

Retiree News



A Biannual Publication for Retirees of all
Chevron UK Companies



Editor's Chat

Issue 78, November 2020

I hope this finds you all in good spirits and free of the dreadful Covid virus. How this has turned everyone's life upside down. I saw this recently and felt it a good short piece to include here.

Whoever wrote this is bang on!

We fell asleep in one world and woke up in another. Suddenly Disney is out of magic, Paris no longer romantic, New York doesn't stand up any more, the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress and Mecca is empty.

Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons and not visiting parents and friends becomes an act of love. Suddenly you realise that power, beauty and money are worthless and can't get you the oxygen you're fighting for.

The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages. I think it's sending us a message.

'You are not necessary. The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine. When you come back, remember that you are my guests, not my masters'.

Amen to that. Ed!

Apart from that, we had a good warm and dry summer, then came October and lots of rain whether welcome or not. For me it was good to see the very dry gardens and grass getting some welcome rain. It is uncertain how the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period will be, but whatever you are doing, hopefully you will be able to spend it with family and/or friends. All I can say is take care of yourselves and perhaps this Retiree News will give you some enjoyable reading. Until next time, Maurice and I are sending Best Wishes to you all.

Feeling Guilty So Wrote This Article

Colin Shaw

On reading the article 'The First Mermaid of Texaco' in the May issue, you have finally made me feel guilty enough to hit the keyboard! This article hit the right chords! I'm sure we met a couple of times when I worked at Brighton Depot under Geoff Goody.

I joined Texaco at the Brighton Depot as a tanker driver in 1971, having previously worked for Esso and Burmah Oil. I spent 23 happy years at Brighton with a great bunch of people, and a number of us shared a passion for Tall Ship Sailing. A few of us used to sail with the STA on Sir Winthorp Churchill and Malcolm Miller. Then in the mid-80s, the Jubilee Sailing Trust built the Lord Nelson, a Tall Ship specifically designed and built to take less able-bodied people to sea, including wheelchair users. A few of us from Brighton took one of the early voyages on Lord Nelson and I was hooked on the whole ethos of the JST, so much so, that with the help of Geoff Goody, we persuaded Head office to support the Trust, firstly by an auction of TOT items, and then supplying fuel and oils for the ship, which they did for a number of years. You mentioned Prince Andrew in your article, he was the Patron of the trust right up to his recent demise.

Since I retired in 1994, I became heavily involved with the Trust, sailing as voyage crew and doing maintenance on board. In 1996 the Trust decided to build another ship, which would be built of sustainable timber in Woolston, Southampton. I also helped with the build and Tenacious was finally launched in 2000. She was built by ten professionals and hundreds of volunteers of mixed abilities.

Retiring at the age of 55, I needed other things to do; firstly, I took a couple of full-time jobs each lasting about five months, before realising that I didn't retire early to keep paying income tax. I then took a casual part-time job with a local car dealer, which was great as I could work when I wished. This was delivering and collecting cars from all over the country. This enabled me to pursue my two passions, sailing and motorcycling. I shared ownership of a sailboat with a retired Texaco driver and we sailed locally out of Shoreham Harbour. As I mentioned earlier, I also continued volunteering with the JST in places such as, Southampton, Greece, Malta, Las Palmas, Antigua and Cape Town. Of the many voyages I have sailed with the JST, the two that stand out were: from Cape Town to Durban when we spotted a Great White shark. Then from Antigua to Panama City visiting the ABC islands en-route and Columbia, before being the first British Tall Ship to enter the Panama Canal in one hundred years, with yours truly at the helm. I felt pretty stressed, but also proud at the time

Motorcycling wise. I try to do at least one continental tour a year lasting about ten days. Right now, June 2020, I should have been touring the Pyrenees and Picos mountains with a couple of friends, but Covid says NO! Most Sundays are spent riding with a couple of other retirees, and we call ourselves TOF's. Texaco Old Friends. (*friends is a polite word to that given!!*)

We have a daughter, grandchildren and Great grandchildren, living in California, who we were going to visit last month, but again Covid said NO! I still keep in touch with a number of the old staff from Brighton; two or three times a year we meet up for lunch in a local pub, which at the moment Covid says NO!



