

the **Gazette**

NOVEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 107

FOR PENSIONERS OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO



FINDING LOVE IN THE WORKPLACE

Group Head Office Reunion
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Centenarian
who's happy
in retirement
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Sixty years
of marriage
celebrated
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Investment activities, together with the launch of new products, have helped deliver an increase in tobacco and next generation products growth for the year.

FULL YEAR RESULTS SET TO REVEAL FURTHER GROWTH

IMPERIAL BRANDS has reported an acceleration in tobacco and NPG net revenue growth for the year ended 30 September 2024, adding that it was on track to deliver in line with full year guidance.

In a trading update ahead of the release of its full year results on 19 November, the Group also announced a further £1.25 billion share buyback for the 2024/25 financial year, up 13.6 per cent from last year.

Investment activities in the company's five priority markets continue to deliver stable aggregate market share with gains in the US, Spain and Australia broadly offsetting declines in Germany and the UK.

Results this year have also benefited from the launch of innovative products under the *blu* brand, new *iSenzia* non-tobacco heat sticks and new flavours in the modern oral segment as well as the launch of the *Zone* range of pouches in the US. CEO Stefan Bomhard said: "We are also announcing a change



Imperial Brands CEO Stefan Bomhard

“...smoothing of the dividend payment profile will result in more consistent cash returns to shareholders throughout the year.”

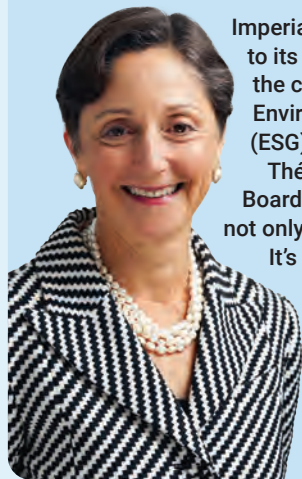
to the future dividend payment profile, to four equal quarterly dividend payments for FY26 onwards.

“This smoothing of the dividend payment profile will result in more consistent cash returns to shareholders throughout the year, compared to the current 30:70 split. This is

enabled by the strong visibility of cash flows from our portfolio following the successful execution of our strategy.”

Full year results were released after the Gazette had gone to print but can be viewed at: [imperialbrandsplc.com](https://www.imperialbrandsplc.com)

Investors updated on ESG activities



Imperial Brands has delivered a webinar to its investors to update them on the company's activities to meet its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals.

Thérèse Esperdy, left, Chair of the Board, told the online audience: "ESG is not only about us doing the right things.

It's also about giving you – the people who own this business – comfort that we can clearly evidence our progress.”

The audience then heard about the company's journey to drive ESG into its operations over the

last two years. Highlights include next generation products revenue growth of more than 40 per cent under the current strategy; a 69 per cent decrease in emissions since 2017; and supporting more than 100,000 farmers through Leaf Partnership Programmes.

The theme of the webinar was *Healthier Futures*, which is aligned with the company's vision and embodied the eight ESG priorities under four categories: performance culture, consumers, planet and people and society, all of which are critical to supporting sustainable and responsible tobacco and nicotine production.

Performance,
Consumers,
Planet and
people,
Society

Imperial shares its vision of a healthier future

Paola Pocci, Imperial Brands' Chief Consumer Officer, gave a keynote address at this year's Global Tobacco and Nicotine Forum in Athens, Greece.

The annual conference discusses the future of the tobacco and nicotine industries, and this year centred around advancing responsible innovation.

Paola focused on the company's vision to create a healthier future for its consumers and the planet. She discussed its distinctive role as a challenger business, and how it continues to play a key role in reducing

harm through the transformation of the sector.

Imperial continues to lead the way by prioritising harm reduction and offering alternative products that meet the needs of today's smokers, while maintaining a legacy built on quality and responsibility.

➤ Chief Consumer Officer Paola Pocci, who joined Imperial Brands in 2021, gave a keynote address at the GTNF annual conference in Greece



There's a December deadline for nominations to become a Member Nominated Trustee to represent the Fund's pensioner and deferred member community.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS OPEN



ENCLOSED WITH this issue of the Gazette is an invitation for nominations for the post of Member Nominated Trustee (MNT)

from the pensioner and deferred member population of the Fund.

There are three MNTs on the Trustee Board – two selected from the pensioner/deferred member category and one from the employed member category.

Selection process

Ken Hill and Kirsty Green-Mann are the current MNTs from the pensioner and deferred member category. Ken, a pensioner of the Fund, was re-elected with effect from 1 March 2023. Kirsty was appointed on 1 March 2021 and is currently serving a four-year term of office, which ends on 28 February 2025. As a result, the Trustee is running a selection process for the new term of office, which

would commence on 1 March 2025 and end four years later on 28 February 2029.

