



Ian Ward – a Jack of All Trades, and master of the lot!



In the last '44 Club News' we announced, in the article about 'The Grandfathers', the sad passing of one of their members, Ian Ward. A few days after the edition was sent to 44 Club members Ian contacted us to advise that, like Mark Twain, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." Well, the best way to put things right is to tell Ian's story and I can confirm that he is in rude health, and that he has an extraordinary story to tell. His run of jobs in Shell-Mex and B.P. and later in B.P., as he climbed ever upwards, show an extraordinary versatility that is perhaps unique among SMBP alumni. The story begins on Page 4.

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Welcome

The quote from L.P.Hartley's 'The Go-Between' "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." has, I think, appeared in this magazine before. The narrator, Leo, is remembering back fifty years to a time when he was young and mores and behaviours were, well, different. We are not there yet but half a century after Shell-Mex and B.P. ceased trading is not far away. And its hard not, occasionally, to mumble "They would never have done that in my day"!

SMBP is seen from a modern vantage point as being paternalistic - a slightly derogatory term to mean that the company cared for its staff, and its pensioners. The formation of the SMBP 44 Association was obvious evidence of that. Did this paternalism mean that the company was a bit less efficient than it could have been (a euphemism for 'over-staffed') – perhaps it did. But it also created a loyalty that is fairly rare in business today. Most of us in the 44 Club worked for SMBP and then Shell or BP for thirty, forty or even fifty years. Loyalty given was in no small measure a return for loyalty received.

The 44 Club is not a campaigning organisation – it wasn't originally set up to be and it still isn't. Once the SMBP Pension Fund had been absorbed into the Shell Contributory Pension Fund we all became either Shell or BP Pensioners. The 44 Club is a heritage club not an overtly activist one ! But in the last few months both those of us who receive a pension from Shell and those in the BP Fund will have been concerned by the ongoing evidence that paternalism is just a happy memory. All of us have to adapt to a situation where the purchasing power of our pensions is not keeping up with inflation any more. Many pensioners in both Shell and BP have organised to make the Companies reflect more on this unprecedented situation. We must wish them well.

We are an aging band of brigands but a jolly one - all two thousand of us! There aren't too many gloomy faces in the photographs recording Branch events! Sadly, we do inevitably lose some 44 Club stalwarts and in this edition of the Club News we mark the passing of Peter Cast our ex-Chairman and among the Club's keenest supporters. To those who remember Peter, and all the other Club members listed in the Obits, our condolences.

Paddy Briggs

Len at 100 !

Ten years ago, we were delighted to record (right) the 90th birthday of one of the stalwarts of the SMBP 44 Association Len Evans. Well on 25th July 2023 Len became a Centenarian! Len's Voluntary service to the 44 Club was described by Charles Madge as making an 'incalculable' contribution to the success of the Club. He was made a Vice President on retiring in 2007 in recognition of his maintenance of the Admin structure of the Club for 24 years. Happy Birthday Len, and many more.



Noticeboard



Mrs Jean Gazzard

In the last edition of the magazine, it was erroneously reported that Mrs Gazzard had died. Our sincere apologies have been sent to her family for this error. We also send our apologies to Mrs Gazzard's friends and past colleagues for any needless upset.

2023 Members' Reunion and Annual General Meeting

Unfortunately, this year's meeting was cancelled as there were insufficient members committing to attend. We would not have reached Quorum levels (40) and would therefore have been unable to conduct any business.

We realise, from feedback, that much of this is due to the ageing membership and members' inability to travel to London for the meeting. This has led to deeper consideration of the way our Association has worked and this will crystallise over the coming months. It remains our intention to hold a General Meeting in May 2024 and more details about that will be communicated later this year.

Many thanks to those of you who wanted to attend the 2023 event – we hope to see you next year.

Welcome New Members

Mrs Barbara Brown
- Chifley, New South Wales

Mrs Pat Burry - Congleton

In Memoriam

Peter Cast

In his many incarnations in SMBP, BP and the 44 Club amongst them Peter Cast brought a quizzical and always thoughtful approach to even the most intractable problems. Blessed with a powerful intellect, a fine University education and strong interpersonal skills Peter made a mark with a combination of geniality and incisiveness as he rose through the ranks.

Peter was born in 1934 and was a graduate of the London School of Economics. He joined SMBP in 1956 starting in Mark Weinstein's Trade Relations where he met Bridget

Povah who was to become his wife – she predeceased him.

When Don Lindsell arrived in SMBP in the 1960s to set up "Marketing Economics and Group Planning" (MEGP) Peter joined him as Assistant Manager for economic, energy and oil forecasting – a job he did for more than ten years. It was an intellectual powerhouse! At Brand Separation he went to BP as Corporate Planning Manager before returning to BP Oil to be (in his words) "Odds and Sods Director" which included Finance, Computing, Personnel and Office Services. Together with Ian Ward he oversaw the move to Hemel Hempstead and



later returned to Britannic House as GM Property and Office Services.

Peter retired from BP in 1991 and was immediately active in the 44 Club at Chelmsford Branch and also on the Executive Committee of the Club overall. In 2005 he succeeded Brian Bowden as Chairman of the Club and he continued in this role until, at the age of 80, he stood down in 2014. He will be much missed.

PSB

Ian Ward , the consummate ‘people person’ who made it to the top

We met at ‘The Lensbury’, as the once Club is now called, somewhere that Ian Ward said that he had not visited for over fifty years. Since his Shell-Mex and B.P. days in fact. Those days began in 1964 when at the tender age of 25 but with already some life experiences under his belt, Ian joined SMBP in the Manchester Regional office. Ian is proud of his Manchester roots – he is from the blue side of the City (hence the smile – he has supported Manchester City for 78 years) and grew up in a council house in South Manchester. His father was a laboratory technician (later a manager) and Ian was bright enough to go to a Grammar School and then become the first member



Don Chadwick and George Milne. He liked National – they were more free to experiment than Shell and BP. Ian headed up Shops and Car Care products for a while. He discovered that the SMBP bureaucracy was not especially conducive to fast moving goods sales – there was a nineteen-year stockholding of one item! He says that one lesson he learned was that it was better not to get involved in what you don’t know about, as NB had.

