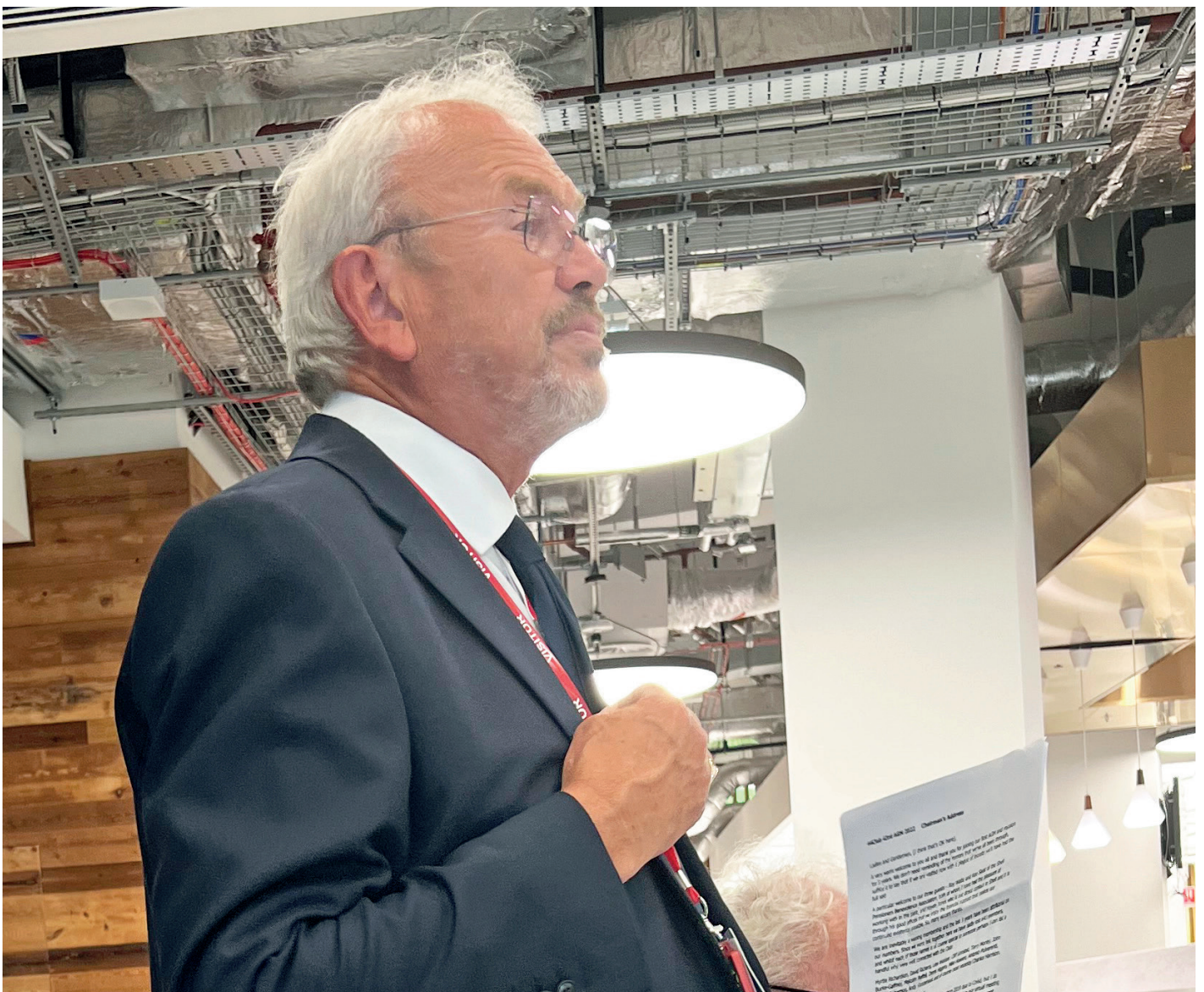




## 44 Club AGM in Shell Centre



For the first time since the darkest days of the pandemic the Club was able to hold an Annual General Meeting and reunion. Club Chairman Rick Westley welcomed us all to Shell Centre. Rick's report and photos of the meeting and reunion begin on Page 4.

## Useful Contacts

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

### **The SMBP 44 Association**

Colin Hill Secretary  
Shell Centre  
London SE1 7NA  
Tel: 020 7934 5132  
Email: 44-club@shell.com

### **44 Club News**

Honorary Editor  
Paddy Briggs  
40 Broom Park  
Teddington TW11 9RS  
Tel: 020 8977 1712  
Email: pb@brandaware.co.uk

### **44 Club Website**

Honorary Editor  
Elaine Ellen  
Little Finney,  
Gartocharn,  
West Dunbartonshire G83 8SA  
Tel: 07703 578614  
Email: elaine.ellen@btinternet.com  
<http://www.44club.co.uk>

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

– For Shell Pensioners

Amanda Hunt SPA Secretary  
Shell Centre  
London SE1 7NA  
Tel: 020 7934 5129  
Email: Amanda.A.Hunt@shell.com  
<https://shellpensioners.org.uk>

### **The BP Society**

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

Administration Secretary  
The BP Society  
Chertsey Road  
Sunbury-on-Thames  
Middlesex TW16 7LN  
Tel: 07850 244257  
Email: BPSociety@uk.bp.com  
<https://bpsociety.co.uk/>



# Welcome

“May you live in interesting times”, the famous Chinese curse, has been heard rather a lot recently for, unless you have become a hermit disconnected from the world entirely, the times are certainly ‘interesting’! Man is a sociable creature (well most of us are) but surely recently all of us have moments of envy for those who have found a way to disconnect completely from the real world.

Dickens, as ever, described our times today when writing about the twenty-first century presciently in “A Tale of Two Cities”:

The human spirit is indomitable and during the pandemic (its not over by the way!) there were more heroes than villains in my part of the world. But there was incredulity and darkness and denial in some quarters as well which made you wonder whether there was a plague of idiocy to match the plague of COVID. So many discussions these days seem to be shouting matches with little room for nuance or debate.

‘Leadership’ is a bit intangible, but you do usually notice it when it appears or when it’s not there. I’m not an expert but I saw a fair bit of good leadership in my forty plus years with SMBP and Shell. We did all those courses, didn’t we, do teach us supervision or management? They made a difference for sure, but wasn’t it really the culture that was most important? Along with, of course, individual abilities. If our nation has problems (and doesn’t it have problems!) do we really feel we have credible, experienced, and capable leaders to help us resolve them?

Interesting times present interesting challenges and we usually find that we solve them better together rather than on our own? That’s where the 44 Club tries to play its part. The Branches and this magazine are not just the glue that holds us together but a form of support. As is the excellent Shell Pensioner Programme featured opposite this page. Problems that we encounter have probably occurred to someone else before us, so we don’t need to feel alone.

