



Shell-Mex and B.P. in 1959 - looking back with John Smeddle and in the archives



In 1959 SMBP was twenty-seven years into what was eventually to be its forty-four years of existence. It was a golden age. The Shell, BP and other brands were confident and the restrictions of the war years and immediately after were fading away. We look back at the "Shell-BP News" of those times and tap the memory of John Smeddle who joined the company in November of that year. The opening of Britain's first motorway, Mrs 1970, Peter Yarranton, and many others feature in this nostalgic look back.

Useful Contacts

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

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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

On Pensions

Perhaps because I was a Trustee of the Shell Contributory Pension Fund for four years and therefore close to the action, I still take an interest in the world of Pensions – and not just my own! The shift from the Defined Benefit (DB) schemes that Shell and B.P. offered us, and we still benefit from, to the much inferior 'Defined Contribution' scheme is almost complete in Britain - except in the public sector. This has led to considerable confusion when commentators write about the subject. Take this from a very cerebral magazine:

Well actually our pensions are paid for out of a 'store of cash' - the Pension Fund. I agree that it is not 'fixed' (its value can and does go up and down) but its value has only the most tenuous connection to 'the economy as a "Pensions, after all, are not paid for out of a fixed store of cash. They are paid for from returns on invested funds and these are derived from the productive capacity of the economy as a whole" 'Prospect' magazine Jan/Feb 2022

whole'. The Fund has been built up over the decades for the specific purpose of paying its liabilities – pensions to its retired members.

If you look at the Obituaries at the end of this magazine you will see that the majority of those who have sadly left us did so in their 80s and 90s. Back in 1978 when the first edition of this magazine appeared of the forty Obits only eight of them was over eighty. Not statistically significant obviously but a fair indication of how much progress in longevity has been made. This of course has implications for the payment of pensions whether from a dedicated Fund or out of the Exchequer (like the State Pension).

As well as the long life benefits our generation enjoys, we are also able, in so many cases, to use these extra years to be active. One of the pleasures of putting together this magazine is to hear the stories of our very active, if aging, membership! Is 80 the new sixty? Of course it is!

This year, 2022, really does have to be a recovery year for us as individuals and collectively in such areas as the 44 Club Branches which have suffered grievously from the pandemic. Where things in some places have fallen into abeyance it will require a special effort to get them up and running again. But it's a task worth doing. Our communities have lasted far longer than anyone ever expected. Lets keep them going a bit longer!

Paddy Briggs

Noticeboard

Branch Organisers

Further to our announcement about the need for Branch organisers in the Northwest /North Wales and King's Lynn area we have also now heard from Jim Broughton (right) that at the age of 90 he must now stand down from the role for the South Yorkshire/Lincolnshire Branch. Jim is a long-standing servant of the 44 Club and we are very grateful to him for his eighteen years of service.



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.

Shell Travel Club



Our good 44 Club friend David Dungate is the Treasurer of the "Shell Travel Club" which organises excellent holidays in the UK and overseas. Membership is open to all ex SMBP employees and Life Membership costs £5. A bargain. The best way to join is to go to the Club's very good website www.shelltravelclub.co.uk where further information is available.

Reunion and AGM

As advised in the last Club News our first live reunion for three years will be in Shell Centre on Thursday 26th May. The emphasis will be on celebration coupled with inevitably a toast to absent friends. Contact the Secretary or other officers of the Club (see Page 2) for more information. We'd love to see you.



Delegating Access to your finances

As we get older, we do become vulnerable in many ways and it is prudent to plan ahead for a time when we might not be physically or mentally able to manage our finances, including our pensions.

Setting up a "Power of Attorney" allows someone to act on your behalf and where necessary make decisions for you. Your solicitor can advise, and you can also find out more information on the Government website https://www.gov.uk/power-ofattorney . Age UK also has excellent information https://www.ageuk.org. uk/information-advice/money-legal/ legal-issues/power-of-attorney/

Welcome New Members

Mrs Madeleine Billett - Dunstable

Mrs Sylvia Human - Ely

Mr Peter Moore - Poynton

Looking back to 1959 with John Smeddle – and a search of the 44 Club archive

Dwight D Eisenhower was President of the US, while John F Kennedy was some nine months from receiving the Democratic nomination for the forthcoming election. Wolverhampton Wanderers won the First Division Championship, Liverpool were in the second division and Nottingham Forest won the FA Cup, while Yorkshire won the County Championship and France were victorious in the Five Nations. Harold MacMillan won the UK election with the slogan, patronising or patrician according to your view, 'you've never had it so good', and the summer had been one of the hottest of the 20th century. 1959 was that year.

I joined Shell Mex and BP on 23 November, four days after completing National Service. My start was most fortunate as I was given one of six rooms SMBP was allocated at Lensbury Club for six months, after which those allocated rooms were expected to find congenial colleagues to join up in a flat, which I duly did. Arriving on the evening of 22 November, I was greeted by other SMBP staff, in particular one who was to take me to Shell Mex House the following morning. On arrival, I went through the formalities, and found my first job was preparing material for The Node.

I had various jobs in SM House, and then Western Division in Bristol, basically marking time until I was 24 at which point one was assumed to be mature enough to become a Sales Superintendent. One day, although well short of 24, I was called to see the Division Manager to be interviewed for the coveted first step of being a Sales Superintendent, followed by a Board in London, which happily



I survived, and started thorough training in Gloucester Branch under the experienced Leonard George. In November 1961, following a reorganisation, I was given a Retail Territory based upon the city of Hereford. I was in that job for three and a half years, and in retrospect, I think that was about right, as it takes time to settle in, and importantly for the dealers to get to know and trust this new, young, inexperienced Superintendent who is there to assist in the development of their fuels business in a fast-growing market. I had 42 sites in my territory, stretching to Talgarth and Hay on Wye where I crossed a toll bridge for sixpence as a short cut. Many of my sites were called Forge Garage, still shooing horses, maintaining farm machinery as well as selling fuel. The dealers were good, rural people, often slow to make up their minds – cautious most certainly. There were curiosities of course, one convinced that Princess Margaret was illegitimate. Another was permanently short of money to the extent I had to tell the depot not

to deliver fuel to him until I gave the go ahead having collected cash from him. One day, leading up to Easter when he hoped to have good sales, he had no money and implored me to let him have a load of fuel, adding vet more to his debt. Incensed when I refused, he demanded I visit his site to discuss the position and the security he was prepared to offer. Arriving at the site, he was standing near the pumps holding a horse. This beast he assured me was worth much more than a load of fuel, and I could take the horse there and then as security. I had to decline!

I had many amusing experiences as a Retail Superintendent in a rural area whose economy was dependent on 'the milk cheque'. At the time, I felt I had been too long doing the job, but as it happened, in my final year, more developments took place, more contracts signed, and a site conversion from Cleveland to Shell. They just needed time to get to know me. Afterwards, I never regretted a day of my time among decent people in a beautiful environment.

I play golf with two former SMBP Superintendents from those days. Both resigned, as they thought progression was too slow. One ended up CEO and then Chairman of a FTSE Company and President of the CBI, the other went to the City, where he was very successful. Both are now Knights of the Realm. It didn't suit everybody! John Smeddle

From the Archive

Shell-Mex and B.P. was close to its prime at the end of the 1950s and into the 1960s. Browsing through the 'Shell-BP News', edited by John

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Durman, there is a real sense of self-confidence. Lord Godber, long term Chairman of Shell, set the tone at a Shell AGM in 1958 when he said that he "... felt confident that the oil industry would be able to meet the ever-growing requirements of the market without undue difficulty." In Britain SMBP was the key to this with a dominant market share in all sectors and for all products. New markets were opening up all the time including Westland Heliport in 1959 at Battersea directly opposite the 'Shell and Lensbury' installation at Fulham. Shell and BP fuelled and lubricated the choppers of course! The Editor got a trip on one of the helicopters and spotted a well-known building.