At the age of 31 Ian became National’s youngest Area Manager – the Area was the West Country and he and Beryl moved to Exmouth. He had a close relationship with the Shell and BP Area Managers and looks on those years as a good stepping stone. Exeter was the best NB Area in 1972 and in the run up to Brand Separation Ian was also asked to take over the Southampton Area so he now had fourteen reps in total and was driving 2500 miles a month.

The run up to Brand Separation was an uncertain time for all SMBP staff. Ian was surprised at the job offer he received to go to BP in Leeds (Yorkshire!) as High Street Lubricants Manager. He knew little of Lubricants and the High Street market was rather different to anything he’d experienced before. But they had a strong brand in Viscostatic and a major customer In Asda. He was working for Maurice Garwood who was the BP Retail Regional Manager and was to become a good friend. A large and clever deal with Asda rather made Ian’s name in the sector. And when Garwood moved on Ian became first acting and then, in 1976, he was appointed Regional Manager. He was 37! Ian then worked on a



of his family to go to University. He studied Botany and graduated well though his Professor was to tell him that he would “... make a lot of money, but you won’t be a botanist”. This was rather perceptive as Ian’s successful career was to lead to an enjoyable lifestyle and retirement, but his career was to be as a generalist, eventually at close to the highest level, rather than as a specialist. Unless you regard man management as a specialism that is - which in Ian’s case you certainly should.

After University Ian joined the Milk Marketing Board as a Graduate

Trainee and found himself working on cheese. When at school he had met Beryl, a romance blossomed and in June 1963 they were married. (photo left). Beryl worked in the Manchester Regional Office of National Benzole and Ian, tiring a little of Double Gloucester, wondered whether there might be a job in SMBP. He was interviewed by Victor Skone Rees and told that to be a Sales Rep he had to be 24 years of age, so he decided to work as a Science teacher at a Secondary Modern School in Trafford Park – as you do! He was there for a year and a term before seeing Skone Rees again and this time, as a mature twenty-four-year-old, he became an SMBP Rep in North Lancashire. Soon, showing promise, he was moved to a Retail Outlet Development job working for David Parry. They were exciting times in Retail with Solus, Self-Serve, Green Shield Stamps and Ian was a quick learner. Within a few years he was moved to Head Office working for Mark Mothio and with

team set up by John Riddell-Webster and Geoff Shepherd to reorganise Retail, just a year or so after Brand Separation. Major changes took place.

The rise and rise of Ian Ward was driven by his ability to adapt to any new challenge. After the reorganisation he became first the Retail Sales Development Manager and then in 1980 Ted Hawkes asked him to be Aviation Operations Manager despite his knowing nothing about Aviation and little about Operations! A couple of years later, after a brief stint as Retail's UK Sales Manager, Ian was offered what he now says was the "most rewarding time in his whole career" – he was appointed Manager of Distribution Division.

So soon after Brand Separation it was clear to the BP hierarchy that Distribution was over-staffed, inefficient, and full of 'Spanish practices'. Performance standards were 'all over the place', union relations poor and the business needed transforming. In the last three years, Ian succeeded in streamlining the business. He pays tribute fulsomely to the first class team who worked with him. The political climate of the time supported a strong approach to industrial relations and BP's Directors supported change which was delivered reducing employee numbers and costs considerably and introducing a new productivity agreement. During Ian's time in BP Distribution another ex SMBP 'Grandfather' was his opposite number in Shell.

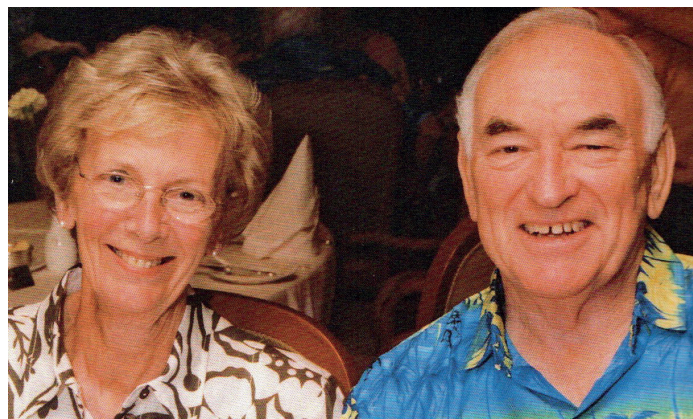
If you are getting the impression that in those rather fraught times Ian Ward was BP's go-to Mr Fixit you'd be right! Next he was asked by David Kendall, BP's top man, to become Personnel Manager and drive the company's move of 1250 staff from London to a new office in Hemel Hempstead. He worked on this with old SMBP

colleagues like Peter Cast and Maxwell Booth. It was a major task completed on time and Ian's reputation understandably soared further. This led to him being moved to Hamburg to oversee Distribution in

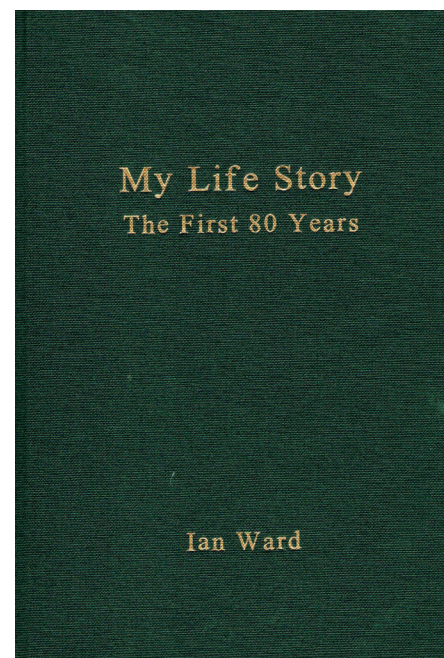
six European countries. It was a disruptive time personally as Beryl could not move to Germany and although Ian, as ever, delivered what his bosses wanted he was thinking of seeking a new challenge. This was to come in 1991 when he was offered the job of Director General of the Institute of Petroleum (the IP) in London. After nearly thirty years in SMBP/BP and at the age of 52 it was a challenge, like all the others, one he relished. He stayed in the job for eight years which, he recalls, was the "by far the longest period I had spent in the same job"! He formally retired on 31st August 1999 at the age of 60.