Please pardon the homilies here. Keep the faith!

*Paddy Briggs*

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”



## Are you a Shell Pensioner in need of support?

In receipt of a SCPF or SOCPF Pension and a member of the Shell Pensioners Association?

### The Shell Pensioner Programme

Have regional Pensioner Programme Officers (PPOs) to support qualifying Shell Pensioners

### What PPOs can do for you

- Reach out and provide you with a phone call
- Provide information and resources on issues that matter to you
- Signpost to local services and support networks, such as befriending services and local support groups
- Help to access means tested benevolent support from the Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association



Our article is featured in the SPA quarterly magazine

If you are a Shell Pensioner in need of support and in receipt of SCPF or SOCPF pension or know someone who is

**Give us a call on: 0345 850 8944 or email us: [Shell-Pensioner-Programme@shell.com](mailto:Shell-Pensioner-Programme@shell.com)**

Helpline open 10am-4pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays

# 2022 SMBP 44 Association AGM and Club reunion



## Chairman's address

"A very warm welcome to you all and thank you for joining our first AGM and reunion for 3 years. We don't need reminding of the horrors that we've all been through, suffice it to say that if we are visited now with a plague of locusts we'll have had the full set!

A particular welcome to our three guests – Roy Waite and Ken Sleat of the Shell Pensioners Benevolence Association, both of whom I have had the pleasure of working with in the past, and Haydn Jones who is our direct contact in Shell and it is through his good offices that we enjoy the financial support that makes our continued existence possible. So, many sincere thanks.

We are inevitably a waning membership and the last 3 years have been attritional on our numbers. Since

we were last together here we have sadly lost 643 members, and whilst each of those names is of course special to someone perhaps



*Rick Westley*

I can list a handful who were well connected with the Club: Myrtle Richardson, David Richens, Lew Webber, Cliff Grinsted, Terry Morley, John Burke-Gaffney, Malcolm Reffell, Derek Higgins, Mike Howard, Antonio Pulverenti, Jimmy Robertson, Andy Vanderhook and of course most recently Charles Harrison. They are all remembered fondly.

Colin has alluded to the absence of official AGMs since 2019 due to Covid, but I do want to thank those members who battled the technology to join our virtual meeting last year over the Zoom platform. We didn't reach a quorum but it was a pleasant enough encounter – but one I hope we don't have to repeat!

Through the last two years and particularly those wretched months of lockdown, our spirits were periodically raised by the arrival on the doorstep of the 44 Club magazine. Our very grateful thanks are due to Paddy as Honorary Editor. Paddy, thank you for adding light especially over these dark last couple of years. In a similar capacity we should acknowledge Colin Hill's steadfast support through thick and thin as Secretary of the Association."

### Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Nick Preece (below) reported that the Club's finances had taken a small hit as the decision to cease production of the Club Diary meant that there was no longer income from Diary sales. That said the overall financial position was sound



Nick Preece

continues to fund the Secretary's remuneration and Magazine

with assets of around £8500. The expenditure on Birthday Cards is around a £1000 pa and they remain very popular among members so we should be able to continue for the foreseeable future. Shell

production and distribution as well as other items such as the AGM and we are very grateful for their continued support.

### Paddy Briggs

Paddy outlined how the Club is held together by Branch meetings and by the Magazine with the latter trying to create a sense of unity across the country, especially necessary recently when the Branches couldn't meet. The magazine is not at the cutting edge of investigative journalism – it is unashamedly nostalgic. But the more you dig for stories the more remarkable they are.

The Forty-four years of Shell-Mex and B.P. including its renewal after the war and the end of rationing gave it a unique and perhaps under-recognised place in Britain's twentieth

century commercial and industrial history. We try to reflect this in the magazine – and boast a bit about how SMBP really was at the leading edge in every oily respect. From Home heating to self-serve in Retail. From high tech lubricants to bitumen and other special products we not only led markets, we created them!

Paddy expressed his thanks to all the contributors and to Lisa Clunie and Barry Russell who keep the magazine good looking and timely. And to Shell who pay for it!



Paddy Briggs

## Faces at the Reunion



continued on page 6



# The words behind the Power

## Norman Monahan

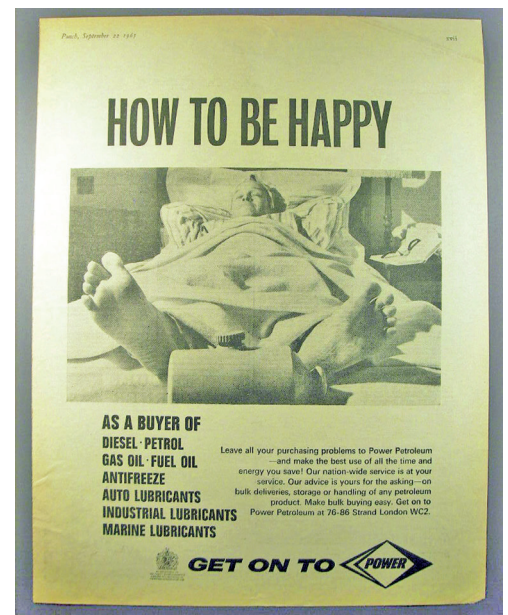
### Sell product, make profit, have fun

It all seems so long ago now, yet, still so clear that it all seems like yesterday.

It was in the early sixties. I was in Marketing with Power Petroleum, and I had been running 'Power Topics' as an 'extra curriculum' activity. It appeared that there was a vacancy in SPA for a writer and so I attended a rather strange interview with Arthur Barton-Jones for the job. I, obviously, survived it as I was asked to report to the Service Section where I would take over the job of editing the, then, two newspapers, one for

Shell Service Stations and one for BP Service Stations. That brought me into contact with Harry Hossen, who had been with Shell Film Unit but was now with Random Films. Harry had solved the job of paying for holidays by going on holiday, then, on return, writing a 'thriller' set in that country, with his 'hero', Max Heald, to cover the cost. I think some of these books are still available! Harry was a seriously mad driver and eventually died in a car accident.

I was also to be 'third man' to a unit dealing with forecourt marketing, then considered new although I found, later, a mention of shops on forecourts in 1929. This small



unit was run by Colin Angwin and I went in for an interview. He sat me down in front of his desk opposite to him but, as soon as he started speaking, got up and started pacing up and down. This was in one of the offices on the river front which were long and narrow and, after a couple of minutes, I got fed up with this and, waiting for him to get to the other end, got up and started doing likewise. We crossed about twice, then he burst out, "all right, sit down you b\*\*\*\*r and we'll carry on". We got on quite well after that.