In 2010 I decided to stop work altogether, but still needed something to do so I joined a community gym and also volunteered at Shoreham Harbour Lifeboat Station as a visitor's guide. At the Lifeboat Station, I am proud to be able to tell visitors of Texaco's involvement in supplying free fuel to the lifeboat for over fifty years, plus also donations to new boats. We also helped with the cost of the new Boathouse in 2010. Sadly, this arrangement ceased a couple of years back when the Brighton Depot closed down. I finished volunteering at the end of 2019, but still go to the gym, but again, currently Covid says NO!

I won't bore you with all the holidays we have taken since retirement, but suffice to say that most of them involved water somewhere in the world. It's taken me 26 years to write this, so I'm guessing that 26 years from now, I will be writing from Davy Jones Locker

Thanks for this Colin, lovely to hear how your life has been so full of variety. Perhaps an article about your various holidays would be very interesting. Glad my article encouraged you to send this in. Enjoyed it very much. For information to readers, Colin sent this in mid -June. How is Covid now, are all of you able to do more than self-isolate? Ed!

Volunteering with a Difference

Innes Clark

Care to try something different that has a life changing result for the visually impaired? For over three years now my wife Barbara and I have been volunteering as puppy walkers for Guide Dogs for the Blind.



Our first dog, Jaco, a cross between a Golden Retriever and a Labrador, arrived in our household as an adorable eight-week old puppy. House training was therefore a priority and for this the Guide Dogs' approach is to take the young pup to the back door at suitable intervals and say "Get busy" so that they trot off and do

their business in the back garden at a designated spot. Incredibly we have found the pups get into this regime within two weeks or so. They are also given a cage with a comfortable blanket and encouraged to use this as both a safe retreat and a place to sleep at night. Outside walks are not possible until all inoculations are completed, normally 12 weeks, so the garden is used well in the early days.

We have monthly training sessions when all guide dog puppies from one area (about twenty) get together for a two-hour training session, principally learning how to walk on the lead and how not to be distracted by food or other dogs! Over the course of the year we introduce the puppies to travel on various types of public transport. We visit airports (by invitation) and go through security and even onto the plane, much to the delight of the crew. We also go on trains and buses, again, by invitation, we even get to go aboard the NorthLink Ferry out of Aberdeen for a number of hours experiencing how all the cargo and livestock are moved to and from the Islands.

Guide Dogs for the Blind receives no financial support from the Government which means fundraising is an important extra activity for Guide Dog volunteers. On a regular basis and only by invitation, Guide Dogs arranges visits to places such as Marks and Spencer and shopping centres, festivals, oil companies and office blocks. This is always great fun and as there are normally two dogs on show there it can occasionally be a wee bit of a challenge to keep our little four-legged friends from going wild with joy in each other's company! Two hours is the maximum they are permitted to be 'on duty' (depending on age and temperament). People love meeting the pups and trained guide dogs and they are very generous with their contributions. Invariably during these sessions, I am asked the question "How can you give your dog up at the end of their puppy walking period?" The answer is simple: you have to think of the impact your dog will make on someone else's life and not think so much about yourself. In most cases you would have the dog for about 15-18 months and then it would go off to 'big school' in Forfar where the Guide Dogs Training Centre is based. At this stage the dogs are trained by experts in the use of a harness and in safe navigation for their ultimate purpose, which is to assist a visually impaired individual to have as full a life as possible at home and frequently also at work.

I went down to Forfar last year to witness first-hand, though from a respectable distance of 100 yards, how Jaco was learning the ropes. Many of us take our eyesight for granted and automatically negotiate other people, traffic, prams, road works and even parked cars blocking our way. I was so proud to see Jaco acting as his trainer's 'eyes', steering her around obstacles or stopping to allow others to pass, sitting and waiting until prompted to move forward. The trainers loved Jaco's enthusiasm for his 'job' and his friendly disposition. It made me proud that he sailed through training and was placed with his human partner near Edinburgh, where he is now part of a family. I was also delighted to learn that Jaco has another guide dog in the household, his partner's previous guide dog who was retiring but staying with the family – a great result for all! Guide dogs normally retire after 8-9 years of service.



Interestingly, if Jaco had failed to meet the strict training needs of Guide Dogs for the Blind, he could have ended up in another service, or being an assistance dog to help someone with specific individual needs, such as detecting seizures or helping with self-confidence. Or he could have been withdrawn altogether and gone to live with a family as a normal family dog (or maybe even come back 'home' to us).

