

Coming out of his Shell Mike Howard talks about nearly 70 years of loyal service

Mike Howard joined Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd in 1949 which means that in a couple of years' time he will complete 70 years' service with SMBP, Shell and the SMBP 44 Association – of which he is a distinguished Vice President. Mike looks back over these seven decades, talks about his career, his passion for golf and his pride in his family. The story starts on Page 4.

Useful Contacts

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

The SMBP 44 Association

Colin Hill Secretary
14th Floor
40 Bank Street
London E14 5NR
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

The Shell Pensioners Association (SPA)

– For Shell Pensioners

Amanda Hunt SPA Secretary
14th Floor
40 Bank Street
London E14 5NR
Tel: 020 7934 5129
Email: Amanda.A.Hunt@shell.com

The BP Society

- For BP Pensioners

Administration Secretary
The BP Society
Chertsey Road
Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex
TW16 7LN
Tel: 01932 762029
Email: BPSociety@uk.bp.com

Please advise the Club Office (Email as under Colin Hill above) of your Email address.

You can also do this by visiting the Club website:
<http://www.44club.org.uk/>



Welcome

The opening of L.P.Hartley's great novel 'The Go-Between' – "The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there" has perhaps become a little clichéd through overuse, but it is no less true for that. In the book the main character, Leo Colston, looks back fifty years from 1953 to events that took place at the turn of the century. Edwardian England seen from the perspective of the new Elizabethan age. In this edition of the 'Club News' we look back even longer with Mike Howard to the immediate post-war Shell-Mex and B.P. and discover a thread which, whilst especially present in Mike's career and life, is perhaps also relevant to all of us. In the article I described that thread as 'loyalty' but it is also 'trust' – the two things are inextricably linked. You are loyal in part because you count on loyalty in return. And you count on it because you trust those you are loyal to - and they trust you back. An implicit part of all this is honouring promises made. Shell-Mex and B.P. was not perfect by any means – but loyalty and trust were core values and the offer that most of us received, though never explicitly stated of course, was of a 'job for life' – if that's what we wanted. This was the norm of the times. Mike Howard's father Cecil completed 45 years of service with the GPO in 1965 when he retired. He said then to his staff "... I carry with me a very real admiration for the splendid way in which the staff strive and pull together in their endeavour to give a high standard of service..." When Mike himself retired from Shell in 1987 after 38 years he could have said the same and meant it – he probably did!

The risk of being over-nostalgic is to think that the 'foreign country' of our past was always better than where we live today. Was the 'job for life' that most of us in the 44 Club enjoyed necessarily more fulfilling than the 'regular change of employer' working life that is more the norm today? This is very personal. In my SMBP/Shell career I lived and worked in five different real countries and travelled to many, many more on business. That was important for me – but it wouldn't suit everyone. The thing with a multinational like Shell was that in the 'good old days' you really could match job to lifestyle – there was room to get the work/life balance right. Today it is much less so – the employer calls the tune and you lump it or like it. Where loyalty and trust governed our working lives, that of our successors today is far less paternalistic - I guess our children and grandchildren know and accept this. But when these new management imperatives also apply in a Corporation's dealings with its ex-employees/pensioners this can cause tensions. We cry 'foul' because our norms are (perhaps) seen as 'old-fashioned'. We tend to think they are better – that is our right. I doubt that any members reading this would disagree with the assertion that loyalty and trust – our norms – were values that should never have gone away! In my four years as a Trustee of the Shell Contributory Pension Fund I saw at close quarters the contrast of cultures and expectations that I brought from a Shell career which started in 1964 compared with the Shell norms of today.

This contrast was by no means always counter-productive, but sometimes it was. That the baby-boomers are a lucky generation is not, I think, in dispute. Few of us need encouragement to enjoy our retirement and we are fortunate we have a Shell or BP pension which, along with our State pension, gives us an agreeable time. We earned it! To serve our fellow retirees with voluntary work – especially for the 44 Club of course – is something that is both fulfilling and which gives a little back. *The 44 Club needs more volunteers from the newly retired generation.* Can you help either at Branch or at National level? There's plenty to do and we need you!

Paddy Briggs

Shell Carol Service

Thursday 14 December 2017
Noon to 1pm
St Clement Danes Church, Strand,
London

All welcome



Shell Pensioner Support

Here is an update from Jonathan Kohn at Shell on progress in developing new Pensioner support following the demise of the PLR scheme:

"I am pleased to report progress continues to be made to get the new Shell Pensioner support model up and running.

A contract for BUPA to provide a professionally run telephone line which will provide advice and support for Shell pensioners on a range of issues has now been signed. Work is being undertaken on the process to refer pensioners to the SPA and SPBA as needed, in advance of a go-live targeted for the 1st November.

Recruitment of the six Pensioner Programme Officers (PPO) and Pensioner Programme Manager, who will maintain contact with pensioners in need, is underway. Four of the seven appointments have now been made and interviews scheduled for the remaining vacancies.

There are also plans to improve the co-ordination across the various strands of support for Shell alumni – BUPA helpline, the PPO team, pensioner associations and the SPBA – to better enable them to provide integrated support to the pensioner community.

Further information on the new approach, including details of the new BUPA helpline will be communicated directly to pensioners during October in advance of the November 1st go-live date. In the meantime as previously advised the SPBA will continue to provide valuable financial and other support to the most vulnerable pensioners. Going forward, referrals will be passed from the new SPA team of pensioner representatives but until this network is up and running pensioners in urgent need of support may apply directly to the SPBA - preferably by e-mail (Ian.C.Landeryou@shell.com or ken.k.sleat@shell.com) or by mail to Shell Pensioners Benevolent Association, Shell Centre, 40 Bank Street, London SE1 7NA. The telephone number is 020 7934 5131."



Volunteers

The Editor mentions in his 'Welcome' how the Club is always looking for volunteers. Help is valued centrally but also at Branch level. In particular you will see that a number of Branches are inactive at present. This is often because there is nobody to organise events! If you live in one of these branch areas and would like to help please get in touch. Contact can be made either with the Branch officers whose names are listed in 'News from the Branches' or with Colin Hill.

Kennings

Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd had a long, productive but sometimes tense relationship with Kennings (George Kenning Ltd). We would like to cover this in an upcoming edition of the Club News. Kennings were involved in Retail, the Distributor Market and many other areas of the Company's business. There was a 'Kennings Liaison Unit' especially to manage all this.

Did you work in the Unit or have you any other Kennings memories? Please let the Editor know.

Mike Howard – coming out of his Shell to reminisce over nearly 70 years of service



Mike Howard

I was reminded of something Charles M Schwab (the American steel magnate) said about loyalty after I spent a couple of hours with Mike Howard:

“Make your employer feel truthfully that you are sincere with him; that you are going to promote his interest; that you are going to stand for the things which he represents; that you are proud of being a member of his staff, and there is nothing that will reap you a richer reward. Loyalty above all!”

Loyalty may in these harsher times be an underrated (even lost) idea. But for Mike, from the age of 16 in 1949 when he joined Shell-Mex and B.P., to today loyalty has underpinned everything that he has done. And over that time loyalty willingly given has led to loyalty received – a two-way process.