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

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

I remember Philip, when Colin Angwin left, to go freelance, likening his spell with the Company to 'feeling rather like country parson who had been given the prophet Isaiah as a curate'

Shortly after I joined, the then head of the Service Section came rather a cropper and had to resign, and leave the Company. In consequence, I was asked to take over the Section. We, then, were responsible for the introduction of two more periodicals, one for the commercial and one for the Industrial divisions. This was the start of 'the rest of my career' for it brought me into contact with two polymaths, Stanley Simmons and Ronald 'Reg' Leach, from whom I learned so much.

Stanley was rather like a cross between Winston Churchill and Arthur Marshall – a buffoon on the exterior with a rapier mind underneath. I remember being on a course

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

As a result of these contacts, I moved to the new Industrial Advertising Section where I sat opposite Reg for a year before I discovered that he was an MA.Geol. from Cambridge, where he had read the subject in his spare time while working on radar



with Watson-Watt, was a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a founder member of the Airship Society. He was, also, of the opinion that hovercraft would never replace the Channel Ferries since they were only a 'two gin journey' as opposed to the Ferries 'three gin trips!'

All this was in the day when the unwritten law was 'to sell product, make

profit and to have fun – and, if all are achieved, not necessarily in that order'. We worked as long as the job required, sometimes in what would be called 'very unsocial hours', which often brought us into conflict with the clock watcher i.e. if the studio had worked until, say, 10p.m. on an urgently needed design, I would say 'Right, you needn't come in until 10a.m. tomorrow', at which hands would go up in horror, but, with field work, exhibitions, agricultural shows etc., the clock just did not exist.

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

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

## Welcome New Members

Mrs Aileen Lightfoot  
- Alicante, Spain

Mrs Sarah Harrison - Woking

# Birthday Thanks/Your Letters

Your letters are the life blood 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**

## 100th

I re-joined the Petroleum Board and SMBP after four and a half years in the Royal Artillery. I retired from BP Head Office in 1980 with happy memories of working in the Transport side of the business which was the backbone of the company at the time. I celebrated my Birthday with family (forty plus!)

Jack Scandrett



**78th** I was taken out for lunch by my daughter and the family with a chocolate birthday cake to finish! And as a special present I have received an album of my daughter's wedding photos – she married in December. It made my day very special.

Pat Fraser

"**Jack Scandrett** celebrated his centenary year with a party at Willingdon Golf Course where he asked for donations to St Wilfrid's Hospice. Mr Scandrett said, "I received information in the post about a campaign St Wilfrid's was running to fund more nurses and it really struck a chord. My wife Joyce was a Nurse and my daughter too, though she is now retired." As the appeal coincided with my 100th birthday, I decided to ask for donations at the party. "I visited the hospice in Mill Gap Road two or three times when one of my wife's friends was there. I've seen the hospice develop and my wife and I used to visit the new building for a coffee."

Mr Scandrett also reflected on his youth following his 100th birthday.

"I had known Joyce, my wife, since I was a young boy when we lived opposite each other. When I was 15, I told her I was going to marry her. She disappeared out of my life for about five years, but we eventually found each other again and we got married after I'd left the army, having served during World War Two. We had our three children, who have all had children of their own, and I now have 11 great-grandchildren. I'm very lucky to have reached this age and still be able to look after myself. I hope to live for several more years. I don't think there's any secret to living a long life, except for looking after your body."

The aim of St Wilfrid's' nurse appeal is to recruit two new full-time community nurses. A spokesperson from the hospice in Broadwater Way said, "With the majority of people cared for in the comfort of their own homes, these two new nurses would enable the hospice to extend its community nursing service to provide care earlier in the morning and later in the evening."

The appeal has raised more than £45,000 so far. If you would like to make a donation, please visit <https://www.stwhospice.org/nurse-appeal/> "Thanks to Jacob Panons "Sussex World"

**80th** My wife and family including our daughter who travelled with her husband and three of our grandchildren from Melbourne were with me to celebrate the "Four Score" milestone at a splendid restaurant near Beverley, East Riding, Yorkshire.

As so often happens on these birthday milestones ones family produce photographs from the past. My wife Sue included one taken of me whilst attending a supervisors training course





held at The Node in the early seventies (right) . The course leaders, John Royce and Clive Poulton are on the back row, left side. I am, second left on the front row, wearing rather dashing cream checked trousers! I look back at my time in SMBP Operations (Kingsbury Terminal and H.O. Road Transport Operations and in particular H & A Division) with many many happy memories. They were indeed, halcyon days!



However, as happened to a number of SMBP staff over the years , opportunities arose to join Shell International and I was one such person. I think that it was in 1993 that I met up with former H&A colleague, and now President of our 44 Club, Rick Westley when he was the Marketing Manager of Shell Pakistan and I was in the country to undertake an audit of Road Transport Operations. A visit to Quetta in the west of the country had been arranged for me and I recall Rick telling me that Quetta is very close to the Afghanistan border and not unlike 'the wild west' but you will enjoy your visit, Rick assured me! He was not wrong; as the photograph of me with some local "gentlemen," taken in front of a hotel in Quetta demonstrates (above).



My forty years of service in in SMBP and Shell companies was recognised by one of my daughter in law's who produced delicious cup cakes for all

of our guests to take home after our restaurant meal. I think there may have been some subliminal message in this gesture!

Thank you again for my birthday greetings and best wishes to all my former SMBP colleagues and 44 club members.

Alan Collinge

**80th** I joined SMBP in 1971 and started 6 month's training including a course at The Node for new employees – I'm third left in the picture of the March 1972 course members. On completion I was appointed a BP Industrial Lubricants Representative. Following Brand



Separation in 1972 I became an employee of Shell UK Oil. My job description and employment details changed several times until being made redundant in 1973. I briefly worked for Cory Oil before starting my own business, Keyland Services Ltd in 1994. I'm currently closing the business and hope to retire when the process is completed.

Brian Wingate

**82nd** It seems such a long time ago that I joined SMBP as an apprentice at the Fulham MRC in Bagleys Lane and finally retiring from Air BP International. Since then, I've lived a lifetime in retirement and moved into new interests. I learned to ride a motorbike when I reached 71 and have not looked back too much. I joined a bike club and I'm having the time of my life in a close community of riders and friends who've been



so supportive in life's problems. I've now had to give up two wheels and settle for three after having two knee and two hip replacements, but the journey continues. Keeping in touch through the 44 Club magazine is so important to me and look forward to reading the news when they arrive.

Fred Clarke

**82nd** There is something very special about getting a card from the 44 Club. So many memories of events and colleagues. Most of them good ones! The same could be said of my memories of The Node – what a wonderful location it was!

