

the **Gazette**

JULY 2023 | ISSUE 103

FOR PENSIONERS OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO

SAILING TO A HAPPY RETIREMENT

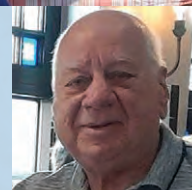
Interview,
page 6



**Boys in the
band spread
joy**
page 5



**Pam's experience
helps fellow
sufferers**
page 9



**Money raised
for chosen
charity**
page 12

Imperial remains well-placed to continue navigating current economic challenges and its five-year strategic plan is firmly on track to deliver on expectations for the current year.

WE'RE ON COURSE TO DELIVER ACCELERATING RETURNS

Stefan Bomhard

IMPERIAL BRANDS continues to make good progress to transform the business, with its interim results for the six months ended 31 March 2023 confirming it is on course to meet its full-year guidance, with improving returns in line with its five-year strategy.



IMPERIAL BRANDS

Growing share

Results for the first half of 2023 show that, in traditional tobacco, aggregate market share for its top five markets (US, Spain, Australia, Germany and the UK) rose, marking the fourth consecutive six-month period of stable or growing share after several years of sharp declines.

In Europe, launches of new vape, heated tobacco and oral nicotine products have driven a 35 per cent rise in revenue for next generation products in the region and the company continues to deliver strong

shareholder returns. Chief Executive Stefan Bomhard said: "Business performance for the first half of fiscal year 2023 was resilient. We are on track to deliver on our guidance for the full year and we continue to drive our business towards a healthier future."

"I am confident the actions we have taken are creating a stronger, more resilient business..."

More information about the half year results can be found at:

www.imperialbrandsplc.com

"...we continue to drive our business towards a healthier future."



Experience: Andrew Gilchrist

Experienced non-executive director is new face welcomed to the Imperial Board

◆ **ANDREW GILCHRIST** has joined the Board of Imperial Brands PLC as a Non-Executive Director.

He was Chief Financial Officer of Reynolds American Inc until its acquisition by British American Tobacco in 2017 and has two decades of operational and financial experience in the tobacco sector.

Chair Thérèse Esperdy said: "I am delighted to welcome Andrew to the Board. As well as the combination of his commercial and financial

experience across our industry, he has a proven track record of business development, strategic planning and business integration.

Transformation

"These skills and capabilities will further strengthen the Board's effectiveness as we continue the transformation of Imperial Brands."

Andrew has also joined the Audit Committee and the People and Governance Committee.

New Group Company Secretary in place

◆ **EMILY CAREY** has joined Imperial as Group Company Secretary. She previously worked in the same role at the FTSE100 company Entain plc and has also held positions at Shell, the NHS and BP.

The appointment follows an organisational change that sees John

Downing leave Imperial this summer after 18 years with the business.

Support

Along with his Group Company Secretary duties, John led many areas of Corporate & Legal Affairs, as well as providing support for the executive

leadership team. He also spent time as a Pension Trustee Director.

Sean Roberts, Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer, said: "I am pleased to welcome Emily to Imperial, and would like to thank John for his years of dedicated service to the business."



Emily Carey

The 52-year old iron and ironing board, bought with coupons, that have stood the test of time

◆ I started working for John Player & Sons in the No.1 factory on Radford Boulevard, Nottingham, in 1971 at the age of 17. Six months later I moved to the Horizon Factory on Lenton Industrial Estate.

Smoking was something I had started before joining the company, and I regularly smoked Player's No. 6.

At that time there used to be a coupon in the cigarette packet as you opened the carton. I would

save up the coupons and take them to the showroom across the road from the No.1 factory where you could exchange them for a wide range of goods.

On loan

We had recently moved into a flat and had to furnish it, so on the top of my list of items was an ironing board and an iron, which any girl would have loved to have at that time.

So I exchanged my coupons

for my ironing board and a little Sunbeam iron. I have since had a steam iron, but always return to my little Sunbeam. This little iron has, on occasion, been on loan to my mother, mother-in-law and my daughters.