Miss G.C. Chandler Secretary to Mr R.M. Anderson Financial Accounts Department

There are familiar faces in the 1959/1960 archive including many who were to become stalwarts of the SMBP 44 Club in time. **Greta Chandler** was one of them - bringing a touch of glamour to the otherwise 'men in suits' dominated pages!

Bob Breese was then an 'Admin Assistant' in Sales but gets a mention for being elected as a rather young Alderman of the Borough of St Pancras. By June 1960 Bob was





Fuelling the Vanguard

Bob Breese

moving rapidly and had been appointed as Marketing Services Manager in Western Division – Bristol again.

Among the newer markets was Aviation and the year marked the trials of 'Britain's newest and biggest' aircraft - the Vickers Vanguard which had its first flight in January 1959 and SMBP was, of course there! In 1959 80% of aircraft using London Airport were fuelled by the company. In September 1959 the company received 'Royal Assent' to a Bill in Parliament for the construction of pipelines to carry fuel to Heathrow and also for the construction of a hydrant system. The pipelines, which ran for six miles from Walton depot were in place and operating by March 1960. Astonishing progress for a major project compared with today.

The 1960s were to be the years of expansion of home heating and SMBP was the prime mover in this. In Autumn 1959 we launched a major campaign in the Domestic Market, after two years of planning. One of the necessary steps was the building of specialist vehicles for ADs. (below).



TO MEET the increasing demand for domestic oil fuel from 'private house' customers, a number of specially designed vehicles are being built for service with Authorised Distributors. The vehicles will be equipped with 120 feet of reeled hose and ticket printing meters. The picture shows a vehicle of this type built by Kennings Ltd

In the January 1960 edition of the 'News' we are introduced to June Ganley from Surbiton who became famous as 'Mrs 1970'. She is described as a "gay young housewife who does her own housework and cooking". We get a further insight into the gender mores of the times in an interview "I believe women should be able to follow their careers until their families come". June's husband was Allan Ganley the drummer with the Johnny Dankworth band. The past is of course a foreign country, but June Ganley was perhaps despite her expectation that one day as a mother she would have to quit work, ahead of her time.

The magazine visited SMBP customer Electrolux in Luton and pictured a 20-yearold production line worker Pamela Smith (right). The caption doesn't need further comment as a record of the role of women



in general at the time and how they were perceived in the commercial world of those times: "Pamela Smith is a very serious person indeed when her eyes are concentrating on the welding of a cooling unit for a refrigerator. But when she turns down the oxyacetylene

> jet and raises her smoked glasses her smile is enchanting. She has blue eyes and fair hair, and under that leather apron is a pretty red dress. Pamela is 20 – and also a housewife. Her husband is a motor cycle enthusiast, and she likes pillion riding."

There is one new market you may not have heard of, but, I kid you not, it's there is black

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and white. "When an Australian Test team visits Britain, one of their first purchases is a couple of gallons of oil from the Shell and Lensbury Installation. The oil, blended to a special formula, is used for massaging the team." Hmmm!

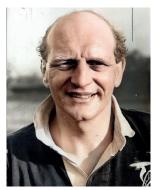
Part of the rapid expansion of SMBP was the opening in January 1959 of 'Shell-BP House' in Wine Street Bristol.

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David Soame

described as "standing on one of the highest points in the city centre overlooking the River Avon" and was part of the regeneration of the City as bomb sites were finally being cleared. One of the building's first occupants was David Soame (above) who was appointed Domestic and Agricultural Manager in Bristol in March. His stay was brief because in October he moved to be Branch Manager, North East London Branch. He was succeeded by Ken Brett. Along with Soame and Brett we see mention of familiar names who were moving into middle management positions like Ted Trees, Graham Smailes, David Burchell, Maurice Garwood, Ken Fidler, Barney Nolan, Norman Thomas, Frank Maddocks, Gerry Caesar, Tony Driver, Peter Yarranton,



Peter Yarranton

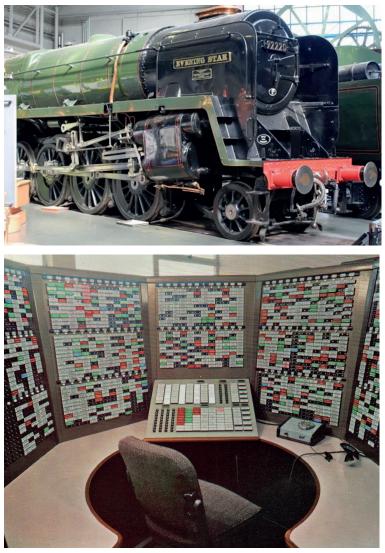


Bill Harrow, Arthur Sarsfield and many others. All are referred to only by their initials! Peter Yarranton (bottom left) was 35 and had just been appointed as Wasps Captain having previously been capped for England. He was starting his career in Industrial Relations in Staff Department in 1959.

In March 1960 plans for Shell-B.P. House in Edgbaston, Birmingham were announced (above). It was to be an impressive building faced in white Portland stone and set in landscaped grounds. Like the Bristol office it showed SMBP's commitment to being a Regional company and a significant local employer.

1960 was the year that British Railways last steam locomotive came into service. SMBP had an interest in that this as steam was gradually to be replaced by diesel which, of course, the company was to supply! Another attractive new market was born. The last steam engine was called 'Evening Star' (below) and it can be seen today at the National Railway Museum.

In September 1960 the magazine told the story of DORIS – not another patronising tale of someone succeeding despite the disadvantage of being a woman! 'DORIS' is a mnemonic standing for "Direct Order Recording and Invoicing System" a specially designed system to mechanise order processing. **PSB**



The Heart of DORIS

Of Lobsters and Promotions Norman Monahan

It was in the late sixties that I went to Orkney, and I did not realise that I was going to a different world. In Kirkwall, I booked into the Kirkwall Hotel (below), signed the book and waited. The clerk asked me what I wanted, and I requested the room key. "We don't lock doors here", was the reply.



Oh! Well, I thought and made my way to the offices of our Island distributors. After the usual pleasantries, he was told he wouldn't be free until six o'clock, why not have a look at the island. I was offered the use of his car, pointed out to me down on the guayside. I waited. "See you at six, then". I asked for the keys and was told that they were in the dash. I asked if he was afraid of it being stolen? "Where would they take it?". No answer to that! In the evening we went to The Standing Stones hotel in Stromness for dinner. Handing us the menu the waitress said that the lobster was very good. She repeated this several time before bursting out "You've got to have the lobster. Mrs Sutherland has got it in especially for you".

We had lobster.

On the way back to Kirkwall we stopped at an inn. There were six of us in the party. I looked at my watch. It was 1.30am. I queried with the pilot about the landlady, to be told that she had gone home at 11pm., and that he would leave money on the counter and slip the keys 'under the stone'.

In the Islander, flying to Sanday, the pilot asked us what we wanted for lunch. We (our Scottish Aviation Manager and I) said we would choose from the menu. The pilot said that she needed to know so that she could go to the butcher for the meat. The following morning, I went into the bank to get some cash. I slipped the cheque under the grill, with my bank guarantee card. The cashier looked at them closely, called his fellow cashier over, then disappeared into the office at the back. When he returned I asked if there was anything wrong. "No. It's just that this is the first guarantee card that we've seen!" In spite of all this we got the work done at considerably less cost than if we had allowed the Advertising Agency to do the job.

