

RETIREE NEWS

A Biannual Publication for Retirees of all Chevron UK Companies



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Editor's Chat

WOW! The edition last November was two pages short, however, this edition is a BUMPER one! Thank you so much to all of you that have submitted articles. Your stories make Retiree News so interesting, not just to me putting it together, but to all retirees who receive each issue. I would love to have a deluge of stories; it will keep me busy and on my toes and as I have said before, there are a mountain of stories out there which would be eagerly read, so please keep them coming.

On 22 December I had a lovely phone call from Ian McFarlane and we had a good chat. Imagine how shocked I was to hear from Ted Williams on 23 December that Ian had a stroke on that same evening of the call and after being found unconscious by his carer, he was taken to hospital accompanied by his daughters, where he died the following day. So many memories from a career spanning many years and for me, when he was a part of Public Affairs during the Texaco Trophy series and other events. A special thanks to Ian for creating Retiree News. I was very honoured when he asked me to take it over. So glad to have known him.

After two years of Covid, let us hope that things are improving greatly. For us it is so good to get out to the theatre again and also not to have to wear face coverings so much. I don't know about you, but I found it so difficult to breath when wearing one and another thing, glasses get steamed up! Perhaps the one good thing is that we all continue to take care of ourselves and consider others more.

Enjoy the summertime.

A Lawyer's Work at Texaco/Chevron

Anthony Jennings

The excellent flurry of articles that appear in Retiree News prompts me to put my lawyer's quill to parchment in reflection on my time at Texaco/Chevron.

Before joining Texaco in 1974 I was a solicitor with a law firm in the City of London churning out commercial leases for wealthy property developers. That soon palled and I felt a need to be involved in a team doing its own projects, so I decided to leave and go into industry. 'What?' said my horrified managing partner when I gave him my notice, 'A tame solicitor?' (Later, one of my managing directors at Texaco would quip: 'Tame lawyers? These guys are wild!')

My erstwhile colleagues jeeringly told me I would become a 'specialist' in oil and gas law and would miss the 'variety' of private practice. On the contrary, I found I had suddenly jumped from a sterile production line to an astonishingly wide

range of work, particularly now that Texaco, which had essentially been a downstream marketing company, was becoming heavily involved in North Sea exploration and production. In those days there was no division between upstream and downstream in the legal department and we simply had to run with whatever work came to us. I found myself involved in exploration and production, refining, distribution and marketing, marine fuels and shipping and aviation, all both domestic and international, involving areas of law like EU, restrictive trade practices, competition law and international litigation and arbitration, to say nothing of employment law, all at the same time. I was even still doing some conveyancing on leases for our expats. You never knew what was going to come in next. The variety was endless, so specialist backup from outside law firms, including ironically the one I'd just left, was essential.



My first boss came in the austere form of John Whitehead, who defied the accepted lawyer/client relationship by treating everyone who came to the department for advice as a total liability to the company, a sentiment he seemed to apply to his own staff as well and I think he tolerated me only because of my Oxford degree. I quickly found that our client colleagues in their turn regularly lampooned us lawyers with their shows of hands condemning us as 'on the one hand, on the other hand' types. Observing that the law was not black and white and had to be applied to the facts of each case proved laughingly inadequate to dispel this charge. But even if my colleagues felt they benefitted little from my advice, I benefitted much from their acquaintance. Some discussions were hard and long, while those such as what guitar amplifiers produced what guitar sounds frequently made my day.

On the upstream side, Texaco bought into the first oil field in the North Sea and I did the legal work for that, as I did for Tartan and Strathspey and later much early work on West of Shetland. I was involved in the oil industry upstream and downstream associations, including the first industry discussions on oil and gas field decommissioning, and also, less happily, the Piper Alpha disaster and the long hours of negotiations and eventual settlements made with the bereft families. As a result of all that upstream experience I wrote two books on oil and gas law which are now in their second and third editions.

For the tankship division I inherited what was hilariously known as the case of the only ship that sank in dry dock. Our law suit against the dock owners in Italy had already been running for some years before I arrived at Texaco and it duly lasted me my whole career, only just settling at the time I left Chevron 28 years later. Mind you, its long duration was not actually so surprising when you consider we had been reckless enough to sue the 'businessmen' who ran Palermo harbour in their own local courts!

Anyway, it did provide a handsome pension for the local lawyer who advised us for all that time.

Acting for our marine fuels division, I arrested countless ships all over the world, including a cruise ship while in harbour, indeed once putting an entire fleet out of action, and I particularly remember a week in Casablanca consulting a local lawyer in a fez whose office was behind a bead curtain, in order to get the proverbial four brass tacks nailed to a mast. However, my marine fuels clients were not so happy when I had to advise them that a contract for supplies 'in Lagos harbour' meant anywhere within the harbour limits, which extended to more than 60 miles offshore where the vessel was at anchor!

On one marine fuel deal I was summoned to Madrid, where I arrived at a posh hotel and a welcome suite of rooms at midnight, drinking gin with the general manager until 3am, only to be told that we would be leaving at 6am sharp in order to drive from Madrid halfway across the country to Bilbao on the north coast in an ancient Fiat with broken seats. Once there, we attended an arbitration conducted entirely in Spanish for a whole day without understanding a word of the case.