They have all loved it and have tried, but failed, to keep it. The iron has been mended once when my husband dropped it on the floor, and has had numerous new cables, but I still use it. My youngest daughter has even

asked me if I would leave the Sunbeam to her in my Will, so there won't be any squabbling with her sister over it when the time comes!

The ironing board and Sunbeam iron will be 52 years old this year and are still going strong. They don't make them like that anymore!

Angela Bradshaw

Lifelong friendships and marriages made at Ogden's

◆ I enjoyed the letter from Beryl Allmark in the March edition of the Gazette.

I remember Beryl and her workmate Nora from Ogden's test room. They were always dressed smartly and were nicely turned out in their white coats, and their hair nicely done. They would train the younger girls.

I also remember Beryl's husband, Bob. He was a senior foreman in the Flake pipe tobacco factory and was a fair

boss and well liked. Beryl was right, people at Ogden's and Imperial's other companies formed lifelong friendships and resulted in many marriages.

I smile at this because when I went for my interview in 1962, the chap operating the lift said to me: "Don't work here love; you won't get married". Like many other firms, Ogden's didn't employ married women. When I told my mother she said: "You won't need to marry with the

wages you will get!". I worked at Ogden's from 1962 to 1990.

Sad closure

Imperial Tobacco Company enriched so many lives; you only have to read in the Gazette about the pensioners dotted all over the world. They have good lives thanks to the company. Ogden's was one of its oldest firms and The Liverpool Echo newspaper wrote a feature at the time of its sad closure. The front

of the factory is a handsome listed building, with fabulous architecture. It still stands today, although the building is now apartments.

Thank you to Beryl for her memories. Ogden's will never be forgotten: it stood proud during two World Wars and made many scousers comfortably off.

M Dunford

Pension Fund gets a new website

A NEW website (see home page, right) has been launched to give members of the Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund quick and easy access to key information.

It can be found at: www.myimperialpension.com and includes a page on frequently asked questions from members as well as one covering matters such as payslips, income tax, pension increases, death benefits and the State pension.

Key Fund documents

"We have been working on the new website over the last few months and hope that members will find it useful," said Jan Killick, Head of UK Pensions.

"It will also show you how to inform the Pension Fund Office of changes to your personal details and holds a library of key Fund documents such as the Annual Report and Accounts, Trustee's Annual Report to Members, the Statement of Investment Principles and recent copies of The Gazette."

A news section also allows the Trustees to bring you the most recent Fund information as well as hot topics on the pensions landscape.

Search

Useful Links | FAQ | Contact Us | AA+

IMPERIAL TOBACCO PENSION FUND

About | Library

Welcome to the Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund website

What type of member are you?

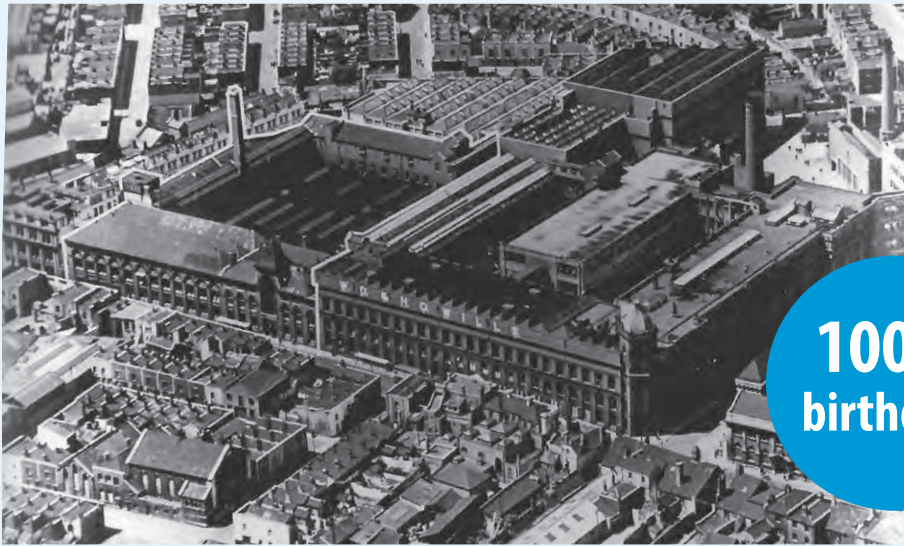
Please select one of the options below to guide you to the information relevant to your membership status in the Fund.