I felt quite sad, coming back to London, and the frenzied world of forecourt promotions. Forecourt promotions were a fact of life in the late 60s, with each company trying to outdo its rivals. So far as SMBP was concerned we had to cater for three companies - Shell, BP and National Benzole, although the last set up its own programme. At that time, Shell was putting into circulation more glassware than the wholesale glass industry! Every nine weeks, Shell moved some 8.5million glasses (around 260,000 cases). The logistics were massive. Retail carried out previews, pulling people off the streets to see an array of possible objects for the promotion, with the surprising result that glassware seemed to be irreplaceable as a front runner. Then, they had to be manufactured, usually in Belgium or Italy – we could find no-one in the UK willing to take on the task.

The Reps. had to be briefed. This meant a meeting in London in the morning, to cover the south-east and East Anglia, fly to Bristol to do the same for the West Country that day, then fly to Birmingham to be ready, the following morning, for the Midlands and Wales. On to Leeds for the North East, then to Glasgow for Scotland in the morning and on to Belfast for Northern Ireland. It was, to say the last, a bit of a rush.

Meanwhile, the glassware was coming into the country, to be stored in the warehouses of our distributor E Christian and Co. They were excellent in their work and we could depend upon them in an emergency – of which there were quite a few.

The older ones amongst us may remember the 3D animal card collection (below). The promotion was due to start on January 1st. and, just before Christmas, we had no cards in the country. Three Boeing 707s had to be flown from Japan, where they were being printed, and, in spite of everything, all garages had a supply by that date. A logistic triumph. And then there was the 'point of sale' material – Oh! Boy, was there ever a point of sale material. On one occasion, National Benzole showed us an artist's impression of their intended promotion. There were 36 items. We suggested one more, saying, 'Way In'!

Any items left over we sent out to schools for them to use. One residential school, for troubled boys, asked for some but was a little bewildered when a 3-ton lorry appeared. The headmaster took it into store and, when he wanted to use some, took it out of stock at the going price, using the money to buy amenities for the boys – such as a colour television for the Common Room, a good use we thought.

Then, in 1972, came yet another fuel crisis and these 'hot' promotions stopped overnight. Our distributors were, suddenly, left with about 40 vehicles redundant! A few low-key promotions followed but the heady days of 'hot' promotions never came back. BP, in Canada, staged one with the words, 'all prizes to be won'. The problem was that they had

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30 Annual card promotion

fewer entries than they had prizes so that, to remain legal, they had to send more than one prize to some competitors! We were, often, asked why we did not cut the price. The smallest that could be done that way would have been by one-halfpenny per gallon; the promotions were all costed out at .003 of a penny per gallon.

Then there was fun with Aviation – but that's for another time.

Ed: Juggling the respective tactics of price, service, product differentiation and promotions was one of the most interesting challenges at all levels. As a brand obsessive I favoured building the brand on real benefits like better products, better service, cleaner forecourts rather than low prices or better coffee mugs. But I have to admit promotions worked ("Make Money" !!) as did Green Shield Stamps.

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**

Shell-Mex House featuring in a Cunarder

We are just back from a new year cruise on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth and spotted this image of SMH in an Art Deco montage behind the Pursers desk. It also included part of the Telegraph building in Fleet Street, along with other images that I didn't recognise. The ship is Art Deco themed throughout.

Not surprisingly none of the crew had a clue what or where this building was or even if it was real! So, I took the opportunity to enlighten them



and pointed out the one identifiable window of the many that I spent time looking out of from my desk (in the arch, top page 10) during my almost 20 years based there.

Will be looking forward to seeing it again as we have a couple more cruises booked on her one of which around Japan should have happened in 2020 but has now been postponed 3 times so will be next year!

Andy Hull

Thanks and Stephen Yeomans remembered

90th I am pleased to report that despite age, I have reasonable fitness, both physical and mental. Having taken up freelance scribbling more years ago than I like to think, these days I mainly produce countryside and travel articles for a local monthly glossy magazine. It doesn't pay a fortune, but making me thump away at my keyboard on a regular basis keeps the little grey cells active, as Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot would say.

I did have a pleasant surprise when out of the blue I was recently approached by Harper Collins publishers, as I wrote a series of walking guides for them some years ago, covering the north of England National Parks. They also contracted me to write walking guides to four major French regions, which became a most enjoyable exercise. What Harper Collins wanted me to do was write three 'blogs' introducing a series of new guides, still unpublished by the way. Not really knowing what a 'blog' is - and I am still unsure, I just wrote 3x300 words based on what I knew about the proposed area covered by the guides. Amazingly I got a gushing thanks for my efforts, and more important, the fee was more than I could have ever expected.

I often wonder if there are still any of the Manchester Branch, subcommittee still around, whose

lunchtime meetings at Tommy Ducks, a Victorian pub once popular with visiting theatrical personalities were a daily pleasure. When the pub was unexpectedly demolished over a weekend to make way for the Bridgewater Concert Hall, the Guardian's report sounded like an obituary. This was a place where our own in-house impresario Tom Hind held early auditions for his sketch based on wifely misunderstandings of the work being undertaken for SMBP by Messrs McKinsey & Co, mistaking it for the American gentleman of similar sounding name who wrote a rather interesting report on an entirely different subject. The sketch was so good, by popular demand it even went on tour round the other North Western branches.

I was sorry to hear about Frank Downes death, but I must say he would have been delighted to read his obituary, one of the wittiest I have ever come across. There was, however, an omission from the names mentioned, but you can be forgiven as no one, least of all myself fully understood why Stephen Yeomans was a member of the Special Products team. All I knew was he once had the onerous task of selling domestic central heating to (the then), Margaret Thatcher. As time went by, it became apparent that he was marking time between army service and a spell of a posting to something we cannot talk about, in the Ministry of Defence. Stephen's obituary appeared in 44 Club News last year as I recall.

Our paths first crossed several years before I joined SMBP. It was during the time when I served my National Service as a lowly technical assistant (tec-ack) in the Royal Artillery demonstration regiment at the School of Artillery, Larkhill. In my job I was responsible for calculating data necessary for a shell to hit the desired target. We worked with all manner of courses, ranging from NATO troops preparing to go off to Korea, to designing barrages suitable for the unique conditions over there. In charge of these courses was a certain senior gunnery instructor,

Captain Stephen Yeomans RA who could be guaranteed to pop up seemingly out of nowhere whenever things were going wrong - be it separating the Israelis from the Arab Legion officers who, due to some administrative mistake, were put in the same command post, ours. There was a bizarre incident when a message came down from the observation post, that a group of pigs had entered the range. In their wisdom someone decided that my skills with slide rule and log tables were so good that I could be trusted to move the said pigs, by gunfire no less. All seemed to be going well, at least the single gun barrage was slowly moving them away from danger, when the irate voice of Captain Yeomans hardly keeping to correct radio procedure, wanted to know what we thought we were up to, or words to that effect.

In the distinctly more peaceful atmosphere of Special Products, Stephen and I were able to talk about happier things. One day he mentioned that he had commanded a mountain gun troop post D-Day, which puzzled me more than a little. As there are few real mountains in north-western Europe, I asked him how or if they operated as a mountain unit. This happened in Rotterdam of all places when a German sniper hiding high up in a six storied warehouse was delaving road movement in and out of the port. Undeterred, Stephen's gun crew stripped the gun down to its component parts and without the conventional help of mules, carted them up six flights of stairs. A single shot from the opposite side of the buildings where the sniper was holed up and Rotterdam's port was clear.