Whilst Ian Ward's business career was remarkable both talking with him and reading his excellent memoir "My Life Story" it is clear that without question his family has always come first – not always the case with the high-priced help! His two sons and three grandchildren are important to him, particularly so after the death of Beryl a couple of years ago after a battle with Alzheimer's – for some years Ian was her carer.

Ian is a Grandfather, both in fact and as a member of the ex SMBP group of Senior Managers which meets from time to time to lunch and reminisce. In many ways he is the archetypal ex SMBP success story his career furthered by exceptional man management skills and integrity. And hard work. He maintained his work/



life balance whilst effortlessly climbing a pole that at times was very greasy indeed. The Lensbury venue may once have been a Shell one, but this delightful BP man told his story with modesty and charm. He was anxious to stress that whilst he was from time to time the Captain steering this ship he was helped by very talented colleagues. He was, he insists, not a 'One-Man Band!' It was an honour to spend time with one of SMBP's most distinguished alumni. And he bought me lunch! **PSB**



‘Victor’s Isle of Arran Adventures!’

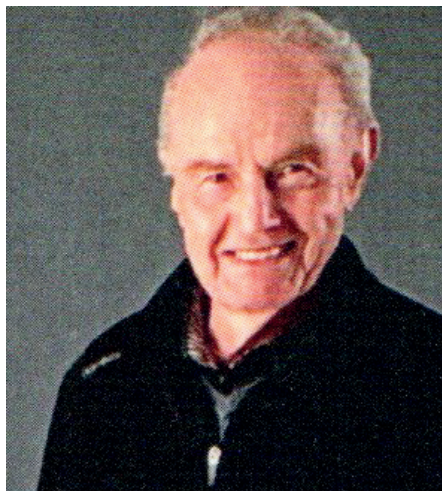
In May this year the majority of Victor Southgate, born on the Isle of Arran, joined Scottish Oils and Shell-Mex in 1965 and for the first five years he was a tanker driver based in Ardrossan Terminal. He then moved to Bishopbriggs for seven years and finally to Glasgow Airport for eighteen years. When he retired he was able to spend much more time on the golf course (He plays off 8 at 80 and at his peak he was close to scratch). And he has just published his first book – ‘Victor’s Isle of Arran Adventures.’ The preface to the book reads as follows:

“My family had a history of numerous ties to Brodick Castle (below) through my maternal and paternal grandfathers’ employment with the Duke and Duchess of Montrose



as well as my father and his three siblings growing up with the four Montrose children in the 1920s on the picturesque Isle of Arran off the west coast of Scotland.

In 1957 I embarked on some of my life’s most memorable adventures when Lady Jean (Montrose) Fforde employed me for a variety of positions within her Arran Estate. Lady Jean and I shared a truly unforgettable deer hunting experience in North Glen Sannox on the day we encountered a white stag known to have a significant symbolic



meaning to a legend linked to her Hamilton descendants.

I hope you will enjoy my stories about growing up on a small Scottish Island and the fun people I grew up with, worked with, and some of the more colourful characters I met along the way.”

Vic’s book is an entertaining, enjoyable, and well-written read. The Hunting, Shooting and Fishing world of Scotland may be a closed book to most of us, but Vic brings it to life vividly. He also describes the social structure of the past with style and with a twinkle in his eye. At the top of the pile were many with titles. Dougarie Lodge, on the Estate, was built in 1864/65 as a shooting lodge for William Hamilton the 11th Duke of Hamilton. The Duke had three children one of whom, Mary, married Prince Albert of Monaco. Among the visitors, in 1929, were the young Prince Rainier of Monaco and his sister Princess Antionette. They wrote to Vic’s Grandfather to thank him for giving them lovely donkey rides!

Vic’s time in Scottish Oils gets a brief mention and a request. Here is what he says:

“In 1976 I was a participant on the Executive Committee for Shell Aviation... representing all the airport workers for wages, terms and conditions and pensions. This was the time of Brand Separation, and I was a Senior Aircraft Fueller. Representing BP was a young woman, Miss Murchie – a high flier who came from Shiskine on Arran. She asked me if I was related to Willie Southgate the Shiskine postman – I told her he was my uncle. I would love to know how she got on at BP!”

(Ed: Let’s try and find out Vic!)



Birthday Thanks/Your Letters

Remembering Harry and Benita Denetton

When going through my mother's things after her recent passing at the age of 91 I came across some photographs that my father, Harry Denetton, took when he worked at Northfleet Installation. I thought that you might like them for the Archive. I remember the Christmas parties the Northfleet staff enjoyed with their families. When I was about seven everything we wanted from such a party was there! Great food, fancy hats, ice lollies, cartoons, magic and puppet shows and of course Father Christmas! I went for many years with Alan and Julia Monk who were good friends of my parents.

My Dad took early retirement on health grounds and sadly died in 1990. Since then, the 44 Club and the magazine kept my mother in touch with the old days. Thank you very much.

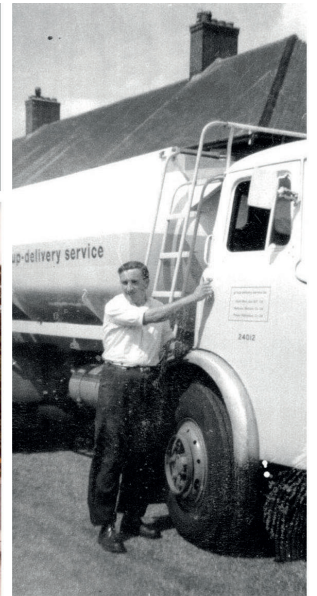
Maria Harvey (Mrs)

91st I'm keeping in fairly good health though medical appointments do seem to come up frequently.

(**Ed:** Leonard has donated his collection of SMBP books to the archive and we are very grateful)

Leonard Boyns

84th It's nice to be remembered after so many years of retirement. In my job as Transport Engineering Manager in Distribution I visited every Terminal in the UK and Ireland and met some wonderful people, but it is sad to read of the passing of so many friends and colleagues from those days. Have you noticed that as one gets older the time goes faster – unfortunately! I look forward



to receiving the Club News. Please thank all that put it together. It's a great magazine!

Rodney Lamb

83rd Your annual Birthday Card has just arrived and is much appreciated. As the bitter cold of winter gives way to the optimism of Spring and Summer there is no better time to be reminded of the friendship from all my old colleagues in the 44 Club! Thank you.

