

Retiree News



A Biannual Publication for Retirees of all
Chevron UK Companies



Editor's Chat

Issue 76, November 2019

Firstly, may I say a big Thank You to retirees that have contacted me to say how much they enjoy Retiree News. It is my pleasure to bring each issue together and I want to thank Sean Peters who creates the lay out and once approved, arranges for the printing and mailing out to some 4,000 of you. I have said it before and will again, this is your publication and it is important to include articles from you. I always enjoy reading them and including personal stories in each issue so keep them coming.

Can you believe another year is coming to an end? Quite a lot has happened this year – England won the cricket world cup – hooray! That was very exciting. Roger Federer did not quite make winning at Wimbledon but what a player he is and a joy to watch. The British Open Golf returned to Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years and gave us lots of ups and downs with the weather creating havoc, however a good Open. Athletics World Championships, although low audiences in Dhoha, but well done to Dina Asher-Smith, she has a lovely smile. Now well and truly back to the football season, not my choice, but I do understand why so many people enjoy the game. Rugby World Cup in Japan, now that is a game I enjoy. However, England were good beating New Zealand, but were outplayed in the Final by South Africa. They will have to wait another four years to try again. Then came Formula 1, a must to watch in our house as Maurice is a motor racing and rally fan. What a race for Lewis Hamilton in the USA, started from fifth, ended second and became World Champion with two races to go. It has been a great year of sport for the UK.

This is the current laboratory at Wisley which is being replaced by new facilities opening next year and then this building will then be renovated to allow being open to the public for exhibitions etc. Wisley is the flagship garden of the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) and is around half hour from where I live. It is one of my most favourite places to visit at any time of the year as each season has its own beauty. Other RHS gardens are Harlow Carr in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, Hyde Hall in Chelmsford, Essex and Rosemoor in Great Torrington, Devon. A new garden is being created in Salford and is coming along well, due to open sometime next year. If you have one of these near you, they are really worth a visit. Being outside in fresh air with lots of plants and trees to enjoy is good for the soul and this has been proven by medics.



We have to make the most of every day of our lives whatever the weather, rain or shine. Life is precious so enjoy every moment. Get out in the fresh air, take a walk, go for a swim, just sit in the garden, that is my favourite occupation, plus working in it too!

That's all for now, have a safe, warm winter and a good time over Christmas/New Year.

News From Chevron

It is becoming increasingly difficult for me to receive material about what Chevron is doing as so much of it is being shared by videos and social media which is only available to current employees. Therefore, this section of Retiree News has ceased. This means I need to hear from lots of you with articles to fill this space in future editions!! In this issue we have articles from Spain, Australia and New Zealand and of course UK, **more please!**



Here are some lovely personal stories from retirees. With so many of you around, there must be thousands of stories that could be included in future editions. Don't be shy! Share your experiences with others here within Retiree News.

A Very Long Time Ago

Peter Franklin

A very long time ago "when Pontius was a pilot" I was a Regent Southern Region retail representative for a very short time then we re-branded to Texaco. Owing to Norfolk being given low priority for re-branding with the new Hexagon forecourt signs all our dealer owned sites were still sporting "Regent Lollipops". At that time Norfolk had more sites than several other counties put together, but this was evidently not taken into account. The vast majority of these were dealer owned.

In due course our group was summoned to a meeting in Norwich which would be visited by Richard (Tricky Dicky) Turlington the Regional Manager. His route on the old A11 took him past one dealer site still with the old "Lollipop" sign proudly displayed. He of course made it quite clear that he strongly desired that this should be rectified post haste. During the meeting it was arranged that at lunchtime after a few "Refreshments" I was to fade quietly away and deal with the situation. Despite the fact I was 6' 2" tall and 14 stones he apparently did not notice my absence

This site was owned by an ex Battle-of Britain Polish Pilot in the R.A.F. he had an unpronounceable name so he opted to be called Mr Zak. He was very un-co-operative with the Regent company and the site was quite an eyesore anyway. I drove to the site and walked all round trying to find him to explain that as the sign was now illegal and had to be removed or he could be prosecuted. Whether he would have believed such a story was very dubious. After a good ten minutes I decided that he was not on site and vainly looked for a ladder. After failing this task, I realised I would have to destroy the sign from ground level, not an easy job.