I spent my birthday on a canal narrow boat with Number 3 son and his family. 'Narrow' is not a misnomer, nor am I as "narrow" as I used to be. I found driving a canal boat more difficult than driving a Shell Tankers boat, but the navigation was a little easier. There were no big parties on the boat, just a slice of cake and a glass of wine before we continued with the hard work of opening and closing lock gates!

The Magazine continues to remind me of some many wonderful years with our great company. Thank you. I have just returned from my morning walk. A senior villager told me it was a very 'lazy wind' – a very Scottish expression meaning that the wind is so cold that it doesn't bother to go around you, it just goes straight through you!

Richard Hiseman

*continued on page 10*

## BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

**82nd** I regard these annual birthday greetings, which seem to come around rather quickly these days, as being like a warm, cosy blanket – especially encouraging in these difficult times.

Colin Peachey

**83rd** My verse about my life in Rigny-Ussé in France and about the tumble-down-the-stairs accident to my leg was published in Edition 170 of the Club News. I'm pleased to report that I'm now fully recovered. Since the accident I have been organising my return to Britain after 22 years – a long process with much bureaucracy on both sides of the channel! But I'm now home and able to spend time with my family in Stockport and get used to all the changes that have taken place.

Brian Schofield

**85th** Another lovely reminder of happy times. I'm pretty well, touch wood, digging my own potatoes, picking broad beans and cutting asparagus – and luckily, I live with someone who knows how to cook them! Regards to everyone especially the ex DHRs. They were wonderful days, a growth market, the 200 Club dinners and dear Joy and Frank Glover keeping us in check (?) at our Christmas 'bit of a do' events. Memories, sweeter than dreams.

Philip Quantock

**86th** A lovely reminder of the several enjoyable courses I attended at The Node. I joined SMBP in Birmingham in March 1961 and had six months training as a Lubricants specialist before being transferred to NE Region to work for John Chester,

with Jimmy Robertson, in Shell-Mex House.

I moved around the UK and then transferred to BP to strengthen their Lubricants marketing where I had an international career. At my retirement course in 1991 I was told that 'retirement' is a misnomer. How true! I enjoyed many happy active years as a pensioner until unfortunately I damaged my spine whilst sailing.

Brian Hudson

**89th** It was a great pleasure to receive the card from fellow members of the 44 Club. With the card featuring The Node it brings back many memories such as arriving at Knebworth station and being picked up by The Node car and taken to The Node to give a talk to course participants. The photographs of the course members are a valuable SMBP history source. From those that are reproduced in Club News, especially from the 1950s and 1960s, one cannot avoid reflecting that lounge suits with neck ties for the photographs were the norm and there were very few women either on courses or there as visitors.

On Brand Separation, the Node was one of the last assets to be placed and it went to Shell. This was because BP wanted a large barge used for fuel storage for the Sullom Voe crude oil terminal construction in the Shetlands

David Roberts

(**Ed:** Swapping The Node for a Barge seems a curious sense of priorities David but maybe the two cultures were rather different after all!)

**88th** I am trying to forget my birthdays as the years keep mounting up, but your greetings are special to me. Reading all the interesting and

often amusing letters in the latest issue of the 44 Club News reminds me of a story when in the early days I was the Section Head of the Accounts Receivable section in Wythenshawe. Among those working on my section was a clerk by the name of Derek Nutter. Derek was having trouble with a particular customer who was getting more and more irate ending up by asking Derek for his name. Derek answered by telling him that his name was Mr Nutter a few caustic remarks followed and ended with the customer saying "put me through to whoever is in charge, what's his name" to which Derek replied Mr Batty. The customer said that he couldn't believe it and with a few expletives, put the phone down.

Fred Batty

**89th** My visits to The Node were always very interesting and beneficial to my career. I worked 27 years for SMBP and SUKO and also had a period as MD of a Shell 'step out' Distributor in Croydon. I really enjoyed every job that I had – all the people I worked with were very helpful and friendly and contributed to my total job satisfaction. I would like to give a special mention to lots of friends but the list is too long and, sadly, quite a few are no longer with us.

Ernie Sudron

**91st** - or as my son's card reads "I'm NOT 91, I'm 18 with 73 years of experience" !!

How it brought back memories of days gone by having joined Bennetts Hill, Birmingham Branch in 1956 on Hollerith I then had dealings with computers in No 1 Kingsway, the Southern and Northern Computer Centres at both of their inception transferring from Hemel Hempstead to Wythenshawe and eventually returning to The Strand and BP

Victoria (Human Resources) via Tring. So many good friends and colleagues made over the years.

Don Davis

**Rugby Memories**

I was intrigued to read in the current 44 Club News, reminiscences from 1959, which brought back memories. Foremost among them was the photo of Peter Yarranton, Captain of Wasps, and England, against whom I first played Rugby the following year, in 1960, when my Team, Broughton Park, were only the second Team to beat Wasps at Home in their final game that Season. A defeat that did not go down well with many of the Wasps Players, who all unsparingly went home straight after the Match, leaving the Peter, or the "Bald Eagle" as he was affectionately known, to spend the Evening apologising for his Team Mates, and plying us with many jugs of beer, to make amends. In the Sunday papers the following day, I had the singular honour of being identified as one of the best Forwards playing in the Match

I joined Shell Mex BP 4 years later, often meeting Peter and reminiscing our games. I also recall that on my New Entrants Training Course, in



SATURDAY, APRIL 1960  
WASPS v BROUGHTON PARK  
Kick-off 3 p.m.

WASPS BLACK AND YELLOW	BROUGHTON PARK WHITE & BLACK
1. F. V. CROOKS	1. J. WARDING
2. R. C. G. WRIGHT	2. T. DOLLY
3. H. KEITH	3. A. JARVIS
4. D. W. A. ROSSER	4. G. BARRETT
5. R. E. LOWTHER	5. L. WARD
6. F. J. HAVENS	6. A. COCHRAN
7. R. J. KENT	7. J. RAMSBOTTOM
8. G. TAYLOR	8. S. HOYLE
9. J. BLACER	9. P. BARRETT
10. L. L. WESTHEAD-LAYE	10. R. MORFATT
11. P. G. YARRANTON (Capt)	11. R. JACKSON
12. M. I. CUTLER	12. R. GOODWIN
13. M. T. WELSON	13. D. MASTERTON (Capt)
14. D. WILLS	14. E. P. COMBLET
15. P. BISHOP	15. S. HUGHES

1964 at The Node, we had Clive Rowlands, the former Captain of Wales.

Being a Rugby Player, or an ex Member of the Armed Forces (I was ex RAF) seemed a good pedigree to secure a Job as a Sales Superintendent in SMBP in those days, always by recommendation of a friend who worked for the Company, as those Positions were never advertised.