Employee member
I'm currently working for Imperial on a UK contract.

I have left pensionable service

I'm retired
My Imperial pension is currently in payment

SCAN ME



**100th
birthdays**

Pension Fund members marking their 100th birthdays

Jean Barnard, whose husband Herbert died in 2005. He worked for Smedley-HP Foods from 1946 until 1977.

Dorothy Dowsett, widow of African Leaf (Zimbabwe) pensioner Ernest. He worked for the company between 1954 and 1978 and died in 1990.

Florence Lancefield, whose husband, Cyril, worked at Player's in Nottingham for more than 40 years until his retirement in 1983. He died in 1999.

Ross Foods pensioner **Mary McCarthy**, who worked for the company for 19 years between 1945 and 1964.

Player's pensioner **Benito Olivero**, who worked at the Nottingham factory from 1966 until his retirement in 1982.

Edith Preece, widow of Lowfield Distribution pensioner John, who worked for the company from 1974 until 1988. He died in 1998.

Vera Thompson, widow of Robert Fletcher pensioner SH Thompson, who worked at the company's Greenfield Mill from 1954 until 1986 and died in 1999.

Wills No. 1 factory in Bedminster, Bristol, where Doreen West worked as a teenager

HOW DOREEN SURVIVED THE BRISTOL BLITZ

DOREEN WEST, who worked for Wills in Bristol from 1937 to 1940, is celebrating her 100th birthday.

Born in the city, Doreen attended Marksbury Road School in Bedminster until the age of 14 when she left to work in the making room at the Wills factory, where she met her future husband, Cliff.

Taking cover

"During the war, I remember having to escape the bombs which were being dropped over Bristol and taking cover in the Wills air raid shelter as soon as the siren went off," said Doreen who lives in Newcastle. "My time at

Wills was cut short as I was assigned to work on the buses and Cliff was sent to serve in the Army overseas. In 1944 we luckily managed to get a special licence when Cliff was on a short spell of leave and were able to marry."

After the war ended, Doreen and Cliff went on to have three children: one daughter, and two sons.

In 1950, the Wills factory opened in Newcastle-upon-Tyne offering them the opportunity to relocate. Cliff became the foreman of the cigarette room until his retirement in 1976 after 39 years with the company. He died in 2000.

Doreen marked her century surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Tobacco trade charity can help relieve hardship

THE TOBACCO Trade Benevolent Fund (TTBF) can offer financial support and assistance to those who worked in the tobacco trade and are experiencing financial hardship.

With the cost-of-living crisis and rising energy bills, some may find themselves needing a helping hand. All applications are considered on the basis of need and the length of service in the industry.

The charity can offer regular relief grants which are paid on a quarterly basis, or a one-off annual maintenance grant to help towards household items.

"As part of the application process, we will arrange a visit for you with one of our friendly Field Welfare Officers," said Terri Lartice, who works at the charity. "They will assess your financial needs and are also a friendly ear to listen to any concerns or problems that you may be facing, financially or otherwise."

"A lot of the beneficiaries look forward to their annual visit from their assigned field



Helping hand: the tobacco trade charity is open to anyone who has worked in the tobacco industry

welfare officer as it is an opportunity to have a cup of tea and see how we are able to assist – especially during these tough times."

