



Fond Memories of Barrie Dugdale OBE



All in the SMBP 44 Club will be saddened by the passing of Barrie Dugdale one of Shell-Mex and B.P. 's most colourful and distinguished employees and alumni. He was also from March 1992 (Edition 54) to December 2000 (Edition 89) the Honorary Editor of the 44 Club News. Just some of Barrie's career highlights are featured in the collage above and more of his story is told on Page 4 onwards. To all who knew Barrie well we offer our condolences and especially to his widower Tony Borer (who we are pleased to welcome to the 44 Club). He is pictured with Barrie in the photo in the bottom left. Barrie mixed with the great and the good and the Princesses Diana and Anne were just two he befriended!

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/>



Guest Editorial

Rick Westley

I always read every word of the magazine (it's a proof-reader's requirement), so it was with the usual pleasure/amusement that in the Winter 22 edition I read Tony Wilson's letter of thanks on his 84th birthday, and the Editor's responding comments.

To refresh, Tony had begun by a greeting 'to all those toilers in the 44 Club Association office....'. Although Paddy had corrected the illusion of 'staff' and 'offices' etc, it was not an unnatural assumption for Tony and perhaps others to make, so I thought it was timely to reiterate how the central part of the Club actually runs.

The Executive Committee comprises me as Chairman, Nick Preece as Treasurer, Paddy Briggs as Editor, Colin Hill as Secretary and Branch members Ken Longhurst, Brammer Allport and Elaine Ellen. These responsibilities are 'light touch' these days as we try to eliminate unnecessary effort and cost - if we meet at all it is in virtual space, although many give generously of their time in pursuit of Branch activities.

The 'Office' is Colin's home in Southend-on-Sea where he is on duty for half the working week doing all the day-to-day administrative, technical, financial and liaison work that is required to keep a 2000-odd member organisation going.

At the other end of the Thames lies Paddy's Teddington home from which he edits the 44 Club News. 'Edit' in this context includes conceiving, interviewing, cajoling, and encouraging, researching, storing and writing all the content for our quarterly magazine. He also with Colin manages its production and distribution through an agency which also now handles the posting of birthday cards. Our on-line representation in the metaverse is well managed remotely by Elaine.

All 44 Club 'toilers' (with the exception of Colin) go unrewarded with vulgar money – to them go the pleasures of service, community-building, and appreciation... lest we all go misty-eyed I must stress that the whole enterprise is financially underpinned by Shell in its wisdom and generosity for which we all remain humbly grateful.

Finally, we are well aware that we are managing 'a wasting asset' to use a crude if accurate accounting term, including those doing the managing! So embracing an exciting future of growth and opportunity is not seen as our primary challenge. But we will keep going for a while yet, and with your approval and support, we will maybe just continue to add a little happiness.

Rick Westley

Club Chairman

Noticeboard



Members' Reunion and Annual General Meeting 2023

We are pleased to announce that the AGM and Members' Reunion has been scheduled for Tuesday 6th June. There is a flyer accompanying this edition, and we do hope to welcome as many of you that can attend. The venue will be Shell Centre (Shell Campus) in Waterloo.

Change to the Constitution

Our membership continues to decline, and this is an inevitability. Due to this, the Executive Committee is seeking to amend the Constitution relating to attendance at meetings. Currently, the Constitution stipulates attendance in person at General Meetings. We are seeking members' endorsement to amend this to include virtual attendance (via Zoom or other technology).

The precise wording is to be finalised.

For those of you who can get to Shell Centre on 6th June, we would ask you do your best to attend so we can achieve the current quorum of 40, and get members' endorsement to the changes.

The Shell Pensioners Benevolent Fund

The Fund helps Shell pensioners in need who have worked for Shell in the UK by giving one-off grants and interest-free loans.

Grants are given where the pensioner cannot afford to pay for items such as:

- Stair lifts, chairs, wheelchairs
- Bathroom adaptations
- Boilers
- Respite care
- Urgent house repairs,
- Hearing aids and glasses.

The Fund is available to Members of the Shell Pensioners Association who are paid a pension from Shell companies in the UK. Enquiries to the Shell Pensioner Programme - helpline 0345 850 8944 (manned Mondays to Fridays) or by Email Shell-Pensioner-Programme@shell.com

The BP Benevolent Fund

The BP Benevolent Fund provides financial help for former BP Employees/Pensioners and their families. In 2022 the Fund was able to help more people than in previous years. Any BP Pensioners who would like more information about the Fund or need financial help should speak with their Pensioner Liaison Officer (PLO) or contact the Fund administrator Andy Carter on 0203 401 4223 or by Email at andrew.carter@uk.bp.com

Welcome New Members

Mr Tony Borer - Royal Leamington Spa

Mrs Monica Davies - Wootton Green

Mrs Eileen Finch - Cardiff

Mrs Frances Grainger
- Llanarmon-yn-Ial

Mrs Pip Hutchinson - Wilmslow

Mrs Carol Pritchard - Glasgow

Mr Trevor Pritchard - Glasgow

Mr Tony Smart - Hemel Hempstead

Remembering Barrie Dugdale

Adapted from the Funeral Address given by Pamela Marsh

Early Years

“Barrie was born in Sunderland, where his father was Chairman of the River Wear shipbuilders, Austin and Pickersgill. His father was named by the magazine Tailor and Cutter, as the Best Dressed Man in England and Barrie used the same Savile Row tailor as his father and his grandfather.

Following in the footsteps of his father and other family members, he went to Wellingborough, a public school with a proud reputation for its sporting achievements.

His father died when Barrie was only 15, so any thoughts of continuing the family tradition of shipbuilding were carefully revised. He abandoned plans for university and, immediately after leaving Wellingborough, joined his father’s regiment, the Royal Artillery for National Service - the army decided that he would be best placed in a training regiment based in Oswestry.

Shell-Mex and B.P.

After his two years National Service Barrie joined the Manchester office of Shell-Mex and BP as a marketing trainee. He was a promising salesman, and, in those far off days when all members of the sales force wore bowler hats and carried furled umbrellas, he was the walking example of the up-and-coming junior executive. At the age of 23, this became a reality when he was appointed the youngest Public Relations Officer in the company – a job he loved. He also loved the scope it gave him. His area extended from the Lake District to the high Peak District of Derbyshire and to North Wales.



Manchester gave Barrie lots of opportunities to apply his exceptional acting talent and he joined a number of amateur dramatic and operatic societies in the north west, playing roles from Shakespeare to Ionesco and everything in between. And it was here that we met in 1956 at the Unnamed Society in Manchester in an amateur production of King Lear in which he played Edmund and I, Cordelia. We appeared together in amateur productions until we both left Manchester to continue our respective careers in London and were close friends for over 50 years. But undoubtedly in the context of the theatre Barrie’s finest hour must have been when he took the lead in productions in the North West in a series of Ivor Novello musicals where legend has it that coach loads of female fans would ensure they played to a full house every night!

Shell U.K. and SIPC

In 1969 Barrie was transferred to the Public Affairs department in Shell UK’s Head Office in London. He was then promoted to Shell International where he became the

Barrie arrived at Wellingborough School in 1949. He was no athlete but swiftly established himself in the musical and dramatic life. He was a leading member of the Chapel Choir and earned his reputation as a consummate character actor in such roles as Sir Joseph Porter (HMS Pinafore), Malvolio (Twelfth Night) and Bunthorne (Patience). In this latter role he was famed for dancing on the piano in Act 11 much to the discomfiture of the pianist but to the delight of the audience. Always immaculately dressed in 3 piece suits he possessed a gravitas to the extent that new boys often mistook him for a member of teaching staff.

Convener of Shell’s world-wide grants and donations programme – an opportunity (at last) to see a bit of the world.

He returned to Shell UK to take over the company’s sponsorship and community affairs programmes. These included the Shell Education Service and several widely praised environmental schemes, but his proudest achievement was undoubtedly the creation of the Shell UK Music Scholarship, which ran for 25 years in conjunction with the London Symphony Orchestra.