Kirsty, a deferred member who also served on the Trustee Board as an employee MNT during her employment with Imperial, is eligible to re-stand for nomination, and has indicated that she will. However, any pensioner or deferred member of the Imperial Tobacco

**Kirsty
Green-Mann**



Pension Fund living in the UK is also eligible to apply to be selected.

How to apply

Contact Jan Killick or Leigh Callaghan to request a nomination form, which must include support from two other current or deferred pensioners, at:

Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund, PO Box 3242,
Winterstoke Road, Bristol BS3 9GY

Nominations must reach the Pension Fund Office by 5pm on Friday 13 December 2024.

Why not sign up for electronic communications?

The Pension Fund Office continues to move towards paperless communication, where appropriate, to provide a fast, convenient and environmentally friendly way of providing information to its members.

It only relates to generic pension news updates and Trustee communications, such as the Gazette, Pension Fund Report and bulk mailings with news about the Fund.

You will continue to receive all personal Fund correspondence such as pension payslips, pension increase letters etc, in paper format through the mail.

If you would like to opt-in and have access to the latest Fund news straight from your mobile phone, tablet or computer, please email the Pensions Office at: pension.enquiries@uk.imptob.com

Visit the Fund's website



Our myimperialpension.com website contains a lot of useful information about the Fund, pensions tax information, how to spot a pensions scam and so on. It is frequently updated so please remember to visit it regularly.

Distribution issues now resolved

We encountered some challenges with the distribution of the July issue of the Gazette (issue 106) and apologise that delivery was later than planned.

The issue is now resolved but remember you can also view the Gazette on the Fund's website at: myimperialpension.com/library

Put it in writing



Please remember that if your bank or address details have changed, we will need to receive the new information in writing, accompanied by your signature. To make sure the alteration is genuine, and no mistakes are made, we cannot accept changes over the telephone or by email. Please send your new information to the postal address below:

pension.enquiries@uk.imptob.com

0117 953 0000

Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund, PO Box 3242,
Winterstoke Road, Bristol BS3 9GY

Pensioners at the annual Group Head Office reunion, held for the fourth time at Knowle Golf Club, Bristol

GREAT TURNOUT FOR GROUP HEAD OFFICE REUNION



“I always notice... the number of smiling faces.”

IT WAS another great turnout for this year's Imperial Group Head Office reunion, held for the fourth time at Knowle Golf Club, Bristol.

“One thing I always notice about this event, is the number of smiling faces,” said former Pensions Manager and reunion organiser Mike Paige, who led everyone

outside for a group photo. “It's lovely to see you all again – and welcome to our new attendees.” With a turnout of 74, this year's Group Head Office reunion was another resounding success.

Hard-earned cash

During his welcome speech, Mike recalled the National Savings schemes, in the form of Premium Bonds, that were introduced

during the 1970s, when he first started working at Imperial. “Some of us will remember Esme Perryman and latterly Diane Prescott, from the Staff Secretary's Office, miraculously appearing just after pay day to extract our hard-earned cash for that month's savings,” he said. “Cheap holidays were a thing back then with Freddie Laker's Skytrain flights to the US just £33 – a true bargain, even



Head office high jinks

Pauline Harris, right, who worked in the Registration Department, attended the Group Head Office reunion for the first time, and was delighted to catch up with her old friend, Geraldine Shields. The pair used to work together at the Temple Street offices in the 1960s, where they quickly became known for their playful antics.

They recalled a time when Pauline, who worked in the department for four years from 1963, thought she was locking her friend Geraldine in the office safe as a joke – only to accidentally lock their boss inside instead!

“We were known as the terrible two for a reason,” laughed Pauline.



Mechanical career

Alan Bancroft spent 17 years as a mechanic with Imperial's Group Technical Services (GTS), where he gained a reputation for his expertise and reliability.

When Lord Hanson took over in 1989, Alan faced redundancy, but with a little help from John Smith, he purchased the garage equipment from Imperial and opened his own business, AJ Bancroft, in Bedminster.

Alan ran the garage for 12 years, until he began to experience issues with his knees. During an appointment with a specialist, he received a clear warning – "slow down, or you risk no longer being able to walk."

That evening, Alan and his wife, Sheila, made the decision to retire and sell all of the equipment to the local training college.

"And that was that," said Alan. "By Friday of the same week, we were closed. We only opened for customers to collect their remaining cars."

Now, Alan has turned his focus to a new passion: photography. As a member of the Keynsham Photographic Society, he enjoys capturing photos of birds, nature and wildlife and regularly enters them in local competitions or exhibitions.



in those days." Jenny Chapman, who attended the reunion with her husband, Colin (inset above left), enjoyed looking through the book of names and photos, pointing out former colleagues and reminiscing about her time with the company.