I was also legal adviser to, and a director of, Texaco Iran at the time of the 1977-79 revolution when all hell broke loose and the Iranians unilaterally repudiated our oil contracts. This found me brushing up on my Sharia law amid endless discussions with international lawyers in meetings that extended long into the night, relieved only by copious vintage clarets and imported pizzas.

Midstream, I was consulted by Pembroke Refinery when the local council added a large precept to the council tax, which was almost entirely payable by Texaco without any right of appeal, and the money was used to build a brand new village hall from which Texaco was excluded. On another project, I advised the refinery manager to use a blanket purchase order, only to be told that although he was buying a great variety of materials, these did not include blankets.



Downstream, I was tasked with establishing the boundaries of some land we owned around a service station in Hungerford which bordered the river from which the local council were calmly making a lot of money licensing fishing rights from what was surely our land. This involved crawling horizontally through almost impenetrable undergrowth, bumping blindly into long lost obelisks and statues in what had once been gardens, continually torn by brambles, in my business suit and clutching my briefcase.

For our Formula 1 or cricket sponsorship deals I took a delight in amending draft contracts to allow the Texaco logo to be displayed in twice the number of locations around the track or ground as envisaged by the contract.

Latterly I spent many days and nights in Moscow in luxury hotel suites, one of which had cupboards stuffed with crockery and cutlery but no coffee or milk. I was negotiating a deal for service stations with the lawyer for TNK, trying to bring it to fruition in ignorance of the fact that BP was simultaneously doing a covert deal with the oligarchs to acquire the very same assets.

Those were the days!

Thanks for the Memories

Neil Lambert

The creator of Retiree News was Ian McFarlane who unfortunately passed away on 23 December last year. I have many memories of Ian and give here some details of his career in Texaco.

It began in August 1949 when he joined Regent Oil Company as a trainee retail sales representative. Maybe a risky decision as Regent had only been formed in 1947 following the dissolution of the wartime industry Petroleum Board. Regent's ownership structure was 50% Caribbean Refining Company (Trinidad Leaseholds) and 50% Caltex, a

Chevron/Texaco marketing joint venture. He started in Stourport on Severn with the next thirteen years in the eastern counties in both co-owned and dealer owned sites with the specific brief to expand the 'Regent Roundel' market penetration in the Midlands. In 1963, he was given his first management role, being appointed Sales Superintendent in Northern Ireland, living in Belfast. With a team of eight representatives, he was uniquely responsible for all Retail, Commercial, and Distributor accounts, plus lubricant sales, a very wide portfolio.

Success in the Province was recognised with a further promotion to UK Retail Merchandising Manager working in Park Street, Central London. Ian soon identified a preference for Field rather than Office activity and was promoted in 1969 to Training Manager within the re-organised Scotland and Northern Ireland Region based in Glasgow. During the 1968/69 reorganisation, Texaco acquired 100% of Regent followed by corporate rebranding to the world-wide Texaco logo and all employees became 100% Texaco employees. During this time Ian was affectionately known as 'Biggles' to his colleagues for his extensive air time, (and lucrative air miles!), to which he renamed his good mate Richard Little as 'Dickie Small'!

In 1978 the McFarlane family transferred back to the Midlands residing in Stratford upon Avon and being re-assigned to the local team. In 1987 after 38 years' service, Ian took voluntary redundancy. However, this was not the end of his career, but the beginning of new challenges which were related to Ian's 'people first' philosophy through which he achieved much wider company and industry know-how, contacts and reputation. Initially via these contacts, he became a Texaco Contractor covering all markets and corporate activity. There followed a spell in the Texaco Government and Public Affairs Department involving high profile corporate sponsorship such as cricket and motor racing.



Between 1991 and 1997 Ian worked as the Executive Secretary to the newly formed industry wide BOSS Committee working and liaising with the Police and Crimestoppers Boards to upgrade and create greater conformity in all aspects of service station security activity. Post 1997 until his 'final' retirement in 2009, in total a mammoth sixty-year involvement with Regent, Texaco and later Chevron, he took on the role as Co-Chairman of the Texaco's UK Staff Council programme. He followed this by being a member, and also trustee, of Texaco's Pension Plan Committee. Finally, and significantly, for almost ten years, he was both editor and publisher of the quarterly Texaco Retiree News. He was Co-ordinator of The Retiree Welfare Programme for many years for which he received an honorarium from the company. He was also on the committee of CUKPA .



Ian had many outside activities. one time Director of St. Johns Ambulance and President of Stratford upon Avon Seas Cadets Corps. Former President of Rotary in Stratford, he founded the Stratford Marathon which is still ongoing. A keen follower of cricket, golf and rugby union, but most importantly, husband to Joan and father to three daughters. Ian was consort when Joan was Mayor of Stratford upon Avon in 1995/6.

He was universally popular, had enormous energy and enthusiasm even with a multiplicity of health problems in his later life. He had an unbelievable memory of events and people and an acute perception of politics and world affairs. Knowledgeable and articulate on a wide range of current affairs.

A fun-loving guy with one hundred per cent compassion. A real star in every way!

Rest in peace old buddy and thanks for the memories.

