

# intouch

For annuitants of ExxonMobil subsidiaries in the UK and Ireland

## Four musketeers bring EM skills to bear in saving young lives

**Four well-known ExxonMobil personalities - three of them annuitants - are bringing their expertise and experience to bear with a charity that is helping to rescue young people from the culture of street gangs and crime in London.**

The JBVC (Johnson Beharry VC) Foundation was born out of friendship between ExxonMobil's Rupert Bravery and decorated soldier Johnson Beharry VC, one of only three living British servicemen to hold the Victoria Cross.

The two men met at an event where Johnson was promoting his autobiography and relating his life story, which had captured the heart of a nation and saw him awarded the VC for selfless acts of valour.



Strong friendship - Johnson and Rupert at the Goodwood revival meeting.



Johnson the young soldier.

Johnson twice put his own life on the line whilst on frontline duty in Iraq, rescuing colleagues from certain death under heavy enemy fire and sustaining serious injuries himself.

"He's an incredible man," said Rupert. "We kept in touch after that first meeting and began regular correspondence. Johnson wanted the fame he had earned put to good use, by setting up a charitable foundation in his name. We initially considered supporting ex-servicemen but there are already a host of charities working in that field."

Their conversation then turned to Johnson's earlier life.

"Johnson comes from the poorest village in Grenada, where as a youngster he had received little formal education. He then moved to the UK at an impressionable age and became involved in gang culture until he realized this was not the life he ought to be leading and thus joined the Army", said Rupert. "So why not something in that arena? He had an affinity and knew what these youngsters were up against. Johnson had lived the gang culture."

From that chance meeting 11 years ago, has grown an idea and a charity that has opened its door - and its heart. Established some five years ago, it is now literally changing the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Johnson, the charity's founder and figurehead, and Rupert, Chair of the Trustees, have forged a strong professional and personal relationship. When Johnson married his wife, Malissa, he asked Rupert to be his best man.

"It was an absolute honour to be his best man and, since then, to have seen the arrivals of his son and daughter.

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Members of the ExxonMobil Pension Plan (EMPP) can seek advice and support via the 'Call.Connect.' service.

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## Rescued from culture of drugs and street gangs

(continued from page one)

Rupert – 38 years with ExxonMobil and currently Emergency Preparedness and Response Advisor – set to work in his spare time on assembling an experienced team around him. And where better to turn than to ExxonMobil colleagues and annuitants Martin Todd, Jim Masterman and David Eglinton.

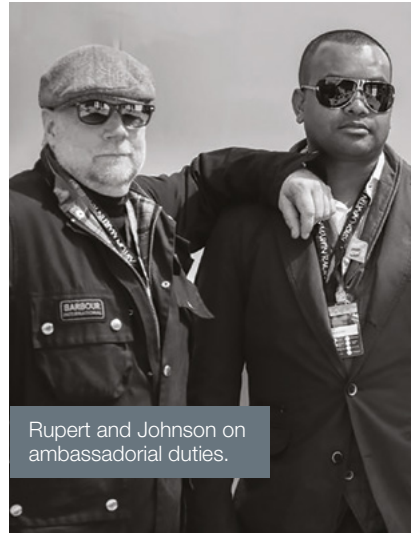
“Call us the four Musketeers,” smiled Rupert, recalling that he, David and Jim all started work with ExxonMobil on the very same day – September 13, 1981. “Does that make Martin our D’Artagnan?” he ponders.

“One of our core principles is ensuring that the governance is right,” said Rupert. “How we do things is as important as what we do. We run the charity very much on responsible business lines, as we do in EM.”

With seed funding from Lord Ashcroft – which enabled “us to get the initial organisational legwork done” - fund-raising began in earnest and the JBVC Foundation was established, and now operates across London.

Annuitant Jim Masterman is now the JBVC Foundation’s Project Manager and David Eglinton is signed up as an associate, providing PR and communications advice. Martin continues to give his support as an Ambassador interfacing with high profile benefactors.