Jenny spent eight years with Imperial, initially in the Staff Secretary's Office before transitioning to the Registration Department.



Teammates from the Group Management Services 5-a-side football team (from left): Roy Veale, Stuart Roberts, Graham Croker, Martin Haines, Leon Simms and Dennis Baker



At 91, regular attendee Mick Hall was the oldest at the reunion. He worked in the Group Technical Services Department for many years and then as a Quantity Surveyor in the Estates Department


Pensioner Richard Avent also attended the reunion and caught up with his colleague, Mike Paige, who both joined the Staff Secretary's Office on the same day, 55 years ago.

Chairman of Portishead Probus

Stuart Roberts, who worked in the IT Department for 13 years, enjoyed catching up with his old Group Management

Services 5-a-side football teammates.

He is also celebrating his appointment as Chairman of the Portishead Probus Club, where he takes pride in bringing together local like-minded people for regular lunchtime catch ups and events.

After leaving Imperial, Stuart continued his successful career in IT, working for NatWest and then in pension and investment services. 

Cover story: love in the workplace

Mike and Mary Downing (on the right in the picture) are one of many couples whose relationships began while working at Imperial.

Mary joined in 1965 and worked in the Market Research Department for eight years, while Mike joined Group Management Services as a computer programmer in 1966.

Mike had returned to the UK after completing a year's scholarship in the USA and initially intended to go back, but never made it. "I like to think that it's because of me," Mary joked. The two hit it off and married in 1971.

Now, with two children and four

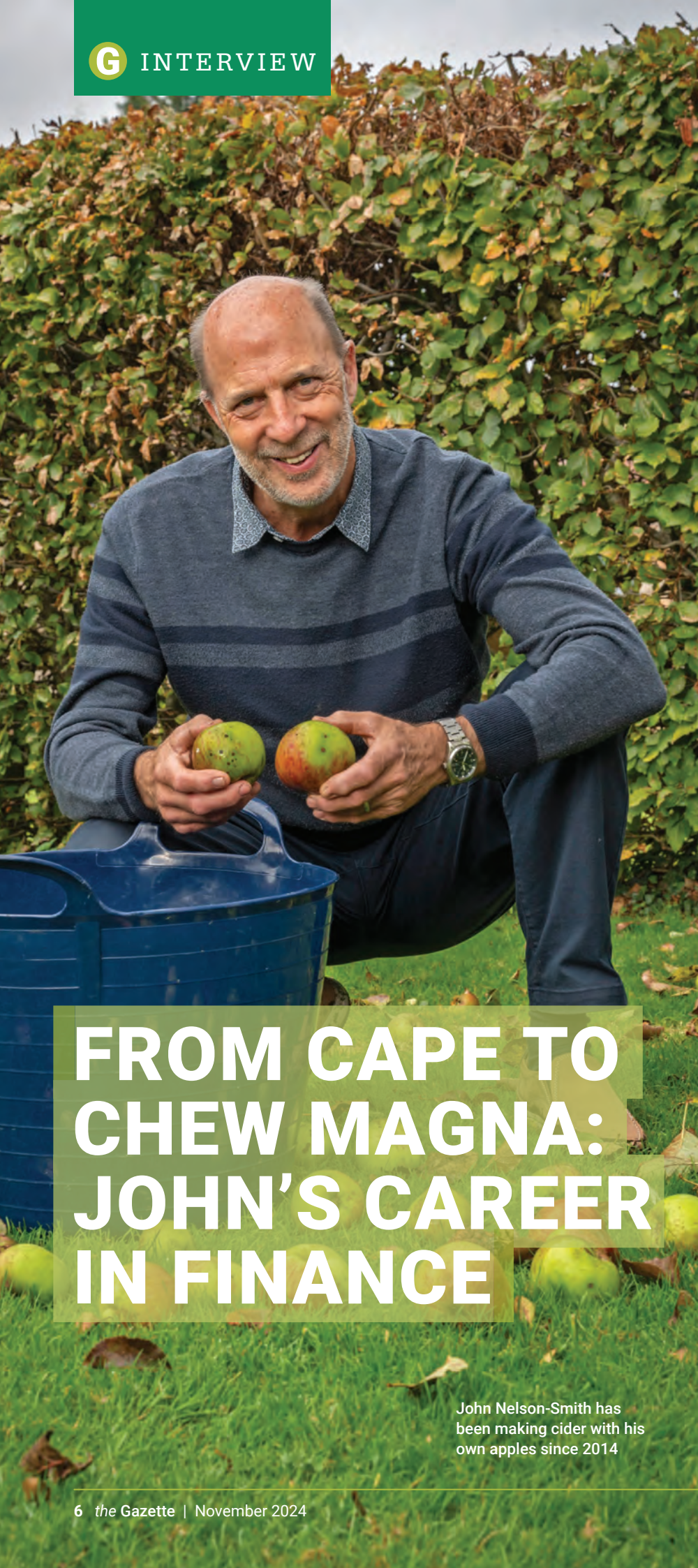
grandchildren, the couple have plenty to keep them busy, but still reminisce about how they met. "Funnily enough, in 1999, our son worked for my old girlfriend's husband in the US, before he moved to his current job in St Louis," said Mike.