Demand for trained guide dogs far exceeds supply, so after seeing Jaco head off, tail wagging, to his new life and after a long holiday visiting family in Australia, we were asked to take on an eight-week old bitch, Poppy. She is also Guide Dogs preferred mix of Labrador and Golden Retriever and is very smart and very beautiful, if perhaps a little more laid back than Jaco. So here we go again: great fun within the house and a joy for our neighbours, family and friends to meet our latest four-legged protegee. We are excited to see how she will get on when she enters her next phase of training.

Having a guide dog puppy is a lot of fun: it is not expensive, as Guide Dogs pay for food and veterinarian bills and it does not impede your social programme, or your holidays, as there are a host of other puppy walkers and registered boarders in your area who willingly step forward to house and care for your dog while you take your break. Having a guide dog is a worthwhile and rewarding way to volunteer and I would encourage any interested party to contact Guide Dogs for further information.

If you love dogs, which many of you obviously do, this is a lovely way to volunteer. Thanks for this Innes. Ed!

Football Memories

John Searle

As a young boy and a keen football fan, it was always my ambition in those early days to obtain the autographs of my footballing idols. Armed with a brand new autograph book and pencil, I travelled to the football ground of my favourite team. We were told that the team regularly trained at White City and then returned to the ground to change before going home which we hoped would give us many opportunities to ambush them for their signatures. You have to remember that in those days, footballers did not have the wealth associated with the players of today, in fact, one of the players I was about to see only had one car! We stationed ourselves outside the players entrance and one by one they all came out, one with a push bike and the rest making their way to public transport; all signed my book.

On getting home that night my Dad asked what I had been doing and when I told him, he asked to look at the book. He then told me that I should not have used a pencil as it would fade with time. What did I do? The following day I returned with a biro and managed to repeat the process.

Some of you may have guessed by now that the ground was Old Trafford and the team Manchester United. This was before the Munich air disaster, so amongst my autographs are those of the famous Busby Babes and include all those who sadly died in that terrible accident. Names such as Duncan Edwards, Roger Byrne, Tommy Taylor, David Pegg, Billy Whelan, Eddie Coleman, Mark Jones and Geoff Bent; also included is the name of an up and

coming player Bobby Charlton amongst many more. The autograph book is still with me today and guess what, the pencil signatures have never faded so I have them all twice!

What a treasure these must be John. Ed

Tales From The Past

Roger Colomb

First a short history lesson on the origins of the Regent Oil Company. It was set up in the early 1930's to be the sales arm in the U.K. for Trinidad Leaseholds which had production concessions and a refinery in Trinidad. It took its name from the Regent Wharf in Barking, where it built its first distribution depot. Prior to this Trinidad Leaseholds sold its refined products through the established oil companies in the U.K. Simon Vos was in charge and he utilised a dynamic marketing strategy. There were two major bus company groups who controlled all the bus operators outside London, so he targeted them and when he obtained a supply contract, he built a depot to feed it. He then put representatives in the field to gain additional business.

Remember in those days filling stations were all owned by independent dealers and sold a variety of different companies' petrol and there were no UK refineries. By the outbreak of the Second World War the Regent Brand was available south of a line from Wales to the Wash. With support from the Government the refinery in Trinidad had been upgraded and was a major supplier of aviation fuel for the Battle of Britain. The Government set up the Pool Board to take over all fuel distribution during the Second World War.

Towards the end of the 1940's the Pool Board was disbanded, Caltex acquired 50% of Regent Oil. In turn the latter bought out Russian Oil Products (ROP) the U.K. distribution arm of the Russian State and thus achieved distribution throughout the entire U.K.

In the late 1950's. Texaco bought out Trinidad Leaseholds and thus owned 75% of Regent Oil with Chevron owning the remaining 25%. Simon Vos retired and the replacement Managing Director of the new enterprise, which now included Texaco's Lubricants operations in the U.K, was a former naval attaché to the Governor of Trinidad. He had impressed Gus Long, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Texaco Inc (who happened to have been in the US Navy during the war).

The new Managing Director, with no real knowledge of oil marketing, set about a major programme of site rehabilitation: well at least he set it in motion with plans to redevelop many of the outlets irrespective of their plot size. I think it is true to say he had been nobbled by the local management. The Company was floundering at a time when the U.K. market was becoming ultra-competitive with oil companies buying up dealer owned sites and virgin plots for redevelopment.

After a year he was replaced by Charlie Dunn, a veteran, experienced US marketing man, who was determined to stamp Texaco's marketing philosophy and image on the Brits, although the Regent brand continued to be used.