Barrie and later husband Tony Borer

The light of Barrie's life was his partner and later husband Tony Borer (see photo). They met in 1973 shortly after Tony came to England from his native Switzerland. They were together for 49 years. Together, they travelled widely, shared friendships, enjoyed a similar sense of humour and a love of theatre and music. And Tony was wonderful in dealing with Barrie's occasional irascibility. And when Barrie's illness took its final toll, Tony nursed him devotedly at home until the end.

Barrie retired from Shell in 1991, having been made a Freeman of the City of London and in 1992 he was appointed OBE for services to the oil industry. He and Tony owned a weekend cottage in Moreton Pinkney and, when Tony retired, they decided to leave London and move there permanently. He was active in the local community including becoming President Emeritus of the Choir the St James's Singers.

Shell U.K. and SIPC

Paddy Briggs writes:

Barrie was a member and supporter of the SMBP 44 Association and attended 44 Club events. In 1992 he accepted the position of Honorary Editor of the 44 Club News which lasted until December 2000 – 36 editions in total. He is, to date, the only Editor to have appeared in the Queen's Honours list! Barrie was a member of the Executive Committee under, initially, Tom King's chairmanship.

When Barrie handed over to Mike McMonagle in early 2001 the then Club Secretary Ken Froy paid him this tribute "I find it difficult to comprehend that Barrie has been our Editor for so long but I am sure that members will join me when I say "thank you", Barrie, for producing 36 terrific issues of Club News, always so very readable, always full of interest, not an easy achievement as any Editor is very dependent on the copy coming to him. Barrie's success, I have always believed, has been his ability to draw a response from the membership coupled with an innate



Members of the 1991/92 Executive Committee at their third Meeting on Thursday, 20th February 1992, Shell-Mex House.

Standing L-R: John Hoy, Geoff Spencer, John Harvey, John Baker, John Moffat, Barrie Dugdale (Editor), Gerry Caesar, Gordon Springett, Cliff Street, Andy Rooney and Peter Sharp.

Seated L-R: John Sherman, Jeff Tebboth, Don Charles, Diana Bulley, Derek Higgins (Treasurer), Tom King (Chairman), Ken Froy (Secretary), Greta Chandler and Len Evans.

skill of making the presentation so very readable."

In 2018 I invited Barrie to write a "Guest Editorial" for the magazine which he did with characteristic modesty and wit. In the article he said that in his time as Editor he was glad to have sponsored articles on the history of SMBP from, among others, David Burchell and Tony Page. That "A History of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd" is a crucial record of the 44 years of the Company and without Barrie's management I doubt that it would have happened. Barrie always brought a smile to the faces of those he was with, as here at a Reunion with Peter Yarranton, Peter Gibson and Charles Madge in 1998. He will be much missed.



44 Club News Honorary Editors:

July 1978: John Higdon

September 1984: Harry Hossent

June 1989: Doreen Hale

September 1990: Stanley Webb

March 1992: Barrie Dugdale

March 2001: Mike McMonagle

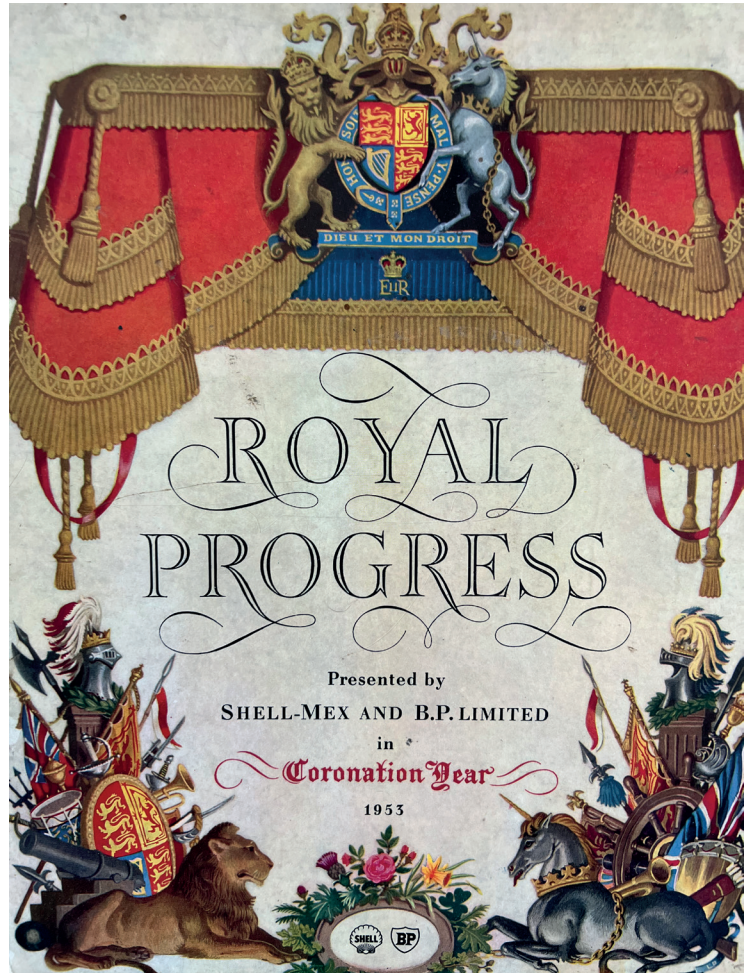
Summer 2010: Paddy Briggs

Shell-Mex and B.P. and the Coronation

In May this year the majority of Britons will celebrate their first Coronation, though for most members of the 44 Club it will, of course, be our second!



I was six years old on that June day in 1953 but almost exactly seventy years ago I still have vivid memories of it. It was that year that my normally rather financially cautious father splashed out and bought our first television. I had a day off school and settled down with Mum and Dad to watch events whilst occasionally playing with my tiny coronation coach and horses. Shell-Mex and B.P. with characteristic style published a commemoration book to celebrate the Coronation and a very good book it was. A few copies are still around. It was written by the eminent historian James Laver and he described what he called 'Royal Progress' from Agincourt in 1415 via Henry VIII 'Cloth of Gold' in 1520, Elizabeth 1st at Tilbury in 1588, Charles 11 at Dover in 1660, William of Orange in 1688, Queen Anne in 1710, Bonnie Prince Charlie in Edinburgh in 1745, George IV in Brighton in 1820, Queen Victoria in 1855, George V in India in 1911 and George VI in 1945. It's an eclectic

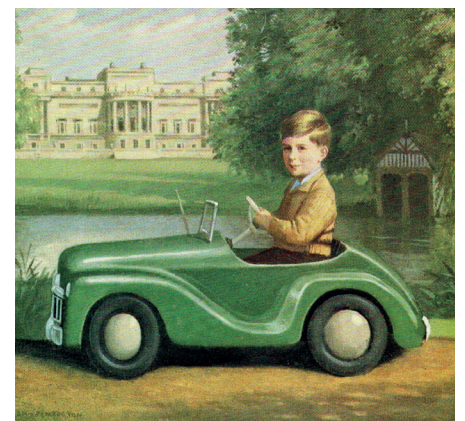


collection beautifully written and illustrated by John Leigh Pemberton.

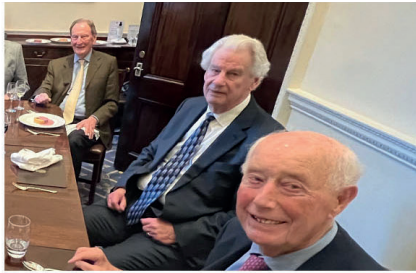
Times change and the enthusiasm we had for the Coronation (not just we children) may not be matched by all this May. And we can be sure that the successor companies to SMBP won't be commissioning a book of the quality of 'Royal Progress'! But it is a mark of the significance of SMBP back in 1953 and its confidence as a player not just in

the business of Britain but also its history and culture. The book had an illustration that the new King today might look back on with pleasure – I'm sure that we all wish him well.