Familiar faces

Another couple grateful to the company for bringing them together is John and Pam Bugler (on the left), who are both familiar faces at the reunion.

They first met while working in the Research Department at Raleigh Road during the 1980s and have been married for 35 years.





After spending the early part of his career in South Africa, **John Nelson-Smith** enjoyed nearly three decades with Imperial, including 17 years as Financial Manager of the Pension Fund, where he played a key role in ensuring its stability and growth.



JOHN NELSON-SMITH was born near Winchester in 1953 and attended Sherborne Boys School in Dorset until he turned 18.

His father was in the Army, and much of his early life was spent moving between camps in the southern counties, before he went to boarding school to ensure stability for his education.

After taking a gap year, John began his journey in finance, training as an accountant and joining a medium sized firm in London, where he spent five years, gaining valuable experience and honing his skills.

Eager for new experiences, John took some time off to travel and eventually relocated to Cape Town, South Africa in 1979, where he worked for eight years – first as an Audit Manager for Price Waterhouse then as a Project Manager for South African Breweries.

“I absolutely loved my time working in the Cape,” said John. “It is a beautiful part of the world and the people I met there made it an unforgettable experience.”

A definite spark

John had applied to emigrate to Australia but, having heard nothing for over seven months, decided to book his flight back to the UK to join his sister, Jane, in Bristol.

Just three months before John was due to return to the UK, he met Elaine, his wife of 34 years, at a friend’s dinner party. Elaine had a boyfriend at the time, but there was a definite spark between them and when she was visiting relatives in the UK a year later, the pair met up for three days, deciding then and there that they were meant to be together.

In 1990, they flew to Cape Town to get married and enjoyed a week-long honeymoon in Mauritius, before returning to the UK for a second reception and blessing service.

They later settled into their home in Chew Magna, Somerset, where they raised

FROM CAPE TO CHEW MAGNA: JOHN’S CAREER IN FINANCE

John Nelson-Smith has been making cider with his own apples since 2014



John relocated to Cape Town, South Africa in 1979

their two children, Jamie, 33 and Amanda, 31.

John's Imperial years

On moving to Bristol, John saw an advertisement for a position in Imperial's Pension Fund Office in the Bristol Evening Post newspaper and jumped at the chance to apply for such a well-regarded company.

He was successful and began his long career with the company in July 1987, as Financial Manager of the Imperial Group Pension Trust (IGPT), where he was responsible for the financial accounting of The Fund's assets and investments.

"Pension funds are, by their nature, there to provide members with a secure plan for the future," he explained. "By spreading the investments over asset types and geographies, the aim is to produce long-term growth to cover future pension fund liabilities."

John remembers a difficult transition in 1999, when the Trustees decided to outsource the Fund's investments to a number of different fund managers: "That was challenging, given the sums of money involved – over £2 billion. But it all went pretty smoothly as far as I can remember," he added.

Soon after joining the Pension Fund Office, John participated in his first of

many Classic Golf Days, which he found to be great fun. "I enjoyed meeting employees from all the different departments, as well as pensioners at the pensioners versus employees' game," he said. "I remember that Tony Bradley, Gordon Sneddon, Geoff Good, Keith Brown and I were regular winners."

In 2003 John took over organising the Classic Golf Society from Allan Tucker and Ken Rawcliffe. He ran the club until 2013, with the help of Dave Lee from the Pension Fund Office, who continues to run the society and organises the Golf Challenge Cup.

One of John's favourite events was the annual team tournament between the Wills Bristol club and the Players Nottingham club, usually held at Blackwell Golf Club, near Birmingham, where 12 golfers from each side took part in an 18-hole round.

"The tournament was always followed by a fantastic meal and, so far as I can remember, Bristol was more often than not the winner!" said John.

A great working environment

Around this time John also began playing for the Imperial men's hockey team and also regularly played squash at the Imperial Sports Club in Knowle, Bristol.

"Imperial was a great working

"I absolutely loved my time working in the Cape..."

Caring in Bristol

■ In December 2013, John began volunteering for the Christmas Project of local charity, Caring in Bristol, which provides support for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

"It was a real eye-opener and showed me a part of Bristol of which I was totally unaware," said John. "The city has one of the highest levels of homelessness in the country."