The front wall of the site had been partly demolished by a truck and there was debris lying everywhere. The smallest piece I could find was two and a half bricks firmly cemented together. This would have to do as it was the only throw-able missile I could find. I decided I would have to deliver it like a fast bowler so having paced out a run up I started a sprint towards the sign. I had just reached launch velocity with my arm loaded and ready to swing when a voice with a heavy Polish accent roared "Meester Frankling vot are you dooink"

Now stopping a 14 stone body travelling at top speed presented a problem and I was not very proud of the contortions and expletives that followed, fortunately Mr Zak thought it was hilarious but vehemently disagreed with my intended actions. I stalled for what seemed like hours before he had to leave on other business and I was able after several attempts to remove most of the incredibly strong Perspex and leave just an empty frame.

My group Superintendent as they were called at that time didn't even acknowledge my success, but Dicky congratulated him on his resourcefulness and initiative. Oh, the joys of being a rep in those good old days.

Hi Peter from your ex LCP, I want to thank you for this article. Ed!

My Life since Retirement from Texaco

Stewart Cusden

I have lived in Madrid since retiring from Texaco in 2001 and since 2006, have been a member of the Executive Committee of the British Benevolent Fund of Madrid (BBF). Founded in 1928, it was a fund run under the auspices of the British Embassy to help British citizens in desperate need in Madrid. The story goes that at that time Spanish aristocracy liked to have British nannies living in their houses to look after their children, but after they had completed their service, they had no pension or anywhere to live.

Since those days the BBF has changed dramatically and is a Spanish registered charity independent of the embassy, although the British Ambassador remains the Honorary President. The committee is made up of volunteers, the majority of whom hold down other jobs and have families to bring up. The BBF holds fundraising events and enjoys a core base of individual donors. I became Chairman in 2014 and oversaw its legal representation which enables the BBF to help British citizens throughout all of Spain and it works closely with the British Consulates and other partner charities who are on the front line when citizens are seeking help, whether they be on vacation or resident in Spain permanently.

I have recently stepped down as Chairman. As you can see from the press release below, my wife and I visited Buckingham Palace to collect my award. The award is a reflection of the good work by all volunteers to the BBF, but in addition, I have had the tremendous satisfaction that volunteering provides.

Part of Press Release

Madrid residents John Scott and Stewart Cusden are among six UK nationals named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Both the current and previous Chair of the British Benevolent Fund have received Honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. John Scott has been awarded an OBE for services to British/Spanish relations and Stewart Cusden has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the British community in Spain. In total, six UK nationals resident in Spain were named in this year's list, published on 8 June 2019.

Stewart Cusden moved to Madrid in 1996 as country manager for Texaco before retiring in 2001. He became a volunteer with the British Benevolent Fund in 200, becoming its Chairman in 2014. Under his Chairmanship, he not only professionalised the organisation, but increased its profile and support, moving it from supporting UK nationals in Madrid only to those in need across Spain.



"Stewart Cusden has radically transformed the British Benevolent Fund Madrid into a professionally run Spain-wide registered charity – increasing the volunteer base and quadrupling the number of beneficiaries in four years. Thanks to Stewart, our Consulates have formed strong partnerships with BBF that have enabled us to significantly improve our support for UK nationals in need."

Stewart Cusden – "I feel very honoured that the work of the British Benevolent Fund (BBF) has been recognised in this way and that the award reflects a lot of hard work by all the volunteers in the BBF in supporting British people in need in Spain."

Many congratulations Stewart. I trust your visit to Buckingham Palace was a great experience. What now for you since retiring from BBF I wonder. Ed!

The Occult

Norman Swindells

Prior to joining Texaco, I served as an Engineer Officer in the Merchant Navy, my main company being Cunard. In 1950 I was based on board their 'Britannic' and we were in New York to pick up American only passengers and then head for a two and half month cruise to the Mediterranean. Our first stop enroute to the Med would be Madeira, which would take about six days, so four of us on the 8 to 12 watch, for a little fun, decided that each night when finishing the midnight watch, we would gather in my cabin for a few drinks and see if somehow or other, we could manage to contact the spirit world. Incidentally, none of us believed in the occult, but that first night at sea we sat round my coffee table with hands on hands and feet on feet so none of us could cheat and started to ask questions, followed by the request "If you are here, would you knock on the table once for yes and twice for no". After around an hour with no reaction we were about to give up when suddenly we began to get some answers.

