'.

Just like the Hotel Cecil before it, Shell Mex House was requisitioned during World War II and was used

by the Ministry of Supply and the Petroleum Board, which controlled the supply and rationing of petroleum products. The building was damaged by a bomb in 1940, but soon repaired. Shell-Mex and BP Ltd. regained use of the building in 1948, although the Ministry of Aviation continued operating out of a few floors until the mid-1970s. Shell-Mex and BP demerged in 1976, with the former retaining ownership of Shell Mex House until the 1990s. Shell Mex House was Grade II listed by Historic England in 1987.

Since Shell relinquished the building in the 1990s, it has changed ownership several times and been home to many big companies over the decades, including Pearson, Vodafone, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Aimia and Omnicom. Although it is familiar to many as Shell Mex House, its official name is now 80 Strand. In 2007, it was sold to US equity firm Westbrook Partners by Robert and Vincent Tchenguiz, David and Simon Reuben and Jack Dellal for £590 million. Today, the building is owned by the German Conley/Conle family, who purchased it for a reported £610 million in 2013. In March 2020, the owners were granted planning permission to refurbish the building, adding a new entrance pavilion, two-storey conservatory in the courtyard and new roof terraces.

This article previously appeared in the Blog 'Memoirs of a Metro Girl' <https://memoirsofаметrogirl.com/about/> and we are grateful to Emily the Blog owner for permission to reproduce it in the Club News.

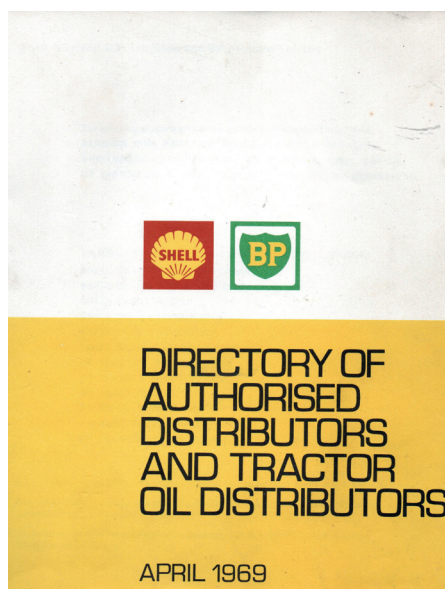


Ancient world meets modern: Shell Mex House dwarf's Cleopatra's Needle

The Directory of Authorised Distributors

One of SMBP's key activities was the management of our Authorised Distributors of which there were dozens across the length and breadth of the country. I was reminded of the extent of the AD network when I stumbled across a rather grubby copy of the 'AD Directory' recently in my loft. I joined Agricultural Department in 1964 in Shell-Mex House and this was one of the department's key activities – handed over post McKinsey to 'Consumer Markets Division' (CMD) – a focused though curiously misnamed Division. Quite why Agriculture and Domestic customers were 'Consumers' whereas, for example, Retail was not was never explained! But CMD was focused, and the AD network was one of the jewels in SMBP's crown. It had four Regions based in London, Bristol, Leeds and Glasgow and twelve areas in Newmarket, Hanger Lane London, Southampton, Exeter, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow, Inverness and Belfast. This was a seriously large business.

The growth of the Domestic market added huge potential to the AD's businesses. Although the generation of new business was a company activity handled by Domestic Markets Division and its commission-earning representatives everything else was handed over to the ADs. A domestic customer was a AD's customer for deliveries, accounts and maintenance of boilers.



The ADs operated under the dual brands of Shell and BP and their delivery vehicles were Shell and BP branded. SMBP effectively provided a service deal to the distributors providing them with guidance on all matters from financial to operational and marketing. A key role was 'AD Remuneration' where Consumer markets personnel were responsible for negotiating a level of remuneration for each AD. It was quite complex, but what a training for a young SMBP trainee. I was briefly on the distant fringe of this activity for a time and recall the likes of Rex Hatcher explaining how it worked. They may have been micro-businesses compared with a Shell or BP operating company, but every commercial issue was involved. A practical university of business which perhaps offered more than the poshest business schools! Early in their careers one or two lucky young SMBP high fliers like John Smeddle spent time running an AD – I suspect they would all agree that it was valuable experience.