Stephen was a qualified parachutist, but he once told me he hated flying and was only happy when he jumped out of the noisy things and was sedately floating back to terra-firma.

Post the split of SMBP, Stephen disappeared into the Ministry of Defence's maw, prepared to do something hush-hush as far as I could tell. The last sight I had of him was when he gave me lunch at his club, the Army and Navy in St James' no less; the place was heaving with retired admirals and generals, but only one technical assistant Royal Artillery to keep the flag flying.

Again many thanks for remembering my birthday and greetings to any ex-Manchester Industrial folk still around.

Brian Spencer

Memories

I've just finished reading the latest 44 Club magazine. As usual there's many a happy memory, but sadness too as so many good friends' deaths are recorded. This time Mike Howard, Peter Palmer (Maelor Jones's Sales Supervisor at Consumer Area Office in Nottingham), and Frank Downes too. I kept up with Frank through the Grandfathers Club, but since moving west, we haven't seen him.

Finally, I read the piece on ADs and all the work associated with AD remuneration conducted by Rex Hatcher and Derek Higgins, Mike Howard taking over from Rex when he was seconded to work for Graham Smailes on Brand Separation. It was an everlasting negotiation (unsupported by laptops!) between ADs and SMBP. The 'big boys' being seen by Bob Ingle, others settled by Derek Higgins. I was very surprised to come across my name in all this though - 'high flyer' indeed! Thank you for the compliment. It will certainly raise a few eyebrows and wry smiles.

At the AD reunion in 2015 meeting Maelor reminded me of odd chances in life. During Brand Separation , Shell had proposed a company-run ADship to be agreed during the development of the new boundaries, always bigger of course. Appleyards agreed, Pilot Oils was formed, with Maelor appointed to run it. Following this, the BP team decided there should be a BP equivalent. Brian Bowden approached Kennings with this idea, which they initially agreed to in principle subject to

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BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

detailed discussions, and I was to be appointed to run it. However, the whole idea ran into the sands as David Kenning would not allow delegation to the point where the GM could sign cheques and be fully in charge of the business. Brian stuck to his guns, so the proposal never took off and I didn't join BP.

A year or so later, Bill Webb was approached to take over Harrisons in Garstang, as Harrison refused to accept the new agreement, Gerry Caesar finally running out of patience with extended procrastination and demands. Every other AD in the UK had by that time signed the new agreement, including Wm Cory, so Harrison was being very difficult. Bill Webb was offered the chance to take it over, (Bill had let it be known in the highest levels he would like another AD, partly to diversify his investments out of N.Ireland in the middle of The Troubles) initially viewed as an extension of Lancashire Fuel Services (LFS) in Manchester. However, it was decided by someone (Graham Smailes?) that LFS plus Garstang would be too big, and that the Webb business didn't have the management on their own, a condition being therefore that a Shell employee should be appointed for the initial years, and a discrete AD formed based on Harrison's proposed boundaries. I was the lucky one to be appointed from a short list.

Once appointed and on that seat, Maelor and I spoke regularly together about problems, solutions etc which was extremely useful. We became close friends, in email contact until about a week before he died.

John Smeddle

Hotel Cecil

In adding to the article on the Hotel Cecil, had events gone the way as originally intended, the Hotel would not have been built on the site that is now occupied by Shell-Mex House.

Joseph Bazalgette's works on embanking the Thames had produced



reclaimed land which is now the Victoria Embankment Gardens (above). The original plans for the Embankment Gardens included garden terraces, fountains and stairways with classical balustrades sloping down from the Strand. Joseph Bazalgette had obtained agreement from some land owners for this scheme, notably for the Adelphi area but the main area required was owned by the Marquis of Salisbury.

The Marquis was one of the land owners who retained a veto under legislation authorising the construction of the Thames Embankment to stop his land from being used for such purposes.

Carting and Ivybridge Lanes, Cecil and Salisbury Streets did not have prodigious or significant buildings and compensation would almost certainly have been above the market value. But despite a direct approach by Joseph Bazalgette the Marquis would not give way and the Embankment Gardens main access remained off the Embankment. And the building of Hotel Cecil on the Marquis's site is described in the article.

David Roberts

85th Many thanks, indeed, for the card picturing The Node. This brought back memories of a Staff Development Course I attended in 1963 (Photo above right).



I was then working in the Southern Division office in Southampton.

Roger Cook,

79th I joined Shell-Mex and B.P. in Shell-Mex House in 1957 after completing National Service in the RAF. My oil career was completed when I took early retirement from Cashiers in BP Victoria in 1984. Twenty-seven happy years. I do appreciate still being remembered!

Ray Large

80th Many thanks for the Birthday card-much appreciated. I am reminded of very happy times in 195 Knightsbridge with National Benzole -The Lensbury Club and The Node - also remembering good times and friends in both Computer Centres and Irish Shell Dublin.

Eamonn Lynch

82nd Thanks very much for your greetings card on my 82nd Birthday. It is very kind of the club to maintain this tradition and to know that I am remembered in this way. I always find it interesting to read of others who were my contemporaries even from the early 70s in Domestic and from the later years in Distribution, Northern Ireland, and Aviation. We were so fortunate to work for such good employers.

In recent years I have been singing in the Basingstoke Choral Society and took up bell ringing, as our village church had an augmented ring of 6 installed. I am Tower Captain though that does not mean I am the best ringer! You really need to start many years younger. I certainly wish I had.

Best wishes to all club members and let us hope the current Pandemic soon dwindles away.

Geoff Poynter Smith

83rd A big thanks to everyone for a birthday card with photographs that brings back memories of happy days spent in both the Node, and Shell Mex House.

The past year has been hectic, moving house to be near our youngest daughter who lived 250 miles away, during Covid restrictions, was particularly testing for both Pat and I. Particularly when properties were selling like the proverbial hot cakes in our chosen area. This shortage resulted in a property purchase that required extensive renovation, and builders with so much work on that it was a full-time job getting them on site.

We are now settled here in Crowthorne, close to family who we can help in all the usual ways, and they can keep us on the straight and narrow. So, win win.

Geoff Wragg

88th It is wonderful to think we are still remembered after all these years. There were no celebrations, due to the recent pandemic, as there are none today 1st January 2022, this being my 67th wedding anniversary to my wife Barbara. We will sit down, quietly, and enjoy each other's company with a drink.

My memory was stirred when I came across the article regarding the 1953

petrol drivers' strike. As a 20yr old army dispatch rider, I was there. The Commanding Officer of the 6th Training Battalion RASC Houndstone Camp Yeovil, Somerset was to be in charge of coordinating in the London Area, and I went with him and a party of army office staff, my iob was to deliver orders and delivery notes to terminals. We were not in London very long - the strike was over guickly. I do have one thing I remember vividly, that was, on one of my deliveries, I would pass a very forbidding H M Prison. Fulham sticks in my memory, because, when in later years when taking vehicles to Fulham MRC from Avonmouth Terminal all these little memories would come back to me

It just came to me, whilst writing this. How did I find my way around London? There were no Sat Navs then!