He ruled with a rod of iron. He laid down minimum dimensions for site purchase and redevelopment. (150ft frontage, 100ft depth) and he introduced the Texaco Folio service station layout. He produced the American standard plans and because the U.K. staff were in awe of him no-one challenged the fact, they were drawn on the basis of cars driving on the right-hand side of the road. Hence in Northern Ireland and Scotland where the first redevelopments took place the shop buildings were at the wrong end of the forecourt! He also found the U.K. concept of Rights of Way totally foreign to his thinking and would never agree to a purchase of either a virgin site or dealer owned premises where this was an issue.

Inevitably Charlie Dunn enjoyed his time in the U.K. and mellowed. In the early 1960's it was the then Prime Minister, Harold McMillan's practice to invite diverse guests from the Arts and Industry to dinner on a Sunday night. As a result, Charlie Dunn found himself seated next to an engaging character, Billy Smart who owned a circus. He also owned a filling station situated in front of his winter quarters at Winkworth (now part of Legoland). He wanted to sell the filling station. The next day Arthur Moore, the Manager of London Branch, received a call from Charlie Dunn. He was instructed to purchase Billy Smart's service station at a sum within Charlie Dunn's local authority (£25,000). Negotiations with Billy Smart were difficult as his tenting circus was moving around the Country. But eventually a deal was struck.

During the legal formalities Billy Smart insisted on a Right of Way for his elephants to get into his winter quarters at the rear of the site! It was agreed, the site purchased, but a Folio building was never erected. In a film Circus of Fear the filling station and elephants featured!

Letters

It is always good to hear from retirees and the following three letters are reproduced here as mini articles. Ed!

From Derek Stoneham

Just a note to say how much I enjoy Retiree News and for keeping everyone up to date.

After several years on Ninian in Aberdeen, followed by the ALBA project in London, I took early retirement from Chevron in October 1993. Convinced it was time to do nothing much, I was quickly followed by intense boredom and a period of writing for the Condition Monitor publishing a work on Maintenance Management. This work led to a twenty-year period as Engineering manager for a small manufacturer of detectors and instrumentation.

More recently, with two companions, I have formed a small design and development company 'Status Green Energy Ltd' which, like many engineers, is working in the field of alternative energy and with some technical successes, is making modest progress to what we believe is a very attractive range of designs. Hopefully I will be able to serve more information when a more certain commercial future has been secured.

Great that you and your chums are working together and I wish you every success. Ed!

From Jane Adolph

My husband Peter is a long-term patient in a Nursing Home following a severe stroke which he suffered in December 2016. I show him Retiree News and read bits I think will interest him, particularly asking him questions from the quiz. He knows the answer to some of them without using a reference book. Sadly, my oldest sister Ann died in hospital having caught Corona Virus following an emergency operation. Peter knew her well. She had a good clever brain and before she became ill, I asked her a question from one of your quizzes 'What is the first quadruped mentioned in the Dictionary? She immediately said 'Aardvark' then said 'you thought you had caught me out! That's what comes from doing crosswords. Please continue to send Retiree News to him.

Thanks for this Jane, trusting he is getting good care in his nursing home. Ed!

From Sheila Jones

I have some memories to share of my husband Harold Vivian Jones who died on 27 September 2019 aged 93 in Madrid, where we have lived for the last 54 years; his last job was for Caltex in Madrid.

Together with Clem Giles after university together, they joined Caltex in 1947 and went straight to Bahrain. He was a junior engineer, later an inspector which he said was the best training as it covered all the refinery. He housed with Clem, Gus Stamp and John Taylor and was good friends with Terry O'Rourke, Jim Bosher, Freddie Tukham and Art Watson. He and Clem, who now lives in California, left Bahrain in 1949.

He worked in London Office until 1951 where we met and we married in March 1951. In June we went to Holland for a year, he as a senior engineer, then returned to London until March 1955, then we returned to Bahrain with our nine-month-old daughter Susan. He was sent immediately to Aden to dismantle a construction camp which was sent to Bahrain for the construction workers building an extension to the refinery. Frank Regan was in charge with Paul Mayor. Our second daughter Lesley was born in Awali Hospital. Also, in the hospital with me was Milly Ford (Bob Ford's wife) who were our neighbours in Salmon Avenue by the Awali gate. We lived through the first Gulf War. It was interesting to watch the Black Watch celebrate New Years Day marching up and down the football pitch in their kilts and playing the bagpipes to the amazement of the Arabs. We left in August 1957.