Mike was born in Wimbledon, where his father worked for the GPO, in 1933. His education therefore took place in part during the war years - first locally and then at Kingston Grammar School. Here he made good academic progress and crucially his sporting talent, especially on the Hockey pitch,

was also revealed. As with many in their mid-teens in those years he left school at 16 and Shell-Mex and B.P. was one of the two companies his Careers Master recommended. An interview with Bob Ingle and Freddie Long led to a job offer at the princely sum of £3 2s 6d per week and ‘Hope’s Box’ in Shell-Mex House was to be his first office. Mr Hope ran a service for the Directors and their Secretaries on the sixth floor. His young men – all in their late teens – ran errands and did other menial tasks for the high-priced help. There was no formal training and the tasks were not challenging. But, as Mike says, it was a handy first step in the Company for a year or so. Off his own bat Mike studied Finance and Accounting at Night School and it was this initiative which probably secured him his first proper job after seven months - as a Trainee Clerk in HO Accounts Sales. There was a row of desks and Mike had the newcomer’s one – he was told it would take 40 years to progress to the one by the window!

Accounts were very labour-intensive in the early 1950s – there were a lot of clerks - but the manual nature of everything was a good apprenticeship. There was early contact with the marketers as well – a young David Soame was PA to a Sales Manager and he needed help from Mike to access



sales and other data. This was the beginning of a friendship that was to last more than thirty years. Soon, however, all this was interrupted by the call-up for National Service in the RAF. 2531494 Howard enjoyed this – though he thinks that one year would have been enough. A fellow ‘erk’ was the great cricketer Fred Trueman – another long enduring friendship which was to include some golfing days over the years. Trueman played a fair bit of cricket – he was in the RAF ‘sports section’ – including getting leave of absence to make his Test debut in 1952 at Leeds when he took 7 for 116 and helped reduce India to 26-5 in their



second innings! Mike Howard’s sporting achievements were a little less, but he still played high standard tennis and hockey for the RAF and enjoyed the camaraderie.

Back in SMBP in 1953 Mike continued his career in Finance and his studies (successfully). Now in Accounts Admin under Denis Field and Harry Cleeves he was allowed to visit Division offices around the country advising on financial procedures required by new legislation – quite an accolade for a young man still only 21. Away from work he was pursuing his sporting life – including tennis and hockey at both BP Sydenham and Shell Lensbury, Teddington. It was at Sydenham that, in 1954, at a ‘Halford Memorial’ tennis match versus London Division he met Maureen Shapland. They were to be engaged in 1956 and to marry in 1958 but not before the archaic rules that did not allow a husband and wife both to work for SMBP had to be applied and Maureen

had reluctantly to leave the company! In Club News 125 in 2009 we ran the story of how Mike and his friend John Fulcher bought a taxi for £25 in 1954 and which they named 'Howorful'. They fell on their feet the next year when during a rail strike the Company paid them to bring employees to Shell-Mex House – where it was allocated a parking space alongside the Directors' limousines (Photo: Mike at the wheel - page 4)!

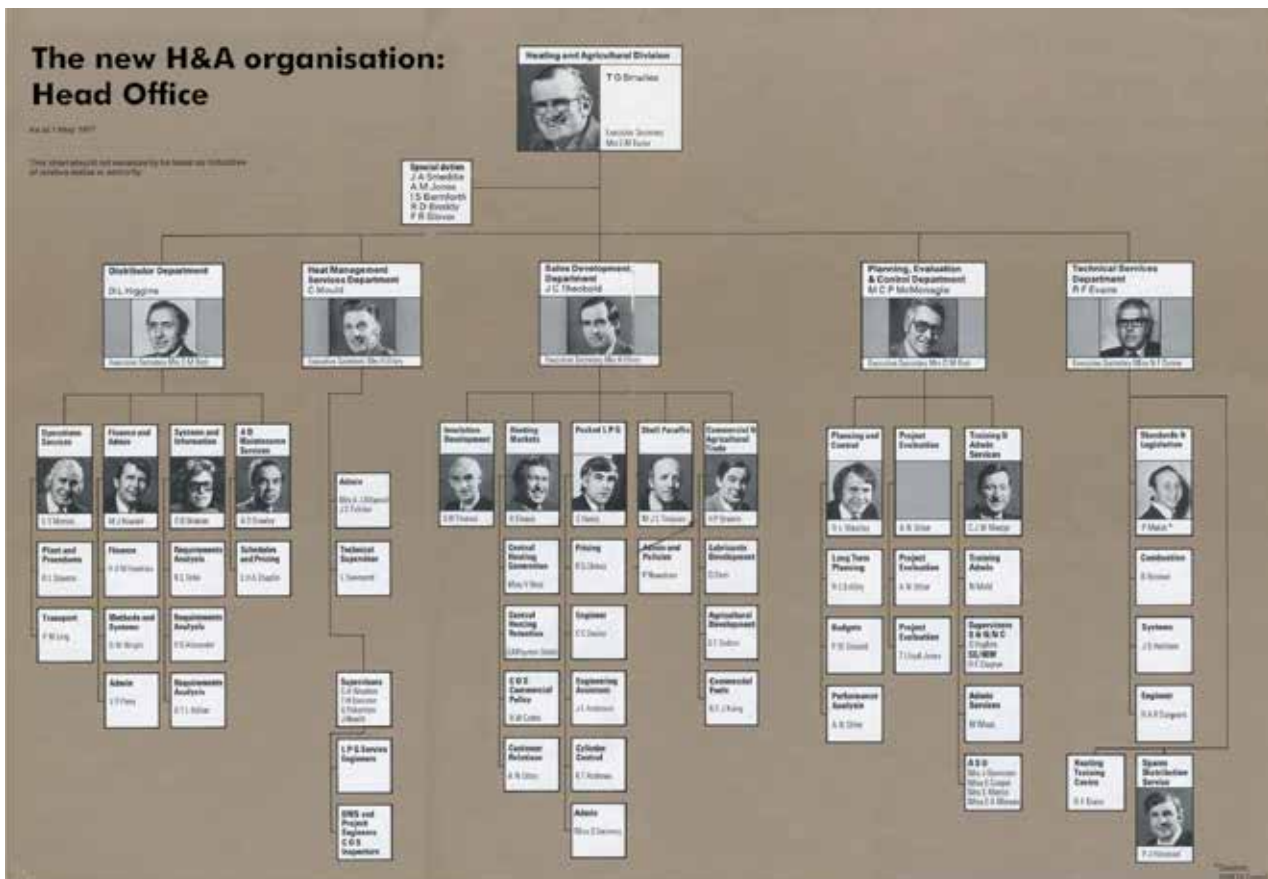
Back in Shell-Mex House Mike's career took another step forward when in 1955 he was moved to Audit Department under RG Nicholson. Key to his appointment, and indeed to the Audit role, was the need for attention to detail and good communication skills. The detail was shown in a lovely story about an audit in No. 1 Kingsway. The audit showed a small daily payment to a local florist. Odd! Until it was realised that this was for Mark Mothio's red carnation! The communications skills came from handling the sensitivities with the all-powerful Division Managers who in those days were very much Kings of their Regions. I asked Mike how 'straight' SMBP was and he says that in the main it was a pretty honest operation – though there were irregularities which



a young auditor had to handle with care. And not just the odd carnation! But he was, he says, made welcome everywhere and Audit was a good training ground for his further progress in Finance which continued for the rest of the decade and into the 1960s. He worked on procedures, the Finance Authorities manual and in other control areas – mainly in Shell-Mex House.