The next night we began to get answers immediately, so getting more adventurous, we asked the Spirit? to lift the table once for yes and twice for no. At first the table lifted about an inch, but by the time we packed in, the height was around a foot. It now became obvious there really was some outside influence and that none of us were cheating.

The fourth night, by which time our colleagues on board knew about our experiment and were desperate to join us (but no way), we decided to get some really good evidence. This happened with our question "if you are here would you do something unusual?" The prompt response was for the only light in the cabin, my bed light, which to darken the cabin still further we had covered in a towel, which promptly burst into flames. This could have happened any time and was stupid of us to do, but nevertheless, gave us food for thought.

The fifth night, getting closer to Madeira, we again asked for something unusual to happen. This time we all felt a rather sinister breeze or movement in the cabin, then something happening around the wash basin with toothbrush and glasses being moved, followed by both taps being turned on full flow. Then one of us, (not me I swear), said "if you are here will you appear?" There was a dive to put the main cabin light on and kick over the coffee

table and thank goodness, in time to vanquish the spirit, if it was there. This was the last time we conducted a séance and it may be that the hugeness of the ocean attracts spirits, but whatever it was, we no longer wished to find out.

I wondered what seamen got up to in their break time, quite eerie. Great to hear from you Norman. Ed!

Aussie Winter

From Bob Cooper

(This article was sent to me in September, hence referring to our summer and their winter. Ed!)

Whilst the UK is basking in summer and enjoying the likes of Wimbledon and cricket, most of Southern Australia is experiencing cool to cold days which means jumpers and parkas. But it is the time of year when we enjoy winter ball sports. Clearly the big game and played in every state is Australian Rules Football. This is a hugely attended sport and on a per capita basis it is one of the most attended sports on the planet.

In the Eastern states, mainly New South Wales and Queensland it's Rugby League that has big and passionate followings, but the code has never made significant inroads to other states and territories. Then of course there's the game they play in heaven, Rugby Union. We look forward each year to the trans-Tasman battle for the Bledisloe Cup. Whilst some may debate that the Calcutta Cup is the oldest international trophy, the two combatants, England and Scotland share a land border. This means that the Bledisloe is a true international competition between the Aussie Wallabies and from the other side of the ditch (as we refer to the Tasman Sea) the New Zealand All-Blacks.

This year is a two-match series with the first in Perth, Western Australia and the second in Auckland. Now I'm in Adelaide so to get to Perth it's a tad different from say hopping on a train at Paddington and then around two hours later getting to Cardiff. My plane journey would be around three and a half hours. One would need to think of flying times from Heathrow to Moscow. In fact, I'm closer to Auckland than Perth!

But what happened in the actual games? Well in Perth the Wallabies handed the All-Blacks a bit of a drubbing, winning by 47 to 26. This win was only anticipated by the Aussie media, but seeing that neither side had played in this brand new stadium, the result was only predicted by the pundits with 20-20 hindsight. Then they played at Eden Park, Auckland which has been 'Fortress All Blacks' for many years. True to form the All Blacks handed the Wallabies a hiding 36 – zip. Now the whole world's interest in Rugby moves to Japan and the Rugby World Cup. My prediction? All Blacks.

That's winter sport in Australia, brief, fiery and full of excitement, can't wait for it to all happen again next year. Oh, and later in September the Melbourne Cricket Ground will be full whilst the final of the AFL season is played out. At the time of writing there are four sides left and my money is on Geelong. Looking forward to a summer of cricket, cheers



Footnote:

The team I picked to win the AFL Championship was knocked out! They were beaten by Richmond who in the Grand Final yesterday thrashed Greater Western Sydney by 15 goals before a crowd of just over one hundred thousand at the G, which is what the Melbourne Cricket Ground is locally called. Cheers dears,

Great to receive news from down under, thanks Rob. Ed!