ADs handled a range of middle distillate and lubricants products



including Kerosene ('Aladdin Pink Paraffin' and later 28sec boiler fuels in Domestic), Shellspark (Tractor Vaporising oil, a combination of petrol and paraffin), and Gas Oil. Tractor Oil Distributors offered a range of Shell and BP lubricants and greases. Virtually every part of the UK had a AD Depot in the vicinity. For example, in South Western Region 'Area 1' there were no fewer than sixteen AD depots.



The AD network was of its time. The emphasis was on service and longish term supply contracts with both the ADs themselves and via them with the ultimate consumer. This market segment, like so many others, was later to become commoditised with price the only discriminatory factor. But once upon a time in SMBP and our distributors the belief that the customer was king was more than just a slogan. **PSB**

News from the Branches

It is appreciated that some of the events may have already taken place by the time you receive this magazine. The intention is to show how Branches are slowly getting back on their feet! It is a long haul but looks like there is life in the old 44 Club dog yet!

Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

Thursday 25th of November at 11 am. We planned to meet for first time this year in the Kingsmill hotel for coffee and discussion on future of club. Around 18 members have been contacted by phone and the hotel has given us a date for Christmas lunch on Thursday 16th December.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

The Glasgow Branch hasn't met up since February 2019 and at the moment nothing is planned. We do hope to arrange either coffee/tea or a lunch but finding a location that everyone can get to is a problem. Hopefully by next Spring we will all feel much safer to meet up and will try to arrange something then.

If anyone reading this would like to be added to our group, then please get in touch. All new members are most welcome.

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitt

Coming Up

Our Christmas lunch party on Friday 10th December at Donaghadee golf club with a view across the sea to Scotland, our super price for full Christmas lunch plus other choices for all 3 courses £19.95 !

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

Coming Up

Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 8th Dec. 1230-1300 The Sea Hotel Sea Road South Shields NE33 2LD

2nd Wednesday in the month. 1200-1230 The New Crown Hotel Mowbray Road South Shields Tyne & Wear NE33 3NC

West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport

After a gap of nearly two years because of covid restrictions 15 members of the Teesside branch met today October 6th at The Tree bridge hotel Stokesley. Great food, great company, great venue. It was good to see all old friends again after such



a long time so there was quite a lot of catching up to do. The afternoon passed quickly and it was soon time to leave but we agreed to meet there again in December. Thanks to Bram & Moira Alport for organising a very enjoyable afternoon

Coming Up

Christmas Lunch Thursday 2nd December 1230-1300. The Treebridge Hotel Old Nunthorpe Village Stokesley Road North Yorks TS7 0NS

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

Coming Up

It has been a long time since we have been able to get together. Our Christmas next get-together has been booked for 14th December. We will be returning to The Holiday Inn, High Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster, DN4 9UX. We will meet between 12.00 and 12.30. The hotel is at Junction 36 of the A1(M). Audrey and I hope to see as many friends as possible.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

continued on page 14

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

North West - Western

Please see 'Noticeboard' regarding this Branch

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

After all the frustrations and disappointments of the Covid induced cancellation of all our events throughout 2020 and the first six months of this year we were delighted to restart our programme in some style towards the end of July. Around 45 members enjoyed a summer barbecue organised by Malcolm Bury at The Oak in Aston Clinton and there was a real buzz in the air as old friends came together again for the first time in many months. A large outdoor patio area covered by an open sided marquee proved to be an ideal setting both for staging our first efforts at socialising again as a Branch and for sheltering us from the occasional summer shower. The barbecue food and service was well up to The Oak's customary high standard and we were very pleased to welcome Peter Shade, David Coles and Chris Gower to one of our lunches for the first time. For our second and final pub lunch of the year we returned to The White Horse at Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead in mid-October. We

were delighted that the event was very strongly supported with an attendance of over 40. Christine Cowie was in charge of all the arrangements and the staff at the White Horse excelled themselves with



a very efficient system of table service which helped considerably with the safety of our first indoor lunch since the start of the pandemic. We look forward to returning there next March.

