

the Gazette

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FOR PENSIONERS OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO

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A longstanding friendship grew into love for **Mary Shirley**, who has married the man of her dreams in a wedding that was the perfect end to a tough few years.

MARY'S HAPPY EVER AFTER

AFTER MORE than three decades of friendship, Mary Shirley has married "the kindest man I've ever known" in a lockdown wedding in her hometown of Rainworth, Nottinghamshire.

Mary first met Brian Farrow through mutual friends in 1986 when she moved to Nottingham to work in the Horizon factory on the cigarette making machines when the Wills Newcastle factory closed.

"It was quite a thing for me to move on my own for the job, but I never regretted it and met some wonderful people at Horizon," said Mary, 74.

"And, of course, I met Brian. We have always been good friends, but it wasn't until 2018 that we were anything more."

The couple married at St Simon's & St Jude's church on December 21, with just four witnesses as dictated by COVID-19 regulations.

The wedding was the perfect end to a



Mary and Brian on their big day



Brian and Mary: looking forward to their new life together after their lockdown wedding

tough few years for Mary, who has been battling breast cancer since 2014.

"Brian is the best thing that has ever happened in my life," she said. "He has been my backbone since the cancer returned in May 2019: I don't think I could have coped without him."

"We are so happy together and I am delighted to have been given the all clear from the hospital."

Going out cycling together

"Brian is a very keen cyclist and has bought me a bike so I am looking forward to going out cycling together when the weather improves."

Mary joined Wills in Newcastle in 1964 after the city's Maling Pottery, where she worked painting the intricate patterns onto the pottery, closed.

She worked on the cigarette making machines for 22 years before transferring to the Horizon factory, until 1998. She then enjoyed a job cleaning at Nottingham University for a few years before retiring in 2004. Brian and Mary,



Just good friends: Mary and Brian, a keen cyclist, back in 1986

who live in Rainworth, are looking forward to moving to Dorset to start their new life together later in the year. **G**

For the second year running, Imperial has been rewarded for its leadership in corporate sustainability by making it onto environmental charity CDP's prestigious A List.

Recognition for tackling climate change

◆ IMPERIAL HAS been recognised for leadership in corporate sustainability by global environmental non-profit organisation CDP, securing a place on its prestigious A List for tackling climate change for the second successive year.

It has also maintained its position on CDP's 2020 Supplier Engagement Leaderboard for engaging with its suppliers on reducing carbon emissions.

Gold standard

The business has been recognised for its actions to cut emissions and mitigate climate risks based on the data reported through CDP's 2020 climate change questionnaire, which is widely acknowledged as the gold standard of corporate environmental transparency. Imperial is one of only 270 companies included on the A List out of almost 6,000 that were scored.

A detailed and independent methodology is used by CDP to assess companies



based on the comprehensiveness of disclosure, awareness and management of environmental risks and demonstration of best practices associated with environmental leadership, such as setting ambitious and meaningful targets.

All companies responding to the climate change questionnaire receive a Supplier Engagement Rating (SER) in addition to their

climate change score. The SER measures how effectively companies engage their suppliers on climate change through an assessment of governance, targets, scope 3 emissions, and value chain engagement. Imperial is one of fewer than 400 businesses worldwide to be included on the Supplier Engagement Leaderboard, a feat also achieved for a second successive year.

CEO Stefan Bomhard, said: "To retain our A rating is a tremendous achievement, and we are also pleased to once again be recognised by CDP for the work we are doing with our suppliers to help minimise their carbon footprint. This reflects further great efforts from employees across the business and their commitment to deliver our ESG agenda."

Paul Simpson, CEO of CDP, said: "We extend our congratulations to all the companies on this year's A List. Taking the lead on environmental transparency and action is one of the most important steps businesses can make." 

New faces welcomed in senior roles at Imperial



New to the Imperial Board: Alan Johnson

◆ ALAN JOHNSON has joined the Board of Imperial Brands PLC as a non-executive director.

He has a strong financial background in consumer goods and retail, having held a number of senior finance positions at Unilever during a 30-year career. He was previously chief financial officer and then a non-executive director at Portuguese food retailer Jerónimo Martins until April 2016.

Alan is currently president and chair of the board of the International Federation of Accountants and a member of the board and chair of the audit committee of the International Valuation Standards Council.

Chair, Thérèse Esperdy, said: "I am delighted to welcome Alan to the Board. As well as his financial acumen and international experience across mature and developing markets, he has a track record of successfully managing

business transformations. These skills and capabilities will further strengthen the Board's effectiveness as we enter the next important phase of Imperial's development."

Alan has also joined the Succession and Nominations Committee and Audit Committee.

◆ JAVIER HUERTA, right, has joined Imperial as Group manufacturing and supply chain director, taking over from Walter Prinz who has retired after 33 years' service.

Javier has 24 years of manufacturing and supply chain experience, having held a number of senior roles in this field at Unilever and Nestlé across different geographies.

His latest role was executive vice president supply chain for foods and refreshment at Unilever, where he was responsible for its entire supply chain, including its factories across Europe, and driving the technology and strategy of producing and supplying thousands of different consumer products.

◆ LUKAS PARAVICINI will be appointed to the Board of Imperial Brands PLC as chief financial officer (CFO) in the summer. He succeeds Oliver Tant, who



will step down from the Board on Lukas's appointment and leave the business following a handover period.

CEO Stefan Bomhard said: "I am delighted to welcome Lukas to the business. He is a disciplined, results-oriented leader with a proven track record in international consumer goods companies.

As well as his impeccable finance credentials, Lukas has considerable operational experience, as well as expertise in driving transformational change including in global shared services in large international organisations. These qualities will be invaluable to Imperial as we implement our new strategy.

"I would like to thank Oliver for his support since I joined Imperial and for his contribution to the business during his seven-year tenure."

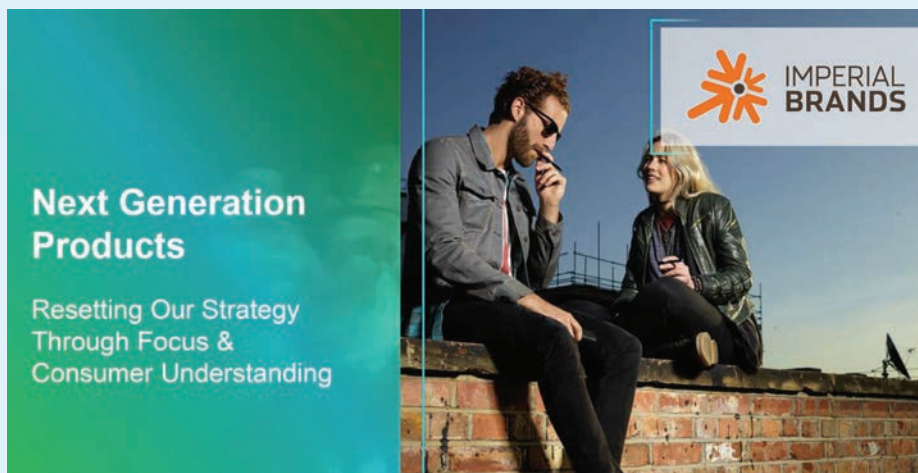
Lukas added: "I am delighted to be joining Imperial at such an exciting time. I look forward to supporting the new strategic direction and working with the Board and my new colleagues to strengthen performance and enhance shareholder value."