PSB



The Grandfathers



The origins of the Grandfathers Club go back to 1957 when some members of the 'Senior Mess' – the restaurant for the high-priced help in Shell-Mex House – thought that it would be a good idea to form a dining club for the grandfathers among their ranks. The first lunch was on October 23rd of that year and the rules were agreed. You had to be a member of the Mess, a grandfather and be invited to join. It was restricted to 15 members only (later increased to 40) and there were to be two lunches per year. A convenor was appointed – in nearly 60 years there have been just four; G.H. Selly, Michael Shaw, Clifford Grinsted and John Perry.

There were eight members present at the latest meeting on 24th November 2022 – Bob Breese, Russell Elden, Colin Hill (Secretary 44 Club), Dennis Keeping, John Perry, John Smeddle, Viv Thomas, and Rick Westley (Chairman of the 44 Club and on the day). Paddy

Briggs, Honorary Editor of the 44 Club News joined to help record this 65th anniversary meeting of the Club. Apologies were received from John Bamberg (cruising), Bob Blake, Peter Cast, Charles Hogbin, David Howden, John Hunter, Charles Madge, Mike McMonagle and Dick Tinson. Sadly Ian Ward has died recently.

The future of The Grandfathers' Club was again raised, but somewhat late in the meeting to allow proper discussion before some members had to leave. It will therefore be an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting. John Perry has subsequently reminded members of the meeting on 27th November 2014 at which two statements were agreed on Club membership and meeting format.

1. We should remain open to new members, but any new applicant should have worked for Shell-Mex and BP Limited and, thereafter,

attained a senior management position in Shell or BP. This means the Club has a limited life and will eventually close. The remaining members will recognise when this moment has arrived.

2. We should continue with the traditional meeting format with no outside speakers but that any member could propose that they introduce a topic for discussion at the next meeting. **PSB**

The Small Mall Room at the RAC, Pall Mall has been booked for the next two meetings which will be on Tuesday May 23rd, 2023, and Thursday November 23rd 2023.

LEO Remembered

The story of LEO (Lyons Electronic Office) is an extraordinary one. The world's very first business computer was designed and manufactured, not by one of the electronics giants such as IBM, but by J Lyons & Co, better known for its Teashops and Corner House Restaurants, its Swiss Rolls and Fruit Pies. Shell-Mex and B.P. was one of the early adopters of this innovative machine.

After World War 2, upward trends in office costs made the Lyons' Board realise that some form of automation was essential for processes such as stock control and payroll. There was nothing available at this time to meet their needs and so, with the self-assurance and innovative spirit which had become their trademark, they set about managing the design and manufacture of their own computer, LEO.

The story has now been told in a book, LEO Remembered which relates the shared excitement from those involved - designers, engineers, programmers, operators, and salespeople alike - in knowing that they were onto something big.

The bold decision by the Lyons Board bore fruit when, in November 1951, LEO ran its first live business

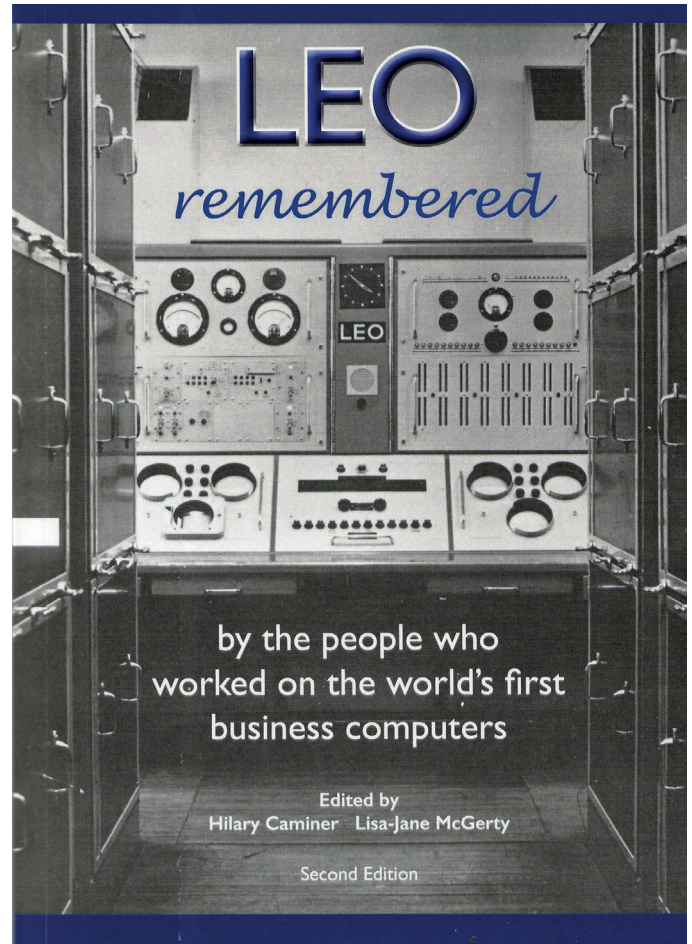
application. Lyons retained this lead through most of the 1950s and early 1960s, setting up a company, LEO Computers Ltd, to further develop and sell LEO at home and overseas to blue-chip companies including Shell-Mex & BP Ltd. and UK government departments.

The LEO story ended in 1981 when the last of the LEO computers, a LEO 326, one of a large number operated by the Post Office for telephone billing, was finally turned off, the same year coincidentally when the last of the Joe Lyons famous teashops closed its doors.

LEO Remembered is available, priced £10 plus postage, with £2 discount for members of LEO Computers Society.

Please email:

Leoremembered@leo-computers.org.uk for ordering details. Mention SMBP !



Birthday Thanks/Your Letters

Remembering the 'Big Freeze'

I was on Salisbury Plain in the Army. The c/o was a Colonel Latimer, ex North Africa campaign under Monty! The officers were trainers, the public schools provided 70 cadets for a weapons course. I was the Chef so I had an important part to play – there

was plenty of food available. The Royal Engineers made a path to the camp through the snow and ice. We had evenings in the village pub – the girls liked us in our uniforms causing jealousy among the locals!

Stephen Bennett

I am one of the many members you refer to, who remember the Big Freeze of 1963.

As a young retail Shell/BP representative, in his first appointment, in South West Scotland, I was keen to make a good impression at all times and a 'bit of snow' was not going to prevent me! I

remember heading out of Gatehouse of Fleet where I lived, which was already engulfed in snow, and on to the A75 trunk road to Stranraer. I very quickly discovered the open road was very deep in snow and was already single lane with passing points dug out. I almost immediately had to pull into one to allow another vehicle to pass. While there I discovered I could only see the sky and a short drive thereafter, that was about all I could see even on the semi cleared trunk road!

My good intentions were quickly overcome and at the first opportunity an about turn took place and I headed home for a well-earned cup of tea and made good use of the phone.

A decision I never regretted!

Garry Conacher

I was the AD Development Supervisor for Midland Division at the time of the Big Freeze. Living just to north of Birmingham. We went down to London to stay with parents for Xmas. Drove down Xmas Eve, all six of us. We had a good Christmas Day but the forecast was not good for next few days. Cold and snow expected. Coming down the Irish Sea - i.e., from the north. We decided that we had better return home on Boxing Day. We set off mid-morning having loaded the car up with presents. With the M1 having opened in 1961 our route was to be North Circular Road, pick up motorway and off we go. Weather forecast. Snow arrived on north Devon coast and turning east over Exmoor and expected to turn north! Got home OK. VERY cold! House freezing. Unloaded car, drove it into garage. (It stayed there for many weeks!). Lit solid fuel boiler in kitchen and lit open fires plus 2 paraffin heaters. Soon cosy but snow had arrived by then!

The following day – there was snow everywhere. Luckily SMBP had launched the Pink Paraffin Delivery Service in 1956 and we had an

excellent service in our area. Both they and the coal men struggled to get us deliveries every week! The Council did not / could not clear the side roads. There was no way could you drive cars down side roads but commercial vehicles made some impression, It was thirteen weeks before last of the snow finally disappeared from road and garden.