Update of my life

Geoff Drewett

As I approach the 25th Anniversary of my retirement from Texaco I thought it a good time to proffer an update on a piece I wrote some years ago. That article recorded the benefits of early retirement that had enabled me to visit countless Countries before becoming a Citizen of New Zealand. The following will read like an advertisement issued by the New Zealand Tourist Board, but I make no apologies for that, because it is all absolutely true.

Over the thirteen or so years here, I've learned a lot about my new home and become aware of the many advantages of living in this small - even remote - but exceptionally beautiful country. Perhaps I can persuade you to come and see for yourself. Most of the good aspects stem from there being a relatively small population. To qualify that statement let me illustrate. UK 244,000 sq km., NZ is 269,000 sq km. The population of the UK being over 64 million whilst here we have just 4.5 million. In fact, the South Island, where I live, has more than half the land but only 1.5 million people. There are no traffic jams, even on Bank Holidays, people are friendly and many beautiful beaches are only sparsely populated.

Lots of smaller issues help to make life more pleasant. The first hour of parking in town is always free. A plumber or electrician can normally be available the next day, or even later on the same day. Even an appointment with a Doctor or Dentist is rarely beyond 24 - 48 hours. A couple of recent personal experiences. I lost a wallet with cards and plentiful cash; it was handed in to the Police. I left a trolley of "paid for" provisions in a Supermarket, please don't ask me how; the following day a Customer Service employee accompanied me around the store filling a trolley with all the goods I had left behind. Added to all this is the perfect weather we experience. Nelson, my home town, had 2,550 hours of Sunshine in 2018. As a point of comparison again, the figure for London was around 1,500.

House prices are perhaps the biggest advantage, although they are creeping up gradually. I live in a home that in the right position in the UK (I'm not speaking of being anywhere near London) would set you back a minimum of 1.5 million pounds, here it was 550,000. Taxation is similar except that we have no Inheritance or Capital Gains Tax; the kids love that one, and interest rates on term deposits are between 3.5 and 4%! We are on first name terms with Doctors, Lawyers, yes and even IRD employees are the norm.

As I approach 80, I still have many pursuits available to me. The clear roads make for great rides on my Harley and exploring areas I've not covered yet.

Social activities include Barbershop Singing and playing Trombone in the City Brass Band. My home has an extensive sea view, with gulls frequently above our garden - Paradise!

So good to hear you are enjoying life to the full. Ed

Reunion Lunch at the RAF Club – Piccadilly

Rod Pesch

On 25 October a Reunion lunch for over eighty was held at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. This event is open to all Texaco, Chevron Caltex and Gulf retirees and friends, from across all the regions. This is the second year that this un-sponsored event has taken place and numbers attending are increasing! The venue of the RAF Club is a firm favourite with all and receives numerous compliments. It was a great occasion with everyone engaged in furious conversation, almost as if time had stood still. With such unanimous support, it is now being planned for another lunch next year. The date chosen will be 23 October 2020 at the RAF Club. Add this in your diaries and details be sent out next year.

QUIZ



The answers to the quiz in the May issue of Retiree News were:

- 1 Nine
- 2 Anode
- 3 Butterfly
- 4 Victoria
- 5 Six
- 6 "The Revenant"
- 7 Doe
- 8 Hands
- 9 Elton John
- 10 Jason Bateman
- 11 Ten
- 12 LXXVII
- 13 Cecilia
- 14 Flock together
- 15 The Taming of the Shrew
- 16 True Blue
- 17 The brain
- 18 Hummingbird
- 19 Eric Clapton
- 20 Italy

The winners were:

Paul Culliford, Pontyclun. Windsor Davies, Haverfordwest.
Mel Horn, Milford Haven. Arlene Marrs, Aberdeen.
Tony Shapcott, Newport.

The General Knowledge quiz for this edition is:

- 1 Which is the third largest of the Channel Islands?
- 2 Who was Liverpool's skipper in the 2005 European Champions League triumph?
- 3 In which Puccini opera does Mimi appear?
- 4 How many sides have an octagon?
- 5 Which type of calendar is used today in the western world?
- 6 What instrument can be bass, electric or Spanish?