Lukas joins from his role as CFO at agricultural commodities and brokerage group ED&F Man Holdings. He has also held senior positions at Fonterra, a New Zealand and Australia listed co-operative and the world's largest dairy exporter, with sales in 130 countries, and Nestlé.

A brand new five-year strategy has been announced that will transform Imperial Brands and deliver a stronger, more consistent performance.

One of the slides from Stefan's Bomhard's presentation to investors

BOLD NEW PLAN TO UNLOCK VALUE



EO STEFAN BOMHARD has announced a new strategy and five-year plan to transform Imperial Brands and create long-term value.

It follows a comprehensive strategic review and will drive targeted investment behind those markets and brands with the greatest opportunities for creating value.

"We have put the customer at the centre of everything we do and are beginning to reshape our culture to support the new strategy," said Stefan Bomhard. "This will improve our ways of working and create an agile, collaborative and performance-based business that will deliver a stronger, more consistent performance."

The new strategy is founded on three pillars:

- **Focus on priority combustible markets:** Investment and resources

focused around the five most important markets – USA, Germany, UK, Australia and Spain – which represent over 70 per cent of combustible (i.e. tobacco products that burn) operating profit.

- **Drive value from the broader market portfolio:** Additional opportunities to drive future growth, while realising efficiencies, have been identified in other markets. Although smaller, these markets – such as Africa and other parts of Europe – benefit from attractive margins and relatively limited investment requirements.

The company will also exit a small number of markets where it has a relatively weaker presence.

- **Build a targeted NGP (Next Generation Products) business:** The NGP strategy has a significantly different approach, informed by consumer insights and validation. Investment will focus on heated tobacco

opportunities in Europe and selective market opportunities in vapour, particularly in the USA.

The oral nicotine business will remain focused on its existing markets within Europe. The aim is to develop a sustainable NGP business that supports Imperial's ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) agenda by making a meaningful contribution to harm reduction.

To support the delivery of these strategic priorities, the company is changing how it operates by putting the consumer at the centre of the business; enhancing accountability through a performance-based culture; and improving the efficiency of its operations.

Find out more at: <https://www.imperialbrandspc.com/media/key-announcements/2021/our-transformation-to-unlock-value.html>

Imperial is officially a 'top employer'

◆ IMPERIAL HAS been recognised as a 'Top Employer Europe' for a fourth successive year in 2021.

Country-level certifications have been achieved by a

record 11 Imperial businesses across Europe, as well as those in Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), taking the total number of certified Imperial Brands entities this

year to 13.

Top Employers Institute is the global authority on recognising excellence in the conditions that businesses create for their people.

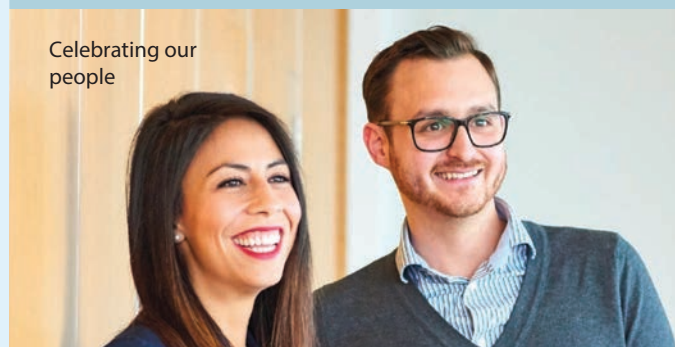
Companies participating in its certification programme have the potential to gain Top Employer status following a comprehensive analysis of 600 people development practices across a number of areas such as leadership development, career and succession management, compensation and benefits and culture.

Alison Clarke, chief people and culture officer at Imperial Brands, said: "I am



delighted that Imperial has been recognised for another year with the Top Employer certification. "Our HR Practices have been surveyed against an international benchmark with a thorough methodology. This accreditation is a symbol of the high standards that we aspire to deliver every day for our people."

Full list of Imperial locations with 2021 Top Employer status: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, UAE, UK.



Celebrating our people

Returning to the Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustee Board after three years away, **Kirsty Green-Mann** brings experience of governance and pensions to the team.

A FAMILIAR FACE REJOINS PENSION TRUSTEE BOARD



KIRSTY GREEN-MANN, pictured, has been reappointed to the Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustee Board to replace Julian Banks as the member nominated trustee (MNT) for the pensioner and deferred member population.

She was previously the employee MNT prior to leaving the company in 2018 and is a deferred member of the Fund.

Kirsty joined Imperial in 1998 in the technical engineering team in Nottingham where she supported production efficiency improvements following the acquisition of the Douwe Egberts Van Nelle roll-your-own business, spending two years working in The Netherlands.

She returned to Nottingham to work primarily progressing quality management systems across a number of manufacturing facilities before moving to Bristol to join the corporate affairs department.

Her initial role was reviewing the company's past conduct and the evolving tobacco and health debate between 1950 and 1990 before she became head of corporate responsibility (CR) in 2008.

Kirsty left Imperial Brands in 2018 to pursue new career opportunities and, after a short period operating as a senior CR and sustainability advisor, joined Burges Salmon LLP, one of the UK's leading independent law firms, as its first head of CR.

She has a MBA from the Cranfield School of Management and has experience as a board member in both a professional and personal capacity. Most notably she was vice-president of the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Foundation from 2014 to 2018 and is currently a member of the Board of Churchill Academy Trust, a secondary school and sixth form college in North Somerset.

Serving members' best interests

"I am looking forward to contributing and collaborating with the other Trustees in the good governance of the Fund, with the ultimate aim of serving members' best interests and continuing to build on my pension knowledge and training to date," said Kirsty.

"I come with governance and a degree of pension experience, as well as a broad business understanding. Assessment and

consideration of ESG (environmental, social and governance) matters has become of increasing importance in the management of pensions funds and I am experienced in this as it is fundamentally what CR and sustainability is about."

Kirsty has replaced Julian Banks, who decided not to stand for a third term, having been appointed in 2015 and re-elected in 2018.

Trustee Board chair Helen Clatworthy said: "Julian has been a great asset to the Board and I am very grateful for his contribution to the operation of the Fund over the past six years. We wish him well for the future. I am delighted to welcome Kirsty back to the Trustee Board; the knowledge and experience she brings will be extremely valuable." **G**

Pensions team COVID update

It has been a year since Imperial closed its Bristol office in line with Government guidelines to help tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then all employees, including the pensions team, have been working from home.

Although plans are in place to enable a safe return to the office in due course, the company's default position is that employees should continue to work from home for the foreseeable future.

"The team is fully adjusted to home working and we continue to pay pensioners and deal with member enquiries as normal," said pensions manager Jan Killick.

"While we continue to work from home, please contact us by email or phone whenever possible. We are collecting post from the office weekly so if you have to write to us, we will still be able to respond but it may take slightly longer than usual."