Work: There was no way could I drive to the office. Visits were banned. So with the train service quickly operating as normal I returned to daily train journeys. My role became talking to Manager of each AD daily to get a picture of the situation across the Midlands. What were stocks like? How far were deliveries behind? Sorting out priorities. If necessary we phoned SMBP Terminal staff re. deliveries to “my” AD’s depots. HO also demanded daily reports by teleprinter of situation. I had my own admin person so between us we kept HO satisfied. I was told they had to keep the Government and Shell International (maybe also BP?) fully informed on a daily basis. We had enough to cope with in the Midlands so we had no idea how rest of country was doing and only found out much later. The cold weather and snow went on week after week. Locals cleared pavements so we struggled to walk to the shops for our weekly “shop”. And take care of the elderly.

Any casualties? Yes. Clayton’s senior Manager in Birmingham had a heart attack due to the pressure and died. Ward’s senior Manager had a mental break down and had to be pensioned off due to the stress.

(The role of paraffin heaters in keeping us warm in winter is never acknowledged. Nor the way that they played a part in getting rid of the Smog. Open fires - Government pressed up to fit a new front to open fires. Close at night, damp fire down with tea leaves, etc. Let it smoulder. Masses of smoke rising into cold, rainy clouds. Result smog).

Our priority for the Summer of 1963 was to have oil fired central heating installed! There had been only a few

thousand such customers until then!

Maurice Husbands

I especially remember the big freeze of 1962/3 because for the AD William Cory it was a nightmare! Small deliveries to outlying homes and farms were particularly badly affected. A plea for help was circulated (amongst the office staff) asking for weekend assistance for delivery drivers. I, along with others volunteered and spent a day sitting alongside a tanker driver. I cannot recall what help I was, other than trying to keep him awake so he could avoid ditching his tanker in one of the many snow drifts on the way out to a remote farm near Alton.

What started on Boxing Day 1962, just went on, and on, with persistent heavy snow falls and icy conditions through until the end of March. The ice froze on the pavements, which made even walking particularly hazardous.

Rodney Dale

Striking memories

The story in the 44 Club magazine number 171 winter 2021 issue about the “calling out of the troops” in 1953 has a photo of a soldier at the wheel of an SMBP road tanker. I Have just realised the soldier at the bottom of the page 5 is me!

I was in the Royal Artillery stationed in Troon, Ayrshire, Scotland and about 20 of us were sent to London to assist the Royal Army Service Corps to deliver fuel to service stations. I was riding in the passenger seat with an Enfield rifle but no ammunition just in case there was any trouble from the picket lines. We were billeted in the Tower of London at night laying on a sack of straw (palliasse) for our bed.

continued on page 10



The strike for us only lasted for about 4 days as the drivers returned to work on the Friday.

It was ironic that 20 years later I would join Shell/BP at Royston in 1973 and then Buncefield until retirement in 1994. I am now 88 years old and still enjoying retirement.

Colin Charter

Ed: This really is the most extraordinary coincidence Colin, thank you so much for sharing it!

Brand separation – A Golden Jubilee

Although Shell Mex and BP Ltd. finally came to an end, at midnight 31st December 1975, for a large number of us, especially those in marketing, Brand Separation was effective from the 1st July 1973.

50 years ago, this year! Where has the time gone? In my case Brand Separation involved a Company house move from Devon up to Bristol. I was the AD Branch Manager based at the old terminal just outside Exeter, well supported by 3 others. The AD's had been branded as either a Shell or a BP Distributor with a new contract and each covered a much larger area as the existing trade was split 60 % to Shell Distributors and 40% to BP Distributors. Existing depots in the main remained with the previous AD and we had to find alternative "dry" depots for the other AD who would pick up supplies from the 'wet' depot. That took some time to resolve.

In the new Shell organisation, I was the Distributor Manager which included Planning and keeping an eye on the Admin. I was well supported in Bristol by Len Richards and George Warner and several others. There were a few inevitable "queries/ problems" from brand separation that had to be quickly resolved. And I needed to get to know all the Bristol Shell Distributors. We were beginning to get on top of things when the Yom Kippur War broke out in October! The Crude Oil price went from \$3 a barrel to \$12 dollars. Rationing was introduced and speed restrictions on the motorways. We had to introduce auditing of our Distributors to ensure they were conforming to the law! More fun and games. Shell had originally planned for expansion. That never happened - instead there were redundancies. Similar things must have been going on all over the country. Lots of people suffered house moves.

And then due to the oil price increase North Sea Gas began to take some of our trade. And that continued. The country's financial situation was not good, either. So, all in all, we really lived in interesting times, both then and now!

Maurice Husbands

Birthdays

I was really intrigued by the note (Club News 174 on page 3) that the Club has no members in the database who have December 26th as a birthday. I managed to find an odd minute to remind myself of "The Birthday Problem/Paradox" in statistical probability theory. In it, the theory shows that you would need only 23 people (in a random sample) to be over 50% certain of finding at least 2 people who shared the same birthday. I have actually been in a business conference where this theory was successfully demonstrated - as other readers may well have been. Though the small number for a match seems hard to

believe, I guess that the theory is more plausible when you consider that with 23 people, there would be $(23 * 22) / 2 = 253$ pairs within the sample, which is over half the number of days in year.

The probability rate of a shared birthday is shown to hit a rate of 99% if the sample size is just 60 people, and 100% if there were as few as 366 people.

I assume that you may possibly have over 366 thriving members of the 44 Club, which, for me, makes the absence of a December 26th birthday match even more astounding.

The above theories do hold the underlying assumption that each birthday in a year is equally possible, which I think is fair enough.

Without setting too many hares running, maybe a former member of SMBP's think-tank, ORMS, can throw some more light on your findings, or on my misunderstanding? Or maybe it is just down to the fact that some pretty untypical people worked for the Company!

Gerry Flanagan,

75th I joined SMBP in March 1969 and I started in National Accounts in Shell Mex House. By the time of Brand Separation, I had worked in Consumer Markets in Knightsbridge and was "branded" Shell & was working in Derby as a Shell Account Manager in Commercial Markets by the time BS finally took place. I moved into Shell Coal International in 1978 as a Contract Manager, where I stayed for 9 years. After that I joined the UK Music project, which was re-named Sales Systems, as a system designer, implementor and finally system manager for Commercial. In 1997 I joined the European SAP project first as a system designer in Paris and finally as part of the UK implementation team in Wythenshawe. I retired from Shell in September 2000 having done 31½ years.

I then managed to work for a few more years as a contractor on the Global SAP project finally retiring in 2009. This last role gave me a fair number of global excursions and a real insight on how other countries worked. If you consider that all the Downstream companies do the same thing, it was eye-opening to see in how many different ways the business was conducted and how many "special arrangements" were in place. It was quite a challenge to harmonise the processes.

When I look back at a total of almost 37 years in total working for or at Shell, I count myself very fortunate to have enjoyed every job I had working with great people in a fantastic industry.

Chris L'Estrange

77th Good to see Shell-Mex House rising above the trees in Victoria Embankment Gardens. I had three spells of working in SM House, in the mid '60s, mid '70s, and early '90s. I used to love walking through the Gardens, always beautifully maintained by Westminster City Council, on my way into the Embankment entrance. If I remember correctly, one of the lifts was reserved for directors only, whisking them directly to the 7th floor?



Ed: Yes, Colin, the Directors were definitely upwardly mobile in those days...

Colin Jones

77th The card always brings back 21 years of happy memories in Retail Lubes. I soldier on with the usual decrepitation caused by anno domini, various lumps of metal inserted in my body (not piercings I hasten to add!) and shortly to be joined by a new knee. Apart from that, life is pretty good in Poole. Upright, breathing and walking the hound round Poole Harbour every day, Life is pretty good, all things considered.

Colin Lambert

80th As part of my big birthday celebrations my family took me to see 'The Choir of Man' –very



interesting! It's set in a pub so in return I took them to the 'Coal Hole' in The Strand by Shell-Mex House (a favourite watering hole) where I regaled them with happy memories of Shell-Mex and B.P.

Muriel Davis (nee Mayor)

80th I first visited Shell-Mex House in 1951 with my late father, Gordon and family, as part of our visit to the Festival of Britain and then by boat to Battersea Pleasure gardens. The SMBP HQ appeared massive and wonderful to me at the age of 8 years old!