After a short spell in London, we went to Madrid from 1957-1960, then Cartagena 1960-1963 where our third daughter Frances was born. Another short spell in London then to Cape Town in South Africa. Back in England we were in Pembroke till 1966 and then returned to Madrid till Harold retired in 1982 having worked on the Tarragona refinery.

You have certainly seen quite a lot of the world and no doubt have some lovely memories. All good wishes to you and your family. Ed!



Some History - DID YOU KNOW?

Sent by Derek Lloyd

There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have some gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hanged. The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would Like "ONE LAST DRINK".

If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD.

If he declined, that Prisoner was ON THE WAGON.

So, there you go, history.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence, the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, after which came the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so, all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor."

The wealthy Had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so, they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when they opened the door, it would all start slipping outside and a piece of wood was placed in the entrance. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came, they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to Share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and re-use the grave. When re-opening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. Because of this they tied a string on the wrist of the corpse and threaded it through the coffin and up through the ground and tied it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "Saved by the Bell "or was considered a "Dead Ringer" And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring! So, get out there and educate someone! Share these facts with a friend, like I just did!

QUIZ



The answers to the quiz in the November 2019 issue of Retiree News were:

1 Siesta, 2 Edgar Allan Poe, 3 One minute, 4 Harrow 5 "M", 6 Badger, 7 Madonna, 8 Lewis Hamilton, 9 Canada, 10 Florence Nightingale, 11 Sheep, 12 Foot/Hoof, 13 Graphite, 14 1870, 15 Iceberg, 16 Potato, 17 Spike, 18 Union, 19 Condoleezza Rice, 20 Desdemona.

The winners were:

Mel Horn, Milford Haven. Arlene Marrs, Aberdeen. John Morgan, Haverfordwest. Alan Parry, Pontypridd, Dave and Sheila Ralph, Pembroke.

The quiz for this edition is another general knowledge one:

- 1 Venetian blinds originated in which country?
- 2 A poult is the young of which creature?
- 3 Which group recorded the original of 'Light My Fire'?
- 4 In an English trial, how many people sit on the jury?
- 5 Marcel Desailly was a World Cup winner playing for which country?
- 6 Which great soprano earned the name of 'La Divina'?
- 7 What measure of paper is 8 x 10 inches?



- 8 On a standard roulette wheel, which numbers appear on the black?
- 9 What number is 'dos' in Spanish?
- 10 In which game do you draw part of a gallows for every wrong answer?
- 11 Brights' disease affects which organs of the body?
- 12 What name is given to a garden with geometrically arranged beds and small hedges?
- 13 Who sang with the Dakotas?
- 14 In which century was 1658?
- 15 Which actress said 'I want to be alone'?
- 16 How many kings of England have been called Philip?
- 17 How many stomachs have a cow?
- 18 With which swimming stroke do races begin in the water?
- 19 How is the Roman city of Verulamium known today?
- 20 Which city in the world has the largest population?

Answers to the Editor by email or post, **including your address**, to be received by **15 January 2021**. The Editor's decision is final and contact details can be found at the foot of this newsletter.

BIRTHDAYS

80

Robert (Bob) Rimmer, Winsford, Cheshire

90

Derek Bond, Droitwich
Terence Gillman in August 2019, Canvey Island

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Brian and Joan Coombes celebrated their anniversary on 26 March. Brian worked at Hallen, Bristol.

So That's Where It Comes From

Tommy Talk from WW1, Trench slang.

Doolally: insane, from the name of a lunatic asylum in Calcutta.

Gasper: a cigarette mostly used by officers. Fag was the ordinary Tommy term.

Gong: a medal, used facetiously.

Have a Field Day: a practical training operation; to have one on the front line meant everything had gone to plan.

Jam on it: luxurious.

Muck About: to wander aimlessly, especially given the mud of the trenches.

Muck In: a system whereby the troops would cook together in small groups and share the food.

Outfit: a unit or regiment. The word originally meant a group of travellers and transferred to this military use because soldiers were constantly on the move.

Over the Top: when soldiers climbed out of the trench to advance on the enemy. Many were killed as soon as they got over the parapet.

Perisher: a periscope used in the trenches because of the danger in sticking any body parts above the parapet.