“We originally looked to offer our services to any gang members wishing to get into training or employment,” said Rupert. “But like EM, we looked at the data before starting the project. We soon realized that we could do the most good by targeting those youngsters already in prison, on the basis that if we can get them into work and earning money we can drastically reduce the chances of them reoffending.



Rupert and Johnson on ambassadorial duties.

“If we can stop reoffending, we are assured of maximizing the potential benefits of the Foundation’s work. We really would be changing young people’s lives – and we have.

“In conjunction with the St Giles Trust, who are recognized experts in this field, our caseworkers begin to engage with our clients three months before they are due to be released, and then continue that work when they are out of prison.”

Rupert continues his role with ExxonMobil – “out of the country more often than I am in it” he observes “spending much of my life trying to adjust to different time zones and dealing with the vicissitudes of border crossings”.

Asked how he found so much time for such an incredible charity, Rupert, previously ExxonMobil’s Distributor Business Manager for the UK and Ireland, joked: “It’s not too difficult, I’m a poor sleeper!”

## Birthday bash at 90 for EM’s ‘Alex Ferguson’

***‘He not only inspired all those with whom he came into contact, he could also be relied upon to deliver sound advice’***



Jack, seated, with life-long colleagues at his 90th birthday celebration, held near his home at Bidford-on-Avon.

Jack Chapman celebrated his 90th birthday on March 20 and a nucleus of his long standing friends – those who worked with or alongside him - came together again in May to continue the celebrations. This was one of very many annual reunions which first began in 1987 when many colleagues were still working.

It had been the establishment of the Investment Group in Mobil’s Southern Retail Division in 1969, of which Jack was the manager, which led the late Richard Marjoram (Mobil 1953-1988) to become the driving force behind these annual get-togethers.

Jack joined the Vacuum Oil Company in 1945 and retired in 1989. His career initially was in the railway, government and overseas department, followed by spells in auto engineering and retail, where he became a salesman in South Birmingham.

After time as a retail merchandiser he was appointed office manager before transferring to the Southern Retail Division as an area manager. After a very successful period as investment manager, Jack was appointed general manager of Prime Garages Ltd, a company under the Mobil umbrella which ran and operated a very large number of company-owned service stations.

In a couple of testimonials from those present, Barrie Martin wrote: “It was my good fortune that Jack was my area manager. He taught me things about business which have stood me in great stead for the rest of my working life”.

Brian Eastoe added: “Jack was quite unique, a real ‘team man’. He set a wonderful example - if you didn’t know the answer to a question, don’t fudge an answer, admit it, then go and find out. I was so lucky to have worked under him”. All those here today can testify to these comments.”

*In Touch is grateful for the words supplied here by Desmond Mulvany.*

## Class of '69 celebrates its anniversary in style



Each year for the past 25 years a group of employees who joined Esso in 1969 as marketing trainees have met for lunch to celebrate their anniversary of joining the company.

And this year's lunch was particularly special - the group's 50th anniversary.

Over the years, "The Class of '69" have been joined by others – some recruited before 1969, and some after. All came together in friendship for the 50th anniversary lunch celebration last May in the Segrave Room at the RAC in Pall Mall.

Organiser Les Lidington, a "69er" who retired at the beginning of 2001, has shared this photograph with In Touch of the anniversary gathering in full swing.

## Five meet famously for September reunions



Five graduates who started work for Esso as trainee computer programmers back in the 1970s, have stayed friends and kept in touch ever since.

Over the years, they have met annually in the first week of September.

This year's reunion is planned for Derbyshire; in previous years the friends have stayed in Truro, Lincoln, Guernsey and several times in Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

In the photograph, left to right, are Dave Gylee, Carol Mitchell, Ilse Richmond (Dave R's wife), Shirley Gylee (Dave G's wife) and Dave Richmond. The photo was taken by Dave Mark at St Just-in-Rowland, near Truro, at last year's September get-together. Missing from the photograph is Sandra Barnett, who couldn't make it.

## Roland and Sally's diamond celebrations



Annuitant Roland Moss and his wife Sally celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on July 25, 2019.