I next visited Shell Mex House in

1953 just before the Coronation of the late Queen. This visit, and meeting my father's sales colleagues, made me want to become a salesman like my Dad. I joined SMBP as a depot clerk in 1960 and left in 1979 as a Shell Retail representative.

The Shell pension each month reminds me of the many happy times I had in the company and helped me greatly in my next employment which was with an oil mist filtration company. But that's another story!

Andrew Mabbett

81st In spite of my advanced age. I attribute my survival to several contributory factors:

1. Having a loving daughter living with me and looking after me.
2. Having an eleven-year-old soccer mad grandson at home.
3. Supporting Manchester City and regularly watching home games with the grandson.
4. Watching the grandson play football on Saturday mornings and piling half the team into the car and standing them breakfast.
5. Corresponding on a regular basis with my ex-colleague Bryan Farmer from Shell-Mex House Finance/Accounts General days.
6. Reading each issue of the 44 Club News, but never being able to complete the crossword!



continued on page 12

BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

I intend (or at least hope) to be a drain on the Pension Fund finances for a good few more years but, as the late Kenny Everett would say, "all in the best possible taste."

Roger Smith

84th Many thanks to the club for sending me a birthday card, most kind of you. It's a delightful picture of SM House in summer from the Embankment Gardens. I recall one December John Greenborough held a lunch in the River Suite for all those who worked in the gardens to



thank them on behalf of all of us who enjoyed the splendid blooms they produced through the seasons. Busy, but happy days.

John Smeddle.

Ed: So many things about the way we did business in those distant days must be incomprehensible to our equivalents today. The past really is a foreign country. John Greenborough, 46 in 1969, was the 'Managing Director, Marketing' for Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. and also a Vice-chairman of the British Road Federation. A busy man, but he still found time to entertain and thank the gardeners from the Embankment Gardens. That's how it was. And here as a special treat (and thanks to Alamy) is Shirley MacLaine in the gardens in that year. Perhaps she was staying in the Savoy?

86th That we 'Oldies' should be remembered is sufficient in itself, Thank You. Personally, from 1966, on joining SMBP under the eagle-eye of Viv Thomas as Manager Liverpool Area as an Industrial Lubs Rep, to being given my wings by his successor, the inimitable Alan Morris, to then join the gaggle (as of geese) in Training at The Node, was something of a roller coaster. That the late Roy Bryde, a Chemical Engineer of note, saw fit to take me into the fold in Oxford Rd. Manchester, was a step of faith which could so easily have rendered him atheist.

In our superb 44 Club News, the characters bounce out of the page. On my birthday, phone rings, lady's voice - "How are you Jim?". None other than Betty Morris, Alan's widow - loving family yet living independently. Little did I think that 50yrs after walking through the Embankment Gardens, my retirement would see me still doing all I can to see our Caring Hotel weather the current choppy seas.

Jim Chivers

Ed: The 'Caring Hotel' Jim refers to is Thornley House Hotel in Teignmouth, Devon Telephone: 01626 775270. Highly rated on the travel websites! Worth a look!

93rd Shell-Mex House and the Embankment Gardens pictured in my card brought back many marvellous memories. As did the Recent programme 'The Peoples Piazza' on the BBC which covered the history of Covent Garden so close to Shell-Mex House. SMBP's Motor Department was in Bedford



House nearby and when visiting them I often popped into the fruit market to purchase a tray of fruit to preserve. Happy Days.

Colin Kirk

90th My card arrived right on time despite the postal strike ! Well done. I celebrated with family, friends and ex work colleagues and a very nice day it was too!

J Broughton

90th I suppose that nowadays 90 is pretty commonplace! I had a good family gathering to celebrate. The younger generations marvelled that I was still getting a card each year from my former employer – well they are right, it is pretty special!

Martin Spankie

90th I have reached the 90s! Thanks to all who keep the cards coming. I am fortunate to be still active here in Perth, Australia where the climate is much less severe than in the Eastern states (**Ed:** Not to mention the Scottish city after which it was named Sandy!)

My last position before retiring was in Distributor Trade – I was an Operation Procedure Inspector in Scotland. I send my best wishes to all my old colleagues – OPIs, DTD staff, APDs, AD Principals etc. We all worked together to keep the product flowing safely. If any of you are coming to Australia please make contact. Spirit memories such as Bruichladdich and Bowmore are still enjoyed on such special occasions.

A.O (Sandy) Hogg

91st Wondering how much longer I can stagger on! But slowly does it & hopefully next year I will achieve the milestone of having been retired as long as I worked for the company, whilst, sadly, so many of my old colleagues have passed on. But I look back with pleasure (mostly) and feel privileged to have known them all. Regards to any fellow survivors of the 'Pipeliners'.

Ernie Choules

93rd I thought the article on National Benzole was very interesting, I started working for them in 1960 at 195 Knightsbridge and never regretted it. From memory Mr Tindale was No 1 and had a huge office but I can't remember on which floor it was, and when NB was absorbed into the main company, there was quite a bit of memorabilia kept in the basement including a beautifully made statue of Mercury which looked to be made of silver(?) about 6 inches high, what become of it? Who knows?



in sterling silver by Mappin & Webb, London, 1931, a believed special commission for National Benzole Co.Ltd,

THE GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED SALE
COLLECTOR'S MOTOR CARS AND AUTOMOBILIA
5 July 2019, 11:00 BST
Chichester, Goodwood

Ed: This could be it Arthur!

Arthur Dixon

84th This is my little story of a great Shell-Mex and BP life - the terrific card brought back memories of my fourteen years of service in Manchester and Northern Ireland as sales consultant and Marine Representative. The first big memory was the renting of our black and white tv set from Granada to ensure that we were able to view the first landing on the moon in 1969 where we lived in our first house in Sale, Cheshire. This was achieved by four or five of us meeting for coffee in Sale every week before travelling



Norman Mavitty

to our individual territories in and around Manchester.

All good factory shop purchases came into play as our many contacts would let us purchase at the employees' special prices sometimes the products had slight flaws that could make them unsaleable. The other big event was our annual Christmas show where our acting and singing was amazing after many pub rehearsals bringing out a lot of hidden talent. Eric Evans, the captain of England's rugby, kept us fit and always had a few tickets available not only for rugby internationals but also for the top Manchester football matches. I was privileged to have such happy company - intelligent friends coupled with many good customers.

Norman Mavitty

88th What an interesting publication 44 Club News is and how long lived are its readers. The recent winter 2022 edition brought back a couple of SMBP memories concerning winter 1963 and sales staff titles. In 1963 my wife Val and I were in sunny Curacao on board the Hadley Shipping Company's tanker SS Clymene. She was a new Shell A Class vessel purchased from Shell whilst under construction and chartered her back to them on a lifetime basis, a mutually agreeable tax arrangement I believe. One of the first tankers in service with 'Epiccoated' cargo tanks, we were loading for West Africa. When the mail from UK arrived we were all amazed at the pictures of ice and snow, which no doubt my father Bob

Drew, the SMBP motor inspector based at Poole was very likely dealing with. Little did I then know of my future with the Company. Later in 1963, having obtained my 'Chiefs Ticket' and with a family on the way I decided to swallow the anchor. Father arranged an interview for me with Gordon Peters the Southern Divisional Manager and following further interviews with people such as Arthur Pritchard in Shell Mex House, I was offered the job of an Industrial Fuels Superintendent.

In the piece on National Benzole a comparison is made between National and SMBP use of sales employees' titles, especially that of Superintendent. I am reminded how during my early days in the field this title extracted the company from some tricky circumstances when irate customers were refusing to see such lowly people as 'Representatives' insisting on someone from the management! On my first day with SMBP, I had been tasked to ensure that my father was transported safely between his home in Poole and the Southampton Divisional office for his retirement lunch following his 40 years with the company. Whilst father was being wined and dined I had my formal induction by Personnel, (there's a term we don't hear any more these days!) followed by lunch in Scullards wine bar opposite the Above Bar Divisional offices. I believe my host may have been Martin Spankie. I certainly recall his comments that providing I kept my nose clean, had no delusions of Eton for my children or a playboy lifestyle, SMBP would provide an interesting career ending with a pension supporting a comfortable retirement. How correct he was and how times have changed.