Colin Peachey

75th Thank you for the lovely Shell-Mex House birthday card - I was delighted to receive such a lovely card and I will treasure it!

How frequently do you send them? I cannot remember having one before, but if I did say five years ago, do I have to wait for another five years to receive the next one? (**Ed:** No Geoffrey our current policy is to start at 75 and then every following year!)

Is it possible to register my wife for such cards in the future? (**Ed:** Done!) Her name is Barbara Rhoda Brown and she worked for Shell-Mex and BP from the late 1960s until the very end of 1975. At that time, she was working as an administrative clerk in Operations Network Planning. She was branded to BP Oil, but never worked at Victoria due to the fact that, on the day her department vacated Shell-Mex House she left the company to have our first child who was born mid-March 1976. Her date of birth was 30th September 1946. We were an office romance and married on 13th May 1972, so we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary last May! (**Ed:** Congratulations to you both).

Geoffrey Brown

92nd I don't know who deals with the birthday cards these days. Anyway, thank you for my card. A lovely view of Shell-Mex House where I started so many years ago (1947). Brought back many memories of SMBP,

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BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

a wonderful company. It was the people what made it! Then Shell for a few more years. Keep up the good work for a few more years. I'm glad the 44 Club did not get closed down, when was it, a few years ago now. Regards to you, our Chairman and the editor of the magazine.

(Ed: The Birthday Cards are handled by Barry Russell who is also the production manager for the magazine and keeps us on our toes! I don't recall a direct threat to the 44 Club and we are grateful to Shell for funding us and keeping us solvent.)

Maurice Husbands

90th Thank you for remembering my birthday with a beautiful card. I realise how fortunate that I was to join SMBP and Shell. I was a Technical Engineer, and I was eventually transferred to Shell -Mex House working for Gordon Payne. I then moved to work with Peter Brewin and Graham Firth in the Agricultural Unit, involved In Grass Drying, Co enrichment and the Agricultural shows. I then joined Distributor Trade working first with David Roberts and Bill Carter and then Mike Howard. Finally I ended up as Managing Director of Token Fuels. (A Shell subsidiary company)

I had a great working life and enjoyed the friendship and the company of every person that I worked with and also all business contacts. I would like to send my very best wishes to all the people who knew me.

Ernie Sudron

78th I am reaching numbers that, a few years back, I didn't think possible! I hope perhaps to remind a few old colleagues of my continuing existence! I am a veteran of Brand Separation in both Retail in the Midlands under Jim Cockburn and Harry Davidson and Distribution at

Northampton with Brian Kennedy. After moving to BP Oil I defected to BP Exploration in 1978. Following a stint at Sullom Voe, in 1982 I went from the 'gorblimey' of the Shetlands to the sublime of Zambia as General Manager of the country's strategic oil installation.

Unfortunately, the government decided to nationalise the facility and, a year later, I was driving a desk in Britannic House with the newly constituted African regional directorate, BP Africa. Initially running a lubricants and special products trading desk. I ultimately found myself working again for one of my early retail mentors, John Perry, on Project Horizon - specifically the imaging of nineteen African associates, Anglophone and British, throughout the continent. It was a fascinating challenge!

Ironically, in 1987, I was also peripherally involved (this time!) in Brand Separation of a number of African assets and the dissolution of the old Consolidated Petroleum Supply Company. Rebranding and subsequently reimaging assets in Africa was not always straightforward due to the lack of some special materials and the frequent absence of the more sophisticated skills and technology being employed across Europe, America and the Asia-Pacific rim.

I am very happy to still be in contact with a number of my old Midland Region friends and through the good offices of the 44 Club News casual contact with others.

Nigel (Nick) Carter

85th Once again my thanks to the 44 Club for another birthday greeting.

Rick Westley's explanation, in the Spring edition of the magazine, of how the Association actually functions these days, mentions the agency that actually handles the production and distribution of both

the magazine and the posting of the cards. So, to whom so ever I am indebted for remembering my passing years, I offer my grateful thanks.

Another year has slipped away, and sadly a few more memories of names and faces from my years with SMBP have also. As Rick pointed out, we are a "gradually wasting asset" and one can't help wondering how much longer the Association will continue. The one consolation I get from scanning the obituary page is that so many members have survived for so many years into their retirement. My latest ambition is to beat the record of Mary Green of Ipswich, of 107 years. Just another 22 years to go!

Reading the article 'LEO Remembered' reminded me of a time, when working in Industrial Relations and Manpower, I was a member of a small team looking into ways in which the introduction of the new technology might influence clerical procedures in terminal offices.

Our team leader, Tony Sill, could see many ways in which work might be changed and simplified, particularly in the area of stock control and reporting, with the additional requirement to submit frequent reports to HM Customs and Excise. (From my own memory of working at Northfleet Terminal, the totting up was carried out using a mechanical hand operated comptometer, with frequent yanks on the hand operated lever on the side). In exploring its possible uses our team made a number of visits to operating terminals to assess the possibilities. Whilst acknowledging the advantages of the, then, new technology, in a number of office applications, Tony was very dubious about its benefits to the job satisfaction it would bring to those employing it. Despite his misgivings, the introduction of LEO proceeded at pace and office functions changed radically over the ensuing years.

As one who spent most of his career in SMBP closeted in Shell Mex

House the illustrations on the card, of the Embankment Gardens bring back many memories of sprawling in a deck chair, or sitting on a bench, during a lunch time break from the office. Watching the parade of lovely young ladies, strolling past on their own lunch breaks, gave an added bonus to the beautifully kept gardens as remembered by John Smeddle in his letter. It was a great reminder by Paddy, in his comment on John's letter, that we worked differently back in the 1960's and 70's. Working life has changed dramatically in so many ways in the intervening years; I'm so glad I was able to retire early so many years back.

Tony Wilson.

85th Thank you for reminding me that I have now commenced my 86th year! It seems so long ago that I finished my career - 20 years in fact allowing time spent as a Pensioner Liaison Rep. The best company and the best friends I could have wished for. Sincere gratitude for those who hold the brief of keeping the annual memory alive.