He was so impressed with the charity's work that, within six months, John officially joined the Trustee board and shortly after became the Treasurer, supporting it for six years.

"It was an incredibly rewarding role, and I continue to follow the activities of the charity and the amazing work they do in trying to achieve their ultimate goal of eliminating homelessness in Bristol," he said.

environment," said John. "I came to know many people very well thanks to all of the sports and social activities, and I am still in regular contact with a few of them."

Unfortunately, due to a heart arrhythmia, John was advised to stop playing contact sports. "It was disappointing, but I still spend plenty of time on the golf course,

continued from page 7

which I thoroughly enjoy," he added.

After 17 years in the Pension Fund Office, John moved to Head Office in Upton Road, Bristol, in 2004 as Investor Relations Manager, where he stayed until his retirement from the company in 2013.

"I loved this job!" he said. "I got to talk to shareholders, analysts and investment funds about the Company and convince them to buy Imperial shares. I also

travelled to many of the European finance capitals, as well as New York and Boston, after announcing the half and full year results and also when acquisitions were being made."

During his time with Imperial, John witnessed first-hand the progression of the Company, filled with major acquisitions and expansion into new markets. "When I became Investment Relations Manager in 2004, Imperial's share price was around 950p. By the time I retired in 2014, it had

soared to around 2200p," he said.


More recently, John has been enjoying a more relaxed chapter of his life, spending time gardening, playing golf and travelling with Elaine.

A well-travelled retirement

"We recently returned from our annual trip to Johannesburg, South Africa to visit my 94-year-old mother-in-law," he said. "There have been huge changes in the country in the 37 years since I left, but it remains one of the most beautiful parts of the world to visit."

John's daughter, Amanda, also moved to the North Island, New Zealand, last year and they plan to visit her there every couple of years when possible.

"I am loving retirement. It has given me more time for my hobbies, and I've become quite involved in my DIY projects and even tried my hand at cider making," said John, who has been making his own cider using homegrown apples since 2014.

Reflecting on his long career with Imperial, John remarked: "One of the most rewarding parts of being with the Company for so long was the relationships I built along the way. I'm very grateful for the friends I made and the experiences I had." 



John was a regular winner at Imperial's Classic Golf Days

LETTERS / CALLS

Bob was a great boss

◆ I was pleased to see Bob Lea, my old senior foreman, in the July Gazette celebrating his 100th birthday. He was a great boss. He was fair, had no favourites and treated us all equally. I am sure my workmates from that time will wish Bob a happy belated 100th birthday and best wishes on his and Pauline's upcoming 70th wedding anniversary. Bob must have plenty of stories about the history of Ogden's; the factory was steeped in history, standing as it did for so long.

M Dunford



Sadly, Bob Lea has died since the last issue of the Gazette was printed. See obituary on page 10.

Meaningful keepsake

◆ Following the July issue, the Gazette received a call from John Powell, who had a 64-year association with Imperial, in response to Ellen Donaldson's letter about her late husband, Gerry's, cigarette card collection, *Life in the Hedgerow*.

John, a keen card collector, recognised the collection and confirmed that the original set of cards was produced in 1950 but never issued. They were reprinted sometime later, making the originals quite rare and worth up to £250 for the full set of 50 cards.

On review, it turned out that Ellen's set is unfortunately not the original but an authorised reproduction from 1991. However, it remains a meaningful keepsake, representing Gerry's pride in his work with Imperial.



▲ *The Imperial Story 1901-2001* (at the back) was produced to celebrate 100 years of Imperial Tobacco in 2001

Anniversary booklets

◆ Phill Green, who worked for Imperial for a decade from 2000, sent in this booklet from 1951, which was produced to mark 50 years of The Imperial Tobacco Company and contains illustrations of some of the company's principal brands and products. Two similar booklets were produced at the time, one for employees and one for stockholders and trade customers as a souvenir to commemorate the company's jubilee.

Do you recall the 1951 booklet? Contact the Gazette team with your memories. Details on the back page.

Diary dates

- ◆ The Player's Garage and Motor Vehicle Repair reunion will take place on Monday 02 December from 3.30pm onwards at the Bell Inn, Nottingham. Contact Phil Bradley or Dave Lowe for more information.



- ◆ The second Player's reunion of the year will be held on Wednesday 11 December from 3.30pm at The Stage pub, Wollaton Street, Nottingham NG1 5FE. The collection will be for Dementia UK. Contact Dave Clay.

IMPAC

is a pensioners' organisation which has been supporting Imperial Pension Fund members for over 30 years.