Mike Drew

continued on page 14

98th I am writing – on behalf of my husband, John A. Nowill - to say very many thanks to his fellow Members of the 44 Club for the splendid birthday card of the Victoria Embankment Gardens. He was SO pleased. Unfortunately, John is now in a Care Home, where he is being very well looked after. After he had a bad fall in the garden I was unable to look after him properly..... sadly. The result being that he is now in the right place – but, of course, I miss him... He really is thrilled to be remembered by you all, and it brought back so many happy memories too – to both of us. We actually had a splendid family celebration at The Local

Inn – my grandson and son-in-law wheeled John in, in the wheelchair, and it worked supremely! Happy memories.... Renewed thanks, and hope you all keep in fine fettle... Love from both of us.

Eva Nowill

Thanks also received from: Nigel Keen (90), Donald Cotton (86), Brian Morris, Ralph Peirse (88), Michael Callister (75), Carol Hannah (80), Eileen Readman (88), Bill Wright (87), Brian Fausset (94), Susan Warner (90), George Ripley (93),

John Taylor (78), Gail Cable (83), Lawrence Townsend (94), Barry Hiscock (87), Bryan Farmer (91), Doreen Smith (81), Mary Rawlings (84), Derek Brown (89), Lionel Reece (86), Paddy Taylor (83), John Watts (93), John Smith (81), Margaret Parker (81), John Swan (86), Ernie Horne (90), Keith Boyles (84), John Heyes (83), Roger Cook (86), Richard Crowe (75), Nick Edmonds (79), Jenny Hill (80), Alan Mallett (87), Rodney Dale (83), Ian Purches (91), David Jenkinson (75), Michael Randle (82), David Yorke (86), John Clements (84), Geoff Wragg (84), Vera Mawson (80), Colin Charter (88),

News from the Branches

As you will see we received reports of activity from only nine branches and regrettably some branches have had to be removed from the listings. That said a number of branches are still very active which suggest that the potential for others might be there, the problem is persuading someone to organise events!

A plea about photographs. They really do make a difference and, these days, with smart phones they are easy to take. Please ask your members attending events to point their smartphones around and take a picture! Even if you think the result is not worth sending please don't hesitate to do so. Software can do some amazing things.

Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

The Glasgow Branch met up in late November 2022 for an early Christmas lunch (feels like a long time ago now!). There was a very good turnout – 16 of us – and the food

and the company was excellent. We are delighted to welcome three new members – Carol, Trevor and Brian – to our branch. They had all hoped to come to our meeting on 8 March but for various reasons weren't able to attend. We hope they will be able to come to our next meeting.

On 8 March, ten of us met up for an early afternoon tea at Dobbies Garden Centre, Braehead. Once again the food was delicious and plentiful (enough that we were able to take some home with us for later) and



everyone had a great time. (**Ed:** Looks like they'll have had their tea!)

Looking back through the records I have for our branch I see that in 1985

we had 77 members!! History doesn't relate when the Branch started nor do I know where the meetings were held but obviously the branch was very well supported. Alistair Forrester joined the Branch in 1985 and is still a member now – this must deserve some sort of medal!

We plan to have a summer lunch in June, date, and location still to be decided.

Do get in touch if you would like to receive details of our meetings, the more the merrier!

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty

This year we held our lunch at the beautiful championship Clondeboye



Belfast Branch



golf course where you can see Ailsa Craig on a good day. We had eighteen attendees - a good increase on last year. Everyone wished to come again next Christmas!

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor



Northumbria Branch

We had a new venue for our Christmas lunch this year The Lakeland Inn Jarrow. Fifteen members attended it was so good to catch with old friends - some we haven't seen for some time. Thanks to John & Keith for organising a very enjoyable afternoon. (photo above).

West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport

Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport



Teesside Branch

Our Christmas lunch this year was at the Bay Horse Inn Great Broughton. Eleven members attended. We have been there quite a few times now and always had great service and today was no different great food great service together with great company. It was quite a cold day with the odd snow shower which was soon forgot about as we are always met with a very warm welcome from the staff. A wide selection of food was on offer which was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to Bram &

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

Well, after two years of covid! we eventually managed to arrange a Christmas Lunch on 21st December 2022 at The Crown, Iverley, Stourbridge. With 24 members and guests attending, our numbers are dropping unfortunately which is due to the age and illnesses of our members, but I am sure that is the same for most Branches. This was a new venue for us, but their Christmas menu looked incredibly good so decided to give it a try and were not disappointed. Although we were sat in a marquee which is unusual at that time of year, we were very warm indeed and the food was exceptionally good and lived up to what we had expected. It was a good afternoon, and everyone was



North Midlands Branch

Moira for organising a very enjoyable afternoon.

Coming up:

Thursday 20th April 23, The Bay Horse, Great Broughton, Lunch 1230-1300, Contact Bram

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Branch in abeyance pending appointment of new organiser.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

pleased to meet up with friends again and have a good natter.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

After a year of national change in which the country worked its way through three Prime Ministers we provided a reassuring level of continuity and normality by again holding our traditional Christmas lunch at Berkhamsted Golf Club in December. We were very pleased to welcome 75 members and guests who enjoyed an excellent two or three course meal and the opportunity to relax and share

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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES



South Midlands Branch

the company of old friends and colleagues. It was a particular pleasure to welcome back Maureen Howard, together with her son Tim, and those who had travelled long distances to join us, notably John Perry, Nick and Jenny Edmonds and Steve and Vicki Townsend.

The overall management of menu choices, table plans, and the general organisation of the day was carried out by Malcolm Bury in his usual excellent and controlled fashion. Our raffle was well organised by Bernadette McConville and was generously supported by everyone present. For the second year running we have been able to make a donation to Hectors House of £200 to help this local Berkhamsted based charity which offers education and support to people suffering from problems with their mental health. We plan to return to the Golf Club again on Friday 8th December for our 2023 Christmas lunch.

After lunch we marked something of a milestone by holding our 40th Branch AGM. It's interesting to speculate if our first Committee formed way back in the very early 1980s would have envisaged that we would be still active and going strong as a Branch more than forty years later. After the disruption of the previous two years, it was

pleasing to report that a normal full programme of well supported events had been held in 2022. On behalf of all members, our Chairman Ken Longhurst thanked the Branch Committee for their work over the past year. Ken, Christine Cowie, Malcolm Bury, Stephen Tipton and Bernadette McConville were unanimously re-elected and Nick Preece continues in his role as our Honorary Auditor. In his closing remarks Ken said that he looked forward to another full year of events in 2023 and hoped that these would continue to enjoy the customary strong support from Branch members.

Coming up:

Wednesday 17th May: pub lunch at The Greyhound, Wigginton, near Tring HP23 6EH from noon onwards. Ken Longhurst (tel: 01296 660711) is the contact for any queries.

Wednesday 5th July: pub lunch at The Oak, 119 Green End Street, Aston Clinton HP22 5EU from noon onwards. Malcolm Bury (tel: 01296 630169) is organising this one.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

The Christmas lunch at Langdon

Hills Golf club planned for 15th December was postponed at short notice as bad weather conditions hit South Essex with snow and ice making travel hazardous. The event was rescheduled for 12th January when 37 members and guests gathered in festive mood to enjoy a belated seasonal menu. Food and service were of the usual high standard and we were again able to take advantage of the facilities of the dedicated function room. The traditional raffle was well supported by those attending with a large number of prizes boosted by generous donations from members.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

The annual Christmas Lunch was held during the early part of December at Bramford Golf Centre where 33 people attended an excellent meal which was followed by the annual raffle which saw approximately 50 prizes on show.

At this stage a special mention must be made of our eldest and only surviving original club member, Mary Green (right) aged 107 who sadly passed away only a few days before the event that she was so looking forward to attending.



Mary Green

We look forward to staging more lunches during 2023, a year in which the Ipswich Branch of the 44 Association will be celebrating 44 years of existence.

Coming Up:

Thursday 13th April, Ipswich Ski Lodge Restaurant.