God bless you all

Bob Andrews

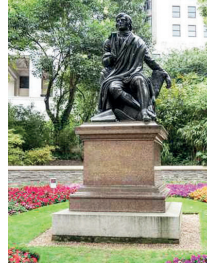
83rd Just returned from a wee holiday in the sun to find the latest excellent edition of the 44 Club News. Lovely tribute to Barrie Dugdale. If only there were more just like him. Also, Eddie Morton. We are losing all the good guys.

This note is just to say a big "Thank You" for my birthday card. It is such a lovely thing to receive. I have vivid memories of that seat in The Embankment Gardens. When Distribution was having yet another restructuring, coming down from 8 regions to 4, I was summoned to London to hear my fate. I didn't know if I was to be fired or given a job. In the event I was offered a choice of two regions, one of which

was Scotland. I remembered seeing the statue of Robbie Burns behind me in The Gardens. I thought it must have been an omen - so I went for Scotland!!

One of my better decisions.

Richard Hiseman



94th It was good to see all the greenery on my card! My garden is struggling to show green shoots after a winter of severe frosts and rain. I was ill with 'Bells Palsy' which caused me some facial problems but this year I am looking forward to continuing my activities despite some sight and hearing problems! I enjoy reading the magazine and find many articles of interest.

Shiela Dunn

94th I was delighted to get a 44 Club birthday card once again. You are so good at never missing my birthday. The cards bring back so many memories of my time working for Shell. They were wonderful, often challenging, times. My work as a Lubricants Sales Engineer, gave me the opportunity to be involved in so many different industries and factories. Which I thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you again for remembering me.

Neil Norman

80th Thank you very much for the card. Great to be remembered, not so great to realise that I'm now an octogenarian!!

In the Spring Edition of the 44 Club News you published a thank you letter from Eva Nowill for the 98th card that you sent for John

Nowill. She explained that she was writing on John's behalf, as he had suffered a bad fall and was in a care home, as she is no longer able to look after him properly. I was in Torquay in May, so arranged to pop round and see Eva. The intention was to have a coffee and a chat, and then go off and see John in the care home, which is close to where their daughter lives in Dartington. Everything was going according to plan, until we were caught in a massive traffic jam the other side of Paignton. After a frustrating while we decamped and stopped for lunch at the Old Manor pub, which was very pleasant. However, the landlord informed us that this was not the day to be going to Dartington, as the main road to Totnes was closed and everywhere was totally gridlocked. Reluctantly we retraced our steps to Torquay. I spoke to John on the phone and his voice was as robust as ever – he told me he was lying on his bed having his toe nails trimmed!!

I phoned Eva this morning for an update, and she is well and was expecting her son to arrive for a visit to see John. I hope the road was clear for them!!

Paul Heseltine

91st I joined SMBP in Southampton in 1963 and moved to Bristol in 1965 when the office closed. In 1969 I was offered a job in Kenya and spent four years there with my wife and two sons who were aged 5-9 and 3-7 which was an unforgettable and life changing experience and resulted in a private education for the boys which was not something which I would have been able to afford in normal circumstance and continued at University for one.

When we returned, I was reluctantly moved to head office in London but Shell again supported a house move – to Banstead where I was able to buy a nice house for £4,650 – quite a bargain as it turned out !

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BIRTHDAY THANKS/YOUR LETTERS

My good fortune has continued to the age of 91. Very sadly my wife of 50 years died in 2015 but I am so fortunate with our boys and their families one of whom lives in the same road as me.

Dennis Fox

85th May I thank you for your kindness in sending me such a nice birthday card. I celebrated the occasion with my wife & our lifetime friends for a couple of days break in Devon. What a great company Shell Mex & BP was and how grateful I feel to have been accepted into this wonderful family. I joined in the 1970's to sell 'Oil Fired Central heating' part of the Miss 1970 Promotion. My appointment was confirmed in Shell Mex House, on signing my contract the Manager informed me that this was a "Cradle to Grave" caring organisation and that I should sign up for my pension agreement as if on leaving the building, God forbid, I got hit by a London bus my widow would receive a pension. I have always remembered those words and thought "what a company!"

I had some amazing times. Working in the Central heating Sales when the Oil crises came SMBP pulled the plug on this market and for 12 months I could not sell oil fired deals but still had to entertain our dealership in the event we ever opened shop again - which never happened. I was moved into the agricultural market selling Derv & lubricants to Farmers also chemicals for grass silage.

I then moved to BP Retail in Wales converting competitor garages to BP and buying land & building New sites - a wonderful job with amazing fringe benefits. The work was hard but made many friends in this retail business and did well. I was sorry to retire.

Receiving this Birthday card once again illustrates that Shell Mex & BP from those early beginnings was truly a 'Cradle to Grave company'.

Glyn Jones

87th Thank you for once again remembering my birthday with a lovely card of Shell Mex House

where I spent almost eight years of my service in the Company. I am now at the stage where I have enjoyed my pension for more years than I actually worked in SMBP and BP. Lucky me! Although not as mobile as of yore I still drive, manage to Nordic Walk a few times a week, actively support Fylde RFC and holiday in the Algarve a few times each year. Best wishes to 44 Club members.

Iain Kenning

Thanks also received from: Geoff Sullivan (81), Judith Forster (89), Philip Quantock (86), Joan Jarrett (85), Mabs Ball (90), Brian Schofield (84), Charles Richards (83), Tony Clegg (80), David Brown (91), Norman Dye (88), Ann Powell (85), Wendy Keys (80), Anne Barton (85), John Robinson (86), Peter Parson, Gerry Hunting (89), Barry Ingledew (80), Roy Astridge (76), Jennifer Ramsay (86), Michael Chapman (88), Marjorie and Edward Dines, Sarah Drew (76), Bill Taylor (90), Maurice Horwich (88), Bill Bell (89), Tom Grieve (85), Paul Green (75).

News from the Branches

Inverness

Contact: Keith and Mary Pickering

We are still meeting and lunch arranged for January in Kingsmill hotel as usual.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen

www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

On Wednesday 9 June 11 members met for lunch at Caulders, Erskine. We were very pleased to eventually meet Brian, one of our new members and to welcome back two members who haven't been able to join us for a while – Nancy and Jack. We all enjoyed an excellent lunch and a lot of chat. (photo page 11)

Coming up

Our next meeting is planned for September (date to be advised) and will probably – but not definitely – be another afternoon tea. As a collective group we are very good at eating cakes and drinking tea/coffee whilst chatting about anything that comes to mind!