✉ pension.enquiries@uk.imptob.com

☎ 0117 953 0000

DIARY DATES

The following events are planned to take place, subject to COVID-19 restrictions:

● The Player's garage and motor vehicle repair reunion is set to be held on Monday December 6 from 7.30pm at the Bell Inn, Nottingham. An impromptu get together will be planned in the summer if restrictions allow. Contact Phil Bradley or Dave Lowe for more information closer to the date.

● Plans are in place for a reunion for Player's pensioners in the summer, if restrictions allow, as well as a Christmas one, set to be held in mid-December at either The Stage pub or Parliament bar in Nottingham. Contact Janet Stanley or Dave Clay for details of future events.

● The 2020 Group head office pensioners reunion set to be held in October was cancelled. Provisional plans are still in place to hold the event in 2021 and more details will follow nearer the date. Contact Mike Paige.

● The annual Scottish pensioners' lunch is set to be held on Wednesday December 15 at the Whitevale Bowling Club in Dennistoun, Glasgow. Further details to be confirmed in the July issue of the Gazette. Contact: Colin Martin.

TEN YEARS THAT LED TO LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

After growing up in Kenya, **Reis Braganza** moved to England to attend university in London, before starting an interesting and varying career in IT, including a decade in Imperial's group management services department, which resulted in a number of enduring friendships.

B

ORN IN Kenya in 1948, Reis Braganza spent the first 19 years of his life in the Great Rift Valley. He took a two-year working gap prior to A levels, which he studied at

Strathmore College in Nairobi, where he met his wife, Millie.

All non-citizens of Kenya had to leave the country at some stage, and Reis chose to go to university in the UK, qualifying as a mechanical engineer from University College London (UCL) in 1972.

He spent the summer holidays working on tobacco farms in Ontario, to earn support for his university fees and visit Millie, who had emigrated to Canada, providing his ulterior motive! His first job after university was as a production engineer for Maxlove Continuous, a small London-based company that printed computer stationery.

"Though I did not realise this on joining, Maxlove, as a subsidiary of Mardon, Son & Hall, was a part of the Imperial Group," said Reis, who lives in Nailsea, North Somerset, with Millie. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year.

Mail order music

"I initially worked on production process improvement, before being sent on courses in commercial IT, systems analysis and project management. I subsequently developed various IT systems, working with Mardon's IT department in Bristol."

After working at Maxlove for a couple of years, Reis joined Columbia Broadcasting Services (CBS), which started the UK's first mail order music record club. The company started as a small team of three, including Reis, who had responsibility for IT and operations.

CBS moved to Bristol, as it used a mail marketing company in the city to despatch the albums to its members, but, after three years, had grown considerably, merged with another organisation and moved back to London. "I had no appetite to move back to



Married for over 50 years: Reis and Millie

the metropolis and, with family well settled, opted to take my chances with the Bristol IT marketplace and joined Imperial's group management services (GMS) department in early 1977," said Reis.

"During my time at Maxlove, I worked with organisation and methods consultants from

me aside and, though I had never wielded a hockey stick before, asked me to tell everyone that I was a hockey goalkeeper and, having played for one of the top sides in England, was keen to play at Imperial. Mike Downing, another colleague at GMS, was Imperial's hockey goalkeeper at the time and received the

news with some agitation. We kept him on tenterhooks for a few days before letting on!

"Our friendly interactions continued in this vein throughout. We had our own 'GMS Superstars' competition, held after work every Wednesday

"GMS IT was a fantastic workplace, had a very amiable atmosphere and the people were great fun to work with."

GMS – including David Meredith and Roger Clerk – who visited from the Bristol head office on various assignments. They were asked for references and, despite this, I was recruited as a systems analyst/project manager. Brian Thatcher was head of GMS IT, known as data processing in those days, and Alan Ford headed the systems group.

Each systems analyst/project manager was responsible for the IT provision and ongoing maintenance for systems within head office functions and subsidiaries. Reis worked (on and off) on IT systems for staff secretaries, share registration, and subsidiaries such as Imperial International and Imperial Tobacco Imports Ltd. "GMS IT was a fantastic workplace, had a very amiable atmosphere and the people were great fun to work with," said Reis. "On my first day Alan Ford drew

in the summer, when we retreated to the Imperial Sports Club in Knowle and played a variety of competitive sports. This comprised 17 different games including squash, darts, snooker and cross-country running and each event was scored and recorded. At the end of the season, we had a prize giving dinner. Around Christmas time, we formed a music group jokingly called IMP Rovers and went carol singing at various residential homes."

Imperial Group underwent a major reorganisation in 1981/2 when WD & HO Wills and John Player & Sons merged and the head office role was greatly reduced.

As part of this, Reis and a few others transferred to the Wills Hartcliffe factory and he joined the IT team supporting finance

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The GMS systems team in the 1970s: standing (from left) Mike Downing, Adrian ?, Keith Britten, Alan Ford and Dave Andrews. Seated (from left) John Brooks-Bank, Caroline Pinder and Reis Braganza



cont. from page 7

and accounting.

The team implemented a new finance and management accounting system and, in 1984, after external training, Reis became the computer audit manager.

"This was a new role to the tobacco division, and it was an invigorating and interesting job – despite the uninteresting title," said Reis.

"Then came the Hanson takeover in 1986 and I spent a year transferring the accounting systems from the IBM mainframe to the mini computers favoured by the Hanson Group, before leaving the company."

FTSE 100 company

The experience gained at Imperial proved invaluable for the next stage of Reis's career.

He joined a small IT consultancy, Admiral Management Services, who, at that stage, were working mainly on Government contracts.

Together with other consultants, he gradually expanded the client base into new sectors and, by 2000, it had grown into a FTSE100 company.

"Admiral eventually merged with another consultancy, Logica, and I spent the next few years as client director, growing the investment banking consultancy group," said Reis.

"Daily commuting to London finally got the better of me and I retired in 2005. However, I could not keep away from my Imperial colleagues, and occasionally provided consultancy support for them in their new organisations. Some colleagues even joined me at Admiral. Having had a varied career and roles in other companies, my time at Imperial




Carol singing with the IMP Rovers, organised by Bill Bywaters, seated second left. Reis is pictured standing fourth from left and Millie third from right

Group will always stay with me. Contacts with colleagues and friends have been the most enduring. We meet regularly and, in particular, I enjoy a friendly and sociable three-monthly pub lunch organised by Mike Paige – I can't wait for the pubs to re-open."

Reis and Millie have lived in Nailsea for the last 45 years. The couple have three children, Neil, Charlene and Glyn, who all live overseas and work in investment banking, and six grandchildren – three in Singapore and three in New Jersey, USA. "My grandson recently pointed out to me that each of the last four generations in our family were born and brought up on different continents: Asia, Africa, Europe, and

America, and, as a family, we will soon be running out of continents!" added Reis.

Retirement involves many activities and hobbies, including playing badminton, supporting Bristol Bears rugby club, playing the guitar and reading as much as time allows, particularly history, science and fiction.

Reis and Millie travel abroad mainly to visit the grandchildren but to other places as well, together with motorhome trips in the UK and Europe. "I am also a servant to two lovely, but demanding, Golden Retrievers, who take me on a daily run and keep me relatively fit, so I can return to badminton once the sports halls re-open," said Reis. 