The 1960s were to be marked by the first introduction of data processing by computer and SMBP built its first computer centre in Hemel Hempstead. The shrewd and capable Brian

Bowden was Hemel's first Manager and he realised after a while that he needed someone to handle the increasingly complex financial and control systems. Mike's appointment to this role was important both career-wise and personally. He and Maureen and their (now) young family moved from Worcester Park to Watford to commence a long life together in leafy Hertfordshire. Hemel was a tough working environment – the need to meet deadlines at a time of rather rudimentary computers was stressful – something that Frank Irving the Systems head realised. In 1967 he asked Dick Baylis (Chairman) and Mike (Secretary) to launch a 'Golf Section' based at Berkhamsted Golf Club – they played every Monday evening in the summer. Mike had played some golf over the years but this initiative was not just popular among the Hemel staff but what was to launch Mike's long golfing career and his now nearly 50 year membership of the Berkhamsted Club. Within a year or so of starting to play regularly Mike had joined the Club and his handicap was falling to 17 by 1968 and later as low as 6. He was Captain in 1987/8 and had his lowest round there in that year – a 3 over par 74 (net 64!).



Running in parallel with Mike's golf though one feels, only slightly ahead of golf in his priorities, was Mike's SMBP career. This was to move forward again in 1970 when he was offered a job in the new (post McKinsey) 'Consumer Markets Division' in Shell-Mex House under Derek Higgins (A 'great boss'). The job was a Finance one but now, for the first time, he was in the colourful world of the Marketer. Consumer's task was to manage the company's relationship with its 'Authorised Distributor' (AD) network. This was complex and diverse enough but further complicated by the fact that the early 1970s were the run-up to Brand Separation – and that the Distributors had to be 'separated' into Shell and BP like everything else. Factor in the quadrupling of Oil Prices and the consequential decline of ambitions for the expansion of the Domestic Market and you can see that these were challenging times. Mike had what was called 'AD Remuneration' under his financial control and this had to tread the tricky path of being adequate to remunerate the ADs fairly but not too costly to keep SMBP's cost basis in this sector acceptable. Mike says that the culture of Marketing was very different to that of Finance and the Computer Centre. There were more 'characters' and, in some cases, the behaviours were more unpredictable – and much less attuned to working by the book! But it was satisfying and stimulating work – each of the ADs was its own business and they varied enormously in size and scope – though the basic tasks they did on SMBP's behalf were the same. Brand Separation was especially complex. Mike knew quite early on that he was going to Shell and that his friend and colleague Rex Hatcher would be going to BP, and this helped as they worked together to get an equitable split of the network.

The successor to Consumer was 'Heating and Agricultural Division' and Mike was to take up the role of 'Head of Finance and Administration' an organisation which with some changes was to continue post Brand Separation. In 1977 some changes were made in Shell UK Oil and the new organisation shows some familiar 44 Club Faces alongside Mike's in his 'Finance and Admin' job.

Between 1977 and 1987 when he retired Mike Howard was to stay at the heart of the world of Shell distributors



in Distributor Department (managed initially by David Soame who went on to Head up Commercial Division) which organised to the realities of the new Brand Separated world. Soame Mike regards as 'another great boss' and it is clear that the loyalty he gave to David was repaid in kind. "David Soame was always on my side" he says. Mike moved from the purely financial in some of his roles which latterly had a broader management character to them – as Commercial Services Manager and as Chairman of the AD Devon Fuels for example. The Distributor Trade team originally established under David Soame was a strong group which endured into post Shell life and which still has regular reunions – Mike organised these gatherings for 20 years. Post retirement Mike did a couple of year's consultancy for the big AD William Cory helping them establish a structure for the future but after that he decided that his other interests would take over from work.

Mike Howard's 84 years have followed a not unfamiliar pattern for SMBP alumni. A successful career, a happy family life and a commitment to extra-curricular activity (in his case golf) which was no less dedicated. Mike has gone one step further with his long service to the SMBP 44 Association. His local Branch is South Midlands and he has been on their Committee for many years and was Chairman for ten. The Branch is one of the most successful in the 44 Club and has a strong membership (80% ex Hemel) and good officers. "Listen to what the members tell you" was what Mike said when I asked him the reason for the Branch's success. In addition Mike has helped with the overall operation of the 44 Club

centrally – he did the diaries for many years and has sat on the Executive Committee. He is a Vice President of the Club.

In telling Mike Howard's story, space constraints have forced selectivity! So mention of his tennis and hockey successes as a young man (and into later life actually) - not least his 40 year playing career for Lensbury Hockey will have to be brief. And there's no room to mention his birdie on the 1st at St Andrews or his various holes in one! However we can't omit mention of the day that he and Maureen met the Queen at the Royal South of England Agricultural Show to present Shell trophies but Bob Reid forbade the publication of a photo of him with HMQ (though one with Maureen was OK!). Bob rewarded Mike for his obeying his instructions by playing a round of golf with him at Berkhamsted.



Maureen Howard hands the supreme dairy award to the Queen to present to Cliff Norton of Postling, Kent.

NOT many of us get a chance to chat with the Queen about the future of our business.

But group sales manager for Distributor Trade, Mike Howard, discovered she was particularly interested in SUKCO's involvement in agricultural shows when he met her at the South of England Show at Ardingly, Sussex, in June.

Originally, Mike and his wife Maureen were to present the awards for the best beef and dairy animals at the show – two of the competitions sponsored by SUKCO.

Two days before the event, however, they discovered that the Queen – as patron of the South of England Agricultural Society – was willing to make all the presentations herself. They would simply hand her the

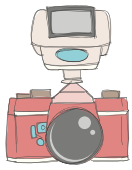
A ROYAL DAY FOR MIKE . . .

I asked Mike if he had a message for members and characteristically he gave one that is both personal and helpful. Fifteen years ago he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. The diagnosis came not from any symptoms but from a regular check-up. The cancer was treated with radiotherapy and it has not returned. The moral of the story.

Gentlemen – get yourself tested!

Mike Howard had a nasty accident earlier this year collapsing at home due to a blood infection and breaking his ankle. This is on the mend and though his golf has to be from a Buggy at the moment he hopes to get back to walking the course soon. This most loyal of SMBP/Shell men has a few more rounds in him yet! **PSB**

News from the Branches



Reminder: Please take a photo or two at your events. The Editor's sophisticated software guarantees to take 20 or more years off the age of all in photos in this section so there is no excuse!

Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering
 ☎ 01349 368134
 📧 kpyorkie75@gmail.com

We had an outing on the Caledonian Canal. June 15th 2017

We also had a good outing to Cawdor Castle attended by seventeen



Inverness Branch

members - we all enjoyed lunch at Cawdor Tavern before visiting the beautiful Castle and grounds - a lovely experience to end our summer outings.

Coming up:

We meet on the last Thursday of every month at the Kingsmill Hotel until the end of November . Christmas lunch date and venue to be arranged.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker
 ☎ 07752 052602
 📧 mrgrahamwalker@hotmail.com

Coming up:

October 9th: 10:30-11:30 Coffee morning and meeting. Michies Coffee Shop, 391 Union Street Aberdeen.