My email address is nlambert729@hotmail.com

Memories

David Whyte

Just a note to say thanks for your work in putting things together in the Retiree News. I got my edition this morning and got to say I like the content and the smaller format. It may seem morbid but I pay particular attention to the obituaries. Although being tinged with sadness for all who pass, when I recognise a name of an individual I once knew and worked with, some wonderful memories can come to mind. I spent many years offshore and worked with some of the best people in the world. I think about them often and remember the good and the bad times we all shared

One person in particular is the guy in the middle of the photograph, his name is Bill Scott. Bill passed on many years ago, far sooner than he deserved.

He was my immediate supervisor on the Ninian Southern Platform. I am the one on the right of Bill and the guy to his left is Jim Walker, another stalwart of our crew. Apart from being a great boss and good friend, Bill was in every sense one of the finest lads I have ever worked with. Solid, clever, sensible and trustworthy. They were just a few of the traits that inspired admiration and respect. We used to refer to him as Reverend Scott as he had a habit of, when at



a table, sitting with his elbows on the table top and hold his hands together palm to palm as if in prayer. Irreverent I know but such a wonderful recollection and an insight into the familiarity and companionship that helped make life offshore more bearable.



I know that every person given mention in the obituaries must have a back story to their time, working and personal and am hopeful that their friends and former colleagues remember them with fondness and endearment. Sadly, many more of my former workmates have passed over, many I would never have known of if it wasn't for Retiree News. I just wanted to give you a personal insight of what reading these names do for me.

I understand that you've got to be limited in the material you can put to print or even constrained in some other way but personally I think putting a face to a name can be more personal and less distant. Not a criticism in any way, just a reflection.

Get Yourself Checked!

Ronnie Williams, Gulf Milford Haven

Hi everyone. I hope this finds you all in good health and enjoying retirement. I would like to share with you an experience I had in 2016 when I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. I had no symptoms and felt in very good health. What made me go and see a doctor was that I was not sleeping all night because I was having to visit the toilet, initially once or twice a night, which then increased to three and four times a night and each time it was only a dribble, until one night I went four times in two and a half hours. That was the final straw.

In August 2015 I made an appointment to see a doctor at our local health centre/ surgery. I had a thorough examination and he said my prostate gland felt fine, prescribed some tablets to try (which made things worse so I stopped taking them); he also booked a PSA blood test for me. For someone of my age PSA levels should not be above four. That test came back as 4.7. I received a call from my GP who told me to book another test in three months. That test came back as 4.1 and I was told it was normal. I made an appointment with a doctor and argued that anything over 4 might be a problem and he eventually agreed to another PSA test in three months.

In March 2016 this test came back as 5.1 and I received a telephone consultation with my GP who immediately referred me to see a Urologist. I received an appointment in May, which involved, a urine flow test, and this turned out to be very very poor. I had twelve samples of tissue taken from my prostate gland, six from each side. Within a week I had a letter with an appointment (the day after my birthday) at the Urology department and that was to tell me I had been diagnosed with prostate cancer, but the good news was that it was in the **very early stages**. I had my treatment and now I feel fine. **So please, anyone who has similar symptoms, do make an appointment and get checked.** My last PSA test in December 2021 was 0.17.



Loose Cannon – An Armourer's Nightmare

Peter Franklin

The Hawker Hunter F4 fighters of No.74 Squadron RAF stationed at RAF Horsham St Faith now Norwich Airport were armed with four 30mm Aden Cannons in the nose. These packed one hell of a punch as they all fired at the same time. Several were equipped with a new firing system which was electrically operated and had a phenomenal rate of fire. This gave about six seconds of fire if very short bursts were used before magazines were empty. If you imagine two jet aircraft involved in a dog fight their closing speed could easily be 1000 mph, blink and he's gone and you could be a goner. One of my colleagues, an armourer, told me that it was possible to get two rounds "up the spout" at the same time if too long a burst of fire was given and this could cause an immense amount of damage and probably write off aircraft and pilot. It also gave rise to violent vibration of the whole airframe.



The powers that be decided to send a team of Armourer Boffins lead by a Squadron Leader, henceforth known as AB, to investigate the problem and a static ground firing test was set up using one of the offending aircraft. None of us could understand the significance of test firing a stationary Hunter on the ground when the problem had occurred during air firing. However, ours was not to reason why and we duly complied.

The setup was as follows as far as I can remember. The Hunter was fitted with dozens of pieces of recording equipment and positioned facing at right angles across the rifle range which was a long pile of sand to stop rifle bullets fired at targets in front. This afforded a greater depth of sand to soak up the energy of the 30mm rounds rather than a mere .303" (7.7mm) rifle bullet. A special shallow tunnel with wooden sides was built into the sand to give an aiming point for the cannons and was positioned very carefully. The procedure was to be as follows. The Hunter's jet engine would be started and the throttles slowly opened up, this would depress the aircraft's nose and hence the cannons to bring the gun sight onto the tunnel. The cannons would then be fired in very short bursts allowing time between each for resetting as required. The "Pilot" for the test would be AB.

To stop the Hunter from moving, the brakes were locked hard on, the wheels were also fitted with chocks chained on and theoretically combined with the thrust of the engine would withstand the recoil from the cannons. NASA style the countdown would include "Holds" so that essential checks could be made and confirmed OK. The longest one would be when AB now fully strapped in and wearing the pilot's Bone Dome helmet gradually opened the throttles until the gun sight was aligned with the target tunnel. The countdown would then proceed to zero when the order would be FIRE.