Colin Nash

92nd Thank you for continuing to operate during the pandemic and for my Card! They say life is built on memories and many of mine go back to my time in SMBP. The fascinating article on the history linking the Hotel Cecil to Shell-Mex House took me straight back to the years following WW2 when Aviation Department was in its infancy with offices in Cecil Chambers. The Department was headed by Sqd/Bdr Joseph Carey Crabtree Taylor with Wing/Cmdr Vivial Charles Varcoe (ADC to Bomber Command's Air Vice Marshall Harris) and RR Bentley as Assistant Managers. I worked with Alan Flowers and Derek King producing Shell and BP carnets (basically a credit card authorising the holder to draw aviation products around the world) for pilots employed by the increasing number of airlines and charter companies operating in the UK and Europe. Each carnet was printed by hand using a UNO stencil and special pen - laborious work!

Our office overlooked the Strand and opposite was Mooney's Irish House

where twice a week a horse drawn cart pulled up outside the bar and the driver removed layers of sacking covering large blocks of ice. These blocks were hacked into smaller pieces using an ice pick and a large hammer and then carried into the pub. During this process the horse would be munching away with his head in the nosebaa – sometimes he was given beer from a bucket. The



horse would leave a pile of manure when he left and someone from the nearby shops would dash out with a bucket and spade to collect it – a keen gardener no doubt! (Would I lie to you ?!)

Colin Kirk

92nd Thanks to all involved for the birthday greetings they send each year to the boys and girls of the Old Brigade. This year's card of The Node brought back many memories. During the Sixties new entrants to the Company enjoyed an induction course at The Node, having been duly warned by their older colleagues to be careful what they said as the house was wired. The then larger grounds were a retreat from the endless lessons given by company members and outsiders from numerous services and industries. It was like being at a very posh boarding school, well fed and looked after by a friendly staff. Matron (aka housekeeper and staff manager), oversaw the excellent meals and the table settings, complete with

continued on page 12

silver napkin rings bearing one's room number and the name of a previous group who had presented them. These are possibly now in the V and A as part of Britain's industrial heritage.

Due to the age of the house, the fire alarm was wired directly to the local Fire Brigade HQ and the bedroom of the resident Manager, just in case some merrymaker from the formal dinner of the departing course decided to press the red button at 3 am [as frequently happened.] As the years rolled by the visits to The Node became more intense and less frequent until at the farewell dinner given by friends present and past your name is added to the 44 club's birthday list. Ah! Those were the days. Thank you for every one of them.

Peter Smith

93rd Having just recently been a 'receiver' of one of your regular Birthday Cards, I would wish to thank you for the Organisation which you keep going so steadily. The Club and its organisation is a tribute to you all for the work involved and the time given. My thanks again to you all,

Lawrie Townsend

85th Thornley House re-opened for Easter 2021 our staff and guests having coped with lockdown and the rest with good humour despite policy confusions. The hotel is well



suited for the elderly, the fully active, and the partially disabled of all ages and their carers. In normal times (remember them?) it is open for most of the year and our 14-seat coach provides regular transport either to town or to our many beauty spots. Thank you for the magazine – communication is so vital especially in troubled times.

Jim Chivers

89th It was good to see The Node featured on my Birthday Card. I spent many good times there from the early 1990s. Sadly, when The Node was sold in 1990 I was part of the team responsible for selling it. A sad day.

Nigel Keen

85th Marion Clarke of Sutton, and once of Personnel at Norbury, celebrated her birthday with friends for lunch, lots of presents and cards and later a game of Bridge!

85th I was with National Benzole and had not been in the company very long when I first attended The Node and the pictures bring back a great many memories. If I'm honest my first arrival at this magnificent house filled me with a certain nervousness bordering on fear! I needn't have worried as they treated us very well!

Christopher Openshaw

86th Seeing the photograph of Shell Mex House on the back of the card brought back memories of my time working in Shell Legal when my office was on the top floor with magnificent views of the Thames. My wife Patricia (formerly of 197 Knightsbridge and 1 Kingsway, where we met) and I now live in the village of Storrington in West Sussex and by exchange of Christmas cards are in touch with John Emmerson ,John Goodchild and Martin Fyldes, friends and colleagues from Shell Mex House.

Alun Jenkins

86th Thank you very much for remembering me. After retiring from BP in early 1992 it is wonderful to receive a card. For the past 25 years I have lived in the Fylde coast area of Lancashire and for the last 11 years have resided in leafy Lytham. I still look forward to the arrival of my copy of the '44 Club News' each quarter.

lain Kenning

89th In spite of Covid slowing post times your birthday card to me arrived on time.

I was with Distributor trade Department and also Retail in Scotland. Now a little warmer living in Perth Western Australia. I am still active bowling, playing snooker, doing art painting and volunteer work. I hope the colleagues I worked with can claim the same. Hello to any of the distributor depot staff that may remember us working together.

A.O. (Sandy) Hogg

89th I attended many courses at The Node and remember it well! My wife Lynn and I are

soldiering on in these still uncertain times. I have the target of '90 years young' to strive for!

Martin Spankie



79th My birthday will be well remembered as a routine eye test in the morning led to a protracted visit to Birmingham eye hospital for the rest of the day and evening. I am awaiting the results of follow up checks at other NHS hospitals. I think it is a false alarm owing to a new man on the machines at the opticians. I await the opening of the local 44 club and the better weather so that Angie and I can enjoy our Broom 30 on the river Avon.

Andrew Mabbett

80th May I thank you all at the 44 Club for the Birthday Card sent to me on my 80th Birthday. It's always a joy to receive a card from colleagues I worked with all those years ago. Although a Shell Chemicals man for most of my career, it was only as a PLR for the Greater Manchester area that I joined the 44 Club, and met many friends at the annual dinners etc. Now living in North Wales I am unable to attend such events, but

nevertheless think very fondly of the great times we had.

John Smith

(Ed: PLRs were and are a very important part of our family John and you are always welcome.)



We were pleased to hear from Club member Denis Edelstone with memories of SMBP and news about his life in Australia. We will be putting Denis's

contribution in the next Club News.

Thanks also received from: Tom Burrows (79), Norman Murrell (94), Vince Lucey (91), Carol Hannah (80), Joyce Farmery, Eileen Readman, Gertrude Fleming, Anne Groves (88), Dick Tinson, Ken Guthrie (79), Brian Farmer (90), Barry Hiscock (86), Bill Lee (86), James Morne (96), Terence Harvey 85), Lionel Reece (85),

WEDDING ANNIVERARIES

Doreen Smith (80), John Swan (85), John 'Joe' Chatfield (81), Anne Curry (87), Nat Heyes, Dave Ounsley (75), Ian Purches (85), Derick Massey (78), Alistair MacDougall (75), Karl Hage (77), David Yorke (85), John Clements (83)

The First 'Thank You' letter published in the Club News was in December 1980

Dear 44 Club

An envelope with the London postmark, astonishment, what can it be, a card, disbelief, no one in London could know about my birthday. Then overwhelming joy, someone had gone to the trouble of finding out, how kind, how thoughtful, the pleasure you have given me will last far beyond my birthday, you have made me feel that I really belong, please accept my most arateful thanks, it was the nicest thing you could have done. Sincerely Doris Tribe



Diamond

Jean and Tony Langley

28th April 2022

Ces and Doreen Tate

14th February 2022



Ces and Doreen Tate

News from the Branches

You will see that whilst some Branches are still flourishing and others struggling on others are in abeyance or seriously under threat of closing. COVID has accelerated this trend but it was already underway before the pandemic hit us. The Secretary and others will do anything we can to help. These are still difficult times but you will see from the letters and other contributions to this edition of the magazine how much the 44 Club means to so many of us.

Inverness

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

continue to send them details to keep them in the loop. We are all looking forward to meeting up again in the hopefully not too distant future.