November 13th: 10:30-11:30 Coffee morning as above.

December 12th: Christmas lunch . 11:30 for 12:30pm. Double Tree Hotel , Links Road , Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen.

January 8th: 10:30-11:30 Coffee morning as above.

February 12th: 10:30-11:30 Coffee morning as above.

March 12th: 10:30-11:30 Coffee morning as above.

Please contact Graham for further information about any of these events

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen
 ☎ 0770 3578614
 📧 elaine.ellen@btinternet.com
 www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

10 members met up on Thursday 10 August for our Summer lunch at Sarti, Renfield Street, Glasgow. There was lots of chat and everyone enjoyed the excellent food and company.



Glasgow Branch

Coming up

Our new season starts on Thursday 19 October at our new venue, the St Andrew's Bridge Club, 2 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow G3 7UL. This is very close to our old meeting place at the Mitchell Library but will be more



Glasgow Branch

flexible, comfortable and affordable. We have an interesting and varied programme arranged which we hope will appeal to all:

19 October: Emma Martinelli: RSPB Loch Lomond.

16 November: Kathleen Cartwright: Northeast Greenland: History, Scenery, Wildlife, Plants and People.

14 December: Christmas Lunch.

18 January 2018: Mr Watt: Antiques Road Show.

15 February 2018: Christine Miller: The Story Continues.

15 March 2018: Rear Admiral Mike Gregory: 'From the Army to Submarines' (preceded by the AGM)

If you would like to join our Branch, or come to one of our meetings as a guest, please get in touch, you will be made very welcome.

Belfast

Contact: Mr. Norman Mavitty
 7 Barn Hill, Donaghadee BT21 0QA.
 ☎ 028 9188 3445
 📧 nmavitty@hotmail.com

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Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy
125 Mill Road, Portstewart BT47 2QJ
☎ 028 7134 8337
✉ hoyschool@gmail.com

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor
☎ 0191 4137 185
✉ keithtaylor275@btinternet.com

Lunch the second Wednesday in every month.

West Riding

Contact: Terry Morley
☎ 0113 2667326

Coming up:

Wednesday 22nd November -
Christmas Lunch The Queens Arms (A61), 201 Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PT.

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate
☎ 01642 722 491

On 21st April, 20 members met at the Fox & Hounds Slapewath for our Spring get together. The carvery lunch was enjoyed by everyone followed by lots of friendly banter. Thanks to Ces and Doreen for organising a very enjoyable afternoon.



Teesside Branch

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton
☎ 01522 805 319
✉ Audrey.broug2@ntlworld.com

Coming up:

5th December: Christmas Lunch, The Consort Hotel, Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9JA

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers
☎ 0161 437 2072/0226 100 6720
✉ witherspt@gmail.com

Coming up:

Manchester Branch have their usual monthly pub lunch on the second Monday of each month at 12:30. Contact Pat for details.

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall
☎ 01829 270 095
✉ normanwaterfall@talktalk.net

The end of June and numbers at our visit to Forest Hills at Frodsham was still affected by members' health



problems. However fifteen members and guests had a very pleasant meeting and Lunch, with beautiful views over the Mersey Estuary. The hotel, as always, made us very welcome and as usual we are going there for our Christmas get together when we hope all our members will be fit and well.

Coming up:

11th October: 12:30 for 1:00pm. Lunch at Burnside Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere (Tel: 01539 448553).

13th December: 12:30 for 1:00pm. Lunch at Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham (Tel: 01928 735255).

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett
☎ 01384 833 132
✉ carol.a.barnett@blueyonder.co.uk

Once again we visited Bodenham Arboretum & Earth Centre at Wolverley near Kidderminster, for a carvery lunch on 28th June 2017. We had 32 members and guests attending for a carvery lunch which was as usual wonderful and the desserts were to die for. Our weather was a little unsettled and there was a cool wind blowing across the lake which meant we were unable to sit by the lake to enjoy the scenery. Some members of our group spent time looking at and purchasing plants for their gardens) and food to feed the many ducks that were around. This is a very popular venue and gets very busy but the downside is waiting in line for the food to be served. But we shall no doubt be returning again next year.



North Midlands Branch

A group of twelve members and guests headed by coach to Bideford in Devon on 24th July 2017 for a 5 day holiday, staying at the Durrant House Hotel on half-board basis. On route to Bideford we called at Burnham-on-Sea for a short break and the weather was sunny and warm although a little breezy. Once we reached our Hotel (which is much the same as any Hotel of that age) we settled in for our stay. We had excursions to Barnstaple and Appledore, which is a quaint fishing village on the estuary, where you can get wonderful ice-cream, where we had lovely weather. We also went to Lynton and Lynmouth but had the experience of heavy showers. (If you can imagine sitting on a bench



North Midlands Branch

overlooking the sea with a plate of chips in your hand and holding an umbrella, that was what happened to four of us). It must have looked so funny that a young gentleman came over and took a photograph of us (hope it did not get onto social media). We had a great time but the journey back with traffic on the M5 was horrendous hold ups all over the place, but not to worry, that happens to everyone at some time.

We held our Lunch and Bowls on 23rd August 2017 with 26 members and guests attending. Our Carvery Lunch held at The Island Pool, Cookley near Kidderminster was very enjoyable, very much improved on last year and the place had been refurbished. With the carvery table being moved, it made the whole place seem much larger. Bowls at Cookley Village Hall was played in wonderful sunshine, much the same as last year. We do seem to be lucky with the weather on these occasions let's hope it lasts in the future. We broke for tea and biscuits during the afternoon and held our usual raffle with prizes supplied by many of the members and guests. Many thanks to them and to Peggy Stanley who plays a very good part in selling the raffle tickets. Everyone agreed it had been a great afternoon.



North Midlands Branch

Coming up:

18th October: Skittles at The Squirrel. Alverly

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

☎ 01296 630169

✉ malcolmbury@btinternet.com

For our pub lunch in early July we visited The Oak in Aston Clinton where Malcolm Bury organised a repeat of the pork spit roast lunch which was held so successfully at the same venue three years ago. On a fine, hot day more than 30 members supported the event and we were particularly pleased to welcome Mike and Kay Buzzacott and John and Lois Lindley. Later during lunch David Holmes also called in and it was good to hear that he is making steady progress after his recent operation. The staff at the Oak were their usual efficient selves and a most enjoyable occasion was rounded off by a spirited vote of thanks from Gordon Lamont to Malcolm for his organisation of the day.

There are two remaining Branch events in 2017 as listed below. Our last pub lunch of the year will be held on 19th October. Then we will round off 2017 with our annual Christmas lunch and AGM on Friday 15th December which will be held, as usual, at Berkhamsted Golf Club. This is always the highlight of our Branch year and we look forward to another successful reunion of many old friends and former colleagues.

Coming up:

19th October: 1200 noon onwards.

Pub lunch at the picturesque 'The Three Horseshoes', Winkwell, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2RZ (see below). Please note the change of venue. Contact Ken Longhurst 01296 660711 or k.c.longhurst@talk21.com for further information.



The Three Horseshoes Bourne End

15th December: From 11.30am onwards, Christmas lunch followed by AGM at Berkhamsted Golf Club, The Common, Berkhamsted HP4 2QB. Contact Malcolm Bury (as above) for further information.