Many members of our Branch were very sorry to hear the sad news that Mike Howard passed away in early October. We all have our particular memories of Mike as a good friend and valued colleague over the many years of his career in Shell-Mex and BP and Shell UK. More specifically in the South Midlands Branch of the 44 Club we shall always be in his debt for his great service as our Chairman for thirteen years and as someone who did so much to ensure that our Branch activities flourished and grew in the best traditions of our Club. He will be very greatly missed by us all.

Coming up:

Tuesday 15th March 2022: pub lunch at The White Horse, Bourne End from noon onwards. Please contact Christine Cowie (01442 873375) for further information.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

Eighteen months after the last lunch, 40 members and guests gathered for a welcome reunion at the Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island on 14th September. Our usual room had been absorbed into the bar area during

lockdowns, but this resulted in us being offered the spacious upstairs function suite with its own facilities and commanding view over the adjoining lake. Service and food were of the usual high standard and the venue



provided a convivial atmosphere for members to catch up with each other after a long absence.



Coming up

The branch Christmas lunch will take place (Covid permitting) on 15th December at Langdon Hills Golf Club where we hope for another good attendance.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Our first function since December 2019 saw us return to Rushmere Golf Club on 7th October where 26 members and associates enjoyed a two course lunch which was followed by a raffle, proceeds of which were raised to supplement prizes for our Grand Christmas Draw. Grateful thanks to all who donated prizes at this function to enable a healthy amount to be raised.

The next function will be our Christmas Lunch on Thursday 9th December 2021 at Bramford Golf





Centre, Loraine Way, Bramford. IP8 4JS. Meet from 11.45 am onwards for lunch at 12.45 to be followed by our grand draw.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

Please see 'Noticeboard' regarding this Branch

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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

We met for the first time this year on Wednesday 22nd September at the Norton House Hotel, Mumbles and whilst our numbers were low everyone enjoyed being together after such a long time. A few of our members have not been very well so we miss them and wish them a speedy recovery. We also missed some of our regular attendees and our warmest best wishes go out to them and look forward to seeing them at our next meeting

Coming up

We have planned the next gathering, will be Wednesday 3rd November with our Christmas function on Wednesday 15th December. Christmas this year will be at the Norton House Hotel Mumbles.



South Wales Branch

Members can contact Viv Perry if they want to attend.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

Once again, our Chair and Events Organiser, Roger Gamlin, had arranged excellent venues at Chew Lake as reported in Club News 170 (another photo below) and good weather for our second 2021 event. This luncheon meeting was held at the Failand Inn which is just a few miles south of Bristol on a lovely sunny day. We were 19 in number, a few up on our first 2021 event, and despite the motor fuel panic buying. Special mention of Geoff and Barbara Clemens needs to be made as they travelled up from Plymouth to join us.



The food and service were both very good. There was as ever, plenty to chat about and to reminisce over. Roger was congratulated on organising the event. We all came away with a smile on our faces and having remembered absent friends.



Coming Up

Christmas Lunch – Tuesday November 30th 2021. Your committee are really looking forward to meeting up with you again and after successful and enjoyable lunches in the past we have decided to use the same venue again, but a little earlier this year on Tuesday 30th November at Henbury Golf Club,

Henbury Hill, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS10 7QB. As you may know it is situated in a superb parkland setting of mature woodlands bordering the Blaise Castle Estate.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Contact:
Tony Reeve-Parker

Hello members, we very much hope you all are in good health and looking forward to Christmas.

As you no doubt know, we tried to organise for you a Turkey and Tinsel event a few months ago unfortunately this came to no avail because of multiple reasons - hospital appointments, illness or no longer driving because of age. This is a downside of the ageing process, but it comes to us all eventually.