On the day of the event all flying in the area was banned for obvious safety reasons. After setting up the scenario all none essential personnel, myself included, were ordered back to the hangar and only the test team and emergency services were to be present at the actual firing. Communication was by radio via earphones, but the pilot's crew room in the hangar had a wireless set fitted with a loudspeaker so that all radio traffic could be monitored. We lucky bods in the radio section divided our headphones in two so that doubled the number of direct listeners. The rest gathered round the door of the pilot's room and could clearly hear proceedings via the loud speaker.

The countdown started and after numerous Holds reached the point at which AB gradually opened the throttles and declared "Steady on target ready to fire" The following events were related to us by one of the test team. No one in their wildest dreams could have imagined what would happen next. The countdown should have continued to FIRE at zero but we never heard it. A deafening roar erupted from our earphones and even louder from the pilot's crew room. This next account is as I remember it from conversation with one of the attending armourers.

The Hunter belched flames and smoke and 600 hefty lumps of hot lead tore through the butts like a supersonic bulldozer scattering dust sand and a liberal supply of spent rifle bullets over the Norfolk country side. Notwithstanding full brakes, chained chocks and engine thrust the Hunter was hurled backwards by the recoil, rode up the chocks and was temporarily airborne before crashing back down to earth. We can only guess what went through AB's mind as his view of terra firma was replaced by the blue of heaven. If he had ever flown before it certainly wasn't backwards in the ejector seat of a jet fighter with all its guns blazing away. He might have thought that the ejector seat had fired or the cannons had exploded we will never know.

He received an almighty whack in the stomach and chest as inertia rammed his body forward hard on to the straps of his safety harness. Whiplash flung his head down bone dome and all and his chin onto his chest. It is a basic human survival instinct when disaster strikes to grab something and cling on for dear life. In AB's case this was his right hand on the control column and trigger hence the discharge of all the ammunition and his left hand on the engine throttle was forced forward by inertia giving the engine full thrust.

Cries of "Close throttle Cut engine" went unheeded and AB remained unresponsive with his head down. Had whiplash knocked him out or perish the thought broken his neck? The priority now was to get medics to AB in the cockpit. There was also the possibility that if the engine on full thrust overcame the brakes, we could have the Hunter running wild with no way to stop it.

The cockpit access steps are only a few feet away from the engine air intakes and the Rolls Royce Avon engine is now on full throttle and gulping air like a drowning man creating sufficient suction to lift a man clean of his feet. Chiefy, bless him, was too humane to order anyone else to undertake the perilous task so asked for volunteers to support him while he did the necessary. A group of bods clinging tightly to each other and Chiefy cautiously approached the Hunter from the front. Grabbing any hand hold they successfully manoeuvred Chiefy to the steps where he could reach the cockpit canopy release and gain access to the throttle shutting down the engine. I do not know how AB had fared but he survived his ordeal. Subsequently it was found that this ammunition became unstable in storage and the system was eventually abandoned reverting back to the original firing system.

Remarkably no injuries to man nor beast were ever reported but local farmers noticed a sudden drop in milk yield and egg production. Amateur metal detectorists reported finding a sudden bonanza of "Battle of Britain" ammunition and some mysterious round holes appeared in a couple of garden sheds.



Time Flies when you're having fun

Rod Pesch

On 22 October last year, the RAF Club London welcomed Retirees back for another great reunion with former colleagues from all over the UK. Although down on numbers, fifty 'hardy' retirees enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce over years gone by.



A truly good day out and must diary date for 21 October 2022, again at the RAF Club. Rod will be contacting attendees or you could contact him on rodpesch@aol.com

Regent Memories

Charles Manning

These photos may amuse some of the older Texaco retirees who remember the Regent days that came to an end in 1970. I joined the Regent Oil Co at the end of 1968 and had a Regent business card for a short time.

Photo 1 is from a 'Cars of the early 60's' publication. Probably 1963



Photo 2 is from the TV programme 'Hinterland' and could be the oldest surviving Regent globe. Somewhere in mid Wales about five years ago. The Regent pump is the one with the TT globe as TT was a Regent brand too. How it survived into the 21st century is a mystery.



My eighteen years with Texaco ended in 1988. Great company to work for.



Remebering David Snewin

Richard Comrie

David was my first Manager when I joined his sales group in early 1967 at the tender age of 23. I was immediately grateful to him, as due to my age there was a reluctance among some Manager's to take somebody so young into their team. In many respects David and I were chalk and cheese and while we had a turbulent relationship when I was in his group, I came out at the end a better commercial person and I have much to thank him for. Our paths crossed many times during our respective careers.

Those of you who knew David will remember him for his Merchant Navy background, where he served as Navigation Officer before he joined the Regent Oil Company. He would always end his meetings with Notices to Mariners rather than any other business. In business he was always serious with a sound eye for detail, perhaps due to his time as a Navigating Officer.

On the lighter side I remember a reported conversation with a Motor Trader from Scotland, who was put through to David's office in Manchester. Picking up the phone David said 'Snewin here and a thick Glasgow accent replied, 'thats funny the sun is shining here.

Glad I knew him.

Rugby Trips

I am unable to provide the name of the writer of this globe-trotting article about Rugby trips. I found it in my archive file. If you recognise this as your article, please let me know so that I can give you the credit in the next issue. I really enjoyed reading this and envisaging the various places you have visited; some I have also been to. From reading this, there are other articles that could be written.Ed!