Website: www.impac.org.uk

IMPAC members' helpline:

email: helpline@impac.org.uk or write to IMPAC, PO Box 10486, Oxtou, Southwell NG24 9NL

For membership queries

IMPAC membership agency (to update membership details only):
email: impac@dmb.org.uk; phone: 01438 840247 or write to: IMPAC, c/o DMB, 18a Reynards Road, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9TP

New members welcome

Any Imperial pensioner who would like to join IMPAC please contact the helpline or apply online at: www.impac.org.uk

Membership is free for the first 12 months.

FORMER WINDOW DRESSER AT 100



Thomas on holiday with his wife, Moreen, in Austria in 1983

THOMAS MITCHELL, who worked for Imperial for 46 years, celebrated his 100th birthday with his wife, Moreen, at their home

in Royston, Hertfordshire.

Thomas joined Imperial Tobacco as a window dresser based out of the City Road office in London in 1939 at the age of 15.

Window dressing styles

During the Second World War he was conscripted to The Royal Signals, where he saw service in France and Germany. When the war ended, Thomas returned to the window dressing department, where he stayed until he retired in 1984, age 60.

During his career Thomas saw many


changes to window dressing styles. When he began, the displays were built using only dummy packets and tins, carefully arranged on glass shelves with glue.

Thomas joined Imperial in 1939 at 15

Enjoying retirement

After the war, cut out shapes became the norm and window dressers were referred to as display men and were allowed to make their own shows and displays.

This continued for many years until the introduction of screen printed vinyl.

"I have enjoyed my retirement gardening, woodworking and playing bowls," said Thomas. "I also enjoy my time with my six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren." 

Other pensioners celebrating their 100th birthdays:

Annie Catchpole, widow of Imperial Foods pensioner **Leslie**, who worked for the company from 1960 to 1978 and died in 2018.

Jack Elvin, widower of Wills pensioner **Doreen**, who worked for the company for 13 years between 1974 and 1987.

Audrey Pearson, widow of **David**, who worked for Ross Foods from 1973 until his retirement in 1986. He died in 2010.

Edith Smith, widow of Imperial Group Head Office pensioner **Bryce**, who worked for the company for 39 years between 1943 and 1982.

Sales manager was 'so much fun'



John Balston, former Sales Manager at Imperial Foods, has died just six weeks ahead of his 100th birthday.

Born in 1924, John grew up in Crouch End, North London, and attended Stationer's School in Hornsey and later,

Wisbech Grammar School. During the Second World War, he served in the Navy, and travelled all over the Middle East, India and Malaysia.

He later returned to the UK and took a job with Poultry Services at its hatchery

in Welwyn Garden City, which was the beginning of his career as a salesman in the poultry industry. It was while working for the company that he met and married his wife of 47 years, Bessie, who died in 2009. Although they didn't have any children of their own, they took lots of godchildren under their wings throughout the years.

"Mad about gardening"

John remained with Poultry Services when it was acquired by Sterling Poultry in the 1960s, which later became part of Imperial. He worked at the company until his retirement in 1989.

John was a keen member of the Wheathampstead Horticultural Society, in Hertfordshire and his goddaughter, Tracey Thomas, described him as "mad about gardening." He also spent many hours working on his allotment.

"John was a legend – so much fun and always playing pranks – he is dearly missed," said Tracey.

John's final resting place will be in New Zealand, alongside Bessie, where they spent many happy times together.

Three Imperial centenarians

Three Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund centenarians, who had a combined service of 65 years, have died.

Beryl Hastings, one of the Fund's oldest members, has died at the age of 103. Beryl worked for Smedley-HP Foods, which was acquired by Imperial in 1972, for almost 10 years.

Wills pensioner **Iris Cole** has died aged 100. Iris joined WD & HO Wills in 1966 and spent 14 years with the company until her retirement in 1980. Her husband Victor, who died in 2009, also worked for the company between 1964 and 1982.

Bob Lea, who worked at Ogden's in Liverpool for 42 years has also died shortly after marking his 100th birthday.

Bob, left, joined Ogden's in 1940 aged 16 in the filling room. In 1942 he left to serve in the RAF as an engine fitter during the Second World War, returning to Ogden's when he was demobbed. During his career he progressed to Foreman and then Assistant Manager of the Primary Department, until his retirement in 1983.

Bob is survived by his wife, Pauline, their three children – Robert, Philip and Maureen – and his grandchildren.



Crucial to stay vigilant for scams

The threat of being scammed remains a serious issue and the methods used by fraudsters have become increasingly sophisticated.

This was highlighted at the Group Head Office reunion held in Bristol, where former Pensions Manager Mike Paige shared

his own experience of falling victim to an email scam.

A hacker gained access to Mike's email account and posed as him to request money from his entire contact list. Unfortunately, one pensioner did send the hacker some money, but in most cases, people contacted Mike by phone to verify the request.