Tuesday 4th July. Rushmere Golf Club

Tuesday 5th December. Bramford Golf Centre

It is anticipated that there will be a lunch during the autumn, possibly the last week in September at a venue still to be confirmed.

King's Lynn

Branch in abeyance

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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

2022 was an eventful year following the return from covid epidemic. The branch met five times during the year. In May we tried a different venue - the 'Woodman' a public house on the Mumbles Road.

The pub atmosphere/ ambience was great. We were able to locate ourselves in a part of the pub away from the bar which was congenial for our banter and conversation. We returned to The Norton House Hotel in July. It was an absolute gorgeous day. Whilst the whole country had soaring temperatures, West Wales was hot but not unbearable. We met in the gardens with a cool beer or a nice glass of wine. Our next gathering was also at The Norton House Hotel in September. Summer was busy for all our members with family gathering or friends – this was the time everyone really started to enjoy the 'freedom' from covid.

We came together for Christmas again at The Norton House Hotel – the traditional three course meal was appreciated and the food in general was more than satisfactory, at £25 per person.

We no longer communicate to our membership by post due to the cost of postage so anyone wanting to communicate with us need to contact me – Viv Perry see contact details above. We also have set-up a WhatsApp group so we can chat.

Should any new members like to join us it would be most advantageous to have a mobile to receive and send on WhatsApp messages.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

Our Autumn lunch event was a return



our usual venue has indicated it was having trouble obtaining staff for the Christmas/ New Year period. As ever we will be holding a raffle to replenish our Branch funds.

Please do take a look at the SMBP 44 Association website, especially the Greater Bristol branch section, <https://www.44club.co.uk/greater-bristol.html> to enjoy the photos of our Branch events. Plenty of ex-colleagues faces to admire.



Great Bristol Branch

visit to The Salthouse in Clevedon. It was three years since our last visit here, due to Covid. Once again, our Chair and Events Organiser, Roger Gamlin, had arranged both an excellent venue and good weather. Our numbers were 17. Once again, a special mention of Geoff. and Barbara Clemens as they had travelled up from Plymouth to join us. And they were the first to arrive! 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. We all came away with a smile on our faces, having remembered times gone by and absent friends.

Coming up

Roger will now be busy organising our Christmas lunch and, possibly, a very brief AGM. The event may possibly have to be held early in January as

South East

Branch in abeyance

Bournemouth and Southampton

Branch in abeyance

London West & Surrey

Branch in abeyance

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

Obituaries

ACEY (90). Mr James Acey of Harrogate died on 5th February 2023. He was an Area Manager, Shell International when he left group service in 1965.

ANGELL (87). Miss Beryl Angell of Bristol died on 17th September 2022. She was a Senior Operations Assistant at Avonmouth when she left group service in 1989 after 25 years.

AULT (89). Mr Kevin Ault of Lower Hutt, New Zealand died on 20th November 2022. He was a Distribution Supervisor at Norbury when he left group service in 1985 after 22 years.

BALL (99). Mrs Dorothy Ball of Steyning died on 12th September 2022. She was the wife of the late Stanley Ball, who once worked at Portslade.

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.

BEATTIE (96). Dr Robert Beattie of Waterlooville died on 26th January 2023. He was a Planning and Marketing Supervisor at Manchester Regional Office when he left group service after 21 years.

BOCZEK (72). Miss Julie Boczek of Cheadle died on 13th December 2022. She worked in Customer Service, Shell Cards, Wythenshawe when she left group service in 2008 after 41 years.

BRAY (85). Mrs Margaret Bray of Poynton died on 7th October 2022. She was a Comptometer Operator/Credit Assistant at Manchester Regional Office when she left group service.

BUIST (88). Mrs Margaret Buist of South Queensferry died on 9th November 2022. She was the wife of the late David Buist, once an Operator 1 at Grangemouth.

BULLOCK (95). Mr John Bullock of Southampton died on 16th November 2022. He was Chief Executive, BP Middle East Limited, Dubai, when he left group service in 1984 after 30 years.

CORNELIUS (99). Mr William Cornelius of Exmouth has died. He was a Superintendent BPA Falmouth when he left group service in 1983 after 36 years.

DAVIES (81). Mr Michael Davies of Bedford died on 8th February 2023. When he left group service in 1993 after 32 years, Mr Davies was Credit Manager, Retail at Hemel Hempstead.

DUGDALE (86). Barrie Dugdale, OBE died on 21st November 2022. He was UK Public Affairs Community Relations Manager, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1991 after 35 years.

EATON (82). Mrs Kay Eaton of Manchester died on 25th September 2022. She left group service in 1988 after 20 years.

FEEKE (85). Mr David Feeke of Wells-Next-The-Sea died on 11th November 2022. He was a Vehicle Tester at King's Lynn when he left group service in 1982 after 13 years.

FENNER (97). Mr Gerald Fenner of Beaconsfield died on 9th December 2022. He was Assistant Divisional Manager, Industrial, BP Victoria when he left group service in 1981 after 29 years.

FINNEY (83). Miss Violet Finney of Manchester died on 25th December 2022. She was a Terminal Operator, SUKO, Barton when she left group service in 1988 after 16 years.

GAZZARD (91). Mrs Jean Gazzard of Weston-Super-Mare has died. She was the Secretary to the Regional Manager, Industrial when she left group service in 1981 after 16 years.

GODDEN (89). Mr Brian Godden of Strood died on 5th October 2022. He was Chief Engineer, MV Shell Distributor, Shell Estuarial Craft when he left group service in 1989 after 22 years.

GRAINGER (91). Mr Frank (Tony) Grainger of Mold died on 18th January 2023. He was a Commercial Representative, Manchester when he left group service in 1976 after 21 years.

GREEN (107). Miss Mary Green of Ipswich died on 31st December 2022. She was a Marketing Assistant at Chelmsford Domestic Area Office when she left group service in 1970 after 24 years.

HILLABY (90). Mr Albert Hillaby of Harrogate died on 29th October 2022. He was Director, Corporate Strategy, Shell UK Oil, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1989 after 25 years.

HONEYBALL (91). Mrs Peggy Honeyball of Downham Market died on 31st January 2023. Her late husband was once an Internal Auditor with Shell Expro, Shell-Mex House.

HOSKINS (94). Mrs Laura Hoskins of Minehead died on 25th December 2022. She was a Senior Marketing Assistant, Shell-BP Scotland, Glasgow when she left group service in 1975 after 12 years.

HUTCHINSON (88). Mr Roger Hutchinson of Wilmslow died on 1st June 2022. He was a Senior Planner, Division, Manchester when he left group service in 1986 after 19 years.

JENKINS (94). Mr Kenneth Jenkins of Harpenden died on 14th October 2022. He worked in UOST/3, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1979 after 23 years.

JERMY (88). Mr Anthony Jermy of West Wickham died on 8th December 2022. He was a Senior Print Buyer, Shell UK Limited, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1989 after 35 years.

JERRARD (82). Mr William Jerrard of Sheffield died on 22nd December 2022. He was a Tanker Driver at Killingholme when he left group service in 1996 after 32 years.

LEEDER (84). Mrs Janet Leeder of Norwich died on 26th September 2022. She was the wife of the late Terence Leeder, once a Senior Operations Assistant, Shell UK Oil, King's Lynn Terminal.

LOCOCO (92). Mrs Doreen Lococo of Heidelberg, Germany died on 26th December 2022. She was a Comptometer Operator at Manchester Regional Office when she left group service in 1956 after 30 years.

MALLEN (90). Mrs Rita Mallen of Jarrow died on 5th October 2022. She was the wife of the late Lawrence Mallen, once a Driver at Jarrow.

OWEN (87). Mr Richard Owen of Broadstairs died on 30th December 2022. He was a Technical Assistant, Fuels Quality, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1988 after 32 years.

PEACOCK (98). Mrs Eunice Peacock of Bexhill-on-Sea died on 3rd March 2023. She was the wife of the late John Peacock once i/c Plant Operations, South East Region.

PHILLIPS (86). Mr Edward Phillips of Wrexham died on 14th February 2023. He was a Mechanical Fitter at Stanlow when he left group service in 1974 after 9 years.