We look forward to 2022 with renewed hope and trust we will be able to get back to the social scene which we all seem to enjoy.

Coming up

Christmas Lunch this year will be at The Amberwood, Walkford, on Wednesday 15 December, which we hope will have taken place by the time this is published. Hope to see you all again soon.

South East

Branch in abeyance

London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

Wedding Anniversaries



74 years and counting!

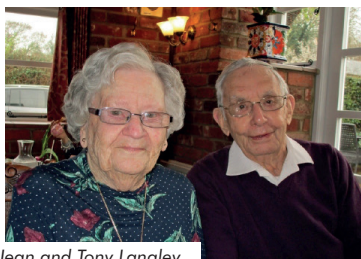
Jean and Tony Langley

12th July 2021

Diamond

Jerry and Sue Barr

15th July 2021



Jean and Tony Langley



Jerry and Sue Barr



In Memoriam

Daniel Clark

His son Doug Clark writes: Daniel Clark passed away on Sunday 11th July 2021. He was a glorious 99.33 years old. Dad was fiercely independent until quite recently - he spent the last 3 years, as quite a character, at his residential home Burrswood in Bury. Having moved there after a few nasty falls as he started to become more frail. He was mentally bright as a button until his passing, his strong gruff Scot's accent stayed with him to the end, but his body eventually succumbed - no one could ask more. He wasn't in any pain, and I was at his side the last week of his life.

Dan was so proud of his career in Shell-Mex and B.P. and Shell UK. He retired in 1981. Through both his proudly earned mechanical engineering skills and knowledge of Shell Lubricants he built some amazing and life-long



lasting relationships with his Industrial customers some of which became deep friendships. He had 'relationship selling' nailed!

Mike Howard

Club Chairman Rick Westley spoke at Mike's Funeral: One year before I was born Mike joined SMBP. He was 16 and had just left Kingston Grammar School, and after a successful interview with Bob Ingle started work on the 6th Floor of Shell-Mex House as general dogsbody to the Directors and their PAs. It was the start of a working relationship that was to last 38 years.

Off his own bat Mike immediately studied Finance and Accounting at Night School and within 7 months had joined HO Accounts as a Trainee Clerk. It was there he met a young David Soame who began to rely on Mike's abilities with numbers and sales data, and a friendship was struck that

would last almost 60 years.

National Service then intervened, although Mike rather enjoyed his couple of years with the RAF where he seemed mainly to hone his sporting skills especially tennis and hockey. Back in SMBP in 1953 Mike resumed his career in Accounts Procedures – a bit like 'Compliance' today. And he resumed playing representative sport at both Lensbury and Sydenham, where in 1954 he met a Miss Maureen Shapland.... Mike progressed in Finance and Audit in Shell-Mex House until

the 1960's when the computer boom hit SMBP and their first Computer Centre was built in Hemel Hempstead. Brian Bowden was its first boss and he asked Mike to help run the complex financial and control systems there. So the family duly moved to Hertfordshire which was to become their settled home. Mike however was promoted back to



Mike was a keen and very able golfer

London in 1970 where he joined Derek Higgins as Head of Finance and Administration managing the company's Authorised Distributor network. It was here as a young Graduate that I joined Mike's Unit in 1974.

I learned a lot from Mike – he was a firm but considerate boss and always genial. He introduced us to the famous Il Paradiso restaurant in the Strand as well as some rather more exotic establishments in and around Soho! Mike remained at the very core of our relationship with Distributors, right through Brand Separation in 1976 and the various reorganisations that followed. He took on additional roles over the next decade running Commercial Services and Chairing a West Country AD, as well as Consulting to William Cory following his retirement from Shell in 1987.

SMBP was a very close-knit and paternalistic organisation, and it was no surprise that the Distributor Trade



team continued post-retirement to hold regular reunions – and of course Mike organised these for about 20 years. My wife Victoria (as Mike liked to call her) and I were delighted to be

involved in the last half-dozen of these.