Unscrupulous individuals

Thankfully, Mike has since recovered his email account, but it is another reminder that, unfortunately, there are unscrupulous individuals out there, so it is crucial to remain vigilant when sharing personal information, clicking on email links and making bank transfers.

Scammers also design attractive offers to try to persuade you to transfer your pension pot to them or to release funds from it. They can be articulate and financially knowledgeable, with



Jan Killick

"If it sounds too good to be true it probably is."

seemingly credible websites, testimonials and materials that are hard to distinguish from the real thing.

Jan Killick, Head of UK

Pensions, said: "We will never ask for your pension or bank information over the phone, and it is important to be wary of any unsolicited communications you receive regarding your pension or any other savings. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is."

If you think you have been the victim of a pension scam, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report the scam online at actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime

You can also check any offer against the information on the Financial Conduct Authority's Scam Smart website at fca.org.uk/scamsmart or you can speak to The Money and Pensions Service on 0800 011 3797.

More information about how to avoid pension scams can be found at pension-scams.com

Writer of books, poems and songs

St Anne's Board Mill pensioner and creative writer Gordon Ivor King, who published his first book in 2006, has died aged 95.

Known as Ivor, he grew up in Pill, North Somerset, and spent his early teenage years making toys and hats for evacuees that fled to the West Country from London during the Second World War. He left school at the age of 14 and, over the next decade, worked various jobs in the electrical and construction industries, during which time he met and married his wife, Doreen.

Ivor joined St Anne's Board Mill as a tester in the 1960s, where he would check the quality of the board. He spent 15 years in the Research Department until the factory's closure in 1980.

When the mill closed, Ivor took Doreen and their daughter Beryl to the summit of Trooper's Hill in St George, Bristol, to photograph the demolition of the factory's chimney.

A keen writer, Ivor published eight books in his lifetime, including an autobiography which he finished during Covid lockdown. He also penned many personal poems and songs, most of which were inspired by Doreen, who died in 1998.

During his retirement, Ivor also sought inspiration for his writing in nature, enjoying many walking holidays around the UK. He remained active in his community and was a member of his local wine club, gardening club, retired men's club and



bowling club, among others.

Ivor is survived by his daughter, Beryl, his five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The deaths are reported, as at 30 September 2024, of the following retired employees:

HEAD OFFICE AND ITL

George Graham, Fox, 88;
Kenneth Laird, 75;
David Hughes Merchant, 71;
Andrew James Synnuck, 60;
Lynn Thomas, 78.

WD & HO WILLS

Iris Allcock, 81;
David Andrews, 81;
Maurice Avenell, 81;
Geoffrey Barnes, 96;
Bernice Mae Blake, 92;
Michael Boylen, 79;
Kathleen Sarah Bratchel, 88;
Iris May Cole, 100;
Margaret Elizabeth Cottrell, 87;
Alan Albert Dewey, 71;
John Henry Dixon, 89;
Mary Duharty, 85;
William Arthur Eyre, 92;
Terence Colin Green, 89;
Barbara Mary Hawkins, 88;
John Hassard Lee Henery, 87;
Joan Alice Hicks, 95;
Isabella Campbell Hollis, 81;
Christine Mary Charmian Lancaster, 96;
Katherine Lingard, 91;
Shirley Pamela Marsh, 88;
Douglas McDowall, 84;
Mary McSorland, 93;
John Henry Mead, 86;
Alexander Nicoll, 87;
Jacqueline Ann Pimble, 87;
Jacqueline Yvonne Rogers, 83;
Desmond Joseph Sludden, 78;
Sydney Albert Smith, 84;
James Stewart Steel, 90;
Ronald Albert Stoten, 91;
John William Sweet, 80;
Valerie Ann Way, 82;

Sylvia Jean Webber, 84;
Eileen Audrey Whitchurch, 97.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS

Alan Allman, 89;
John Michael Archer, 89;
Norman Frederick Barnes, 99;
Roy Bexon, 91;
Kathleen Edith Bonser, 72;
Thomas Alexander M Boyd, 83;
John Brittan, 85;
Irene Elizabeth Childs, 94;
Harry Cook, 84;
Thomas Donkor, 84;
Linnette Medora Duffus, 96;
Kathleen Anne Forsdyke, 72;
Ernest Timothy Healey, 75;
Gladys May Holmes, 92;
Daphney Beryl Irwin, 88;
Mary Paterson Chapman Jarrett, 92;
Deborah Marie Johnson, 58;
Edith May Marjoram, 98;
Leslie Nightingale, 84;
Doreen Margaret Pannell, 88;
Phyllis Patterson, 94;
Freda Victoria Procter, 80;
Sarah Evelyn Robinson, 88;
James Frederick Smith, 86;
Senhelata Devi Sood, 87;
Joyce Eileen Swinscoe, 98;
Thomas West, 81;
Paul Leonard White, 75;
Marlene Whyley, 82;
Stephen Philip Wyatt, 76.