Quiz – England won the Rugby World Cup in 2003, England football team won the Football World Cup in 1966. Who were the first team to beat both of these soon after their triumphs? Answer below, but wait until you read this article first.

Coming from the north of England I was always a keen follower of Rugby League, and until moving to Pembrokeshire in 1970 I had always regarded the Rugby Union game as one for upper-class toffs! The rugby of the North of England was almost always of the League variety, although there were several amateur Rugby League clubs. I did watch and enjoy the odd Barbarians RU game, but more out of curiosity than anything else.

In 1970 I moved from Yorkshire down to Pembrokeshire where I met up with a delightful builder named Denis Griffiths. We became firm friends and he introduced to me the to the sports religion of Wales, Rugby Union! It was an early lesson to me that to most of the population, Rugby in Wales was much more than a game and that the game against England was always the most important one to win! In 1971, my introduction to the passion of the Welsh was watching Wales outplay England and notching up an easy win by 22-6. This was on the way to their 17th Title, 6th Grand Slam, 12th Triple Crown and for good measure, Scotland beat England for the Calcutta Cup! The Welsh squad included such legends as: J.P.R. Williams, Gerald Davies, John Dawes, Barry John, Gareth Edwards and Mervyn Davies plus on the bench were Phil Bennett and Derek Quinell! I watched this game with Denis at his home in Saundersfoot, where his Wife made lovely sandwiches and his young daughter kept up a seemingly endless supply of beer! The result really didn't matter, it was the hwyl that mattered! In those halcyon days for Welsh Rugby, basically all they needed to do was turn up to almost guarantee a win! They dominated northern hemisphere rugby with a team that was the envy of the world. England did gain some revenge later in the 80's & 90's but even in defeat Wales always played with pride and passion!



This introduction triggered off an interest that remains to this day. As I grew into the game, I learned to understand that you should appreciate the skills of the opponent and that the win was not always the most important thing, but the way that the game played was! On one occasion I was sitting with the St David's RUFC travelling fans in Twickenham and Wales had just scored a wonderful try. I was applauding the play when a guy from St David's said to me 'Why are you clapping for Wales when you're obviously an England supporter'? I just replied that the beauty of the game was to be admired regardless of your partisan feelings! He was totally amazed that an Englishman would applaud Wales! The reverse didn't happen when Jason Robinson tore the Welsh defence apart to score a brilliant solo try! Deathly hush from the Welsh contingent! From this introduction my attention widened to include the growing sport of Rugby 7's.

It was a curiosity at first, but has grown into a huge international sport, even included in the Olympic Games! 2016 saw the game played for the first time at these games. The winners were Fiji with a 43-7 over a Great Britain team. It was not only the men playing, the Women's game was also played at the Olympics. The first Gold medal winners were Australia women with a 24-17 win over their neighbours New Zealand.

I wanted to see one of the tournaments live and chose the Dubai 7's in 2011 as a starter. Good choice! Not only was the Rugby excellent, the ground and facilities were great! Then of course, Dubai is itself spectacular! A trip to the viewing platform of The Burj Khalifa is a must with a viewing platform at 428 metres and total height of 830 metres. If your budget runs to it, afternoon Tea at the Burj al Arab is reckoned to be one of the best in the world! Cost: AED 650 (£140), or AED 750 (£160) with a window seat! The Metro system is second to none and takes you wherever you want to go. The markets, museums and cafes are great and a boat trip in an old dhow excellent! Back to the Rugby! England beat France 29-12 in the final after beating New Zealand 10-7 and Fiji 19-12 on the way!

The beauty of the 7's is that it is all action over two halves each of seven minutes. With only seven people per side there is no hiding place! It's all excitement from start to finish. The Women play at a very high standard too. They are just as serious and dedicated about their game as are the men. Similarly, to Cricket, the Women's game is really being taken seriously by media and fans alike. Great to see!

Dubai was followed by a trip to Hong Kong in 2012 where Fiji took the honours with a 35-28 win over New Zealand. Sadly, England were knocked out by Fiji in the semi-final stage! Our tour guide for the Rugby was Gareth Chilcott who regaled us with stories and anecdotes for hours! Most of the tales were not suitable for family audiences but us rugby types lapped it all up! Gareth was a prop for Bath, England and the British Lions; a great player in his time. While in Hong Kong I took the chance to visit Victoria Peak and enjoyed splendid views over the city below. The ride to the peak on the Peak Tram was great fun! A river trip on the Causeway Bay completed the holiday with a spectacular firework display! The Rugby was excellent but I was amazed to see Black Kites circling above the playing area throughout the tournament. This was nice to see, but the antics of the crowd in the South Stand were something else! Everyone in fancy dress and everyone chanting, singing and dancing!

2013 saw us head to Las Vegas and the Sam Boyd Stadium, Whitney, Nevada where in the final Republic of South Africa beat New Zealand 40-21. We stayed in Vegas at the Bellagio Hotel! The dancing fountains were brilliant, but my Wife was disappointed that we never saw George Clooney, Brad Pitt or Matt Damon! We must be the only people who visited Vegas and never spent a dime on gambling of any kind! We did however, have a Champagne Breakfast helicopter ride in the Grand Canyon. This was a highlight of the trip; the canyon was awesome. We visited a Native American settlement run by the Hualapai Tribe, where we had a lovely snack and visited the Gift Shop. Here we walked on the Horseshoe Cantilever Glass Bridge



out over the canyon! The bridge is ten feet wide and extends seventy feet out over the canyon. Looking down through the glass walkway the view in 4000 feet down - really spectacular! A flight over Hoover Dam before a scenic tour over Las Vegas finished off a great day! Another Vegas highlight, literally, was a visit to the observation platform of the Stratosphere Tower. This stands at 1149 feet high and has some of the scariest rides on the top! We were scared just looking at the roller coasters; did we go on them, a resounding no!