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty



Belfast Branch

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Jim Currie, probably our longest standing member. Jim organised the club quiz, usually held at least once during our annual programme of events. This was an event thoroughly enjoyed by all and was intensely competitive!

Glasgow Branch hasn't formally met since the onset of Covid. It seems very unlikely that we will ever restart our formal programme of events, there just aren't enough of us now for that. However we do hope, assuming we can find a venue everyone can get to, to organise coffee mornings or lunch meetings later in the year. We would be delighted to welcome anyone with a SMBP, Shell or BP history to these and if you are interested in this and not already on our mailing list please get in touch and details will be sent to you when an event is arranged.

We know some of our members are now housebound and not able to attend any get-togethers but we will The Belfast 44 club held their Christmas lunch on Friday 10th December at Donaghadee Golf Club , it was such a good day that one could see Scotland in the distance about 20 miles away and the photo shows the fifth hole of the club. This year eighteen attended and everyone was very happy to be together again after missing out in 2020.!

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

Fourteen members met at the Sea view Hotel South Shields for our Christmas lunch. We hadn't met there for quite some time because it's been closed for a total refurbishment. Everyone enjoyed the excellent meal followed by a gift for each member.



Northumbria Branch

West Riding Contact: Bram Allport

Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

North West - Western

Branch in abeyance

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

Well, it's been a long time coming but we hope that we can arrange a skittles game soon. Watch this space! We have arranged for a few holidays – Looe, Cornwall in May, Isle of Man in June and Isle of Wight in August. We have written to members who have usually joined us in the past – some have booked and if others would like to join us please contact Carol. Keep safe all – we will be in touch when there's more to tell!

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

After all the disruption and anxieties of the past two years it was a great relief to be able to return to a reassuring level of normality and style with our traditional Christmas lunch held at Berkhamsted Golf Club in December. Our timing proved to be very fortunate as we were just able to outwit the subsequent surge in the spread of the Omicron variant which took off just a few days later on into the festive season. Considering all the circumstances we were delighted to welcome just over 70 members and guests who enjoyed an excellent meal in the relaxed and convivial company of old friends and colleagues. Once more, we were very pleased to be joined by Colin Hill, our Club Secretary, and to welcome those who had travelled long distances to be with us, particularly Steve and Vicki Townsend from Bristol and Nick and Jenny Edmonds from Chichester. Menu choices, table plans and overall organisation of the day was co-ordinated in his usual superb fashion by Malcolm Bury. Our raffle, organised by Bernadette McConville, was very generously supported.

From the proceeds we were able to make a donation of £250 to Hectors House which is a local Berkhamsted based charity offering education and support to people suffering from problems with their mental health. We plan to return to the Golf Club again on Friday 9th December for our 2022 Christmas lunch.

Our Christmas lunch reunion would not be complete without our usual brief AGM. Having missed a complete year because of the pandemic, it was very satisfying to be able report on the resumption of our pub lunch programme in the second half of 2021 and to note the excellent attendances that these attracted. On behalf of all members, our Chairman Ken Longhurst thanked the Branch Committee for their work over the previous two difficult years. Ken, Christine Cowie, Malcolm Bury, Stephen Tipton and Bernadette McConville were unanimously reelected. In his closing remarks Ken said that he looked forward to an



South Midlands Branch

uninterrupted return to a busy year of events in 2022 and hoped that these would continue to enjoy the customary strong support from Branch members.

Coming up:

Wednesday 18th May: pub lunch at The Greyhound, Wigginton, near Tring HP23 6EH from noon onwards. Steve Tipton (tel: 07590 634171) is the contact for any queries.

Tuesday 5th July: barbecue pub lunch at The Oak, 119 Green End Street, Aston Clinton HP22 5EU from noon onwards. Closer to the date, a separate note will be sent to all active members giving full details. Malcolm Bury (tel: 01296 630169) is organising this one.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

The branch's Christmas lunch was held at our traditional venue of Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club on 15th December. Despite the continuing dampening effect on attendance of Covid, 35 members aathered for the occasion, at which we also belatedly celebrated the 40th anniversary of the branch which had been forcibly postponed from 2020 following the precedent set by the Euro football competition and the Olympic Games. A special cake was prepared for the event and a free raffle held with prizes boosted by generous donations from members. With the Club providing its usual good food and service in a convivial atmosphere, a good time was had by all.

Coming up

21st June: Summer lunch with AGM and Raffle at The Oysterfleet Hotel, Canvey Island.



Chelmsford Branch

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

A gathering of 34 people sat down to a splendid Christmas lunch on 9th December at Bramford Golf Centre. Despite a traffic incident which closed the main approach road and caused delays to people arriving, the event was everything that could be asked for with excellent food topped off with our usual huge Christmas raffle which saw prizes claimed by most members.



Ipswich Branch

Suffice to say that this venue has been re-booked again for 2022 and will be held on 8th December.

In the meantime our first function of 2022 will be lunch at the Ufford Park Golf, Leisure and Hotel Complex on Thursday 21st April. Meet from noon onwards for a 1pm sit down. This is a new venue for us where our dining room offers panoramic views over the golf course.

Coming up

Wednesday 22nd June: Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club.

Thursday 15th September: Rushmere Golf Club.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

Branch in abeyance

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

https://www.44club.co.uk/southwales.html



South Wales Branch

Since COVID restrictions prevented the South Wales Group coming together we have tried to stay in contact. Fortunately, we are a small group so maintaining contact has been relatively easy. Most of our group are not fully conversant with Apps and technology so contact has mostly been via the phone (land lines) however, since coming back in personal contact we are now endeavouring to use mobile phones mostly gained from grandchildren handoffs. It has been a little challenging to load WhatsApp in some cases but we are slowly getting there. For anyone of our area who would like to be kept informed text Viv Perry 07796 415851 to join!!!!

In Wales legal restrictions remain so face marks and testing remains which all members comply. Our meetings are generally at the Norton Hotel Mumbles, Swansea but we venture to other location once restrictions are fully removed. The hotel has been very good, we had a nice Christmas meeting in their conservatory and whilst there were a couple of other ladies groups social distancing was maintained.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 29 March.

For all those members who are unable to join us may we wish you all a very safe and better 2022. You are more than welcome to join us in our very relaxed meetings. We do not operate with formal minutes, subscriptions or committees. We remain small so everything is discussed and agreed by all members - well most, the women decide and the men agree!!! Should you be able to come prepare to have a laugh.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

The Gt. Bristol Branch held its Christmas lunch earlier this year on Tuesday, November 30th 2021, once again at Henbury Golf Club and



Greater Bristol Branch

organized by our Chair and Event Organiser, Roger Gamlin. We were 25 in number and the Golf Club had arranged an excellent Christmas spread for us. Maurice Husbands masterminded the raffle and raised £160 for our Branch funds and there were plenty of prizes. Roger proposed a toast to absent/ lost friends. Richard Coffin responded, thanking the Committee for organizing yet another excellent event. There was no AGM this time. The current committee members agreed to continue for another year. If anyone else wishes to join the committee they will be most welcome. Subject to COVID, three or four events will be arranged for 2022.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Contact:

MEMORIAM

The Branch is hoping to have an event mid-year if sufficient members are interested.

South East

Branch in abeyance

London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

better than they are getting now we shall be able to have a couple more people but that is about all our members at present.