On Roland's retirement, the couple moved to Dorset where they became involved in many activities including local history and the National Trust, and Roland studied for and attained an Open University honours degree in History.

Roland was with the Mobil Oil Company Ltd from 1966 until 1995, which included seven years at the refinery and the remainder at head office.

## Search for a Gargoyle – and a Mobilfuel missing link

**Mobil memorabilia collector Jo Canchola is asking for annuitants' help in trying to identify the production date of the Mobilfuel Diesel Product.**

Jo has been shown the advertising board (pictured here) and wrote; "I am writing to confirm the original date of the Mobilfuel Diesel Product. I collect Mobil and was shown this sign.

"I've never seen the Mobilfuel Diesel name alongside the Mobil gargoyle logo. I would think this would be an early to mid-1930s piece but I thought that Mobilfuel Diesel came out in the 1940s.

"Am I wrong in thinking that? Do you have anywhere in your archives the original production date or year of Mobilfuel Diesel?" asked Jo.

**If you can throw any light on this please email us at [intouch@exxonmobil.com](mailto:intouch@exxonmobil.com)**



## Silverware reflect on a half century of company history

**A piece of silver-plated silverware which reflects on an era of the company from more than half a century ago, has come to light.**



The commemorative silver plate. Credit: ExxonMobil.

The silver plate was presented to honour the formation and 30th year anniversary of a joint company, which came about when the then Mobil oil company created a 50/50 partnership in 1952 with a large garage group, City Motors Oxford, to create Home Counties Petroleum Products Ltd.

The joint company traded out from its Oxford terminal to all types of customers in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and south Northamptonshire with more than 200 retail and consumer delivery sites.

In its heyday, Home Counties Petroleum Products Limited employed approximately 25 staff and delivered more than 20 million gallons of fuel each year.

The plate was presented to Home Counties Petroleum Products Limited in 1982 by Mobil directors at a joint company board meeting in Mobil House, London, to commemorate its 30th anniversary.

The company doesn't have a store for such historical items but recognises the silver plate's sentimental value and is keen to hear from any In Touch reader who may be able to offer it a new home.

The Mappin and Webb silver plate was almost consigned to history when that former company's redundant terminal in Botley Road, Oxford, was being dismantled. By chance, the plate was discovered still hanging on an office wall of a former office and since then, has been kept safely in a sideboard.

If anyone has any further knowledge of the plate – or can offer it a fitting resting place - please direct your inquiries to [intouch@exxonmobil.com](mailto:intouch@exxonmobil.com)

## ExxonMobil donation helps Basildon to 'Never Forget'

**A project to help the community of Basildon, in Essex, to commemorate the town's involvement in world war one, has been supported by ExxonMobil.**

"Never Forget" was established under umbrella sponsorship from the National Lottery Fund, at the initiation of Basildon MP, Stephan Metcalf.

Working as part of the project team has been an ExxonMobil annuitant, Eric Lamb, for 16 years a member of MDSL (Mobil Data Services Ltd, telecommunications).



One of the project's highlights – a beacon lit in tandem with hundreds of others across the UK. Credit: Basildon Borough Heritage Society.

In the past four years, the Basildon Borough Heritage Society has staged several exhibitions, one of them featuring a world war one role of honour. A partnership with the Basildon Twinning association has also been formed, allowing the project to embrace its twin towns in France and Germany.

One of the highlights of "Never Forget" was the building of a beacon at the project's base – Wat Tyler Park, Pitsea – which was lit in tandem with hundreds of others across the UK on 11 November 2018, to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the war.

A second visit to the Houses of Commons (the first had been to celebrate as one of the 12 lottery-funded projects), saw the Basildon group joined by local dignitaries, MPs, students and cadets, and even 30 children from Belgium.

ExxonMobil's support had come through the company's VIP scheme and it helped fund "Never Forget" with the purchase of equipment essential for routine research and activities.

The project is now moving on to concentrate its research on world war two and the 70th anniversary of Basildon new town.