Also in 2013, although not related to Rugby, we flew from home in Paphos to visit the Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Exhibition at the Excel Exhibition Centre in London. A great two days of Dr Who fun made special by my good fortune in having a photograph taken with Louise (Leela) Jameson! There must be many Dads and Granddads who remember Leela! A ride to the O2 Centre across the river by the Emirates Cable Car completed a great trip!

2014 took me back to Dubai for the 7's. Republic of South Africa ended as tournament champions beating Australia 33-7. I missed out on Rugby in 2015, but compensated by visiting Antarctica, Iguazu Falls & Galapagos Islands, but 2015 is another story!

2016 was a Rugby washout too. Instead of Rugby I went to the Arctic where I toured Svalbard and Greenland, finishing in Iceland. My Wife and I visited the Ice Hotel at Jukkasjärvi, Sweden about 200km inside the Arctic Circle, but once again that's all for another story.

2017 saw my last visit to Dubai for the 7's. The eventual winners were Republic of South Africa beating New Zealand 24-12. England beat Fiji 28 -21 in an exciting third place match!

To add completeness, I thought it would be fair to show the Rugby League Challenge Cup Finals I attended in the same period!

2006	St Helens v Huddersfield [42-12]
2007	St Helens v Catalans [30-8]
2008	St Helens v Hull FC [28-16]
2009	Warrington v Huddersfield [25-16]
2010	Warrington v Leeds [30-6]

Also, in 2005 I visited Lebanon to be a part of the Paphos Tigers/Cyprus Rugby tour. Great rugby and what a memorable social event. Beirut was a beautiful venue and welcomed us with open arms. We all made friends and were treated like Kings. Our taxi driver was a firm favourite, his name was Ali Ali! Four of us hired him on a rest day from the Rugby and got him to show us around the city and surrounding areas. The Jeita Caves are worth a trip to Lebanon alone; spectacular doesn't begin to describe the complex cave system. The top grotto is walked around under supervision and the bottom grotto has you on an electric boat drifting through stalactites and stalagmites! Beautiful. No photography is allowed, but there is always the ubiquitous Gift Shop at the end!

The Monument for Peace in Beirut is another site to see: Constructed from concrete with Soviet-era T55 tanks, mortars, heavy artillery and armoured personnel carriers embedded into its 30 metre high form it is the work of French based architect Armand Fernandez. It is officially called Hope for Peace; it is also known as the Tank Monument and is situated in Yarse close to the Lebanese Défense ministry buildings.

Rugby has taken me all over the world and I am very grateful for my baptism of fire in the confines of Pembrokeshire. It was here that I learned what a wonderful game it really is!

Quiz Answer from start of this article – Ireland



The answers to these five riddles will be found towards the end of this issue.

- 1 A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in three years. Which room is safest for him?
- 2 A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But five minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
- 3 What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?
- 4 Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?
- 5 This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

Emails received for which I thank you. Ed!

I always enjoy reading the amusing stories and jokes in RN and I have used some of them in a newsletter I issue on behalf of an allotment association I belong to. Sadly, I also see too many names of old workmates in the obituary section. Keep up the great work.

Mike Barnes

Thanks for your continued efforts on the Retiree News. As family history is my hobby, I enjoy seeing the recollection articles and hope that they are passed down the writer's tree. Sadly, I read the Obituaries first.

John Wynds

Many thanks for your sterling work on the newsletter, format doesn't matter. Remember you can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time.

Peter Franklin

Thank you very much for the latest addition of Retiree News. I always look forward to it and am very grateful for all your hard work that must go into its production. I think the present format is excellent.

Bruce Park Weir

You probably won't remember me but I used to work at Pembroke Refinery for Derek Lloyd. I just want to say how much I enjoy Retiree News - thanks for all your hard work on it!

Mary Jane Hunter

I am sorry I have not replied sooner regarding being a prize winner in the November Retiree News.

Thank you for the M & S voucher. My wife and I enjoy every edition and think you do excellent work. Thank You.

Best Regards Ted, Cardiff.

You do sterling work on the Retiree News. Must be very time consuming and difficult to find material. I do enjoy reading retiree's experiences and always wish I could find something to contribute for you, however, I fear that most of it might be actionable!

Neville Burne



And in a letter received from Nick Williamson, the following...

A big thank you for your editing of Retiree News I have to confess that I always look through the obituaries section first, we are all getting older, but then, always find an article, poem, quote or news that is interesting and/or makes me smile. Last time it was the article about Rick Allen and The New Alphabet.

Thank you for all your kind comments. It is my pleasure to put each issue together prior to going to graphic designers and, once approved, the printing and mailing out. There is always room for articles from retirees, and what about some from those of you living abroad. Keep them coming! Ed!