And that closeness is why the 44Club (for SMBP Alumni) was born in 1977 and continues today with around 2000 members. Mike soon joined his local South Midlands Branch (the biggest in the Country) and gave many years of service on the Committee including more than 10 years as Branch Chairman. And he is the reason I became involved – he proposed me as Club Chairman 5 years ago – so for this and many other life lessons, bless you Michael.

Frank Downes

Frank Downes, who has died at the



Brian Spencer, one of Frank's new colleagues, recalled that Frank had a 'distinctive business style'. Certainly, Frank in this early incarnation in SMBP was keen to expand the company's market share in the Solvents sector. Brian told a story involving fleece from sheep, a chicken farm and lanolin which suggests a remarkable, if somewhat stomach turning, new initiative in the expansionist Downes era!

As Brand Separation approached senior management in the embryonic SUKO organisation realised that they had acquired a marketer of exceptional talent in Frank. He found himself in the Industrial/Commercial market looking after some of SUKO's largest customers. 'Relationship marketing' wasn't what we called it in those days but that was what Frank did. The bigger the customer the better. In the new regional structure in SUKO in 1978 Frank was appointed Manager of Eastern Region based first in Knightsbridge and then Watford. The latter location was a shock to Frank's system. Knightsbridge had plenty of good restaurants for a working lunch. Watford rather fewer. The Grims Dyke Hotel in Old Redding became our location of choice for the more demanding meetings (I was Frank's Business Planning Manager). The management team in the region was talented and Frank was its ideal leader. It was a tough time with allocations and rationing and political upheaval – Frank gave us the confidence to handle this, and we kept things on an even keel as well as enjoying ourselves.

The next reorganisation in SUKO came rapidly and the new Divisional Manager David Soame wanted Frank

age of 88, came to Shell-Mex and B.P. in the early 1970s from Shell Italia to manage the "Special Products" business taking over from Hugh Armstead.

to return to and head up his big customer Department called National Trade

which looked after the big industrial customers. He was very much a square peg in a square hole – Frank had a unique understanding of what the really big customers wanted. And it wasn't just the lowest prices. The Department was especially customer focused and Frank had around him people like Donald Reid, Clive Moulton, Colin Jones, Mike Ross and Vince Timmins who were also masters of the art of relationship management.

Frank was always what in those distant days was referred to as a "Ladies Man" and it had been at Watford that he had met Lorraine Marshall and their romance was to lead to a long and happy marriage. Away from Shell Frank was an active politician, a member of Buckinghamshire County Council where he was the Cabinet member for resources.

Frank had suffered from ill health for some time but his engaging personality and hospitable nature never diminished his popularity nor style. He will be much missed. **PSB**

Bill Carter

The death of Bill Carter at the age of 101 was reported in the last Club News. His grandson Matt has sent us photos of him – one from the archives and one more recent one with his great-grandchildren.



continued on page 18

'Mike' Cowl

David Dungate writes: It was with great sadness that I read of the demise of John Cowl the Motor Inspector (MI) at East Midlands Airport. He was not just the MI at EMA, he was also the MI at Birmingham Airport. He was

universally known as Mike, (his second name). He was my colleague at Birmingham Airport from 1981 until his retirement - he was a terrific guy, and a great servant to SMBP and later Shell UK Aviation. This was evidenced by his efforts to keep vehicles serviced and repaired at

Birmingham, where prior to 1985, he had no garage. I often saw Mike, and Gordon, (his contractor assistant), lying in the open air under a vehicle, in winter with snow falling, in order to get it back on the road. He was a stalwart, and a true product of SMBP.

Obituaries

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

ALLEN (95). Mrs Dorothy Allen of Ruislip as died. She was the wife of Mr C J Allen who worked for BP Oil at Fulham.

AUSTIN (99). Mr John Austin of Guildford died on 24th May 2021. He was a Driver at Fulham when he left group service after 35 years.

BAKER (96). Mrs Margaret Baker of Esher died in May 2021. She was the wife of Mr John Baker who once worked in Shell-Mex House.