Harry's golfing affair brought focus and friends

AS BOTH a player and a spectator, golf has always been a big part of

Harry Warsop's life. The Player's pensioner's love of the game started when he was 37 and he quickly realised it was going to be a lifelong love affair.

"Golf is about physicality and mentality in equal measures," said Harry, pictured above, who joined the golf society at Imperial Tobacco soon after he began working for the company

in 1971. "Strength is nothing without also having the ability to remain calm and focused. Another huge draw to the game has been the enduring friendships I have made, which have lasted to this day.

Challenge Cup

"One of my proudest moments in my playing days was when I, alongside five colleagues, won the Nottinghamshire Industries Challenge Cup in 1989."

The competition was a one-

day event played over two rounds of golf at the Sherwood Forest Golf Club in Mansfield. Competition was stiff with teams from companies such as The National Coal Board, Boots, Raleigh and Plessey taking part.

"If I do say so myself, we played superbly as a team and won by seven shots," said Harry. "We were rewarded with a magnificent cup but sadly this was the penultimate year the competition ran."

Harry joined Player's as a packing room fitter in the No. 1 factory in Radford Road and one of his first assignments was to send the packing machines on to the newly built Horizon factory.

He was promoted to the staff team as a technical

development engineer in 1978, a role which enabled him to develop his engineering skills while undertaking placements at Imperial's Stirling, Ipswich and Bristol factories.

The latter placement was a chance to work on the new generation machinery and he was honoured to travel to Germany on two occasions to further develop his knowledge and understanding of this new machinery.

He also wrote three workshop manuals on different components of the spreader and turnaround drums and, in his later years at Imperial, worked as an offline project trouble shooter, a role he undertook until his retirement in 1993 after nearly 23 years' service.

"While I no longer play golf, I enjoy being a social member at the Wollaton Park Golf Club in Nottingham and still enjoy the company of the many friends I have made through the sport," said Harry, who lives in Nuthall, Nottingham. Harry and his late wife Dorothy have two children and four grandsons.



Imperial's victorious golf team who won the 1989 Nottinghamshire Challenge Cup (from left): Nigel Seagrave, Tony Haines, Harry Warsop (captain), Barry Stokes and Peter Starkey. Tom Gilbertson, who died in 2013, is missing from the photograph but was a valued member of the team



Imperial pensioners have been celebrating their centenaries:



Edna Exon, centre, with colleagues from the management restaurant at the cigar factory in Raleigh Road. She retired from the role on her sixtieth birthday in 1981

Also marking their 100th birthday:

- Noreen Bell, who worked for Smedley-HP Foods in the late 1970s/early 1980s.
- Ross Foods pensioner James Briggs, who worked for the company for 15 years between 1971 and 1986.
- Player's pensioner Joan Broughton, who worked in the Nottingham factory from 1972 until 1981.
- Lily Pritchard, widow of Wills pensioner Peter, who died in 2004. He worked for the company from 1941 until 1983.
- Lillian Simpson, widow of Ross Foods pensioner LR Simpson, who worked for the company from 1971 until 1983. He died in 1986.

New centenarian whose family shares Imperial connections

E

DNA EXON, who worked in the management restaurant at the cigar factory in Raleigh Road, Bristol, is celebrating her 100th birthday.

To mark the occasion, she received a card from HM The Queen and was visited by her children, Barbara and John, at the care home where she lives in Whitehall, Bristol.

Edna enlisted in the Women's Land Army in 1940 and spent the war years working at Cottons Farm in Dumbleton, Gloucestershire. During this time William, known as Bill, wrote to her while serving with the Royal Army Service Corp and the couple married in 1945. Bill worked in the cigar factory for 30 years between 1947

and 1977, when he took early retirement. He died in 2011.

"Our family has many connections with Imperial Tobacco," said John, who joined the company's technical development section in 1977 before moving to the sponsored events department. In 1989, Imperial outsourced the administration of its sponsored events programme and John continued in event management with consultants, World Promotions, until the government imposed a ban on tobacco sponsorship in 2005.

"My mother's brother, Stan Maynard, worked in the warehouse at the Hartcliffe factory; her grandson, Alan Whitelock, currently works for Imperial Brands; my wife, Roslyn, was employed in the

computer department at the No. 1 factory, in East Street, Bedminster; and my mother-in-law, Mavis Parsons, worked in the restaurant at the No. 1 factory.

"Despite suffering from dementia and the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff at the care home made her day a very special one." **G**



Bill and Edna Exon, who married in 1945

Winnifred remembers meeting her husband at Ogden's

OGDEN'S PENSIONER Winnifred Donnahey celebrated her 100th birthday in style with a drive in a Rolls Royce with the Mayor of Wirral, Tony Smith.

Win, who worked as an administration clerk in the Ogden's office from 1935 until 1981, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and enjoyed a glass of Champagne as she toured her favourite places around The Wirral and Liverpool.



Her niece Helen organised the car and made a special request for the Mayor to accompany Win and her husband Alan, 92, on the trip.

Win met Alan at the Ogden's factory where he worked in the maintenance team as a joiner/carpenter. The couple have been married for almost 60 years.

It was also at Ogden's that she met her lifelong friend Irene Shipley, who is also set to celebrate her centenary

later this year. Win and Alan shared a love of walking and hiking and were both members of The Liverpool Rambling Association and travelled together all over Europe with the Ramblers in their younger days.

"My happiest memory of working at Ogden's is meeting Alan," said Win, who lives in Meols, Wirral, "but I also made a lot of great friends there. It was such a great company."

Commenting on reaching her 100th birthday Win added: "It's nice to be nice and leads to a less stressful life and keeps you happy inside."

Plenty of water has passed under the bridge since **Jim Horler** met his wife **Muriel** in the Imperial Tobacco Research Department.

PHOTO BRINGS PAST TO LIFE

THIS 60-YEAR-OLD photograph of members of the Imperial Tobacco Research Department enjoying an evening cricket match, was unearthed by former Imperial scientist Jim Horler.

"A month after the photograph was taken Muriel and I were married," said Jim. "We met in the leaf analysis lab at Raleigh Road and she left the company a few months before our wedding, as was the norm in those days."

Muriel joined the company in September 1956, aged 16, and worked in leaf analysis as a laboratory assistant. After leaving Imperial she worked in the Bristol Water Works laboratory leaving before her first baby was born to become a full-time mother.

First trip to the USA

Jim left school at 16 and, two years later, joined Imperial as a lab assistant in leaf analysis in November 1958. "Imperial generously supported and funded my studies in Chemistry, initially by allowing me one day off a week and finally by sending me on an 18-month sandwich course, including six months working at the



Bristol City Analyst, to gain membership of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, which I completed in 1963," he said.

"Later in that year I was sent on my first trip to the USA to carry out tobacco leaf processing trials, which eventually lasted six weeks but, to complete a good year, Muriel gave birth to our first child, Suzanne, on New Year's Eve."