QUIZ

Answers to the quiz in the November 2021 issue of Retiree News were:

1 Oak, **2** Yew, **3** Hazel, **4** Topiary, **5** At least forty years old, **6** (Offer) an olive branch, **7** Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), **8** Eucalyptus (gum tree), **9** Wassailing, **10** Major Oak, **11** Maple, **12** Nordmann Fir, **13** Soft, **14** Japan or China, **15** Yew Scots Pine, Juniper, **16** Pine, **17** Ginkgo Biloba, **18** Horse Chestnut, **19** Holm Oak or Quercus Ilex, **20** Sycamore or Limewood.

The winners were:

Ted Cardiff – Porthcawl, Gordon McHattie -Aberdeen, Peter McLoram - Tyne and Wear.

The general knowledge quiz for this edition is below:

- 1 Whose ship was the first to sail around the world?
- 2 In music hall, who was the 'Prime Minister of Mirth'?
- 3 'Freedom' was the first UK top ten hit for which Robbie?

- 4 What is the full name of BBC Radio 5?
- 5 What was invented by Lewis Waterman in the 1880's?
- 6 Which illustrator was famous for detailed drawings of weird and wonderful mechanical inventions?
- 7 Which US President was nicknamed 'The Comeback Kid'?
- 8 Following the 1963 Peerage Act, who was the first peer to disclaim his title?
- 9 Who is the lead female actress in 'Orange is the New Black'?
- 10 Which instrument usually has 47 strings?
- 11 What is the name of Dennis the Menace's dog?
- 12 For over 30 years, which tobacco company gave its name to a football yearbook?
- 13 Who wrote 'Help Me Make It Through the Night'?
- 14 Moving anti-clockwise on a dartboard, what is the number next to 4?
- 15 Who created the detective, Paul Temple?
- 16 Who pricked her finger on a spinning wheel and slept for 100 years?
- 17 Who became Earl of Stockton on his 90th birthday?
- 18 Which traffic light follows green?
- 19 What year did Mark Zuckerberg invent Facebook?
- 20 Which is the first month of the year to have exactly 30 days?

Try your luck. You never know, you may be one of the lucky three to receive an M&S voucher. Answers please to the Editor, (details at foot of Retiree News) to be received 5 July 2022 by email or post. Editors' decision is final. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS!!





Time for a Chuckle

Round like a shot

Going to bed the other night I noticed people in my shed stealing things. I phoned the police but was told no one was in the area to help. They said they would send someone over as soon as possible.

I hung up. A minute later I rang again. 'Hello I called a minute ago because there were people in my shed. You don't have to hurry now, because I've shot them'.

Within minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area plus helicopters and an armed response unit. They caught the burglars red handed.

One of the officers said 'I thought you said you shot them'.

To which I replied, 'I thought you said there was no one available'.

Tony Gladstone

A man was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine.

'What was that for' he asked.

'That was for the piece of paper in your trouser pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it' she replied.

'Two weeks ago, when I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horse I bet on. I bought you those flowers with the winnings' he explained.

'Oh darling, I'm sorry' she said. 'I should have known there was a good explanation.

Three days later he was watching TV when she walked up and hit him on the head again, this time with a frying pan, which knocked him out cold.

When he came to, he asked 'what was that for'?

'Your horse phoned!'

Golden Wedding Anniversaries

Jim and Helen Spurr celebrated on 11 December 2021. Jim worked at the Gulf Refinery off Plots for twenty years. He moved to Barry in 1995 to manage the Gulf Cardiff Terminal, which became Texaco Cardiff, now Valero Cardiff Terminal. In 2008 Jim moved a mile down the road within Cardiff Docks to manage the Inver and HCB Terminals prior to his retirement in 2015.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Eddie and Jean Sands on 20 January 2022. We were pleased to get away on a cruise to Madeira and the Canary's to celebrate. Since we returned from our last cruise in January 2020 and Covid struck, every holiday that we booked for 2020 and 2021 was cancelled. As we have cruised at least twice a year for the past three years, we were having withdrawal symptoms! After the stress of completing Passenger Locator Forms and numerous antigen tests, we finally got on board. Everything on the ship had to be booked through an app, meals, theatre etc., not the best of starts for us dinosaurs in this digital age! None of the activities that we have always enjoyed – dance lessons, dancing, bridge, whist, art and craft classes, organised deck games, were available. Having to wear masks all the time except for eating, was also a downer. However, we did get a change of scenery and it was nice to have a break from cooking. Arriving back home, we were delighted to open an anniversary card from The Queen.

It was a better homecoming than our 50th anniversary cruise, as we came home and found our bungalow had been flooded because of a burst pipe and was not habitable for six months. We are now waiting to catch up with our family later in the year for a belated celebration. My husband has just read what I have written and his comment was 'June will wish she had never asked'.

Not at all Eddie, always good to hear about celebrations. Enjoy those with your family later this year. Congratulations to you all. Ed!



Answers to the Five Riddles earlier in this issue

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead. That one was easy, right?
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it and hung it up to dry (shot; held under water and hung).
3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
4. Sure you can name three consecutive days, yesterday, today and tomorrow!
5. The letter "e" which is the most common letter used in the English language does not appear even once in the paragraph.