Solace

Alan Titchmarsh

When the worries of the world engulf me
When doubt gnaws into my soul
When the world seems grey and bleached of colour
When anxiety tightens its fist around my heart
When my stomach is knotted and I know not why
When man's carelessness leads me to despair
When my sense of proportion is skewed
When bitterness begins to eat away at me
When a sense of perspective is hard to cling to through the mist
When grief undermines my equilibrium
When anger rises in my breast
And when I hurt
I go out into my garden where my spirits rise
And the world is bathed again in sunshine or washed by cleansing rain.



Time for a Chuckle



The perfect husband

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club.
A mobile phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands-free speaker function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.
Man: 'Hello.'
Woman: 'Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?'
Man: 'Yes.'
Woman: 'I am at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1,000. Is it OK if I buy it?'
Man: 'Sure, go ahead if you like it that much.'
Woman: 'I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new 2008 models. I saw one I really liked.'
Man: 'Really, go for it!'
Woman: 'Thank you honey.'
Man: 'Make sure you get it with all the options!'
Woman: 'Great! Oh, and one more thing the house we wanted last year is back on the market.'
Man: 'Well then, go ahead and give them an offer.'
Woman: 'OK. I'll see you later! I love you!'
Man: 'Bye, I love you, too.'
The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are looking at him in astonishment, then he asks: 'Anyone know who this phone belongs to?'

When you are stressed you eat ice cream, cakes and biscuits. Why? Because stressed spelt backwards is desserts!



The Organisers Lament:

Are you or have you ever been an organiser, if so, is this familiar?

We the willing, led by the unknowing are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. Having done so much for so long with so little we are now qualified to do anything with nothing.

The New Alphabet

A is for apple, and B is for boat, that used to be right, but now it won't float!

Age before beauty is what we once said, but let's be a bit more realistic instead.

A's for arthritis;
B's the bad back,
C's the chest pains, perhaps car-di-ac?
D is for dental decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!
F is for farting and fluid retention,
G is for gut droop, which I'd rather not mention.
H high blood pressure - I'd rather it low,
I for incisions with scars you can show.
J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when they bend.
L's for libido, what happened to sex?
M is for memory; I forget what comes next.
N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;
O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!
P for prescriptions, I have quite a few, just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!
Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?
R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.
S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,
T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!
U is for urinary; troubles with flow;
V for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you know.
W for worry, now what's going 'round?
X is for X ray, and what might be found.
Y for another year I'm left here behind,
Z is for zest I still have - in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed, And I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!

OBITUARIES

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

Michael Frederick Adams (G) on 16/04/20 aged 81, Pembrokeshire
Henry George Anstey (T) on 12/04/20 aged 94, Australia
Anthony John Bailey (G) on 04/04/20 aged 80, Hertfordshire
Jeffrey Bernard Bearne (T) on 21/09/20 aged 84, Dyfed
Peter Berry (G) on 14/05/20 aged 70, USA
William Girvan Bowie (T) on 09/08/20 aged 80, Aberdeen
Basil Henry Coalston (T) on 19/08/20 aged 84, Cornwall
Neil Grieves Collings (T) on 26/08/80 aged 84, Cumbria
Dennis Edwin Dawes (T) on 01/07/20 aged 94, Tunbridge Wells
Ian Dewar (G) on 08/04/20 aged 63, Oxon
Ian Duff (C) on 28/05/20 aged 73, Derbyshire