Bryan Goodwin

**A Happy Anniversary**

Gill and I met in Shell-Mex House in 1968 At lunch time playing table tennis, which led to marriage state. We tied the knot in '72 (See: 'Anniversaries') when both branded BP, Gill worked in Consumer Markets, and I was in S & D. We know how lucky we were, working in SMBP and now our lives are full of comfort, we give thanks most gratefully.

Alan Fitzgerald

Thanks also received from: RC Lamb (83), Ray Poole (89), Joan Jarrett (84), Judith Forster (85), John Partington (77), Brian Morris, Charles Richards, Jeremy Wood (75), Trevor Harvey (87), Maurice Husbands (91), Wendy Keys (79), Anne Barton (84), Joseph Sanders (82), Peter Parsons (88), Gerard Varley (88), Gerry Hunting (88), Bob Andrews (84), Paul Halstead (88), Geoff Clemens (78), Donald Shields (88), Malcolm Heap (84), Reggie Soder (82), Brian Drew (75), Vince Timmins (78), Bill Bell (88), Ernest Thomas (84), Alan Scoltock (86), Geoff Sullivan (80), Wilfred Sephton (85).

# Denis Edleston recalls a career starting in SMBP and then spread between Blighty and Down Under

Straight after leaving school, I arranged an interview in Shell-Mex House. It lasted as long as the cigar my interviewer was smoking in the small room.

With the promise of regular transfers to different functions and a Business Studies course at Ealing Tech over the next four years, I found myself at Wandsworth Terminal. In the mid

60's Business Studies was a brand-new course, offered by very few places.

*continued on page 12*



"A rail fuel tanker has overturned in a tunnel! Shell has been asked to help" said Bert Nash, who handled all emergencies day and night.

"Come into my office" said Lionel

Oram, Terminal Manager. "You will be our liaison officer when a film crew comes to the wharf to make a sequence for the popular BBC 'Mogul' series".

"Our crematorium has nearly run out of fuel and our cold room is full. Can you bring forward the delivery?"

These were just three experiences as I began learning the oil business. I covered most departments, except Paymaster. This included working half Saturdays every fortnight.

One of the best roles in my career was with SMBP Agricultural Marketing in Room 835 overlooking the Thames. The reason was that I was given great responsibilities in a Department of six and a remit to attend as many Agricultural Shows as possible throughout the UK to support our Distributors / Agents. My predecessor was Dudley Nichols who became a friend for life. At this stage I was advised to tick the box marked Salary Sacrifice to Pension which turned out to be a great decision. Next was a complete change of function to Operations Network Planning on Level 4 overlooking the Savoy and usefully nearer to the Cecil Chambers door to the Strand. I had a planning role for the Whitegate Refinery, Ireland and learnt how to cost our operations for the highest volume customers such as power stations. I was made to sign the Official Secrets Act at this time. Thankfully, promotion came to the Heron Liaison department.

Heron Petroleum was owned by entrepreneur Gerald Ronson. He hit on the idea of buying cheap, badly operated service station properties, remodelling them and selling discount fuel. Once established he sold the properties for a good profit. Heron Liaison comprised just four people responsible for rebranding the outlets to Shell. We did at least one a week at the beginning which was a buzz.

In those days the Representatives Training Course was residential for twelve weeks. As luck would have it, I was selected to attend The Grand (now Majestic) Hotel in Harrogate. It was a thorough course including cold selling lubricants to a Yorkshire farmer.

In January 1972 I was appointed Retail Company Owned Representative for the Windsor area. Three months' later my boss promoted me to Dealer Owned Representative from Windsor to Victoria (Castle to Palace: so to speak). During this time Shell acquired the Brew Bros small corner site in Old Brompton Road. Even though the work was demanding, it pumped record volumes for its size. This suited my lifestyle, living mostly in SW7. I played hockey regularly for Lensbury at Teddington and captained the Shell squash team which played at Shell Centre in the London League. Steve Moore, Gavin Choyce, Lesley Priestley, Jim Pearson, Ted Williams and Graham Whitehead were regular team players and great friends.

After two highly enjoyable years in and around London, I had the confidence to resign and offered myself to Voluntary Service Overseas. They sent me to New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) to develop locals into local businesses, providing economic independence before political independence.

When setting up a shipping company, warehouse and a savings bank, I modelled the enterprises by adapting all my Shell knowledge.

After completing two years with VSO, I visited Australia. One day

in Sydney I looked up to see a familiar sight - the clock, replicating the one on Shell-Mex House. This was indeed Shell House. Before the word 'networking' was invented, I eventually introduced myself to the person in a corner office who offered me a job in Retail. It was the era when self-serve was being introduced.

I returned to the UK via the Trans-Siberian railway in time for the Queen's Jubilee. Since SUKO was not recruiting at the time, I flew back to Australia. I married in Melbourne and stayed 16 years with Shell Australia ending up as Reseller Manager for half of Sydney and country NSW. My last 4 years were on secondment to Shell New Zealand in a similar role.

Having retired a few years' ago, I continue to have an active time playing tennis, golf and croquet regularly. The Shell Golf Club organises a monthly game although the membership is dwindling. Other days I paddle in my kayak, swim or bushwalk. Luckily all these sports are within five minutes' walk from home. Travel will once again take up a few months; maybe to the UK in 2023. Reading the 44 Club News keeps me in touch with friends and colleagues in the UK. It seems that the equivalent magazines from Shell Australia and New Zealand have closed down.



# News from the Branches

## Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

Happy memories of our Christmas lunch.



## Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

## Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

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

By the time you are reading this issue of the 44 Club News we hope a planned meeting on 17 August, for coffee/tea etc and to catch up with the events of the last two years, will have happened. This will be our first formal meeting since covid interrupted normal life although some of our members meet up separately.

Please get in touch with Elaine if you would like to be part of any future get togethers of the Glasgow Branch of the club, it is always so good to see faces from the past.

## Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

## Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy

## Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

## West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

## Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport



Teesside Branch

The Bay Horse Great Broughton was the venue for our spring gathering this year, we have met there before and as before the food was excellent, 22 members attended and it was so good to catch up with old friends we haven't seen for some time. The afternoon passed far too quickly and agreed to meet there again later in the year. Many thanks to Bram and

Moira for organising a very enjoyable afternoon.

## South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton

## Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

## North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

## South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

A 2022 programme of pub lunches started in fine style in March at The White Horse in Bourne End Hemel Hempstead. This is one of our

most reliable venues and about 35 members enjoyed some good food and the convivial company of old friends. Christine Cowie did her usual excellent job with the lunch organisation, and she was well supported by a very efficient and friendly team of pub staff.