Unfortunately the numbers in this Branch are diminishing but four of us did have lunch together on one occasion. Maybe when things are

In Memoriam

Charles Harrison

Charles Harrison was born in 1949, grew up in the Fens, was educated at the Perse School Cambridge and Cambridge University and joined Shell-Mex and B.P. as a Management Trainee in 1971 in Domestic Markets working for Bruce Ballantine and Colin Bowkley. An early project was SMBP's divestment from boiler maker Harford-Unical and then some time working for Tommy Thomas. Charles then had a year at Manchester Business School before being a very young (26) Area Manager under Dennis Keeping – his first man management position. After Brand Separation Charles moved to Watford as LPG Manager and then



in SUKO Head Office, again under Keeping, as Lubricants Pricing and Terms Manager.

Charles career in Shell included postings to

Houston and Oman before becoming Strategy Director of SUKO in 1989 and then VP Marketing in Shell Canada followed by being appointed Chief Executive of Shell New Zealand. This was followed by spells as the MD of Shell Aviation and later global Commercial Fuels. It was a stellar career – one of the most successful of the SMBP alumni. He retired in 2007.

If you Google Charles you may

find some reference to his success in Shell but his name is more likely to crop up in relation to golf. He was something of a prodigy winning the Cambridgeshire Men's Championship at the age of 15. This was followed by a Blue at Cambridge who he captained in 1970 followed by many years as a successful scratch player. His home club was Woking but he was also a member at Sunningdale and Captain of the Club in 2013. He was a Director of the R&A and Chairman of the golf charity the Golf Foundation. Charles, who was married to Sarah for 50 years (they had three boys), suffered heart problems in 2021 and then had a heart attack, from which he died, on holiday in March this year. The Golf Foundation, in paying tribute to his service, described him as an 'inspirational figure' something to which those of us who knew him in SMBP/Shell can relate. He attended many 44 Club reunions and was fulsome in his praise of how important his years in the company were to him in his later career. I knew Charles Harrison for over forty years and although he was a shooting star whilst I flickered much more fitfully he remained a good friend – he had no side to him which in my experience is fairly rare among the brighter stars in any constellation. He really will be much missed. **PSB**

Pat Dunkley (née Morris)

Her friend Maura Flynn writes: Pat Dunkley passed away on Monday 7 March 2022. She would have been 88 in May.

I first met Pat Morris in 1961, when she came to work at Shell Mex House on the Strand. We became very good friends



and remained so until her death. I have fond memories of lunching with her every working day, right up until we both left Shell in the 1980s. We were regular visitors to Lyons Corner House on the Strand, and in later years we met for lunch at the Strand Palace Hotel. We also enjoyed frequent trips to the many dance halls and theatres around the Strand.

Pat had the pleasure of meeting, and later marrying, Bob Dunkley – who also worked alongside of us at Shell. Sadly, Bob predeceased Pat.

Although in later years we stopped being 'ladies who lunched' we remained firm friends.

Andy Vanderhook

David Dungate writes: It is with great sadness that I heard of the passing of our old friend and colleague Andy Vanderhook. I knew Andy for 60 years, for I dealt with his customer details and rebates when he was a Commercial Market representative in London in SMBP and I worked in the marketing Support department in the old London Division HQ, (No. 1 Kingsway).



Some of you will remember him from his playing days with Lensbury Rugby Club, back in the 60's, I certainly do. Our careers in Shell often 'criss-crossed', he, at one point, being the manager of Kingsbury

Distribution Terminal, from where I, at Birmingham Airport, received supplies of jet fuel, and latterly when he joined many of us in Shell UK Aviation at Manchester Airport. Andy was a good man and a kind friend, to whom I would allocate that ultimate accolade that "he would never do anyone any harm, if he could do them any good".

RIP Andy, and our love and best wishes go out to Jenny and the family who were all with him at the end, at his beloved 'Baveney Wood'. Julian Dalzell has sent us a photo of a Supervisors Course in c1972 with Andy. It's a nice memento of his early days in Operations, as well as a reminder of how he was a formidable force in the scrum!



George Huddart; John Jennings; John Elder; Mike Reynolds; John Richards; Tony Holender; Tony Swift; Joe Clinton; Ron Williams; Stuart Hastie; Julian Dalzell; Andy Vanderhook Stan Davie; Richard Crowe; Dan McTaggart; Morgan Milne

Obituaries

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

ADAMS (97). Mrs Margaret Adams of Wimborne died on 25th December 2021. She was the wife of the late Mr Ernest Adams who once worked at Northampton.

BAINES (85). Mr Brian Baines of Bristol died on 13th December 2021. He was a Driver at Avonmouth when he left group service in 1990 after 38 years.

BAILEY (93). Mrs Phyllis Bailey of Ipswich died on 28th January 2022. She was the wife of the late Russell Bailey who once worked in Ipswich.

BAKER (84). Mr Timothy Baker of Virginia Water has died. He was a Supervisor in Product Quality, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1978 after 17 years.

BARNES (95). Mrs Barbara Barnes of Warlingham died on 1st February 2022. She was the wife of the late Tony Barnes, once a Project Engineer in London.

BLAKE (102). Mrs Olga Blake of Carlisle has died. She was a Shorthand Typist at Newcastle when she left group service.

BOSLEY (92). Mrs Mabel Bosley of Holland-on-Sea died on 29th October 2021. She was a Telephonist at SUKO Manchester when she left group service in 1982 after 20 years. **BOTWOOD (93).** Mr Percy Botwood of Cowbridge died on 10th February 2022. He was a Manager in Bitumen Department, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1976 after 27 years.

BROOKER (77). Mrs Maureen Brooker of Manchester died on 7th December 2021. She was the wife of the late Mr Peter Brooker, who worked at Manchester.

CHAMBERS (88). Mrs Violet Chambers of Maidstone has died. She was the wife of the late George Chambers who was once a Driver at Northfleet.

CHAPLIN (84). Mr Tony Chaplin of Kelvedon died on 26th December 2021. He worked for Shell UK Expro at Lowestoft when he left group service in 1994 after 22 years.

COX (86). Mrs Pamela Cox of Luton died in August 2021. She was the wife of the late Arthur Cox, once a Driver at Buncefield.

CUNDALL (88). Mr Brian Cundall of Parkgate died on 13th November 2021. He was a Territory Manager covering Chester and North Wales when he left group service in 1992 after 23 years.

CURRIE (91). Mr James Currie of Glasgow died on 4th January 2022. He was a Sales Representative at Glasgow when he left group service. DAVIS (94). Mr Leslie Davis of Bristol died on 24th January 2022. He was Industrial Marketing Manager, Bristol when he left group service in 1983 after 32 years.

DOCKERILL (87). Mrs P I Dockerill of Felixstowe has died. She was the wife of the late Lionel Dockerill who was once a Driver based at Royston.

DUNKLEY (87). Mrs Patricia Dunkley of Chislehurst died in March 2022. She was a Lubricants Assistant, Supply & Distribution when she left group service in 1984 after 23 years.

EDWARDS (79). Mr Jack Edwards of Swansea died on 14th December 2021. He was a Driver at Swansea when he left group service in 1996 after 24 years.

GLEAVE (91). Mrs Betty Gleave of King's Lynn died on 1st December 2021. She was the wife of the late Allen Greave, once a Senior Accounts Collection Clerk at SMBP Divisional Office, Leeds.

GREEN (96). Mr C T Green of Ipswich has died. He was a Driver at Ipswich when he left group service in 1984 after 31 years.

HILSDON (93). Mrs Joan Hilsdon of Luton died on 13th October 2021. She was the wife of the late George Hilsdon, once Section Head, Stocks at Buncefield Terminal.