BARBER (87). Mr Donald Barber of Chesham died on 2nd September 2021. He was an LPG Technical Consultant in Shell Centre when he left group service in 1991 after 31 years.

BARRON (97). Mr John Barron of Salcombe has died. He was Manager, Merchandising, BP Victoria when he left group service in 1983 after 27 years.

BATEMAN (90). Mr Howard Bateman of Sheffield has died. He was a Driver at Sheffield when he left group service in 1983 after 25 years.

BILLETT (93). Mr Reginald Billett of Dunstable has died. He was Project Leader, Communications and Development at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1982 after 39 years.

BLACHFORD (92). Mrs Barbara Blachford of Poole died on 20th July 2021. She was the wife of Mr Peter Blachford, once a Shift Manager at Poole.

BLAKE (89). Mr Malcolm Blake of Norwich died on 26th July 2021. He was a Senior Marketing Assistant, Domestic Market, Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1977 after 20 years.

BOWEN-WEST (82). Mrs Margaret Bowen-West of Banstead died on 21st January 2021. She was the wife of Mr Peter Bowen-West, once a Distribution Operations Manager at BP Victoria.

CARMICHAEL (93). Mrs Jessie Carmichael of Callendar died on 16th October 2021. She was the wife of Mr Alex. Carmichael, once a Distributor Sales Supervisor at Glasgow.

CARROLL (90). Mr Kenneth Carroll of Torksey died on 28th September 2021. He was a Commercial Liaison Representative at Manchester Regional Office when he left group service in 1988 after 17 years.

CHAMBERS (88). Mr James Chambers of Silsoe died on 19th July 2021. He was Retail Area Business Adviser based at Watford when he left group service in 1990 after 23 years.

CLARK (99). Mr Daniel Clark of Ramsbottom died on 31st March 2021. He was a Sales Engineer at Manchester when he left group service in 1981 after 29 years.

COOK (94). Mr Walter Cook of Gravesend died on 26th July 2021. He worked in Estuarial at Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1984 after 14 years.

DOUGHNEY (92). Mrs Audrey Doughney of Newcastle-upon-Tyne died on 26th February 2021. She was the wife of Mr John Doughney, once an Industrial Lubricants Representative, Tyneside.

DOWNES (88). Mr Frank Downes of Penzance died on 17th October 2021. He was National Trade Manager, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1992 after 34 years.

ELSMORE (83). Mr Maurice Elsmore of Lancing died on 20th June 2021. He was a Driver at Hove when he left group service in 1988 after 13 years.

FIELDS (77). Mr David Fields of Uttroter died on 1st October 2021. Mr Field was working at Uttroter Terminal when he left group service in 1994 after 26 years.

FORD (89). Mr Alan Ford of Fleet died on 11th September 2021. He was Manager, UK Payroll, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1988 after 24 years.

GATES (84). Mr James Gates of Swansea died on 11th October 2021. He was a Driver at Swansea when he left group service in 1987 after 25 years.

GRIFFITHS (84). Mr Terence Griffiths of Taunton died on 5th April 2021. He was a Project Supervisor, National Rebranding, BP Victoria when he left group service in 1987 after 30 years.

HALL (91). Mr Alan Hall of Sunbury-on-Thames died on 23rd July 2021. He was Pension Fund Investment Manager, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1972 after 28 years.

HANDFORTH (90). Mr Ronald Handforth of Wakefield died on 6th September 2021. He was a Driver at Leeds Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 25 years.

HAYES (79). Mr Edward Hayes of Wrexham died on 29th August 2021. He was a Driver at Stanlow when he left group service in 1992 after 23 years.

HILLIER (74). Mr David Hillier of Doune died on 12th September 2021. He was Managing Director, Shell Direct (UK) Limited, Wythenshawe when he left group service in 1999 after 29 years.

HOWARD (88). Mr Michael Howard of Chorleywood died on 9th October 2021. He was Distribution Sales Manager, Commercial, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1987 after 38 years.