*continued on page 14*

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES



Soth Midlands Branch

In mid-May we returned to The Greyhound at Wigginton for the first time since the heady pre-pandemic days of 2019. This lunch was planned by Steve Tipton but the absence of some of our regular attendees meant that a smaller than usual group of 25 members took the opportunity to sample the special 44 Club menu.

Malcolm Bury organised our early July event at The Oak in Aston Clinton. Our original plan to have a barbecue was shelved at short notice and we had to revert to having a normal pub lunch. A rather blustery day meant that only the hardier members of our group of around 30 ventured outside to sit on the patio area. It was also a day when The Oak staff were under considerable pressure to deal with meal orders, not only from our group but also from several other visitors to the pub. Despite delays to the service of some of our meals the staff did an excellent job in difficult circumstances.

As a Branch our long-established policy for our pub lunches has been to try to give our members the freedom to 'just turn up on the day' without the need for them to make a prior commitment to attend and to pre-order their lunches in advance. The continuing problems



Chelmsford Branch

in the hospitality sector with staff shortages is making it more difficult at present to maintain this approach and to ensure that our lunches run as smoothly as they have done in the past. However, we hope that these difficulties will prove to be short term and that our members will continue to give their Committee organisers their strong support at future events.

**Coming up:**  
**Tuesday 30th August:** early afternoon return canal cruise from Nash Mills to Hunton Bridge. Full booking details

will be sent in a separate circular. Malcolm Bury the organiser for this event.

**Thursday 13th October:** final pub lunch for the year back at The White Horse, Bourne End. Contact for this one is Christine Cowie

**Friday 9th December:** Christmas lunch and AGM at Berkhamsted Golf Club.

## Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

For its first lunch of the year, the branch made a welcome return to the Top Meadow Golf Club, Upminster on

March 16th. A new chef provided an extensive menu from which members were able to choose on the day and the range of dishes was widely praised. The friendly and attentive service added to the pleasure of the occasion which was enjoyed by an encouraging 46 members and guests.

**Coming up**  
**22nd September:** Autumn lunch at the Beauvoir Arms, Downham.

## Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or Contact: David Cattermole



Our first event of 2022 during April saw 30 members and friends gather together at Ufford Golf & Leisure complex for lunch. It was a new venue for us which provided stunning views over the golf course from the room that we were allocated. The excellent meal was followed by our usual raffle which exceeded all expectations in terms of raffle prizes and revenue. Proceeds will be used to subsidise future events and supplement income for prizes at our grand Christmas draw.

Despite holidays, funerals, health and covid reasons, a very supportive membership enjoyed lunch at Rushmere Golf Club on 30th June. Numbers were swelled by new members plus guests from the Chelmsford Branch who we were delighted to welcome back once again. A mention must be made of our eldest member, Mary Green, who we are delighted to say is still able to attend our functions and who celebrated her 107th birthday during early July.

### Coming Up

Next lunch will hopefully be held on Thursday 29th September at the Ski Lodge Restaurant, Ipswich with the Christmas meal due to take place on Thursday 8th December at Bramford Golf Centre.

## King's Lynn

Branch in abeyance

## South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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



South Wales Branch

Oh what gorgeous weather we are enjoying; temperatures at the Mumbles (where we met) was a beautiful 23.5C. Our group came together once again on Wednesday 14 July to enjoy PIMMS ... .. well a nice cool beer although most had coffee/ tea.

Our previous gathering was at 'The Woodman' pub on the Mumbles which was successful. Seating was a small problem - apologies to members but we can sort that out should we return to this venue. We have explored a few alternatives to meet elsewhere and have concluded the Mumbles is the best location for the regular membership. However, the group are happy to explore other alternatives should others join us. A major issue of course is the geography for South Wales. Our branch membership covers three major towns Newport, Cardiff and Swansea so for many travelling great distances is no longer an option. We do have members in rural Wales which compounds the problem. SPA - South Wales branch, now fully closed, membership mainly came from around Cardiff so they met in Porthcawl. Always an option.

### Coming up

The next forthcoming meeting will be Wednesday 14 September and we shall squeeze another one in November. You may like to note Christmas is also being pre-booked so we have reserved Wednesday 14 December at the Norton House Hotel

Mumbles. Meals are being advanced booked so please advise Viv Perry by text 07796415851 or e-mail [viv.perry1@btinternet.com](mailto:viv.perry1@btinternet.com) your attendance. The Christmas menu is available on the Norton House Hotel web site: <https://www.nortonhousehotel.co.uk>

## Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin



Greater Bristol Branch

Our first event for 2022 was a return luncheon meeting held on Thursday, May 19th at the Failand Inn, Failand - just a few miles south of Bristol. We were 19 in number, and our Chair, Roger Gamlin once again organised lovely weather for us. And once again Geoff and Barbara Clemens travelled up from Plymouth to join us! The food and service, as ever, were both very good. There was plenty to chat about and to reminisce over. Roger was congratulated on organising the event and we all came away with a smile on our faces and having remembered absent friends.

We will now be arranging our next event, yet another luncheon meeting in the autumn either at the Woodford Lodge on the banks of Chew Lake or the Salt House in Clevedon. Roger would appreciate hearing from members as to their preference. That will be followed by a Christmas lunch hopefully, once again, at Henbury Golf Club.

Please do take a look at the SMBP 44 Association web site, Greater

*continued on page 16*

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Bristol branch section, to enjoy the photos of our Branch events. Plenty of ex colleagues faces to admire and recognise!

Maurice Husbands – Club Secretary

### South East

Branch in abeyance

### Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Contact:  
Tony Reeve-Parker

### London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

### Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,



# Wedding Anniversaries

A reminder that the Club does not hold or have access to records of members' wedding anniversaries. We are delighted to record them here, but you have to let us know about them! With photographs if possible, please.

### Diamond

Dave & Rosemary Harrop

28th April 2022

Bill and Kay Thornton

29th October 2022



Dave & Rosemary Harrop



Gill and Alan Fitzgerald

### Golden

Gill and Alan Fitzgerald

16th September 2022

Geoffrey and Barbara Brown

13th May 2022



Geoffrey and Barbara Brown

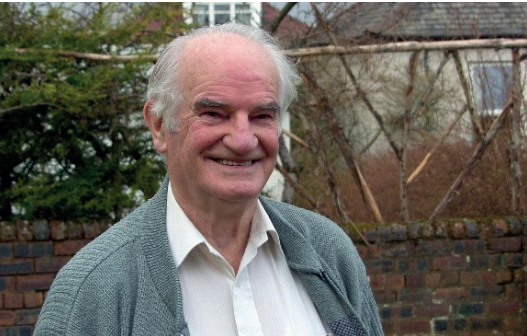




# In Memoriam

## Bill Scott

Bill Scott died on 29th April. He was 93. Bill was for many years the Club's man across Scotland as well as Secretary of the Glasgow Branch. After time overseas Bill joined Power Petroleum in 1963 as a Sales Representative in Retail



and over the years he had Power, National, BP and Shell logos on his SMBP business cards. He became a Shift Manager at Bishopbriggs in 1973 and retired in 1985. After his Oil years he ran his own successful business selling Scottish memorabilia

and souvenirs. He had many other interests including genealogy. The 44 Club was an abiding interest for Bill and Scotland's success with Branches across the country was much attributable to him. He was also a member of the Club's national committee. He will be much missed.