(Full details of both these events will be sent to all active Branch members)

Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell

☎ 01206 867947

✉ peter.gobell39@btinternet.com

We held a successful lunch at the Oysterfleet, Canvey Island on June 13th when 66 members and guests attended. The sun was shining and we had pre drinks



Chelmsford Branch

outside by the lake. As usual everything was to a very high standard, so much so that we have already booked the venue for June 11th next Year.

Coming up:

October: Orsett Hall.

December 14th: Langdon Hills Golf Club (Christmas lunch).

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

☎ 01473 219860

✉ rosemary.grayston@sky.com

Or Contact: David Cattermole

☎ 01473 610 534

✉ davidcattermole@yahoo.co.uk

A lunch was held at Hintlesham Hall on July 18th - the numbers were lower than in the past (15 members and their guests) but it was considered one of the most enjoyable lunches we have had there and of a very high

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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

standard. Afterwards, members were able to enjoy coffee and refreshments outside in the sunshine.

Coming up:

15th December: Rushmere Golf Club (Christmas lunch).

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

☎ 01485 540346

✉ tomcannon36@gmail.com

A number of members had other engagements but the most disappointing effect on our numbers were last-minute illness or hospital appointments. Nevertheless we had a raffle which brought in some income to stem the loss on the event and



King's Lynn Branch

everyone enjoyed the varied Finger Buffet. Our loyal friends from Ipswich Branch, namely Peter Gobell and David and Pat Cattermole, made the longish drive to Sandringham from Colchester and Ipswich. Our sprightly nonagenarians, Ron Burke, Len Hall, and Ted Pidgeon were in good form. Think of all the petroleum fumes they must have inhaled over the years as drivers!! (Left to right on photo.)

Coming up:

Plans are afoot for another carvery lunch at the Angel, Watlington, in October.

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

☎ 0117 9684 638/ 07748787392

✉ rogergamlin@aol.com

Our Summer event took place on Tuesday, July 18th – a visit to the Yeo Valley HQ and 'Canteen' which is situated in Blagdon, a few miles south of Bristol in the beautiful Chew Valley. It is very much more than



Greater Bristol Branch

a 'Canteen'! The venue overlooks Blagdon Lake and is situated on the north facing side of the Mendip Hills. It used to be The Mendip Hotel which was used as our base for Bath and West Agricultural Shows and for sales events in days of yore so it brought back happy memories for some of us. The 'canteen' is now open to the public for lunch. It was featured in the Michel Roux 'Hidden Restaurants' Channel 4 TV series recently. You do need to book at least 4 weeks in advance. We were 21 in number. We met at 12 noon for drinks on the sunlit terrace looking down on the lake. The 2 course lunch was excellent and coffee was served on the terrace. There was plenty of time to reminiscence and to discuss the recent HO AGM and especially the demise of the Shell PLR scheme. The event was organised by our chairman, Roger Gamlin who was again warmly thanked for his efforts.

Coming up:

Our final event for 2017 will be our Christmas Lunch and minuscule AGM. This is arranged for Tuesday, December 5th again at The Henbury Golf Club. Coffee at 11am, much chat, sit down for lunch at 12-30.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker

☎ 01425 837285

✉ tonyrp456@gmail.com

We enjoyed lunch at The Kings Arms at Longham which has been voted the top dining pub in Dorset.

Coming up:

The Christmas Party lunch which this year will take place either at The Carpenters Arms in Bransgore or where we held it last year which was

The Amberwood in Walkford - this will be in the middle of December. Look out for the invitations. We hope to see as many as possible at one of our functions.

East Kent

Contact: Bernard Smith

☎ 01227 262 775

✉ tessdale2004@hotmail.com

After a successful turn out at our annual Marden lunch back in March, sadly only eight people attended our Charing lunch in July! It is hoped that two more events can be arranged before the end of the year- but more interest, and help, is required please!

Tunbridge Wells

Contact: Charles Richards

☎ 01892 528 231

✉ cajrichards@yahoo.co.uk

See under East Kent.

Guildford, Kingston & London West

Contact: John Burton

☎ 020 8977 3732

✉ john_a_burton@talk21.com

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,

27 Elm Ave, Ruislip, HA4 8PE

☎ 020 8866 8452

✉ gretalon@gmail.com

Coming up:

23rd November 12:30 pm Lunch meeting at Yaprak Restaurant, 180 Field End Rd. HA5 1RF (tel.020 8868 9621). 282 bus stops outside this Turkish restaurant which has special lunch menu at £6.95 for 2 courses. Normal menu also available. Eastcote Station (Piccadilly and Metropolitan) within few minutes' walk. No parking at Restaurant but a car park is available in High Rd. behind Aldi. Full details from Greta.

Your Letters

Mick Aslin

It was a very sad day when Janice telephoned me to advise that Mick had passed away. Since retirement we were lucky enough to see Mick and Janice regularly over the years and grateful that we saw them only last year, just before their move from

Cobham to the Isle of Wight. We knew that he had not been well and it was one of the reasons that he and Janice had decided to move.



Mick was one of the nicest, gentle, warm hearted colleague's and friends in the Company that we had the pleasure to know, there were just 'no sides' to him whatsoever. He was totally trustworthy, fun to be with, and had a great sense of humour and always there with that lovely smile and twinkle in his eye. It was said, at his farewell I think, that with his marketing skills and his ability for arranging Agricultural Shows, outings to Wimbledon, Henley, Lords, Wentworth, and Badminton, that he was ideally suited to a high position in the Leisure Industry, or alternatively, to be an SD Principal!

A happy memory, and one I will always cherish, was my last visit to the 'Paradiso e Inferno' restaurant opposite SM House. As I was waiting for a guest, I heard two voices behind the bench seat talking about their expenses - Column A, car wash receipts, entertaining receipts - and the infamous Cigar Box! I had to stand on the bench seat to see over and who these chaps were? It was Mick lunching with Bryan Mayor!!! The look on their faces said it all, they had no idea I was just over the other side - I only wish I could have recorded everything.

We will all miss him and Janice and Family will be in our thoughts.

*Mike Treasure
4 Gargrave House Gardens
Gargrave
Skipton
North Yorkshire BD23 3PW*

Memories of 'TM'

I enjoyed a rewarding and varied career with SMBP and later Shell due in no small part to the late Trevor Marsden - I was not alone, TM gave many the chance to progress. During Brand Separation Jimmie Robertson, Head of Lubricants of course, was unhappy (not unreasonably) that four key members of his staff had been seconded away from him to Brand Separation 'Special Duties'. How was he to run his department? Trevor, characteristically forthright, replied "Jimmie you will have to do what I would do - stick a brush up your arse and sweep up as you go along!" I wonder in today's different world if such people as TM still exist?

*Bryan Mayor
31 Keverstone Court
97 Manor Road
Bournemouth BH1 3BY*

West London Pipeline

I would like to expand on an aspect in Ernie Choules's letter (Club News 155). This is the United Kingdom Oil Pipeline (UKOP) connection to Heathrow. By 1969 this connection from aviation fuel storage at Buncefield was in operation but SMBP had not yet joined this separate UKOP consortium for the West London Pipeline. They had rights to buy into it which they did at the very last moment, January 1969, but withheld using it for some time.