OGDEN'S

Irene Burns, 86;
Philip Edward Paul Clark, 67;
John Samuel Daniels, 87;
Jean Forrest, 78;
Charles Alan Hesketh, 75;
Irene Hislop, 93;
David Hugh Hughes, 80;
Robert Lea, 100;
Emma Morgan, 95;

Beryl Stoakes, 81.

FINLAY & CO

Robert Stanley Frederick Bruce, 78;
Ivy Rosalind Richards, 96.

LOWFIELD DISTRIBUTION

Ernest Edwin Gough, 85;
Brian Robert Payne, 82;
Alexander Stewart, 69.

RIZLA

Gordon Hickman, 88.

ROBERT FLETCHER & SON

Hilda Shuttleworth, 99.

SINCLAIR COLLIS

James Bannerman, 80;
Mark James, 61;
Michael John Rogers, 82.

ST ANNE'S BOARD MILL

Graham Evan Chard, 76;
Terrence Herbert Dunsford, 86;
Gordon Ivor King, 95;
William McLean Martin, 93;
Clifford John Masters, 94;
John Lionel Monks, 87.

IMPERIAL FOODS LIMITED HEAD OFFICE

Garth Geoffrey Allen, 91;
Keith Baker, 80;
John Alfred Leonard Balston, 99;
Kenneth George Brindley, 89;
Malcolm Campbell, 85;
Noel Francis Dickie, 84;
William Henry Harley Manly, 92;
Leslie Alexander Morrison, 74;
Peter John Short, 68;
David Kenneth Thomas, 74;
Muriel Weatherill, 82;
Colin John Cameron Whimster, 86;
Kenneth Williamson, 85.

GOLDEN WONDER

Andrew Derek Hamill, 80;

Agnes Meek, 92;
Michelle Sharp, 64;
Alexander Souter, 76;
Lorraine Spendlove, 63.

ROSS FOODS

Alan Ronald Crask, 97;
William Mair McKenzie England, 73;
Ian Michael Kirk, 88;
Beryl Doreen Nobbs, 90;
David Edward Owens, 73;
Reginald Parrington, 94;
James Ross, 94;
Malcolm Sales, 69;
Peter John Shepherd, 94;
Trevor Smith, 66.

SEVEN SEAS

Stuart Ockleton, 60.

SMEDLEY-HP FOODS

Richard Stanley Day, 74;
Daphne Elizabeth Maud Fulcher, 98;
Raymond Harris, 85;
Beryl Joan Hastings, 103;
Keith Marshall Jobson, 90;
Doreen Keisler, 89;
Margaret Rose Moore, 95;
Barrie Adrian Rowland Smith, 69;
Daisy Tolley, 75;
David Lawrence Webster, 92;
Michelle Mary Elaine Wilson, 61.

YOUNG'S SEAFOOD

Norma Stewart, 86;
Bernard Wilson, 90.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our former colleagues.

Please note that names appear under the company worked for at end of service, which is not necessarily where they spent the majority of their career.

A company couple are celebrating 60 years of wedded bliss.



DIAMOND DUO CELEBRATE


John and Lilian on their wedding day in 1964

PLAYER'S PENSIONERS John and Lilian Towlson, who met at the company in the early 1960s, are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary. The couple were joined by family and friends at the Turquoise Restaurant in Nottingham to mark 60 years of marriage.

John joined the Traffic and Despatch Department in 1958 and was very well known in the garage as well as for his footballing skills. He spent more than 30 years working for the

company, including on HGVs, in the garage, and as part of the 'heavy gang'.

Lilian (née Thompson) worked in the Traffic Office on Beckenham Road as well as the laboratory before leaving to have their son, Richard, in 1967.

The couple, who live in Strelley, Nottingham, also have a daughter, Lynne, five grandchildren and one great grandson. John enjoys fishing and the couple still love to travel, visiting Richard and his family near Toronto, Canada, every year. 

Skegness memorial walk takes place at last

The Harry's enjoying an ice cream in sunny Skegness



After several false starts thanks to the unpredictable British weather, the Harry's annual memorial walk was finally able to take place.

The skies were clear as the Player's walking group made their way to Skegness for a peaceful walk along the coast, honouring and remembering friends and colleagues who are no longer with them.



The majority of the group, organised by former engineering mechanic Dave Clay, took the train from Nottingham, while Ian Sisson and Brian Hudson decided to make the trip on their motorbikes.

Despite the setbacks, the day was a success, and the group is already looking forward to next year's event, determined to keep the tradition alive.

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