Jim worked at various times in the research and leaf departments of Imperial, Wills and Player's, mainly on primary tobacco processing in the countries of origin and in the UK. While with the Imperial leaf department, he was responsible for the physical quality of

Jim Horler's photograph' was taken at the Imperial Sports Ground in Knowle, Bristol, in July 1961, and shows (standing, from left): John Smithson (statistician), Bill Owen (physics lab and subsequently a member of the Imperial Tobacco Board) Chris Chidley (physics lab); and (seated, from left): Derek Saunders (admin), Mervyn Davies (physics lab), Muriel Peggram (previously in the leaf analysis lab) and Ron Mathews (R&D).

first tobacco company in the world to use and benefit from expanded tobacco. After Hanson took over, there wasn't much room for research and I was made redundant in

1990 so Muriel and I set up a Scientific Consultancy, which ran until we retired in 2005.


"Most of our clients were major international companies and I also made several visits

to China on behalf of the United Nations to discuss implementation of the Kyoto Agreement on climate change. I was an expert witness in several court cases in Toronto and London and, fortunately, they were all successful."

Looking forward

The couple have four children and 10 grandchildren and live near Wells in Somerset. They are looking forward to celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary later this year.

Having enjoyed travelling to wonderful places while working, this continued in retirement and was only stopped by the COVID virus.

Their interests also include art, sculpture and sport. They attended cricket Test Matches at Trent Bridge for many years, including the Ashes in 2005, and Jim has also supported Bristol City Football Club since 1947, when he was taken to a game by his father. 

"A month after the photograph was taken Muriel and I were married."

the tobacco sent to the UK, which meant liaising with Imperial's overseas packing plants and the BAT packing plants in India.

In 1965, Rhodesia declared Unilateral Declaration of Independence and Imperial lost 25 per cent of its tobacco supply but alternative suppliers were found mainly in Brazil, Thailand and South Korea.

All these new suppliers had to be made aware of the company's processing and packing standards, requiring frequent visits, and Wills set up a test facility in Bristol to monitor the particle size and residual stem content of tobacco arriving in the UK.

"When working for Wills R&D process development one important project was a process for expanding tobacco," said Jim. "This allowed us to make cigarettes that contained less tobacco and led to considerable cost savings because of the high level of tobacco duty."

"The Wills engineering department installed an expansion plant in the new Hartcliffe factory and Wills became the



Sixty years later: Muriel and Jim Horler

Two pensioners recall an 'effervescent personality'

◆ It was a most pleasant surprise to see the article in the November Gazette relating to Ethel Hill reaching the milestone of her 100th birthday.

Ethel and my wife Mary worked together in the same office for many years and became very good friends. We used to socialise outside work and visited each other's homes quite regularly.

Ethel's husband was killed in a motor accident many years ago and since my wife died in 2012, pretty much the only contact I've had with Ethel is via Christmas cards, although she has telephoned me on a few occasions.

Her memory of times gone by is remarkable. She really is a lovely lady with an effervescent personality and a wit that is as sharp as her mind. I've never heard anyone say a bad word against her; certainly Mary and



Ethel got on together like a house on fire. Happy days!

Nigel Morley

◆ I was delighted to read of Ethel Hill's 100th birthday in the November Gazette.

I remember well her wicked sense of humour and also the other No. 3 factory employees mentioned in the article. Jennie Hewitt and I

once took Frank Pearson out for dinner because we liked him. He had such a dry sense of humour, which I know both Ethel and Carol Wilson appreciated.

I joined Player's in 1965 as a secretary in the marketing department and later to Mr Lawrence Elliott, the No.3 factory manager. My late husband, Keith, also worked for the company, joining as a senior development engineer in 1970, before taking voluntary redundancy in 1982.

When I left in 1973 to adopt the first of our two children, Simon, Keith and I were amazed and delighted to find No. 3 factory employees had contributed to buying beautiful gifts: what lovely gestures. From day one of adopting them we adored them. I loved being a mother and never found anything difficult.

When our second child, Sarah, was two years of age, I approached Nottingham University to offer secretarial services for a few weeks a year, spread over the year, because I enjoyed working. I didn't want to work permanently as I found it very important when I was growing up for my wonderful mother to be with me when I was ill and I wanted the same for my children.

I have happy memories of my time spent working at John Player & Sons and for the professors at Nottingham University.

Kate Goslin,

Ethel has sadly died since these letters were received.

Landmark library's connection with Wills

◆ I read an article in the Glasgow Times about the city's Mitchell Library and I thought it would be of interest to readers of the Gazette as it relates to the philanthropy of one of Imperial Tobacco's member companies.

The library is one of the largest in Europe and is named after tobacco manufacturer Stephen Mitchell, who left most of his fortune to the city when he died in 1874. He asked that it "form the nucleus of a fund for the establishment and endowment of a large Public Library in Glasgow with all the modern accessories therewith."

His company, Stephen Mitchell & Sons,

which was started by his grandfather in 1723, merged with WD & HO Wills in 1901.

I joined Wills in 1966 as a reference clerk in the sales office at the former Wills tobacco factory at Alexandra Parade in Dennistoun and retired from the company as public affairs officer in 1990.

I hope this reminder of this iconic building, which is home to the City Archives, will take some of you on a stroll down memory lane.



Glasgow's Mitchell Library

Warm reminiscences highlight strength of Imperial family

◆ I was touched that Sally March, who knew both my parents, contacted me after reading my letter that was included in the November issue of the Gazette.

Her husband David worked with my father, Ken Phelan. Sally wrote that her husband, who sadly died recently (see obituary on page 13), was the factory manager of No. 2 factory in Raleigh Road. Of further interest to me was that Sally also knew my mother, Pat Phelan (née Waudby) through their shared love of art. Both were amateur artists and members

of Clifton Arts Club, which was founded in 1906 and is still actively promoting events today. I remember when I was younger, going to the annual Open Summer Exhibition; it was a personal triumph if your works were displayed there due to the competition among the exhibitors.

My mother's passing has brought warm reminiscences from long-standing colleagues of my father, which extended to the previous generation of Wills' employees. Geoff Matthews, who worked with my father between joining Wills in 1962 and my

father's early retirement in the early 1980s, recalls a friendship with his father, Allan Matthews, that stretched back many years before that.

Both my father and Allan worked in the personnel team and Geoff remembers many mentions of Ken and their work together before Allan's untimely death in 1957. After leaving the company, my father became a magistrate from 1982 to 1995 which he greatly enjoyed. Many of his colleagues have continued beyond retirement to offer services to their local communities.

It is reassuring to know that many friendships formed at work continue long into retirement. My father's manager, John Smith, former secretary to the Imperial Group board, has kept in regular contact over the years and that contact now continues with myself.

I hope that, in a small way, this letter highlights the strengths of the Wills and Imperial family and the importance, especially during the pandemic, of keeping such contacts.

Interests included sailing and flying

John Gaynor, former Imperial Group chief accountant, has died aged 85.

Born in Calcutta, India, John came to England when he was 10 years old and attended Beaumont College, Windsor. He was articled with Spicer & Pegler in London, qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1957 before completing National Service between 1958 and 1960.

John then joined WD & HO Wills as a management trainee in Bristol and, with training complete, was appointed deputy head of office methods before setting up and heading the first operations research department within the Imperial Group – unusual for a non-mathematician.