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty



Glasgow Branch

South Midlands Branch

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor

as usual. Thanks to Bram & Moria for organising it. I'm sure that we will be going back there again in the future.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

West Riding

Contact: Bram Allport
41 Lambton Court, Peterlee, SR8 1NG

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Branch in abeyance pending appointment of new organiser.

For our first three pub lunches of 2023 we have repeated the pattern of venues that we used in 2022. We have found these pubs to be the most helpful in accommodating our long-established approach of inviting members to turn up on the day without having to either pre-book or pre-pay for food. We started this year's programme in March with a visit to The White Horse in Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead where about 25 members renewed old friendships for the first time since before Christmas. Christine Cowie was in charge of organising the lunch and The White Horse staff were on their usual friendly and efficient form.

Teesside

Contact: Brammer Allport

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers

It was a lovely spring day when 17 members met at The Bay Horse inn at Great Broughton in Hutten Rugby. This was our first gathering in 2023 although we have met there many times before. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all with a lot to catch up on the food was excellent

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

The Greyhound at Wigginton was the venue for our second lunch in mid-May. A special 44 Club menu was available for our group which again numbered 25 members. It was particularly good to see Don Cobb who had travelled the not inconsiderable distance from his home in Lidlington to be with us. Ken Longhurst made the lunch arrangements and the management and staff at the Greyhound ensured that everything ran smoothly as far as food and service was concerned. Our early July event at The Oak in



Teesside Branch

continued on page 12

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aston Clinton was again organised at his 'local' by Malcolm Bury as he very conveniently lives just round the corner from there. For the second year running we were not blessed with particularly fine weather so unfortunately it was not a day for our group of about 20 members to enjoy the excellent outdoor patio area and garden. Again, we used the approach of offering a more restricted 44 Club menu to ensure that everyone was served in a timely manner. Although our numbers were somewhat below our usual level of attendance, it still proved to be an enjoyable and convivial occasion. As we look forward to our events later in the year we are hoping that these will be well supported and that our numbers will return to the levels that we have been used to in the past.

Coming up:

Tuesday 12th September: Morning visit to Pitstone Museum, Vicarage Road, Pitstone. Full booking details will be sent in a separate circular. Ken Longhurst (01296 660711) and Bernadette McConville (07522 405929) are organising this event.

Thursday 12th October: Final pub lunch for the year back at The White Horse, Bourne End. Contact for this one is Christine Cowie (01442 873375).

Friday 8th December: Christmas lunch and AGM at Berkhamsted Golf Club.

Chelmsford

Contact: Tony Scott-Russell

Our first lunch of the year was held at Top Meadow Golf Club, Upminster on 21st March. 33 members and guests attended the function and we were pleased to welcome Kaye Mortlock and Stephen Linzell from the Ipswich Branch who had travelled all the way from Orford to be with us and catch up with old friends. Despite some changes to catering arrangements under a new chef, the standard of



Chelmsford Branch

food and service were still good with an attractive menu.

The next get together was at one of our favourite venues, the Oysterfleet Hotel in Canvey Island on 20th June. The upstairs function room provided a spacious and pleasant setting for the occasion with 37 people attending. At the AGM, Tony Scott-Russell thanked members for their continuing support though numbers coming to lunches had inevitably declined. Sadly, Peter Cast, who had been a major contributor to the 44 Club at both branch and national level passed away earlier this year. Dorothy Hadley volunteered to join the committee in his place to the approval of all present. The accounts for last year showed a small decline in funds following the surplus built up during Covid. However, with the aid of income from levies and raffles the aim will be to subsidise lunches as much as possible to help offset the sharp rises in costs this year. A successful raffle was held with the prize fund again boosted by very generous donations from members to round off a pleasant day.

Coming up:

Thursday 21st September: Beauvoir Arms, Downham, Billericay.

Tuesday 12th December: Christmas Lunch Langdon Hills Golf Club.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

On a lovely summer's day, 33 members and guests gathered at the Rushmere Golf Club for the annual summer function. The excellent meal and service was a testament as to why the venue has been one of the most popular over the years and the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

On the occasion of the Ipswich's branch 44th year of existence the club were delighted to welcome the Club secretary, Colin Hill and comparison was made to the cost of meals nowadays to 1979 when the Ipswich branch was founded.

Special thanks must go to one of our members, Margaret Payne who donated a wonderful cake which depicted the Shell/BP logos alongside the wording which read 44 Club, 44 years.

As usual a very well supported raffle followed the meal to conclude the function.



Ipswich Branch

Greater Bristol Branch

Coming Up:

It is intended to hold our autumn get together at the Ipswich Ski Lodge restaurant during the last week in Sept whilst the Christmas lunch this year will be held at the Bramford Golf Centre on Tuesday 5th December.

King's Lynn

Branch in abeyance

South Wales

Contact: Viv Perry

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

South Wales branch met on 7th June at the Woodman pub on the Mumbles Swansea in glorious sunshine enjoyed in the pub garden for a quite drink and a chat at 11:00 am. Lunch was at 12:30. The day was overshadowed missing one of our friends and member Eira Woodward who sadly passed away recently quite suddenly.

We are a small intimate group with a lot of banter and are experiencing some membership 'shrinkage' with Graham (Cork) unable to attend due to mobility problems – awaiting hip replacement but we get all the news from his wife Sylvie, who has been able to continue coming despite not being able to drive! Furthermore, we miss Stuart who travelled from

Aberaeron but has had to miss a couple of meetings with heart issues and always sends via WhatsApp warmest regards and wants to be remembered – we always raise a glass Stu!!

We have been flip flopping venues since Christmas as for reasons we cannot understand the quality of food seems to have taken a severe downturn since COVID – we understand recruitment in the hospitality sector has become a significant problem.

Coming Up:

We are trying a new venue still on the Mumbles in September (Wednesday 6th). We are meeting around 11:00 / 11:30 at 'The Mermaid Café and Bar Restaurant' 686 Mumbles Road, SA3 4EE . It would be great to see a few more from South Wales come along. Car parking is opposite (small fee) and free limited street parking – first come first served.



Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

Our first event for 2023 was a return luncheon meeting held on Thursday,

May 25th 2023 at the Failand Inn, Failand - just a few miles south of Bristol. We were 16 in number and once again our chair Roger Gamlin had been lucky in organising lovely weather for us. The food and service 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 were pleased to have received the Spring 44 Club magazine only a few days beforehand.

Coming up

Our next event another luncheon meeting, in September, possibly the Salt House in Clevedon. That will be followed by a Christmas lunch, hopefully at Henbury Golf Club, in December. We tend to go for tried and tested venues.

South East / Bournemouth and Southampton / London West & Surrey

All Branches in abeyance

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,



Wedding Anniversaries

Platinum (70)

Don and Jean Dray



Don and Jean Dray

7th March 2023

Diamond (60)

Maurice and Margaret Scott



Maurice and Margaret Scott

31st August 2023

Colin and Valerie Peachey,

2nd March 2013



Colin and Valerie Peachey

Golden (50)

Gill and Les Bater

12th May 2023



Gill and Les Bater

Obituaries

We are sorry to report the loss of the following members. Our condolences are sent to their families, friends & past colleagues.

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

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.

CAST (89). Mr Peter Cast of Ashstead died on 11th March 2023. As well as being a former Chair of the 44 Club, when Peter left group service in 1991 after 35 years, he was General Manager, Property and Office Services, BP, Britannic House.

CHADWICK (106). Mrs Kathleen Chadwick of Exmouth died on 22nd May 2023.

CORNELL (97). Mrs Audrey Cornell of Tiverton died on 5th May 2023. She was the wife of the late of Frederick Cornell, once a Clerk at Purfleet.

CROPPS (78). Mrs Christine Cropps of Sale died on 25th February 2023. She was the wife of Mr Peter Cropps who once worked for Shell Gases in Manchester.

DANIEL (93). Mr Leonard Daniel of Budleigh Salterton died on 19th March 2023. He was a Buyer, Shell Materials, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 26 years.

DENETTON (91). Mrs Benita Denetton of High Wycombe died in August 2022. She was the wife of the late Mr H A Denetton once a Driver at Northfleet.

EARLS (89). Mr James Earls of Wokingham died on 14th March 2023. He was a Fuels QC Manager, Shell International, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1992 after 39 years.

EARLY (102). Mr Alec Early of Saxmundham died on 10th May 2023. He was Manager MWSA, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1977 after 22 years.

EMMERSON (84). Mr John Emmerson of Worplesdon died on 12th May 2023. He was on Secondment from SM in Shell Centre when he left group service in 1987 after 26 years.

FIELDING (79). Mr James Fielding of Salford died on 14th March 2023. He worked in SLC Stanlow, Shell UK Oils when he left group service in 1994 after 28 years.

FINCH (91). Mr Maurice Finch of Coulsdon has died. He was a Real Estate Project Manager (Retail), Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1991 after 34 years.

GARDINER (87). Mr Jack Gardiner of Kirkintilloch died on 4th June 2023. He was a Commercial Representative, Glasgow when he left group service in 1990 after 34 years.

GILL (90). Mr Anthony Gill of Orpington died on 30th May 2023. He was Head of Mail & Audio-Visual Services, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1990 after 26 years.

HASLAM (90). Mrs Jean Haslam of Hesketh Bridge died on 8th March 2023. She was the wife of the late Derek Haslam who once worked at Barton Lubricants Plant.

HOLMES (91). Mr Peter Holmes of Southampton died on 6th April 2023. He was Technical Manager, Lubricants, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 32 years.

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

HUDSON (95). Mr John Hudson of Reading died on 6th December 2022. He was Section Head of Investment Division, Shell Investment Department, Shell International, Shell Centre when he left in 1966 after 23 years having served in various accounting functions in the UK and for a short time in West Africa. He was known in Shell Centre as a versatile sportsman with a distinguished record in soccer and cricket and as the talented lead in many productions with the Lensbury Players and Singers. Husband of the late Mrs Pamela Hudson (nee Hartley), once Divisional Secretary, Shell-Mex House.

HUGHES (98). Mr Gordon Hughes of Beckenham died in May 2023. He was a Network Planning Officer, Shell Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 35 years.

HUTCHINSON (94). Mr Rex Hutchinson of York died on 2nd April 2023. He was a Lubricants Sales Engineer, Manchester Field Office when he left group service in 1984 after 27 years.

INNES (96). Mr Eric Innes of Bristol died on 10th March 2023. He worked at Avonmouth for Shell UK Oil when he left group service in 1988 after 33 years.

JONES (95). Mr Cecil Jones of Wilmslow died on 25th May 2023. He was Group Plant Engineer, Distribution Division, Manchester when he left group service in 1988 after 32 years.

LIDDLE (69). Mr Trevor Liddle of Cheshunt (formerly of Hemel Hempstead) died in May 2023. He worked in Accounts Receivable, BP, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1995 after 24 years.

LURSHAY (92). Mr John Lurshay of London died on 18th February 2023. He was the husband of the late Mary Lurshay, once a Pensions Benefit Adviser, Shell UK Ltd, Shell Mex House.

LUNT (91). Mr Charles Lunt of Spalding died on 11th April 2023. He was a Storeman at Stanlow when he left group service in 1987 after 32 years.

MACGREGOR (84). Mrs Gillian MacGregor of Bristol has died. She was the wife of the late Alan MacGregor, once Distribution Manager, Bristol/Hemel Hempstead.

MAGGS (97). Mr Dennis Maggs of Bristol died on 23rd May 2023. He was a Driver at Avonmouth when he left group service in 1985 after 34 years.

MCNALLY (89). Mrs Laura McNally of Immingham died on 24th March 2023. She was the wife of the late Maurice McNally, once a Shift Manager at Killingholme.

MEACHAM (86). Mrs Irene Meacham of Farnborough (Hants) died on 2nd March 2023. She was the wife of the late Ted Meacham, once a Fitter at Fulham Motor Repair Centre.

NEWBURY (84). Mrs Beryl Newbury of London died on 2nd March 2022. Her late husband was once a Driver at Wandsworth.

NORMANTON (93). Mr James Normanton of Haslemere has died. He worked in BP Chemicals Laboratory, Geneva when he left group service in 1987.

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 Mr John Peacock once i/c Plant Operations, SE 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 Northfleet died on 23rd January 2023. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1987 after 24 years.