HUMAN (89). Mr Dennis Human of Ely died on 19th August 2021. He worked in Project Engineering at Royston & Shell Centre when he left group service.

KEENE (82). Mr Gerald Keene of Chichester died on 16th September 2021. He was Production Planning Manager, Shell Lubricants when he left group service in 1990 after 36 years.

KINGHAM (92). Mrs Brenda Kingham of Stockport died on 11th September 2021. She was the wife of Mr William Kingham, once an Output Control Clerk at Shell UK Oil, Wythenshawe.

KNAPP (82). Mr William Knapp of Weston-Super-Mare died on 27th July 2021. He was an Airfield Operator at Gatwick when he left group service in 1991 after 18 years.

LITSTER (89). Mr Gordon Litster of Stockton-on-Tees died on 26th July 2021. He was Distribution Operations Manager, Manchester when he left group service in 1991 after 28 years.

MASON (82). Mr Eric Mason of Selby died on 5th October 2021. He was a Driver at Leeds when he left group service in 1995 after 30 years.

MACDONALD (84). Mr Hugh MacDonald of Inverurie died on 14th July 2021. He was Aviation Terminal Manager at Aberdeen Airport when he left group service in 1991 after 22 years.

McMAHON (71). Mrs Linda McMahon of Hemel Hempstead died on 9th October 2021. She was the wife of Mr Michael McMahon, once Head of Accounts Payable at SUKAS.

MORGAN (87). Mr David Morgan of Whitstable died on 21st September 2021. He was an Engineer in M&R Operations, Distribution Division, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1988 after 31 years.

MORRIS (91). Mr Raymond Morris of Kidderminster died on 12th August 2021. He was a Driver at Warley when he left group service in 1981 after 21 years.

MORTON (94). Mrs Norma Morton of Stockport died on 2nd August 2021. She worked in Secretarial Services at Wythenshawe when she left group service in 1987 after 15 years.

MOTHERSHAW (85). Mr Anthony Mothershaw of Wilmslow died on 8th October 2021. He was a Section Head in Export Department at Barton Terminal when he left group service in 1988 after 19 years.

MOYLE (93). Mrs Sylvia Moyle of Gravesend died on 29th July 2021. She worked in Catering at Shell-Mex House.

O'CONNOR (83). Mr John O'Connor of Urmston died on 17th August 2021. He was a Driver at Barton Terminal when he left group service in 1988 after 28 years.

PARKER (89). Mr Kenneth Parker of Worthing died on 22nd July 2021. He was an Economic Planning Assistant at BP Victoria when he left group service in 1984 after 26 years.

PAYNE (80). Mr Christopher Payne of Gravesend died on 21st July 2021. He worked on Estuarial Vessels, Supply & Trading, Shell Haven when he left group service.

PILKINGTON (83). Mr Maurice Pilkington of Chorley died on 10th September 2021. He was a Supervisor at Haydock when he left group service in 1989 after 24 years.

REDFERN ORTON (75). Miss Deirdre Redfern Orton of Twickenham has died. She worked in Human Resources at Britannic House when she left group service in 1990 after 23 years.

ROBBINS (90). Mr Derek Robbins of Newent died on 13th September 2021. He was a Retail Sales Representative based at Watford Regional Office when he left group service in 1984 after 18 years.

SINGER (89). Mr Norman Singer of Aberdeen died on 26th July 2021.

STACEY (80). Mrs Sheila Stacey of Newton Abbot died on 25th June 2021. She was the wife of Mr Norman Stacey, once a National Buyers Manager, Commercial, Watford.

STAINES (92). Mrs Marjorie Staines of Solihull died on 9th September 2021. She was the wife of Mr R L Staines who once worked as a Driver at Cakemore Terminal.

THOMSON (83). Mr Thomas Thomson of Wishaw died on 23rd August 2021. Mr Thomson left group service in 1992 after 30 years.