He subsequently became Wills deputy – and then chief – accountant and, briefly, accounting director. In 1973 he moved to become Imperial Group deputy chief accountant at its head office in London and, in 1980, became the Group's chief accountant.

In this role he was heavily engaged in the sale of Howard Johnson, the Group's

American restaurant and hotel business, to Marriott Corporation.

John also enjoyed the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School during the summers of 1980 and 1981. He left Imperial in 1986 when Hanson took over, completing his last few months as financial director.

John then joined the Corporation of Lloyd's of London as head of finance, arriving in the wake of the Pricewaterhouse Coopers scandal, in which the founders of the underwriting agencies were found guilty of running off with millions of pounds, and just before the insurance problems associated with asbestos and pollution began to emerge. Again, he found himself in the USA, even lobbying in the US Senate. He retired in 1992 after a spell as acting chief executive.

Greatly liked and admired

John Smith, former secretary to the Imperial Group board, said: "I worked with John at Group head office and from that vantage point I can testify to his prodigious capacity for hard work and his comprehensive grasp of detail which he never allowed to obscure his clear view of the bigger picture."

"He was greatly liked, admired and respected among his colleagues and friends and will be greatly missed."

Alice, his wife of 49 years, added: "John's principal joy was his family and when he retired from Lloyds of London aged 57, he took over bringing up our family so I could work full time as a consultant anaesthetist."

"Our children were aged 18, 16, 12 and 10



John Gaynor

at the time so he was especially involved with our two younger sons."

John had a lifelong interest in sailing and, in his younger days, had both gliding and pilots' licences – skills he learned when based at Wills in Bristol. He was a good draughtsman, painted soft water colours and enjoyed cooking, with curry being a particular speciality.

"John was a wonderful and loving husband, father and grandfather and, as a family, we remember fun times together and many adventures," said Alice, who lives in Henfield, West Sussex.

John is survived by Alice, their children Caroline, Katie, Tim and Edward and eight grandchildren.

Back to more carefree times

G LETTER

◆ I always enjoy reading my copy of the Gazette. It brings back many happy memories of my time at Wills first in Bedminster and then the new offices at Hartcliffe.



I was sad to read in the November issue of the death of Paul Chadwick. I have fond memories of Paul, whom I reported directly to in the marketing research department between 1974 and 1981.

Paul was a real gent and I still remember his keenness for his hobbies of birdwatching and hockey. He once tried to teach me how to estimate the number of birds in a flock whilst looking at the starlings flying over the Hartcliffe offices. I was not so good at that job!

I left Wills in 1981 after the birth of my first child and am now an Imperial pensioner myself. Reading about Paul took me back to those more carefree times.

Newcastle

Sinclair Staff and Pensioner Group
Organiser: William Lynn

Nottingham

Unfortunately, due to the present situation and decreasing membership numbers, the club, held in the Mechanic's Institute in Nottingham has been wound up.

Clubnews

All club meetings have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Bristol

Wills Staff Pensioners Association
Secretary: Ruth Bwyne

IMPAC

An organisation for all Imperial Pension Fund members

Website: www.impact.org.uk

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The National Council is unable to schedule any meeting dates for 2021 due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 restrictions and the availability of venues. It is hoped to provide more information in due course.

IMPAC members' helpline:

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

For membership queries

IMPAC membership agency (to update membership details only): email: impact@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.impact.org.uk. Membership is free for the first 12 months.



Engineer and former technical director who served as paratrooper and commando



John Whitelock

John Whitelock, former technical director of Imperial's African Leaf Organisation in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and latterly managing director of Imperial Timbers Malawi, has died aged 93.

In 1944, at the age of 17, John volunteered for army service and was trained as a crew commander in the Reconnaissance Corps. He later volunteered to serve as a Paratrooper and, after gaining his wings, was transferred to the Parachute Regiment. He then signed up for intelligence work and served in Palestine in the Intelligence Section of the HQ Second Independent Parachute Brigade. On returning to the UK, John joined a Commando Brigade to form a Rapid Reaction Group.

After demobbing in 1951, he worked as a design draughtsman and studied at technical

colleges and evening classes at Bristol University and gained status as a Chartered Engineer, Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Fellow of the British Institution of Management and Fellow Founder of the Institute of Management Services.

Director of Imperial Timbers

In 1957, while working in Bristol for a firm of industrial consultants, John was sent to Rhodesia to open an office for the firm. A year later he joined the Imperial African Leaf Organisation as assistant to the chief engineer and introduced management services to the company.

In 1971 he was transferred to the Malawi-based operation as technical director and then, in 1980, upon restructuring the Malawi organisation, he was appointed managing director of Imperial Timbers in charge of forestry, sawmilling, plymill manufacturing, transport and associated engineering functions.

At one time in the 1970s, John was a consultant on a World Bank tobacco processing plant project in Tanzania worth US\$28 million. Shortly after retiring from Imperial in 1988, he was invited to be a consultant on a US\$30 million project in Zimbabwe to establish a Forest Industries Training Centre for the Southern African Development Coordinating Committee.

From 1968 John was a Reader in the Anglican Church in Malawi and then in North Yorkshire following his retirement and return

to the UK in 1988. He retired as a Reader Emeritus in the Hull Deanery in 2009.

John married Grace in 1954 and they were congratulated by the Queen on their diamond wedding anniversary in 2014. Grace died the following year and John is survived by daughters Iris, Geraldine, Johanna and Marian and son Chris, 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

In 2005 he wrote his memoirs and his foreword reflected his dry sense of humour when he stated: "These memoirs may be of interest to my children, to my old friends who might have wondered whatever became of me, and possibly also to a psychiatrist!"



John pictured earlier in his career

Factory manager who acted and loved antiques

Former Wills cigar factory manager David March has died, aged 84.

After National Service, David joined the company as a management trainee in



David March

1956 and, on completion, joined the junior management team of the No. 2 cigar factory in Raleigh Road, Bristol. As it transpired, he remained at the factory for his entire career.

During his career he went on leaf buying trips, mainly to Holland and Germany, but

once, memorably, to Nicaragua where he had dinner with General Somoza. Machinery buying also included trips to Sweden and Denmark.

"Many people from No. 2 factory became friends, including his first factory manager, Peter Bird, and David was always pleased to meet old friends locally long after his retirement," said Sally, David's wife of 59 years, who lives in North Somerset.

Two heart attacks in his late 40s forced David to retire early, but he found the idle life very difficult.

In 1989, he was offered the opportunity to spend four months in Dominica by the British Executive Service Overseas to help establish a new cigar factory and jumped at the chance. He trained people on rolling cigars using leather sourced from a local glove factory and he and Sally made many friends during the experience.

Interest in amateur dramatics

In his early days with Wills David joined the company's drama group, which led

to an interest in amateur dramatics. He went on to take lead roles in Kelvin Players productions for many years and then joined the Bristol Playgoers Club – the oldest amateur dramatics club in Bristol – where, as well as performing, he was a member of the committee and president many times. He also stage managed, directed and acted in plays at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall.

David enjoyed playing rugby for Clifton Rugby Club and hockey for West Gloucester and followed the fortunes of all sports including snooker, which he played for the factory. He also had a love of antiques and started dealing in 18th century porcelain in the mid-1980s, travelling to fairs all over the country.