OBITUARIES

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

Donald George Ashton (G) on 14/02/22 aged 82, Cheshire
Wilfred George Barrah (G) on 20/12/21 aged 76, Haverfordwest

A F Blackburn (T) on 10/02/22 aged 96, Bristol
Paul Maxwell Bowen (T) on 06/11/21 aged 74, Milford Haven

R J Browne (T) on 16/11/21 aged 77, Farringdon
Peter G Burgess (T) on 31/10/21 aged 76, South Africa

Aubrey James Butland (T) on 22/02/22 aged 87, Tenby
David Horace Colwill (G) on 04/01/22 aged 81, Haverfordwest

Brian Alan Coombes (T) on 29/12/21 aged 82, Bristol
Maureen F Cooper (C) on 26/12/21 aged 88, South Croydon

Stephen P Cunningham (C) on 09/03/22 aged 74, Perthshire

Thomas Don Dobbin (T) on 25/10/21 aged 87, Belfast
Malcolm Douglas Forrest (T) on 11/01/22 aged 78, Kent

Peter Donald Granville-Edmunds (C) on 18/02/22 aged 90, Cheltenham

Ian Alexander Gray (T) on 13/10/21 aged 78, Maidenhead

A E Gray (T) on 05/01/22 aged 97, Essex

Gerald Hansford (T) on 16/11/21 aged 91, Dyfed
Laurence Hawkins (T) on 04/12/21 aged 96, Barbados
Glyn Heighway (G) on 21/01/22 aged 86, Dyfed
Thomas William Hemsley (T) on 27/02/22 aged 73, Tenby
Pauline Teresa Hennessy (T) on 05/10/21 aged 82, London

Robert Morton Hodge (T) on 01/03/22 aged 63, South Ayrshire

Stuart George Jameson (G) on 26/10/21 aged 88, Tewkesbury

Harry Victor Jenkins (T) on 03/12/21 aged 85, Leigh
Islwyn Edmund Jenkins (T) on 24/01/22 aged 97, Hatfield

Clive Bryan Johnson (G) on 10/10/21 aged 81, Suffolk
Robert Johnson (C) on 28/11/21 aged 89, Cornwall
Haydn Jones (T) on 03/10/21 aged 89, Milford Haven
Richard Winston Jones (T) on 01/11/21 aged 77, Llanelli
Lena Marcia Julien (T) on 28/01/22 aged 89, Malta
Peter Kershaw (T) on 09/04/22 aged 91, Chalfont St. Peter

David John Kettle (T) on 22/03/22 aged 74, Pembroke Dock

Audrey Ann King (T) on 04/10/21 aged 78, Edinburgh
Eric James Kingman (T) on 24/09/21 aged 90, Chilcompton

John Barry Kingston (G) on 11/11/21 aged 75, Milford Haven
Christine Mary Lanigan (T) on 19/10/21 aged 70, Manchester

Frank Peter Ludowyk (T) on 05/10/21 aged 84, Australia
Arnold Mack (T) on 09/03/22 aged 84, Berkhamsted
Cyril John Malins (T) on 20/11/21 aged 92, Hemel Hempstead



Helmut McArthur (C) on 19/11/21 aged 81, Indonesia
Jessica McCulloch (T) on 14/12/21 aged 81, Essex
Ian Robert McFarlane (T) on 23/12/21 aged 93, Stratford upon Avon
Douglas Emslie Mowat (T&C) on 11/10/21 aged 60, Stonehaven
Robert Murney (C) on 11/11/21 aged 72, Stirling
Sandra Nicholson (G) on 02/10/21 aged 74, Tyne and Wear
Jack Nock (G) on 14/10/21 aged 89, Scunthorpe
Keith Oldham (G) on 27/12/21 aged 72, Thailand
Charles Leslie Pollard (T) on 19/11/21 aged 98, Milton Keynes
Jonathan Hugh Prytherch (G) on 15/10/21 aged 77, Haverfordwest
Robert Charles Rider (G) on 04/12/21 aged 87, Essex
Robert Rimmer (T) on 21/01/22 aged 81, Cheshire
Kenneth E Robbins (G) on 29/03/22 aged 89, Berkshire
John Robertson (C) on 16/01/22 aged 78, Aberdeenshire
Terence Leslie Sims (G) on 27/03/22 aged 81, Clacton-on-Sea
Frank Smith (G) on 14/01/22 aged 90, Manchester
David Snewin (T) on 24/01/22 aged 90, Cheshire
Olive Frances Spurr (T) on 30/11/21 aged 81, Wisbech
George Wallace Stein (T) on 31/12/21 aged 96, Perth & Kinross
Donald William Stranix (T) on 08/03/22 aged 85, South Yorkshire
Robert Walter Suckling (C) on 06/03/22 aged 83, Manchester
Richard Donald Thorne (T) on 21/01/22 aged 80, Devon
Desmond Hugh Treloar (T) on 20/03/22 aged 78, Dyfed
Allen Wheway (C) on 30/01/22 aged 69, Chester
Alan Wooton (C) on 24/01/22 aged 88, Milton Keynes
Kenneth Wratten (C) on 21/02/22 aged 69, Norfolk



Quotes

A garden requires patient labour and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfil good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.

Liberty Hyde Bailey

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

Gertrude Jekyll

Ideas won't work unless 'You' do.

Anon

Your mind is like a parachute - it functions only when open.

Anon

Editors Last Word

May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more and may nothing but happiness come through your door.

June Parham McCullough

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