- 7 Think about this – which club did Harry Redknapp manage first – Portsmouth or Southampton?
- 8 Which female named hurricane devastated New Orleans in September 2005?
- 9 What do the numbers add up to on the opposite sides of a dice?
- 10 Which city is said to have been founded by Romulus and Remus?
- 11 In the Zodiac, which animal is linked with Capricorn?
- 12 How many years are involved in a silver anniversary?
- 13 Which country originated the term 'plonk' for Wine?
- 14 What is the singer Adele's surname?
- 15 What was the final battle that Napoleon fought in?
- 16 On which day are British elections held?
- 17 What was the name of the land where Gulliver met the Little People?
- 18 Which animal's name comes first in the dictionary?
- 19 How many sides has a 20-pence piece?
- 20 Which children's author wrote 'Gangsta Granny'?

Come on everyone, have a go for a bit of fun. Answers by email or mail and please add your address. Answers to be received by 20 December 2019.

BIRTHDAYS

80

Sid Atkinson, Forest of Dean
Brian Bateman, Midlands
Geoff Drewett, New Zealand
Herbert Brian Jones, Pembrokeshire

90

Derek Bond, Droitwich
Peter Fletcher, Belgium

Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

Alan and Maureen Barton on 11 July. Alan is ex Gulf. They celebrated with lunch and live in Sevenoaks.

Peter and Shirley Berriman celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, on 5 September 2019. They had a lunch with immediate family at the Luton Hoo Hotel and complex, which was most enjoyable and can be recommended! They also enjoyed a river cruise up the Rhine to Switzerland, most relaxing. He still manages to play some golf, only nine holes unless he uses a buggy! They moved and down sized three years ago and are enjoying living in Wilmslow, where they can walk to the shops and there is a good bus service when we need it. Peter sends his best wishes to all his old colleagues.

Bert and Eileen Wilkinson married in their hometown of Eccles in Lancashire on Saturday 22 August 1959. They are having an anniversary year which started off with four weeks in Spain (where they lived for ten years) in February visiting old friends and places. There are no plans for anything big in August as the bowling season does not finish until September when they will be returning to Spain, but they will be doing other things before then.

On Monday 22 August 1966 Bert started work for Regent Oil at the Manchester Lube Terminal; which he said was a very lucky day for him.

Senior Citizens

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others. However, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was not the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music, the pride out of appearance, the courtesy out of driving, the romance out of love, the commitment out of marriage, the responsibility out of parenthood, the togetherness out of the family, the learning out of education, the service out of patriotism, the golden rule from rulers, the nativity scene out of cities, the civility out of behaviour, the refinement out of language, the dedication out of employment, the prudence out of spending, the ambition out of achievement or God out of government and school. And we certainly are not the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others.

And do we understand the meaning of patriotism and remember those who have fought and died for our country? Yes, I am a Senior Citizen.

I'm the life of the party, even if it lasts until 8pm. I'm very good at opening childproof caps - with a hammer. I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up. I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying. I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere. I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy and that's just my left leg! I'm beginning to realise that ageing is not for wimps.

Yes, I'm a Senior Citizen and I think I am having the time of my life!

Now if I could only remember who sent this to me I wouldn't send it back to them but I would send it to many more too. Spread the laughter, share the cheer, let's be happy while we're here.

The Green Thing

received from Pam Clark

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day." That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles, and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right: they didn't have the green thing in her day.



Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right: they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV or radio in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for them. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded-up newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right: they didn't have the green thing back then. They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space just to find the nearest pizza joint.

But that old lady is right: they didn't have the green thing back in her day.