George Bowen Eastlake (T) on 06/07/20 aged 92, USA
Geoffrey Flood (G) on 22/08/20 aged 74, Pembrokeshire
T Fyfe (T) on 16/08/20 aged 94, Aberdeenshire
Edward Fitzwilliam, (T) on 17/10/18 aged 89, Cardiganshire
Gerald William Gate (T) on 29/07/20 aged 73, Cumbria
Stanley Gow (T) on 15/08/20 aged 91, Scotland
Jeffrey Morgan Grant (T) on 03/09/20 aged 79, Kent
Graham Griffiths (T) on 05/09/20 aged 84, Dyfed
Peter Guy (T) on 10/09/20 aged 75, Greece
William Derek Gwyther (T) on 10/04/20 aged 81, Grimsby
John W Hale (G) on 22/06/20 aged 90, Barry
Philip Alan Holmes (C) on 26/06/20 aged 77, Berkshire
Frances Denise Irvine (C) on 10/04/20 aged 60, Aberdeenshire
Patrick Fielding James (T) on 16/07/20 aged 89, Pembrokeshire
William Joy (G) on 08/05/20 aged 90, Altrincham
Martin David Keith (C) on 04/01/18 aged 86, Aberdeenshire
George Henry Kinder (G) on 08/05/20 aged 86, Ashton-under-Lyne
S Lewis (T) on 23/05/20 aged 99, Grimsby
Brian Bannister Lupton (G) on 15/04/20 aged 93, Hertfordshire
Kenneth Lyon (G) on 26/07/20 aged 86, Merseyside
W E Malpas (T) on 04/05/20 aged 93, Kent
Peter McCartney (T) on 29/07/20 aged 87, Lancashire
Robert McCree (C) on 05/04/20 aged 86, Hertfordshire
Glyn Michael (G) on 03/06/20 aged 84, Gwent
Colin Otteson (Cx) on 24/11/18 aged 79, Wokingham
Peter Clive Pocklington (G) on 27/04/20 aged 74, Cheltenham
Harry Porter (G) on 07/06/20 aged 91, Pembrokeshire
Michael Edward Poulter (T) on 27/04/20 aged 83, Middlesex
David John Prosser (G) on 13/08/20 aged 75, Worcestershire
Thomas Wallace Ramshaw (C) on 04/06/20 aged 81, Tyne and Wear
Dennis Victor Reason (T) on 21/08/20 aged 83, Essex
Frederick Rymer (T) on 05/06/20 aged 71, France
J H Savage (T) on 09/04/20 aged 79, Staffordshire
Harold Henry Searle (T) on 27/06/20 aged 92, Dorset
J V Sharples (T) on 20/08/20 aged 96, Surrey
Malcolm Simmonds (T) on 17/04/20 aged 88, Sussex
Julie Southern (T) on 20/07/20 aged 60
Lorraine Tidmarsh (G) on 15/07/20 aged 72, Gloucestershire

Give it Away

When we give away a flower, its fragrance stays behind
Like a special little 'Thank You' for doing something kind
When we give away a pleasant word to cheer someone's distress
The glow of it remains with us to bring us happiness.

When we give away a loving smile to lighten someone's heart
Our own is also lightened by the love that we impart
In fact, the sweetest things of all that bring us joy each day
Are not the ones we try to keep, but those we give away. Anon

Did you know?

Q: Did you ever wonder why dimes, quarters and half dollars have notches, while pennies and nickels do not?



A: The US Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren't notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave.

Quotes

A child of three gets as much fun out of a £300 swing in the garden as it does out of finding a worm. *Anon*

Cleaning your house while your children are growing up is as pointless as shovelling snow off your path while it is still snowing. *Anon*

If I had a flower for every time I thought of you, I could walk through my garden forever. *Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Some people come into your life as blessings, others come into your life as lessons. *Anon*

Men vs Women

Bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman, "Which book has helped you most in your life?"
The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book!!"

A prospective husband in a book store "Do you have a book called 'Husband – the Master of the House?'"
Sales girl: "Sir, fiction and comics are on the 1st floor!"

Someone asked an old man: "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife – darling, honey, luv. What's the secret?"
Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask her."

Pharmacist to customer: "Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression pill, you need a proper prescription ...
Simply showing marriage certificate and wife's picture is not enough!

There are 3 kinds of men in this world. Some remain single and make wonders happen. Some have girlfriends and see wonders happen
The rest get married and wonder what happened!

Wives are magicians. They can change anything into an argument.

Why do women live a Better, Longer & Peaceful Life, compared to men?
A very intelligent student replied: "Because Women don't have a wife!"

Cool message by a wife: Dear Mother-in-law,
Don't teach me how to handle my children. I am living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement!?

When a married man says, I will think about it - what he really means is that he doesn't know his wife's opinion yet.

A lady says to her doctor: "My husband has a habit of talking in his sleep! What should I give him to cure it?"
The doctor replies: "Give him an opportunity to speak when he's awake!"

The Satnav – A new poem by Pam Ayres

I have a little Satnav, It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend it tells you where you are.
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones, My Satnav is my wife.
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty-five".
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.
It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, Just when to intervene.
It lists the vehicles just in front, And all those to the rear
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the blighter off.

The phone my sister has (she's six)



The phone I had when I was six



Who remembers?



**WAITING TO CALL LONG
DISTANCE AFTER 7PM
BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER**

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Editor's Last Word

Another year is almost over and I truly hope that 2021 we will be rid of Covid and let us get back to being in each other's company and sharing good times. Keep safe and well.

June Parham McCullough
Editor

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