"He made a real name for himself in that field and was often asked for his expert opinion," said Sally. "He continued dealing until the last couple of years. We will all miss him greatly."

David is survived by Sally, their children Lucy, Edward and Patrick, and seven grandchildren.

Pensioner who 'absolutely loved' his job and had Wills in his blood

Bill McKay emigrated to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after taking early retirement in 1983

WD & HO Wills pensioner William (Bill) McKay has died aged 91.

Bill started his career at Stephen Mitchell & Sons in 1949 before transferring to The Wills factory in Alexandra Parade, Glasgow.

He took early retirement from his role as a foreman in 1983 and emigrated to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, with his wife Winnie, who died in 2012, and the couple made the most of each day.

Wills in his blood

"My father absolutely loved his job," said his son Neil, who also lives in Fort Lauderdale.

"Up until the day he died never a day passed where he would not reminisce about leadership, colleagues and changes he was instrumental in making. He had



Wills in his blood." Many of Bill's colleagues at Wills, including Jimmy Stevenson, Davie Jackson and Gerry Sludden, were considered uncles to Neil and his sister Lesley and their aunt, Ann Gowans, also worked for the company.

"I often reflect on my memories as young boy going into the Alexandra Parade factory via the front entrance," Neil added. "It was almost magical. "I visit Scotland infrequently now but, when I do, I make a point of driving by the place my

father loved. I remember the Christmas parties the company would have for the workers' children and how much fun everyone had. And I remember waiting in the car with my mother for my father to finish his 6am-2pm shift: he never, ever, left on time as he just loved what he did.

Made many friends

"My parents resided with me in their own apartment adjoining my house and they made many friends this side of the pond but never forgot their roots. Several years ago, Lesley also emigrated to the USA and bought an apartment down the street from us, so my father was able to see both his children daily: what a blessing for all."

Bill is survived by Neil, Lesley and son-in-law John.

Sport loving Player's pensioner awarded MBE for services to local government

James (Jim) Shaw MBE has died aged 91.

He joined John Player & Sons in 1956 as a trainee sales rep, before he became assistant to the Scottish sales manager from 1961-65, based in the Glasgow office.

Jim had several management roles – including regional promotions manager, national promotions manager, regional sales manager and divisional sales manager – over the following 17 years, moving to Nottingham, back to Scotland and again to Nottingham.

In 1982, as sales force manager, Jim moved to Bristol when the company centralised and worked there until his retirement in 1985.

Jim became a Conservative councillor with the former Eastwood District Council

in 1990, moving to the East Renfrewshire Council in 1995 where he represented the Giffnock South Ward.

Deputy Provost

He later became East Renfrewshire's Deputy Provost and was a past president of the Scottish Accident Prevention Council and represented East Renfrewshire on the Strathclyde Police and Fire Boards.

He was awarded an MBE in the 2006 New Year's Honours list for services to local government.

Jim later became president of the East Renfrewshire Conservative Association and was also an elder at Giffnock South parish church, Glasgow. In retirement he retained



Jim Shaw was awarded an MBE in 2006

his keen interest in sport, most notably tennis, cricket, golf and football.

Jim's daughter, Linda, sadly died in 2007. He is survived by his wife May, son Max and four grandchildren, James, Clementine, Elliott and Alistair.



Centenarians working in Nottingham

Rose Edwards and Kathleen Varney, pictured, two of the Fund's oldest members, who both worked at Player's in Nottingham, have died aged 101.

Rose met her late husband Reg, who died in 2001, when she was working in the office.

Reg was employed at the company from 1932 until 1968 and was a factory manager. Several other members of their family also worked at Player's.

Kathleen joined the company in 1934 in the No. 2 factory on Radford Boulevard. She worked on the packing machine, only stopping when she was called up to the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, during the Second World War.

She moved to the Horizon factory when it opened in 1972 before taking early retirement in 1978 aged 59.

The deaths are reported, as at 31 January 2021, of the following retired employees:

HEAD OFFICE AND ITL

Maurice Henry Blakey, 93;
Edwin John Daws, 78;
George Charles Fowler, 98;
John Harold Francis Gaynor, 85;
Elizabeth Hall, 73;
Roger Hill, 73;
Roger Jordan, 80;
Eva Lyons, 85;
Victor Edward Shaw, 77;
Barry Tunnicliffe, 88;
Joan Gwendoline Worgan, 90.

WD & HO WILLS

Peter Brian Andrews, 86;
Alan Terry Attwood, 78;
Anthony Eric Bassett, 91;
Barrie Stanley Brown, 70;
Charles Carrigan, 82;
Andrew Clark, 92;
Gordon Pender Clark, 97;
Grace Elizabeth Coates, 94;
Phyllis Collard, 96;
Muriel Collis, 91;
Gordon Albert Coole, 89;
Richard John Bernard Crozier, 86;
Joy Bernice Cunningham, 68;
Jean Deacon, 87;
Jean Rose Deacon, 89;
Thomas Denholm, 85;
Agnes Donaldson, 93;
Ellen Duffy, 90;
Helen Duncan, 92;
Michael Clifford Eastwood, 76;
Kenneth Farthing, 89;
Jeanne Valerie Feeney, 84;
Norman Fitt, 85;
Josephine Ford, 86;
Ernest Gamblen, 93;
John Alexander Gibson, 86;
Agnes Gillespie, 68;
Gladys Godwin, 92;
Daniel Graham, 73;
Adrian Stanley John Green, 92;
Anthony Green, 73;
David Green, 85;
Howard John Grey, 76;
Sylvia Gladys May Hall, 90;
Margaret Rose Harris, 86;
Robert John Harris, 72;
Jennifer Marjorie Hart, 70;
John Ernest Edward Hathway, 81;
Cecil John Hawkins, 80;
Barbara Fay Hennessy, 91;
Ann Hudghton-Foster, 79;
Richard Edward Inman, 72;
Jeanette Irene Jacobs, 89;
William Johnson, 93;
Michael Patrick Killala, 89;

Mary Anne Kirkwood, 89;
Eileen Marion Rose Knapp, 88;
Barry John Knight, 66;
John Brian Lowe, 84;
David Read March, 84;
Edna Martin, 90;
William McKay, 91;
Doreen McQuade, 89;
William John Mogg, 87;
Sheila May Morgan, 88;
Robert Clive Oram, 75;
James Hislop Paterson, 79;
Charlotte Pearson, 84;
Joan Madeline Perkins, 98;
Primrose Honor Patricia Perkins, 93;
Eveline Phillips, 94;
Ann Pigg, 81;
Kathleen Violet Pole, 93;
Barbara Powney, 90;
Royston Pullin, 89;
Michael Stanley Reed, 81;
Ruth Roche, 93;
Geoffrey Rogers, 98;
James Rowan, 86;
Michael Ronald Seavill, 81;
James Paul Shaw MBE, 91;
Arthur Edward Spriggs, 87;
Derek Edward Stevens, 92;
Joyce Tyley, 100;
Jennifer Alma Venn, 81;
Valerie Barbara Voisey, 89;
Margaret Edith Lilian Walker, 98;
John Asher Whitelock, 93;
Alan Wilkinson, 72;
Anthony Bryan Wilson, 88;
Christopher John Woodward, 82;
Henry Ronald Workman, 80;
Beatrice Eugenie Young, 91;
Rita Mary Young, 81.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS

Geoffrey Andrews, 94;
Audrey May Banyard, 88;
Edith Bigland, 95;
Christopher Blackamore, 77;
Keith Chisholm, 82;
Carol Marjory Cocking, 82;
Bridget Coleman, 86;
Doris Croft, 91;
Frank Drew, 82;
Jean Iris Driver, 92;
Rose Edwards, 101;
Richard John Evans, 73;
David Forbes, 88;
Joan Gilson, 78;
John Edmund Hancock, 87;
Ethel Maud Hill, 100;
Michael John Hobster, 75;
Enid Isilda Hudson, 95;
Anthony Basil James, 91;
Alan Lovett, 86;
Julienne May, 87;
Keith Raymond James Morgan, 73;
Derek Aubrey Oscroft, 79;

Peter Thomas Penn, 89;
Keith Bernard Ragsdale, 84;
Vernon Rawson, 98;
James Rose, 87;
Evelyn Martine Seaton, 87;
Mary Sidwell, 86;
John Thomas Stapleford, 86;
Susan Mary Starr, 68;
Alan Howard Stevenson, 70;
William Stevenson, 88;
Winifred May Tattersall, 90;
Nancy Mary Taylor, 91;
Thomas Clifford Tomlinson, 87;
Neil Brian Tilson, 85;
Margaret Rose Townsend, 89;
Kathleen May Varney, 101;
Roy Walker, 96;
Geraldine Sandra Warner, 77;
Irene Elizabeth Westbrook, 73;
Margaret Mary Wibberley, 93.

OGDEN'S

Leslie George Bool, 77;
Rita Ann Crotty, 77;
James Stewart Haston, 72;
Helen Patricia Large, 84;
Roy Edward McCormick, 80;
Helen Margaret McLean, 90;
May Parker, 91;
Ronald Keith Proudlove, 85;
Dorothy Jean Rowland, 93;
Emily Spencer, 89.

LOWFIELD DISTRIBUTION

Anthony Twohigg, 70;
Marjorie Whittington, 70.

ROBERT FLETCHER & SON

Bruno Whittle, 83.

SINCLAIR COLLIS

Susan Joyce Acton, 77;
Ian McFarlane Campbell, 93;
Elizabeth Dixon, 84;
Dennis Douglas, 93;
Kenneth James Fairweather, 89;
Robert Arthur Littleton, 80;
Edith Elizabeth Mitchell, 97;
Lesley Anne Noble, 56;
Harvey Gordon Pollins, 87;
Margaret Rochester, 86;
Enid Russell, 86;
Richard Toni Saliger, 69;
Cassandra Delphine Waghorn, 71;
Peter John Ward, 74.

ST ANNE'S BOARD MILL

James William Hicks, 91;
Gerald Alfred Knill, 91;
Teresa Catherine Meade, 87;
Joan Preston, 94;
Alec John Strachan, 82;
Herbert George Tyler, 96;
Harry James Wright, 90.

IMPERIAL FOODS LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE

Keith Boardall, 86;
Maxwell Brown, 92;
Peter Cundick, 81;
George Raymond Daly, 84;
James Davidson, 93;
Wesley Forrest, 90;
Ann Brenda Phillips, 84;
William Sinclair Wilson, 79.

CHIPMUNK

Ernest Ronald Bradnam, 82.

GOLDEN WONDER

Joan Mary Cooper-Selley, 82;
Dorothy Mary Lowe, 96;
Dorothy Roberts, 95.

ROSS FOODS

Patrick Barry Cassidy, 75;
Arthur William Coutts, 89;
Stephen Arthur Cromie, 66;
Dorothy Fulcher, 93;
Michael Scarlett Graham, 83;
Robert Duncan Hally, 91;
Godfrey Francis Hegney, 74;
Robert Brian Killen, 78;
Harry Lyon, 93;
Margaret McSherry, 83;
Reginald Kenneth Henry Palzeaird, 92;
John Vincent Reynolds, 74;
Leonard Alan Trundle, 87;
Michael David Vince, 73;
Brian Malcom Ward, 85;
Rose Williamson, 80.

SMEDLEY-HP FOODS

Phyllis Eva Barker, 76;
Norbert Hugh Coleman, 92;
Eleanor Margaret Haynes, 94;
Mary Nellis, 85;
John Donald Nichols, 72;
Kester Lawrence Nichols, 85;
Margaret Ramsay, 93;
Carol Richardson, 70;
Eileen Viola Rickatson, 91;
Geoffrey Charles Simms, 84;
Perry Sinclair, 84;
Joyce Swain, 93;
Reginald Charles Thomasson, 89.

YOUNG'S SEAFOODS

Patricia Dorothy Boswall, 95;
Maurice Kennedy Briggs, 82;
Kathleen Isobella Webster, 85;
Michael Garth Woodward, 77.

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

Can anyone shed light on photographs found in the former Player's Post office in Nottingham? They include one of the Dad's Army cast on a factory visit in 1976.

MYSTERY PHOTOS FROM HORIZON

IN THE mid-1970s the popular television series Dad's Army was adapted into a stage show and toured the country with most of the original cast – including Arthur Lowe, John le Mesurier, Ian Lavender, Clive Dunn and Bill Pertwee.

It played at the Theatre Royal Nottingham in April 1976 and, as was company policy for visiting celebrities at the time, the cast was invited for a guided tour of the Player's Nottingham factories.

This photograph, which belongs to former systems controller Nigel Morley, shows No. 3 factory manager Laurie Elliot (pointing) explaining the tobacco manufacturing process to Arthur Lowe, Ian Lavender and John le Mesurier.

"I was working in the offices at the Horizon factory at the time and they visited that factory too," said Nigel, who worked for the company for over 30 years.

"I remember being somewhat surprised to see the whole visiting party strolling across the front of the office on their way to see our factory manager. Since my desk



Arthur Lowe, Ian Lavender and John le Mesurier are shown the tobacco manufacturing process in No. 3 factory

was very near the front of the office, they weren't that far away from me.

"When Imperial Tobacco was taken over by Hanson in the mid-1980s our in-house magazine, Player's Post, was discontinued.

Scattered around the office

"There had been a Player's Post office at the Horizon factory, which became surplus to requirements and was left empty for a while. Scattered around the office were quite a number of photographs, the Dad's Army one being among them.

"I know nothing about the other two photographs, other than that I found them along with some of my late wife, Mary's,

possessions. Mary worked in the wages section of the Horizon factory general office from the early 1970s until 1997, when she retired. She died in 2012.

"If any light could be shed on the photographs it might prove interesting, particularly the one of the Player's sign undergoing maintenance." **G**

Do you recall seeing any famous faces at the company's sites? Do you know why or where the other two pictures were taken? Please contact the Gazette team at the address below.



Mystery surrounds these two pictures found in the former Player's Post office at Nottingham's Horizon factory. Have you any ideas?

The Gazette is published by the Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund. For pension information, please call the pensions office on 0117 953 0000.

Please send all future items for publication in the Gazette to:

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