POLLARD (81). Mr Philip Pollard of Watford has died. He was a Heating Engineer, Dominion Oils, Aylesbury when he left group service in 1998 after 31 years.

ROLLO (92). Mr John Rollo of Bingley died on 17th February 2023. He was Group Plant Engineer at Bishopbriggs when he left group service in 1985 after 21 years.

ROMAN (85). Mr Alan Roman of Gravesend died on 1st April 2023. He was a Print Buyer, Reprographics, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1993 after 19 years.

RUGG (84). Mr Ronald Rugg of Eastbourne died on 28th June 2023. He worked as a Driver/Terminal Operations, Wandsworth when he left group service after 30 years.

SHEPHARD (100). Mrs Pearl Shephard of Beccles died on 10th March 2023. Her late husband, Mr Allan Shephard was once an Agricultural Manager at Glasgow.

SILVESTER (88). Mr Brian Silvester of Headley died in September 2022. He was a Senior Admin Assistant, OS&P, BP, Head Office when he left group service in 1978 after 22 years.

SIMMONS (95). Mrs Joan Simmons of Haydock died on 11th March 2023. She was the wife of the late Walter Simmons, once a Craftsman at Haydock.

SLATER (82). Mr Alexander Slater of Cheadle Hulme 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.

SMITH (94). Mr Bernard Smith of Whitstable died on 24th April 2023. He was Senior Pensions Assistant, Britannic House when he left group service in 1985 after 42 years.

TILLETT (90). Mr Ronald Tillet of Hemel Hempstead died on 27th February 2023. When he left group service in 1982 after 28 years, Mr Tillet was outposted to Commercial, North-East England.

TOMLISSON (80). Mr Victor Tomlison of Oldham died on 13th June 2023. He was Sales Director - Britannia (LPG) Ltd. (T/A Shell Gas - Immingham) when he left group service in 1993 after 22 years.

WARD (91). Mr Geoffrey Ward of Okehampton has died. He was a Lubricants Sales Engineer, Birmingham Regional Office when he left group service in 1987 after 17 years.

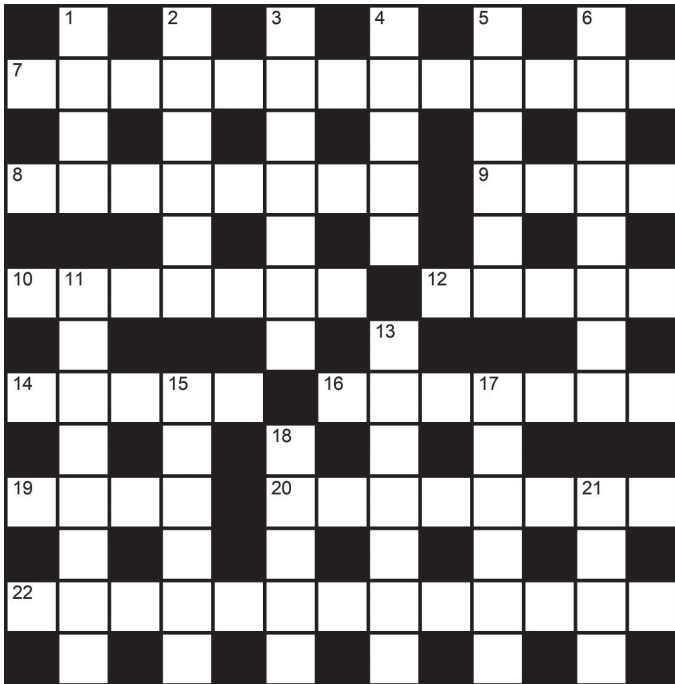
WESTRAY (102). Mrs Beryl Westray of Marlow died on 2nd February 2023.

and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"You'll make a lot of money, but you won't be a Botanist"
Ian Ward's University Professor

Prize Crossword

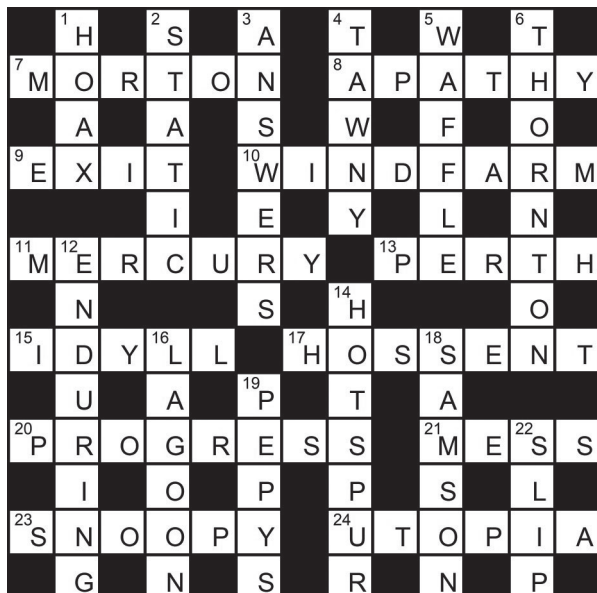


Across

- 7 Shell had one at Carrington (8,5)
- 8 Home heating oil fuel (8)
- 9 Uncommon (4)
- 10 Available in the shop (2,5)
- 12 Attack from Bee or Wasp (5)
- 14 Mr Sudron (5)
- 16 Colin from Hemel Hempstead (7)
- 19 Serving His Majesty (4)
- 20 Wind blowing from the East (8)
- 22 County of Buncefield Terminal (13)

Down

- 1 Footwear (4)
- 2 Bring into the country (6)
- 3 If it's not "rocket" its understandable (7)
- 4 Ian Ward was a High one (5)
- 5 With blue at Burnley, Aston Villa and West Ham (6)
- 6 There was one in The Strand and one on the Embankment (8)
- 11 Where the British Crude Oil came from (5,3)
- 13 Do you like to be beside it ? (7)
- 15 "On Site" (Latin) (2,4)
- 17 Nursery for babies... (6)
- 18 Where the Distributors stored their fuel (5)
- 21 Brown songbird (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

Another excellent fourteen all correct entries from which the winner, Russell Carter of Royston, was randomly selected. A copy of Victor Southgate's "Isle of Arran Adventures" on its way to you Russell.



Closing date for next issue
20th October 2023