PINK (88). Mr Alexander Pink of Gravesend died on 23rd January 2023. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1987 after 24 years.

POWELL (89). Mr Peter Powell of Ascot died on 30th October 2022. He was a Manager, Job Evaluation, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1990 after 33 years.

RIDER (90). Mrs Joan Rider of South Croydon died on 6th December 2022. She was the wife of the late Paul Rider, once a Consumer Admin Assistant at Norbury.

RUSH (92). Mrs Joyce Rush of Otley died on 16th September 2022. She was a Secretary at Leeds Regional Office when she left group service in 1982 after 13 years.

SLATER (82). Mr Alexander Slater of Cheadle died on 15th February 2023. He was a Senior Buyer, Shell UK Materials Services, Wilmslow when he left group service in 1993 after 31 years.

SPREADBURY (92). Miss Irene Spreadbury of Eastbourne died in May 2022. She was an Administrative Assistant, BP Victoria when she left group service in 1983 after 17 years.

STAMMERS (93). Mrs Patricia Stammers of Stanford-Le-Hope died on 23rd December 2022. She was the wife of the late Leonard Stammers, once a Driver at Shell Haven.

STOKES (90). Mr Raymond Stokes of Ipswich died on 11th November 2022. He was a Driver at Wymondham when he left group service in 1992 after 26 years.

WALKER (100). Mr William Walker of Grangemouth has died. He was a Driver at Grangemouth when he left group service in 1982 after 35 years.

WESTRAY (102). Mrs Beryl Westray of Marlow died on 6th February 2023.

WILLIAMS (86). Mr John Williams of Gillingham (Kent) died on 8th October 2022. He was a Domestic Sales Representative, H&A Division in Maidstone when he left group service in 1993 after 25 years.

WILSON (87). Mr Michael Wilson of Alton died on 15th December 2022. He was a home-based Retail Field Engineer when he left group service in 1994 after 25 years.

WOODWARD (76). Mrs Eira (Marilyn) Woodward died in February 2023. She was the wife of the late Ronald Woodward, who once worked at Swansea.

In Memoriam

Eddie Morton

Maurice Husbands and Mike Treasure write:

One could not have found a more straightforward, honest, loyal, hard-working, and knowledgeable colleague and close friend than Eddie. To us he was always a team man and always cool, calm, and collected. He started work in banking in his native Scotland and joined Scottish Oils and Shell-Mex in 1957 in the Distributor Trade Dept. He moved into SMBP Head Office in 1967, was seconded to Avon Oils in Bristol in 1969 as General Manager, returning to Glasgow in 1971 as Consumer (AD) Area Manager

In 1973 Eddie went Shell on Brand Separation and then worked in various management roles involved with the Distributors. In 1977 he was appointed as Distributor Trade Operations Manager in HO, a role he kept until his retirement in 1988. In this job Eddie was responsible for all the Shell Distributor depots in the UK

(on Licence agreements from Shell to the distributors) at one time 143 of them. He managed all operational matters including Industrial Relations with a limited number of staff supporting him. He and his team also formulated a Health and Safety Scheme for the 40 Shell Distributor network. His knowledge, experience, strong management together with a lovely sense of humour and fairness ensured he was admired and respected by all, including all the Distributor managements.

We both worked in Distributor Trade for many years and got to know Eddie very well. He was the backbone of the department. Although Eddie spent most of his working life in England he never lost his lovely and warm Scottish accent, and he was very happily married to Jan for very many years. They very regularly, almost monthly, did a pilgrimage back to their roots which Eddie continued after sadly losing Jan some years ago. They, then he alone, were strong supporters of Distributor Trade reunions. Golf clubs



in the boot of his car, just in case! A wonderful, warm-hearted, colleague and close friend to us. Who could ask for more?

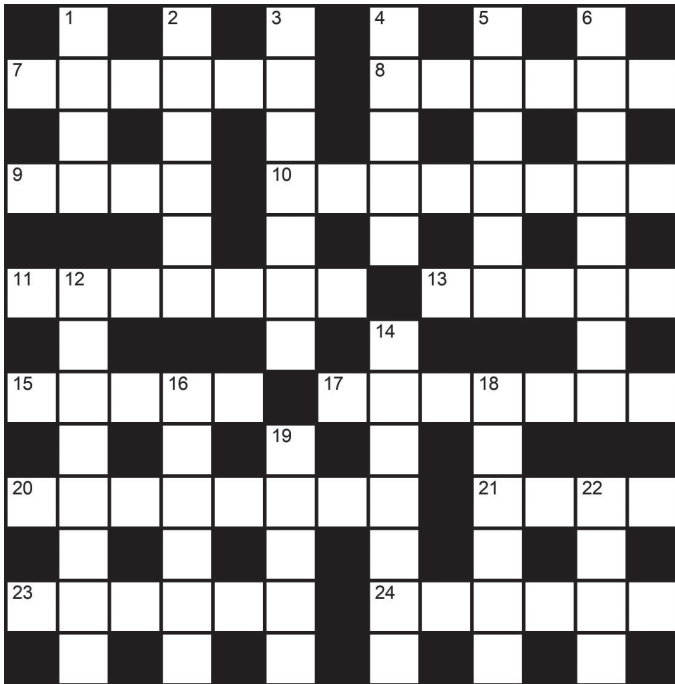
We regret that 'Wedding Anniversaries' has had to be held over until the next edition of the magazine.

and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"Dedicated to Travellers of Goodwill by Land, Sea and Air"
Dedication in "Royal Progress, SMBP's 1953 Coronation book

Prize Crossword



Across

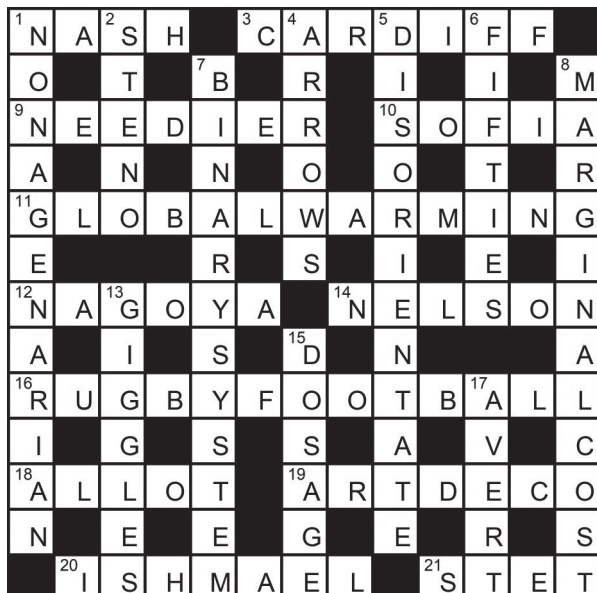
- 7 Eddie, much loved man of the Distributor Department (6)
- 8 Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern. (6)
- 9 Way out (4)
- 10 Produce "Green" electricity (4,4)
- 11 National Benzole's statue (7)
- 13 Sandy Hogg's Aussie home town (5)
- 15 Wagner wrote one for Siegfried (5)
- 17 Harry, Second Editor of the "Club News" (7)
- 20 SMBP's souvenir of the Coronation "Royal _____" (8)
- 21 Where the senior staff had lunch (4)
- 23 See illustration (6)



- 24 Thomas More perfect imaginary world (6)

Down

- 1 A humorous or malicious deception. (4)
- 2 Stationary (6)
- 3 What Questions need (7)
- 4 One of the Owls (5)
- 5 Speak at length in a vague or trivial manner. (6)
- 6 Once a Shell Research centre near Chester (8)
- 12 Long lasting (8)
- 14 Sir Henry Percy, a Spurs supporter ? (7)
- 16 Sleepy lake? (6)
- 18 Betrayed by Delilah (6)
- 19 The great diarist (5)
- 22 There in cricket to take a catch (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

An Excellent fifteen all correct entries from which the winner, first time entrant Roger Smith of Middleton, was randomly selected. Usual generous prize winging its way to you Roger!

Closing date for next issue
20th May 2023