**PSB**

## Gordon Lightfoot

Gordon Lightfoot died on 22nd June. He was 93. He and his wife Aileen had retired to Calpe, near Alicante in Spain in 1999 and both lived a very active life in the Spanish sun for more than twenty years. He had joined SMBP as a Lubricants Supervisor in Norwich in 1957 and post McKinsey he was a Regional Engineer based in Knightsbridge. In the 1970s he became an Industrial Marketing Manager working for Douglas Booth. He took early retirement in 1978. In his post-Shell world, he indulged his passion and talent for music,

took a Music degree and played the trumpet in the Essex Symphony Orchestra and met Aileen a violinist. In Spain Aileen teaches music and Gordon became the organist at the local Anglican church. He told me when I wrote a feature on him for this magazine eight years ago that "Life is something like a trumpet. If you don't put anything in, you won't get anything out". Amen to that and to happy memories of a good friend of many of us in bygone days. **PSB**



# Obituaries

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

**ALSTON (89).** Mrs Pam Alston of Ipswich has died. She was the wife of Mr Robert Alston, who once worked at BP Victoria.

**ARTHUR (91).** Mr Gerald Arthur of Windsor died on 20th April 2022. He was Area Manager, Retail at Norbury when he left group service in 1986 after 30 years.

**BAMBERRY (81).** Mr Alfred Bamberry of Newtownards has died. He was a Team Leader, Vehicle Maintenance, Belfast when he left group service in 1996 after 25 years.

**BANNISTER (84).** Mrs Patricia Bannister of Corringham died on 1st June 2022. She was the widow of Mr R A Bannister, once a Routing Clerk at Shell Haven.

**BILES (99).** Mrs Joan Biles of Brierley Hill died on 21st May 2022. She was the wife of Mr Harry Biles, once a Terminal Operator at Warley.

**BREWER (102).** Mr Douglas Brewer of Bromley died on 5th May 2022. He was a Finance Supervisor at Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1979 after 43 years.

**BROWN (86).** Mr Frederick Brown of Belfast has died. He was a Retail Territory Representative, Belfast Area Office when he left group service in 1992 after 32 years.

**BURGESS (82).** Mr James Burgess of Christchurch died on 1st March 2022. He was an Airfield Operator at Heathrow when he left group service in 1991 after 29 years.

**CHRISTIE (93).** Mr Thomas Christie died on 10th May 2022. He was a Driver at Haydock when he left group service in 1982 after 34 years.

*continued on page 18*

**EDWARDS (84).** Mr Derek Edwards of Maplethorpe has died. He worked for BP Oil at Grangemouth when he left group service in 1987 after 27 years.

**FIELD (101).** Mrs Peggy Field of Bury St Edmunds died on 14th February 2022. She was the wife of Mr W Field who once a Clerk at Ossett Motor Repair Centre.

**FLEMING (94).** Mrs Muriel Fleming of Knutsford died on 14th March 2022. She was Mailing Supervisor at Manchester Regional Office when she left group service in 1978 after 32 years.

**GIBBENS (85).** Mr Colin Gibbens of Enfield died on 29th April 2022. He was a Computer Operations Manager at Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1991.

**GRAINGER (91).** Mr Frank Grainger of Mold has died. He was a Commercial Representative, Manchester when he left group service in 1976 after 21 years.

**HARRISON (73).** Mr Charles Harrison of Woking died on 29th March 2022. He was Group Executive Vice President, Business to Business, Shell Centre when he left group service in 2006 after 35 years.

**HOLMES (87).** Mr George Holmes of Market Rasen died on 3rd March 2022. He was a Driver at Killingholme when he left group service in 1994 after 23 years.

**HOWARD-RICE (101).** Mrs Peggy Howard-Rice of Tadworth died on 23rd April 2022.

**HUNT (85).** Mr Edward Hunt of Brixham died on 13th March 2022. He was Driver at Wandsworth when he left group service in 1985 after 11 years.

**KERSLEY (92).** Mr Roy Kersley of Petersfield died on 26th June 2022. He was Head of Retail Strategy & Planning, BP Britannic House when he left group service in 1983 after 21 years.

**LEWIS (88).** Mr Brian Lewis of Llanelli died on 23rd January 2022. He was Retail Territory Supervisor, East Anglia when he left group service in 1992 after 19 years.

**LIGHTFOOT (93).** Mr Gordon Lightfoot of Calpe, Alicante died on 22nd June 2022. He was Industrial Marketing Manager, Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1979.

**LONG (90).** Mr Norman Long of Maidenhead died on 26th April 2022. He was Manager, Supply & Distribution (Lubricants), Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1984 after 29 years.

**MASON (95).** Mr John Mason of Como, Western Australia, died on 8th April 2022. He was a Supervisor, Senior Marketing Assistant, Central Lubricants Division, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1978 after 30 years.

**McWILLIAM (79).** Mr William McWilliam of Aberdeen died on 19th March 2022. He was a Terminal Operator 1 at BP Point Law Terminal when he left group service in 1992 after 22 years.

**NORRIS (91).** Mr James Norris of Biggleswade died on 17th April 2022. He worked for Shell Aircraft Limited, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1984 after 21 years.

**NORTHWAY (95).** Mrs Adele Northway of Ringwood died on 29th April 2022. She was the wife of the late Robert Northway, once Group Deputy Chief Inspector, Shell-Mex House.

**OLIVER (84).** Mr Thomas Oliver of Manchester died on 16th May 2022. He was Personnel Manager, Shell UK, Carrington when he left group service.

**OWENS (86).** Mr Richard Owens of Caernarfon died on 17th March 2022. He was a Driver at Caernarfon Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 18 years.

**PARKER (90).** Mrs Margaret Parker of Walsall died on 20th March 2022. She was the wife of the late Brian Parker, once Credit Supervisor, Shell UK Oil, Birmingham.

**PARRINGTON (97).** Mr Leslie Parrington of Ewell died on 10th May 2022. He was Company-Owned Site Manager, Southern Division when he left group service in 1978 after 20 years.