It would have been an easy engineering job to make the necessary connections to Heathrow aviation fuel storage. But, the British Airports Authority (BAA) was on the watch. BAA had introduced a levy on each litre of fuel dispensed on

the airport which replaced cheap rents for land on the airport occupied by oil companies. But SMBP still retained these rents which included the right to use the Walton/Heathrow pipeline for their supplies. BAA saw their chance as their price for a SMBP connection to the West London Pipeline on the airport was to impose a fuel levy on SMBP as well.

In the end SMBP paid BAA a lump sum based on 50% of an estimated cost of laying a new pipeline around the perimeter of Heathrow to connect into the Walton/Heathrow pipeline for which SMBP retained rights. The BAA official was the redoubtable Mrs Smith who was just short of chess international standard and who had issued instructions that all oil company engineering proposals on the airport were submitted to her so she could work out if she could squeeze out an extra charge.

The West London Pipeline has two pipelines where normally one would suffice. This was because Texaco still had airline customers, Sabina and Air Canada, who used a blend of kerosene and gasoline (Avtag) for their aircraft fuel instead of kerosene (Avtur now known as Jet A1). These two fuels could not share the same pipeline. Avtag was soon phased out but the West London Pipeline was left with a legacy of two lines.

*David Roberts
11 Hillside Way
Withdean
Brighton BN1 5FE*

George Crawford

George Crawford, whose death was announced in Issue 155, was the Aberdeen Group Terminal Manager when, during the 1980s, I was the Shell UK Oil Commercial Business Planning Manager, Scotland, then the National Buyers Manager, Scotland. He was a calm and respected manager and full of common sense. His great negotiating skills were

continued on page 12

YOUR LETTERS

demonstrated to me when Distribution Division were announcing that the improvements to IT and telephone systems meant that Aberdeen would cease to be a Group Terminal, with all order-taking and routing to be transferred to Bishopbriggs Group Terminal. Commercial's largest customer in the Aberdeen Group area was a major local authority, with hundreds of individual delivery points for Gas Oil, Diesel, and Petrol. Many of the Gas Oil (heating oil) locations were schools, supplied on a 'Shell Retained Account' basis by the Shell Distributor, Gleaner Oils, but, as was the system then, all delivery points for Gas Oil of 4,500 litres and over, were direct delivered by SUKO vehicles. The customer's

Purchasing Manager refused to accept the transfer of order-taking from Aberdeen to Bishopbriggs and forecast that routers based in Glasgow would not know the rural locations in NE Scotland, with chaos ensuing. The stand-off continued for several weeks. Finally, I asked George to come to a meeting with me, with the Purchasing Manager and his deputy, and we met for lunch in one of the new 'oil boom' hotels not far from the Shell Terminal. Relations remained pleasant and 'non-personal' but nothing was moving forward. At some point near the end of lunch the Purchasing Manager got up to 'visit the facilities'. George made an immediate decision. 'Excuse me', he said, 'but I need

to go too'. The Deputy PM and I continued talking and we could see George and the PM standing deep in conversation near the restaurant entrance. When they returned to the table the PM said that all was resolved and he would now accept SUKO's decision. We all shook hands and departed. I asked George what had changed. All he would say, with a smile, was that 'you must never let your negotiating opponents box themselves into a corner; you must allow them a way out where they retain their dignity'. What a star!

*Colin Jones
1 Racecourse Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5LF*

Birthday Thanks

80th I spent the Big Birthday day with all my family who travelled from Surrey, Harrogate and Jersey CI to celebrate it with my wife and me at the Local hostelry, the Hest Bank Inn (founded in 1554 and therefore even older than me). I am in good health and thoroughly appreciate the 44 club for



young next year and has never been off the road.

(Ed: Like this one Clive? Let's ask if any of our members regularly drives in a car of older vintage than your 1968 Volvo!)

*Clive Barker
12 Fenhall Park
Lanchester
Durham
DH7 0JT*

80th I was very fortunate to join SMBP in 1965 – it was then a growth market with Mrs 1970 and all that! The 200 Club. Good friends. Happy Days!

*P. Quantock
Rosedale
Windmill
Stoke St Gregory
Taunton TA3 6EL*

83rd In 1957 I spent 2 days in Charing Cross Hospital recovering from the effects of a gas leak from the main supply in the Strand into the Horticultural Store in Cecil Chambers. (It lost its smell in the process.) I am pleased I survived to enjoy my career in Shell -Mex and BP and to thank you for my birthday card 60 years later!

*David Turner
158a Crewe Road
Haslington
Cheshire CW1 5RN*

88th I had a job that I really enjoyed as a Lubricants Sales Engineer - I met some wonderful people and my work took me to some amazing places. I really didn't want to retire but I had reached retirement age and that was it in those days! I am still reasonably fit at 88 – actually from my hair to my chin I'm 18 but the rest of me has a few problems – as they say "Getting old isn't for cissies!"

*Neil Norman
14, Havergal Close
Caswell
Swansea SA3 4RL*

keeping us old codgers up to date with all the news. My regards to all my old friends and colleagues at BP and SMBP where ever they may be.

*Bill Thornton
61 Marine Drive
Hest Bank
Lancaster LA2 6EG*

80th I'd forgotten that I'd been around so long! My wife and I will enjoy our 54th Wedding Anniversary this year and we still like to take a swim at the Durham pool and drive in our classic Amazon Volvo which will be Fifty years

87th I would like to thank the hard-working group of volunteers who never forget us. Much appreciated and so reminiscent of the old firm.

*I get up each morning and dust off
my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the 'Obits'
If my name is missing, I know I'm
not dead
So I get a good breakfast and go
back to bed!*

*John Roddan
Woodlands
Winterbrook
Wallingford
Oxfordshire OX10 9ED*

89th It is good to be reminded of the good times and the good companionship of SMBP. I am now, alas, suffering mobility problems but I can still drive my car and get about – mostly locally. But regrettably my days attending 44 Club events are no more. Good health and fortune to you all.

*Rex Hutchinson
25 Foresters Walk
Acomb
York YO24 3JJ*

89th Bad knees and hips prevent my walking but I am very lucky to be able to get to the Calpe seafront most days of the year on my mobility scooter and with a wonderful wife looking after me



I am very fortunate. I was very sorry to hear of the recent death of Douglas Booth - I had 5 happy years working

with him at Knightsbridge in the late 70s. Good wishes to all

*Gordon Lightfoot
Calpe
Spain*

91st Two years have passed by since my late husband Cliff Barker (28 years at Stansted Airport) passed away but I was able to celebrate my latest big birthday with my sons, grandsons and great grandchildren. It's good to see in the magazine how many SMBP employees and their spouses live to a great age!

*Kathleen Barker
84 Heath Row
Bishop's Stortford CM23 5DF*

94th I am deeply appreciative of the efforts of the Birthday Card team*. I am still very much involved in National Trust volunteer work at Calke Abbey in Derbyshire - been there 29 years now - engaging in all kinds of activities. Recommend it to anyone! Spent this morning - 16th August - at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas at the Battle of Britain Memorial Service of the RAuxAF. I am lucky because it is just down the road from me.

(Ed: Thanks Norman. The team is Peter and Bridget Cast – we are very grateful to them for the work they do.