TOPHAM (91). Mr William Topham of Kidderminster died on 7th August 2021. He was a Sales Representative, Consumer, Birmingham when he left group service in 1988 after 20 years.

TROUTT (87). Mr Brian Troutt of Dartford died on 15th September 2021. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1987 after 31 years.

TRUEMAN (89). Mr Derrick Trueman of Etchingam died on 28th July 2021. He worked in Internal Audit in Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1992 after 26 years.

WATT (85). Mr Douglas Watt of Inverness died on 4th September 2021. He was a Driver at Inverness when he left group service in 1983 after 17 years.

WHITE (88). Mr Malcolm White of Bournemouth has died.

WILKINSON (86). Mr Ronald Wilkinson of Cheltenham died on 23rd August 2021. He was a Marketing Manager, Shell Oils, Cheadle Hulme when he left group service in 1990.

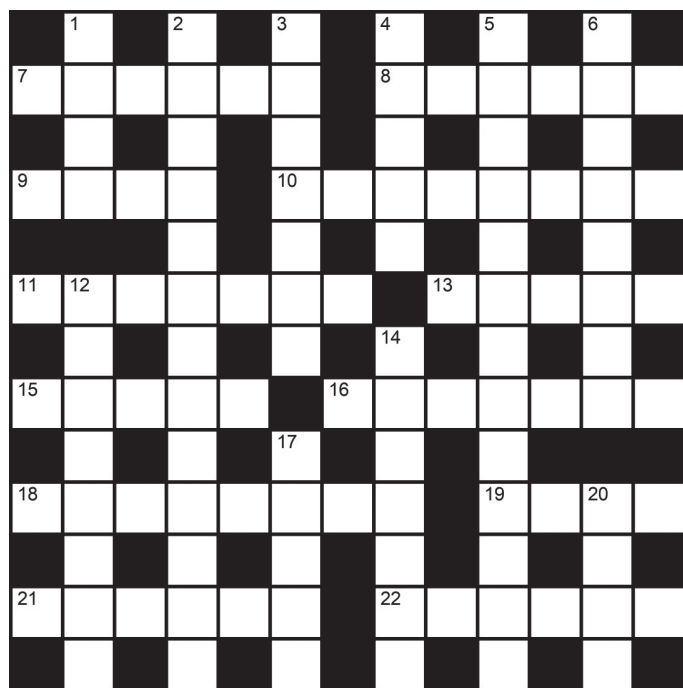
WILSHER (90). Mrs Miriam Wilsher of Stanford-le-Hope died on 1st July 2021.

and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"The activities of the 44 Club provide such good humour and fellowship" A.L. King December 1981

Prize Crossword



Across

- 7 Jewish prayer from Psalms 113–118 (6)
- 8 Fair treatment investment? (6)
- 9 A hoop from the 1950s (4)
- 10 On a Board of management (8)
- 11 A patriotic English syrup? (7)
- 13 Chambers on the Strand (5)
- 15 It was Colin Harris not him (5)
- 16 A banger with mash? (7)
- 18 The "Markets Division" that handled the ADs. (8)
- 19 Often formed of coral (4)
- 21 Experiment with (3,3)
- 22 "..... is enough they say" (6)

Down

- 1 Largest city on the Caspian Sea (4)
- 2 Money from the State for wrinklies (3-3,7)
- 3 "..... Pink" (7)
- 4 A Jewell of a man (5)
- 5 Maurice uses it to brush up his patio (8,5)
- 6 Cats usually like it (8)
- 12 Motor lubricated by Shell Nautilus (8)
- 14 At the bottom of the garden? (7)
- 17 Norman Monahan had lunch with him (5)
- 20 Often seen with Beans and Crumpets at the Drones Club (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

A good entry of 14 correct submissions from which the Editor's cat Freddie selected that of Royston Lowe of Bristol as the winner. Something different this time Royston – the prize is a vintage 'Shell Guide to France'! Joyeuses vacances. The eagle-eyed will spot that the grid for this edition's crossword is the same as last time. The clues are different though!

Closing date for next issue
20th February 2022