TIME FOR A CHUCKLE



Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally, she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered. "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said. "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Natural Highs

Being in love.
Laughing so hard your face hurts.
A hot shower.
No queues at the supermarket.
Taking a drive on a pretty road.
Hearing your favourite song on the radio.
Lying in bed listening to the rain outside.
Clean laundered towels fresh from the line.,
Chocolate milkshake, or vanilla, or strawberry!
A bubble bath.
Giggling.
A good conversation.
Finding a £20 note in your coat from last winter.
Running through sprinklers.
Laughing for absolutely no reason at all.
Having someone tell you that you're beautiful, or handsome as the case may be.
Accidentally overhearing someone say something nice about you.
Waking up and realising you still have a few hours left to sleep.
Making new friends or spending time with old ones.
Having someone play with your hair.
Sweet dreams.
Making eye contact with a cute stranger.
Holding hands with someone you care about.
Running into an old friend and realising that some things (good or bad) never change.
Watching the expression on someone's face as they open a much-desired present from you.
Getting out of bed every morning and being grateful for another beautiful day.
Knowing that somebody misses you.
Getting a hug from someone you care about deeply.
Knowing you've done the right thing, no matter what other people think.

Remember When?

Anon

My mum used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting e. Coli.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake or at the beach instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then.

We all took PE and risked permanent injury with a pair of Dunlop sandals instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors that cost as much as a small car. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We got the cane for doing something wrong at school, they used to call it discipline yet we all grew up to accept the rules and to honour and respect those older than us.



We had fifty kids in our class and we all learned to read and write, do maths and spell almost all the words needed to write a grammatically correct letter. Funny That!

We all said prayers in school irrespective of our religion, sang the national anthem and no one got upset.

Staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention we wish we hadn't got.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations. We weren't!

Oh yeah; and where was the antibiotics and sterilisation kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played "King of the Castle" on piles of gravel left on vacant building sites and when we got hurt, mum pulled out the 2/6p bottle of iodine and then we got our backside spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a ten-day dose of antibiotics and then mum calls the lawyer to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that?

We never needed to get into group therapy and/or anger management classes. We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac!

How did we ever survive?

Six-year-old responses

An Elementary School Teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of well-known proverbs and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Don't change horses | until they stop running. |
| 2 | Strike while the | bug is close. |
| 3 | It's always darkest before | daylight saving time. |
| 4 | Never underestimate the power of | termites. |
| 5 | You can lead a horse to water but | how? |
| 6 | Don't bite the hand that | looks dirty. |
| 7 | No news is | impossible. |
| 8 | A miss is as good as a | Mr. |
| 9 | You can't teach an old dog new | maths. |
| 10 | If you lie down with dogs, you'll | stink in the morning. |
| 11 | Love all, trust | me. |
| 12 | The pen is mightier than the | pigs. |
| 13 | An idle mind is | the best way to relax. |

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 14 | Where there's smoke there's | pollution. |
| 15 | Happy the bride who | gets all the presents. |
| 16 | A penny saved is | not much. |
| 17 | Two's company, three's | the Musketeers. |
| 18 | Don't put off till tomorrow what | you put on to go to bed. |
| 19 | Laugh and the whole world | |
| | laughs with you, cry and | you have to blow your nose. |
| 20 | There are none so blind as | Stevie Wonder. |
| 21 | Children should be seen and not | spanked or grounded. |
| 22 | If at first you don't succeed | get new batteries. |
| 23 | You get out of something only | |
| | what you | see in the picture on the box. |
| 24 | When the blind lead the blind | get out of the way. |
| 25 | A bird in the hand | is going to poop on you. |
| | And the Winner and last one! | |
| 26 | Better late than | pregnant. |

OBITUARIES

Sadly, we record the passing of our colleagues. RIP.