*Norman Monahan
16 Hawthorn Crescent
Stapenhill
Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QP*

Thanks also received from: Robert Hutchinson (84), Peter Franklin, Bob Breese (who recalls his retirement in July 1986, 20 months early and thanks everyone for keeping in touch but doesn't want us to bother publishing his letter!), Joe Fairman (90), Christina Bangert (88), Brenda Kinghan, George Honour (91), Frank Sadlier (87), Josephine Andrews, Mary Pickering (85), Jerry Barr (80), Eunice Peacock (93), Paul Donovan, David Brown (85), I.J.Higgins, Stuart Rose (84), Maura Flynn (84) who is one of the proof-readers of the 44 Club News.

Welcome New Members

Mrs Moira Allport - Peterlee

Mr Peter Driver - Barton-on-Sea

Mrs Alice Foster - Kingsbridge

Mrs Beryl Fryer - Evesham

Mrs Jane Moroney - Bridge of Don

Mr Jerry Munro - Inverness

Mrs Kathleen North
- Barton-upon-Humber

Mrs Margaret Orchard - Northwood

Mrs Rita Pittwood - West Molesey

Mrs Valerie Webb - Twyford

Obituaries

We regret to report the deaths of the following members. Our condolences are sent to their families, friends and past colleagues.

ASLIN (82). Mr Michael (Mick) Aslin of Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) died on 11th August 2017. He was Distributor Sales Manager, South East Region, Norbury when he left group service in 1985 after 29 years.

BENNETT (82). Mr David Bennett of Biggin Hill has died. He was a Sales Engineer Lubricants when he left group service in 1975 after 19 years.

BIRT (88). Mr Dennis Birt of Maidstone has died. He was Technical Sales Representative, Croydon, when he left group service in 1984 after 19 years.

BRANIGAN (75). Mr Michael Branigan of Basingstoke died on 13th June 2017. He was Shell Brand Manager, Asia Pacific, Malaysia when he left group service in 1998 after 35 years.

BROADBRIDGE (81). Mr Raymond Broadbridge of Stanford-le-Hope died on 3rd May 2017. He was a Driver at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1993 after 26 years.

BUBB (88). Mr Ronald Bubb of Kidderminster died on 4th July 2017. He was an Operator at Stourport-on-Severn when he left group service in 1989 after 16 years.

CANTER (86). Mr Michael Canter of Shetland (formerly of Berkhamsted) died on 7th June 2017. He was Manager, Terminal Operations and Engineering, BP House when he retired in 1985 after 21 years.

CARR (90). Mr Raymond Carr of Cramlington died on 27th January 2017. He worked at BP Oil, Jarrow until he left group service in 1985 after 19 years.

DANBY (93). Mrs Lilian Danby of Plymouth died on 14th May 2017. She was the wife of Mr Edgar Danby once a Driver at Plymouth Terminal.

DAVIES (70). Dr Roger Davies of Tunbridge Wells died on 2nd August 2017. He was in Global XTL Development, Downstream Strategy & Portfolio, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1992 after 10 years.

DAVIS (92). Mrs Bridget Davis of Burnham-on-Sea died on 15th April 2017. She was the wife of Mr Ronald George Davis once a Terminal Operator at Bridgewater.

DUKELOW (77). Mr Francis (Frank) Dukelow of York died on 3rd June 2017. He was a Transport Supervisor at Buncefield Terminal when he left group service in 1993 after 31 years.

EDWARDS (91). Mrs Joyce Edwards of Farnham died on 7th May 2017. She was the wife of Mr Raymond Edwards once a Senior Retail Rep with National Benzole.

GEORGE (98). Mr Arthur George of Newcastle upon Tyne died on 10th May 2017. Mr George left group service in 1970 after 20 years.

GREEN (92). Mr Peter Green of Ringwood died on 14th May 2017. He worked in Real Estate/Marketing at Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1978 after 19 years.

GRIFFITHS (85). Mr Howard Griffiths of Newport, Gwent died on 11th May 2017. He was a Driver at Avonmouth when he left group service in 1987 after 25 years.

HARPER (87). Mr Ernest Harper of Rye died on 9th May 2017. He was i/c Accounts Payable, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 30 years.

HARRIS (80). Mrs Sylvia Harris of Southampton died on 13th December 2016. She was a Secretary in Southern Division, Southampton when she left group service in 1962 after 10 years.

HIBBERT (81). Mr Roy Hibbert of Manchester died on 21st June 2017. He was a Laboratory Assistant at Barton Terminal when he left group service in 1988 after 30 years.

HYETT (95). Mr Les Hyett of Birmingham died on 16th May 2017. He was Senior Marketing Assistant, Industrial Sales, Birmingham Regional Office when he left group service in 1975 after 38 years.

JOYCE (86). Mr Peter Joyce of Inverness died on 27th August 2017. He was Assistant Account Manager at Inverness when he left group service in 1985 after 29 years.

LAMBERT (82). Mr John Lambert of Widnes died on 17th June 2017. He was a Commercial Representative at Manchester Regional Office when he left group service in 1988 after 24 years.

LAWRENCE (88). Mr Alfred Lawrence of Northfleet died on 27th May 2017. He was an Engineer, Motor Barges at Purfleet when he left group service.

LEWIS (86). Mr Horwood Lewis of Maidenhead died on 19th June 2017. Before he left group service in 1983, Mr Lewis worked in Property Division, Shell-Mex House.

LISTER (96). Mr William Lister of Manchester has died. He was a Driver at Partington when he left group service in 1981 after 20 years.

McNULTY (69). Mr Daniel McNulty of Glasgow died on 29th June 2017. He was Business Development Manager, Shell UK Ltd, Cheadle Hulme when he left group service in 1993 after 20 years.

METCALF (101). Mrs Winifred Metcalf of Flixton, Manchester died on 31st May 2017. She worked at Trafford Park when she left group service in 1970 after 21 years.

MOSS (92). Mr James (Jim) Moss of Cheadle died on 1st September 2017. Jim worked in Freights and Utilities, Wythenshawe Computer Centre when he left group service in 1983 after 16 years.

NIXON (96). Mrs Edna Nixon of Weston-Super-Mare has died. She was the wife of Mr D E Cridge who once worked at Wine Street, Bristol.

PEARCY (105). Mrs Hilda Percy of Lydney died on 1st July 2017. She was a Canteen Supervisor at Fulham Motor Repair Service when she left group service in 1966 after 34 years.

PHILLIPS (88). Mr David Phillips of Farnham Royal has died. He was a Driver at Fulham when he left groups service in 1984 after 34 years.

SHAW (84). Mr W F Shaw of Sheffield died on 19th August 2017. He was a Senior Operations Assistant at Sheffield when he left group service in 1978 after 24 years.

SLADE (94). Mr Robert Slade of Ipswich died on 30 May 2017. He was a Shift Manager at Ipswich Terminal when he left group service in 1982 after 19 years.

SMITH (82). Mr Norman Smith of Chelmsford died on 13th August 2017. He was Budget Controller, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1987 after 27 years.

STOCKWELL (97). Mr Walter Stockwell of Canvey Island died on 22 August 2017. He was in Supply Department, Stanford-le-Hope when he left group service in 1970 after 32 years.