**PHIPSON (87).** Mr Donald Phipson of Northampton died on 10th June 2022. He was a Terminal Manager at Northampton when he left group service in 1985 after 28 years.

**RECKITT (93).** Mr Robin Reckitt of Cheltenham died on 16th April 2022. He was a Retail Sales Representative, Birmingham when he left group service in 1974 after 13 years.

**SCOTT (93).** Mr William (Bill) Scott of Glasgow died on 29th April 2022. He was a Shift Manager at Bishopbriggs when he left group service in 1985 after 20 years.

**SHORT (90).** Mr Peter Short of Brighton died on 10th March 2022. He was a Yard Operative at Portslade Terminal when he left group service in 1988 after 21 years.

**SHERMAN (92).** Mr John Sherman of Ipswich died on 4th June 2022. He was Head of Systems Administration, BP Oil Head Office (Victoria Street) when he left group service.

**SMITH (92).** Mr Herbert Smith of Felixstowe died on 27th March 2022. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1987 after 29 years.

**STEVENS (94).** Mr David Stevens of Brighton died on 24th April 2022. He was a Driver and Operator at Portslade when he left group service in 1981 after 27 years.

**SWEENEY (99).** Mrs Hilda Sweeney of Longfield died on 9th March 2022. She was the wife of the late Thomas Sweeney, once a Driver at Northfleet.

**TAYLOR (87).** Mr William Taylor of Derry died on 8th June 2022. He was a Terminal Operator at Londonderry Terminal when he left group service in 1989 after 26 years.

**VANDERHOOK (81).** Mr Andy Vanderhook of Kidderminster died on 28th February 2022. He was Aviation Network Development Manager, Home-based, when he left group service in 1999 after 37 years.

**WHITAKER (87).** Mrs Patricia Whitaker of Bristol died on 16th April 2022. She was the wife of the late John Whitaker, once an Industrial Engineer at Bristol.

**WISEMAN (70).** Mr Richard Wiseman of London died on 16th April 2022. He was Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, Royal Dutch Shell, Shell Centre when he left group service in 2011 after 36 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.

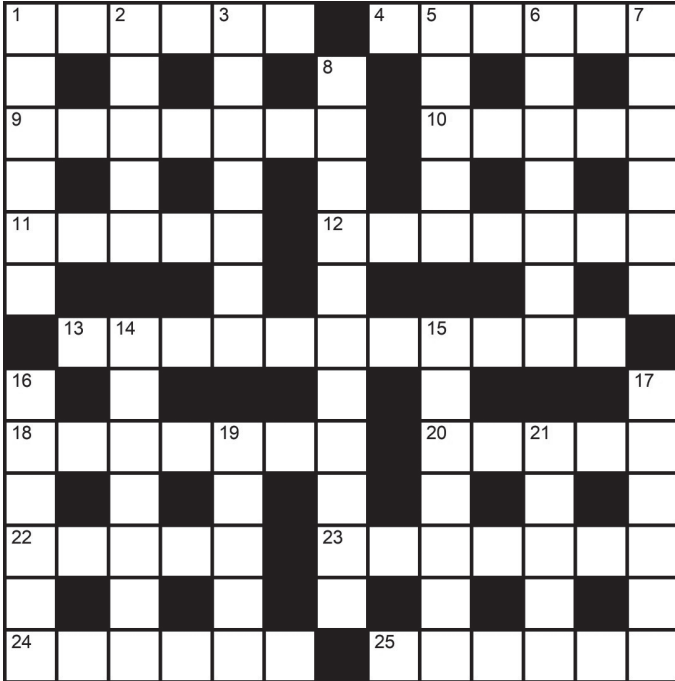
**WOODWARD (94).** Mrs Audrey Woodward of Woodbridge died on 3rd November 2021. She was the wife of the late John Woodward, once a Surveyor with BP.

# and Finally ...

## Quotable Quote

"Sell product, make profit, have fun...not necessarily in that order" Norman Monahan recalls the unwritten law of Shell-Mex and B.P.

## Prize Crossword

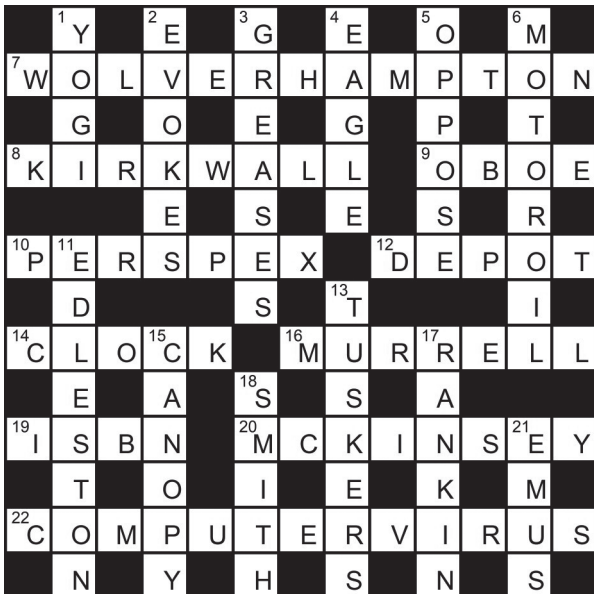


### Across

- 1 Golf Course venue for Ipswich Branch event (6)
- 4 Not ashore (6)
- 9 Humbler, baser, simpler, meeker, (7)
- 10 Venue for horseracing that's sometimes Royal (5)
- 11 The giant characters of Fraggles Rock (see photo) (5)
- 12 His Rugby team beat Yarranton's Wasps (7)
- 13 Courses of action leading nowhere (5,6)
- 18 Abbreviation formed from initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word. (7)
- 20 Mr Edleston, who's name we have correctly spelled this time! (5)
- 22 Secretary of Bournemouth branch's first barrel (5)
- 23 To go back in (2-5)
- 24 People to whom money is paid (6)
- 25 To stun, paralyse, astound (6)

### Down

- 1 The amount by which an oil tank falls short of being full (6)
- 2 A smaller number of things (5)
- 3 To limit or control (5,2)
- 5 Comic from Dundee (5)
- 6 One at the entrance to Shell-Mex House (see photo) (7)
- 7 Extremely and uncritically fond of someone; (6)
- 8 There were many at Hemel and Wythenshawe (11)
- 14 Theft (7)
- 15 To climb upwards... (7)
- 16 Diamond Anniversary celebrants (6)
- 17 Fish eating bird of prey (6)
- 19 My sister's daughter (5)
- 21 One of the explosive glycerines (5)



## Last Issue's Crossword

Congratulations to John Swan of Newcastle the winner. Usual generous prize on its way John !

Closing date for next issue  
20th October 2022