- Terence Ball (G) on 09/08/19 aged 75, Pembrokeshire
Bent Baumbach (T) on 07/08/19 aged 73, Gillingham
Matthew James Beck (T) on 04/06/19 aged 76, Derby
James Martin Birt (T) on 18/04/19 aged 80, Weston Super Mare
David Bradford (T) on 20/05/19 aged 91, Essex
Nigel Budden (G) on 14/08/19 aged 84. Dorset
Michael Burke (C) on 07/04/19 aged 85, Birmingham
Philip Thomas Burkett (Cx) on 08/07/19 aged 69, Rochester
R L Burtrand (T) on 25/04/19 aged 91, Chatham
Francis Chaloner Chute (T) on 04/09/19 aged 90, Arundel
Derek James Crofts (G) on 01/05/19 aged 82, Selby
Albert George Davies (G) on 22/08/19 aged 78, Milford Haven
Thomas Griffith Davies (G) on 01/09/19 aged 71, Pembrokeshire
Ronald Jone Davis (T) on 16/06/19 aged 88, Birmingham
Archibald George Duguid (C) on 25/04/19 aged 78, Banffshire
Ronald Norman Evans (G) on 14/08/19 aged 82, Milford Haven
Edward Fitzwilliam, (T) on 17/10/18 aged 89, Cardiganshire
Peter William Francis (T) on 18/04/19 aged 79, Middlesex
Maurice Stjohn Hayes (T) on 07/08/19 aged 74, Surrey
James Clifton Hunt (T) on 29/04/19 aged 83, Northampton
Donald Mcfarlane Innes (T) on 09/04/19 aged 90, Sheldon
J M Johnson (T) on 06/06/19 aged 77, Kent
Herbert Brian Jones (T) July 19 aged 80, Pembrokeshire
Martin David Keith (C) on 04/01/18 aged 86, Aberdeenshire
William Smith Kirkwood (T) on 27/07/19 aged 77, Grimsby
Anthony Harold Knight (G) on 30/08/19 aged 81, Swindon
Lesley Marleine Knight (G) on 30/05/19 aged 72, Croydon
Daniel Edward Lamb (C) on 27/08/19 aged 82, Middlesex



Michael Ian McMinnies (T) on 02/05/19 aged 82, Kent
Colin Otteson (Cx) on 24/11/18 aged 79, Wokingham
Marvyn Peter Owen (T) on 15/05/19 aged 66, Chelmsford
Teddy Reay (C) on 22/05/19 aged 72 Aberdeen
David George Rees (T) on 25/06/19 aged 77, Pembroke Dock
John Anthony Rees (G) on 16/06/19 aged 88, Haverfordwest
Clive Gordon Shaw (T) on 07/09/19 aged 77, Co. Down
Ronald Cecil Shephard (T) on 06/04/19 aged 87, Hampshire
Ralph Anderson Sillar (G) on 16/04/19 aged 91, Ayr
James Smith (T) on 04/01/19 aged 74, Glasgow
Sylvia Smith (T) on 13/08/19 aged 83, Merseyside
Trevor Stephen Smit (T) on 04/08/19 aged 89, Exeter
David Bruce Tasker (T) on 25/09/19 aged 87, Manchester
David Huw Thomas (Cx) on 16/07/19 aged 58, Pembrokeshire
Frank Gerald Tudor (T) on 20/05/19 aged 82, Putney
Nicholas John Webb (G) on 28/04/19 aged 73, Essex
David Whybrow (G) on 29/07/19 aged 91, Somerset
Kenneth Williams (T) on 26/04/19 aged 89, Pembroke
Newman John Williams (T) on 15/08/19 aged 80, Dyfed
Albert James Wood (T) on 09/09/19 aged 80, Barking
Sydney Andrew Wood (T) on 07/08/19 aged 94, Berkshire
Dennis Norman Yates (T) on 28/06/19 aged 84, Swindon

Quotes



I finally realised it, people are prisoners of their phones, that's why they are called cell phones.

**What's the difference between a cat and a comma?
One has claws at the end of its paws,
And one is a pause at the end of a clause**

I thought growing old would take longer

HOW SAND IS MADE

**Sand is tiny fragments of rock that have been worn away over thousands of years.
Contrary to popular belief, sand is made as rocks crash and break in rivers and streams on their way to the sea, rather than the ebb and flow of the tides.
Deposits left by breaking rocks in the sea turns to silt and is much lighter so is dispersed over a much wider area out to sea, rather than on the shore line.
Some of the rock is soluble, but other bits remain and as they are slowly rubbed down over time they get smaller and smaller until they become what we know as sand**

LEXIPHILES

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

Editors Last Word

With the onset of winter, it is time to make sure you are warm and snug. Hopefully you have had your flu injection and are ready to face whatever weather winter throws at us.

**June Parham McCullough
Editor**

**51 Lakeside, 82 Eaton Drive
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7RA
Tel/Fax: 020 8549 7660,
Mobile: 07802 711952
Email: jandm-mccullough@tiscali.co.uk**



Our Family of Brands