OBITUARIES

HOWARD (80). Mr Philip Howard of Rickmansworth died on 11th February 2022. His last job was with BP Oil at Hemel Hempstead when he left in 1993 after 25 years.

JACKSON (90). Mr David Jackson of Berkhamsted died on 23rd January 2022. He was a Driver at Buncefield when he left group service in 1987 after 17 years.

KELLY (97). Mrs Mary Kelly of Dublin died on 18th December 2021. She was a Ledger Operator, Accounts Dept, Northern Ireland Division, Belfast when she left group service after 27 years.

LOWIS (80). Mr Simon Lowis of Glasgow died on 25th November 2021. He was a BP Retail Sales Manager, Glasgow when he left group service in 1993 after 33 years.

LUCKMAN (85). Mr Keith Luckman of Nacton died on 9th February 2022. He was a Shift Manager at Ipswich Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 22 years.

MARTIN-SCHRADER (75). Mr Darryl Martin-Schrader of Norwich died on 24th November 2021. He was Communications Controller, Gas Platform 'Sean P' when he left group service in 1997 after 11 years.

MICKLEWRIGHT (88). Mr Ralph Micklewright of Middlesbrough died on 3rd January 2022. He was an Operator at Teesport when he left group service in 1984 after 28 years.

PARKES (89). Mr Dennis Parkes of Boston died on 2nd January 2022. He worked for Shell UK at Stanford-le-Hope when he left group service in 1993 after 33 years.

PATTINSON (86). Mr James Pattinson of Clarbeston Road died on 8th February 2022. He was a Refinery Operator at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1985 after 27 years.

PENN (88). Mr Ronald Penn of Hexham died on 28th November 2021. He was a Sales Supervisor at Leeds when he left group service in 1981 after 29 years.

PITCHER (98). Mr Victor Pitcher of Ringwood died on 3rd November 2021. He was Manager, Marketing Coordination, UK & Export, Central Lubricants, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1983 after 18 years. **POWELL (87).** Mr David Powell of Berkhamsted died in June 2021. He was Marketing Adviser, BP Heating & Agriculture at Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1988 after 28 years.

PRESLEY (87). Mrs Joan Presley of Dibden Purlieu died on 11th January 2022. She was the wife of the late Charles Presley, once an Internal Auditor, SE Region.

PULVIRENTI (91). Mr Antonio Pulvirenti of London died on 10th March 2022. He was the Manager of the Staff Shop in Shell-Mex House when he left group service.

QUINT (69). Mrs Jennifer Quint of Hemel Hempstead died in December 2021. She worked in the Post Room/ Ticket Retrieval, Accounts Payable, Hemel Hempstead when she left group service in 1983 after 15 years.

RUMSEY (83). Mr Colin Rumsey of Woodbridge has died. He was a Senior Sales Engineer, Industrial Lubricants, BP Victoria when he left group service in 1977 after 11 years.

SAVAGE-ROBERTS (79). Mr Sydney Savage-Roberts of West Wickham died on 16th December 2021. He was Team Leader, Crude Oil Contracts & Operations/Quality Management. STASCO when he left group service in 1998 after 38 years.

SINGLETON (87). Mr Roland Singleton of Hull died on 9th January 2022. Upon leaving group service in 1980 after 18 years, Mr Singleton worked in Marine Transport Department, Shell-Mex House.

SKOULDING (90). Mrs Barbara Skoulding of Wallingford has died. She was the wife of the late Ivor Skoulding who was once a Commercial Sales Representative (Direct Trade), Peterborough.

SMAILES (86). Mrs Joan Smailes of King's Lynn died on 26th November 2021. She was the wife of the late Graham Smailes, once MD, Shell Lubricants, Cheadle Hulme.

SMALL (86). Miss Christina Small of Sale died in July 2021. She was the Manager's Secretary at Barton Lubricants Plant when she left group service in 1989 after 28 years. **SPIKIN (79).** Mrs Shirley Spikin of Maidstone died on 17th October 2021. She was the wife of the late Henry Spikin, once a Driver at Northfleet.

SQUIRRELL (95). Mrs Barbara Squirrell of Ipswich died in February 2022. She was the wife of the late Ronald Squirrell, once a Technical Services Representative, SUKO, Knightsbridge.

TEMPLETON (99). Mr John Templeton of Ipswich has died. He worked in Vehicle Maintenance at Ipswich when he left group service in 1981 after 30 years.

THOMAS (81). Miss Ann Thomas of Upminster has died. She was an Associate member of the 44 Club.

THOMPSON (93). Mrs Mary Thompson of Cheadle died on 1st December 2021. She worked at SUKO, Wythenshawe when she left group service in 1984 after 17 years.

TIGHE (85). Mrs Rita Tighe of Leeds died on 26th October 2021. She was the wife of the late John Tighe, once a Driver at Leeds Terminal.

TITCHMARSH (95). Mr Jack Titchmarsh of Royston has died. He was a Driver at Royston when he left group service after 18 years.

UTTLEY (90). Mr Norman Uttley of Whitley Bay died on 12th January 2022. He was a Network Representative, Shell Retail, Manchester when he left group service in 1987 after 21 years.

WILLIAMS (90). Mr William Williams late of Falkirk died on 23rd December 2021. He was Relief Chief Engineer, Coastal Tankers, Supply & Trading, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1975 after 7 years.

WILSON (94). Mr Barrie Wilson of Bridgnorth died on 22nd September 2021. He was a Sales Supervisor, National Trade, Shell UK Oil Birmingham when he left group service in 1984 after 30 years.

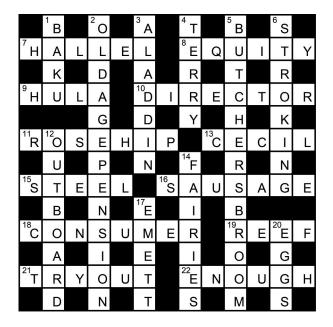
WOODWARD (94). Mrs Audrey Woodward of Woodbridge died on 3rd November 2021. She was the wife of the late John Woodward, once a Surveyor with BP.

and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"It is quite possible that we shall, unless we are careful, become as a nation the sort of people to whom the label means more than the contents" C.M. Vignoles, Managing Director Shell-Mex and B.P., Ltd May 1960

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

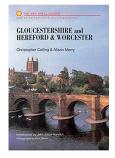


Across

- 7 The Wanderers who won the First Division in 1959 (13)
- 8 Norman's Hotel in Orkney (8)
- 9 Double reed woodwind instrument. (4)
- 10 A brand of acrylic (7)
- **12** Where the fuel is stored in tanks (5)
- **14** Iconic feature of Shell-Mex House (5)
- **16** Norman who has celebrated his 94th birthday (7)
- **19** Book Numbers (4)
- 20 Consultants who reorganised SMBP (8)
- 22 Could infect your laptop (8,5)

Down

- **1** The Beatles' Maharishi was one (4)
- 2 Recalls a memory to the conscious mind (6)
- **3** Some of the products of the Barton plant (7)
- 4 Mexican _____ acquired by Shell in 1919 (5)
- **5** Work against (6)
- **6** Lubricant for vehicles (5,3)
- 11 Denis down under (8)
- **13** Elephants? (7)
- **15** Covers a petrol station to keep rain off the motorist (6)
- 17 Ian, who writes the Rebus stories (6)
- **18** Common surname (5)
- 21 Largest native birds in Australia (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

A very tricky crossword indeed which defeated all but a few from whom Andy Hull of Hereford emerged triumphant. Collectible copy of the "Shell Guide to Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester" on its way to you Andy !

Closing date for next issue 20th May 2022

Prize Crossword