THOMAS (89). Mr Stanley Thomas of Upper Quinton died on 10th May 2017. He was Regional Manager - Retail, at Birmingham Regional Office when he left group service in 1984 after 28 years.

TREVELYAN (94). Mr Edgar Trevelyan of Claverham, Bristol, died on 16th July 2017. He worked in Transport Engineering (UOMK/2211), Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1983 after 35 years

WATTS (95). Mr Douglas Watts of Hayling Island died on 11 May 2017. He was a Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor at Plymouth when he left group service in 1977 after 40 years.

WHITELEGG (75). Mr Colin Whitelegg of Altrincham died on 31st May 2017. He was Manager, Barton Grease Plant, Trafford Park when he left group service in 1992 after 30 years.

WRIGHT (78). Mr Derek Wright of Milton Keynes died on 15th July 2017. He was a Driver at Buncefield when he left group service in 1992 after 28 years.

WIGMORE (91). Mr Sidney Wigmore of Bristol died on 4th June 2017. He was a Driver at Avonmouth when he left group service in 1981 after 27 years.

Wedding Anniversaries



Platinum

Jean and Tony Langley
32 High Ridge Road
Hemel Hempstead
HP3 0AG
12th July 2017

Golden

John & Chrissie Smith
8 The Hastings
Wickford
Essex
SS11 7EQ
19th August 2017

Sapphire

Tony and Joyce Harbottle
Khumbu,
Huxley Lane,
Tiverton,
Tarpорley,
Cheshire, CW6 9NF
19th August 2017

Congratulations to Jean and Tony on their 70 years together. Ten years ago the Hemel Gazette featured them at the time of their Diamond anniversary. Here is that report. Jean was Supervisor Secretarial Services BP Hemel Hempstead.

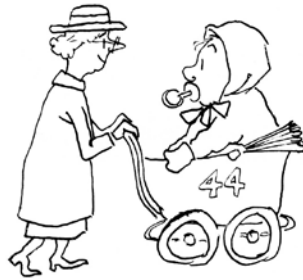
"Now into their 80s, Tony and Jean Langley married on July 12, 1947, at Christ Church, Watford, where the couple grew up. Following their honeymoon, the newly-weds first lived in Watford and later, in 1958, moved to Boxmoor. During the war Tony served in the Royal Navy and Jean was with a Voluntary Aid Detachment of the Red Cross, based at Watford Peace Memorial Hospital. "We are not anti-social, but we have never had the need to belong to organisations - we have always been happy with each other," says Jean, 80.

The couple, who live in High Ridge Road, Hemel Hempstead, enjoyed a weekend of celebrating their anniversary and were joined by their daughter Gill, home from Australia for the occasion. Their son Trevor and family live nearby in Tring. The couple attribute their amazing vitality to good food and exercise - Jean still swims regularly at Hemel Hempstead Sportspace. Tony, 82, says he only got round to retirement last year after a career in the construction industry. Since then he has taken up the art he first did at college, doing watercolours. "We keep ourselves

active mentally and as far as we are able physically," he says. Not keeping busy is just not an option for the couple as Jean, who retired at 65 from working as a secretary for BP, admits: "When I retired, I hated it. I really missed work."

A highlight of the couple's life was to be among the crowds for the Queen's Coronation in 1953. They were recently featured on the Timewatch television programme about the event, recalling their 20-hour wait to see the coach and procession. Sadly only three people are still alive who were at their wedding in 1947, but the couple say it seems no time at all since they were celebrating their golden wedding at St Michael's Manor in St Albans."

and Finally ...

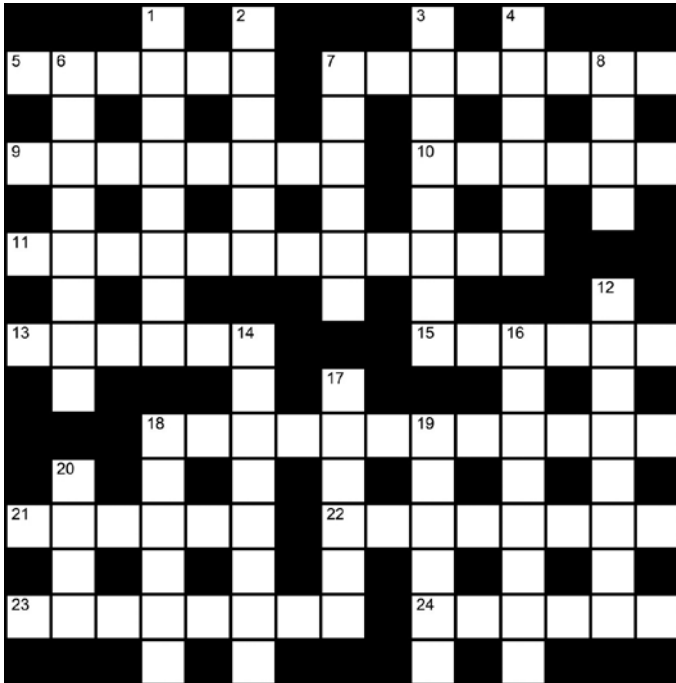


Quotable Quote

"In the 44 Club we have a lively and growing child"

G.T. Sentance Chairman
'The SMBP 44 Association' 1979

Prize Crossword



Across

- 5 Remove by cutting, abrading, or evaporating (6)
- 7 Italian restaurant in The Strand (8)
- 9 Eric Morecambe 'played' one by Grieg (8)
- 10 _____ 90 - the Football World Cup (6)
- 11 Mike Howard's Golf Club (12)
- 13 Townland in the civil parish of Templeport, Co. Cavan, Ireland. (6)
- 15 Simon - played Gareth in Four Weddings and a Funeral (6)
- 18 Paid tribute to his friend Mick Aslin (4,8)
- 21 OPEC was one (6)
- 22 It was 'Pink' (8)
- 23 Needed Anti-Freeze in the winter (8)
- 24 To confine in a cage (6)

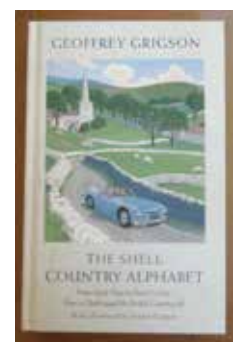
Down

- 1 Shrove Tuesday treat (8)
- 2 'Will it play in _____?' (Illinois city) (6)
- 3 A licence for writers and painters etc. (8)
- 4 Composer Elgar's first name (6)
- 6 Resulting from the activity of living organisms (8)
- 7 Arriving in good time (6)
- 8 Large boat (4)
- 12 Procuring goods and services (8)
- 14 The world's first synthetic plastic. (8)
- 16 Be embarrassed or humiliated, especially publicly. (4,4)
- 17 A state of near-unconsciousness or insensibility (6)
- 18 Measures which replaced Imperial (6)
- 19 'A Nice Little _____' (Arthur Daley) (6)
- 20 It was processed at Hemel Hempstead (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

A record 26 all-correct entries from which The Editor's long-suffering spouse chose Lionel Reece of Poynton Cheshire as the winner. A copy of the "Shell Country Alphabet" on its way to you, Lionel.



This edition of the Club News is available online at:
<http://tinyurl/ClubNews156>

Closing date for next issue
November 30th 2017