If you need help and believe you are eligible to receive support, visit www.tobaccocharity.org.uk to download an

application form or please contact:

The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund, Forum Court, Office 2FF, Saphir House, 5 Jubilee Way, Faversham, Kent ME13 8GD, ☎ 020 8663 3050, ✉ info@tobaccocharity.org.uk

COLLEAGUES AND BANDMATES SPREAD JOY THROUGH MUSIC



ORIZON FACTORY colleagues and close friends, Paul Miller and Roger Ward, are spreading joy through care homes in and around

Nottinghamshire with their band The Elderly Brothers.

The pair met while they were both working as engineers at the Player's factory in Nottingham.

"Roger was always singing around the factory," said Paul, who worked for Player's for 25 years, joining as a maintenance fitter in 1977. "Every now and then you would hear someone shout, 'be quiet!', from across the room. But all joking aside, Roger has one of the best singing voices I have ever heard, even better than most famous singers."

Paul has always had a passion for music and took on guitar lessons once he retired in 2002. As time went on and his hobby became more serious, he told himself that he would buy an electric bass guitar as soon as he turned 60, which he did.

"While galivanting around the isles of a supermarket one day, carrying out my weekly food shop, I bumped into Roger," said Paul.

Performing together

"Roger told me he had heard through the grapevine that I had taken up guitar lessons. He mentioned that he and a few friends had started a band and that I should go along to a session to see if I would like to join.

"Before we knew it, we were performing together, and The Elderly Brothers was formed."

Talking about the band's name, Paul mentioned that he was inspired after a conversation in the workplace years prior. He had been talking to former colleague, Bob Maynard, about his plans for retirement.

Bob had told him that he had plans to



A chance encounter in a supermarket following retirement led to the birth of the Elderly Brothers

Paul Miller, left, and Roger Ward met as engineers at Player's Nottingham factory

get a guitar and some blokes together and start a band called the Elderly Brothers. The name stuck with Paul throughout the years as he thought it was fantastic so when his bandmates were trying to think of a name, he suggested it.

It didn't take long for the band to


succeed, picking up several gigs for charity and in care homes.

"I love performing, but seeing those in care homes that struggle with memory loss singing the songs back to us is the most rewarding feeling," said Paul. "Music brings people back to life."

Time off from the band

Paul's wife sadly became ill, passing away in 2021, which bought the band to a standstill for a time.

"It didn't feel right to perform for others while I was there grieving," he explains. "I took some time off from the band until I came across a letter that my wife had left me: she had written that she wanted me to carry on with the band after she had passed. There was something in knowing that, no matter how poorly she was, she found the energy to write the letter for me. I am so proud of her and that is what keeps me going."

Reminiscing on his time spent at Player's Paul added: "I will forever be grateful for my time spent there: I have truly made friends for life." 



The band performing for care home residents

MARTIN'S LIFE DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

When his hopes of becoming a pilot stumbled at the first hurdle, **Martin Wood** took the first job that was available to him – as an office junior in the legal department at Imperial Tobacco in Bristol – in what led to a rewarding and fulfilling career. Now living near Plymouth with his wife Jill, Martin is a volunteer at the National Trust-owned Buckland Abbey and remains an avid sailing enthusiast.

M

MARTIN WOOD was born in Clevedon, North Somerset, and attended Clevedon Secondary School, working part time for a local builder during the school holidays.

He was in the Air Cadets and, enjoying flying gliders, had hopes of becoming a pilot until an eyesight test showed him to be slightly red/green colourblind.

“With my hopes dashed, I took the first job available, which happened to be with Imperial Tobacco,” said Martin. “It turned out to be a huge stroke of luck as it led me to a very enjoyable career.”

Martin joined Imperial's head office in East Street, Bedminster, on January 1, 1969 aged 17. He started work as an office junior in the legal department, progressing through various roles including filing clerk and new account clerk, and was also involved in litigation and instructing counsel in disputed matters and insolvency.

Martin enjoyed the variety of visiting Imperial subsidiaries such as Sinclair Collis and Courage and, among the highlights of working for the company, Martin cites the camaraderie and feeling of belonging to a large family.

Disbanded

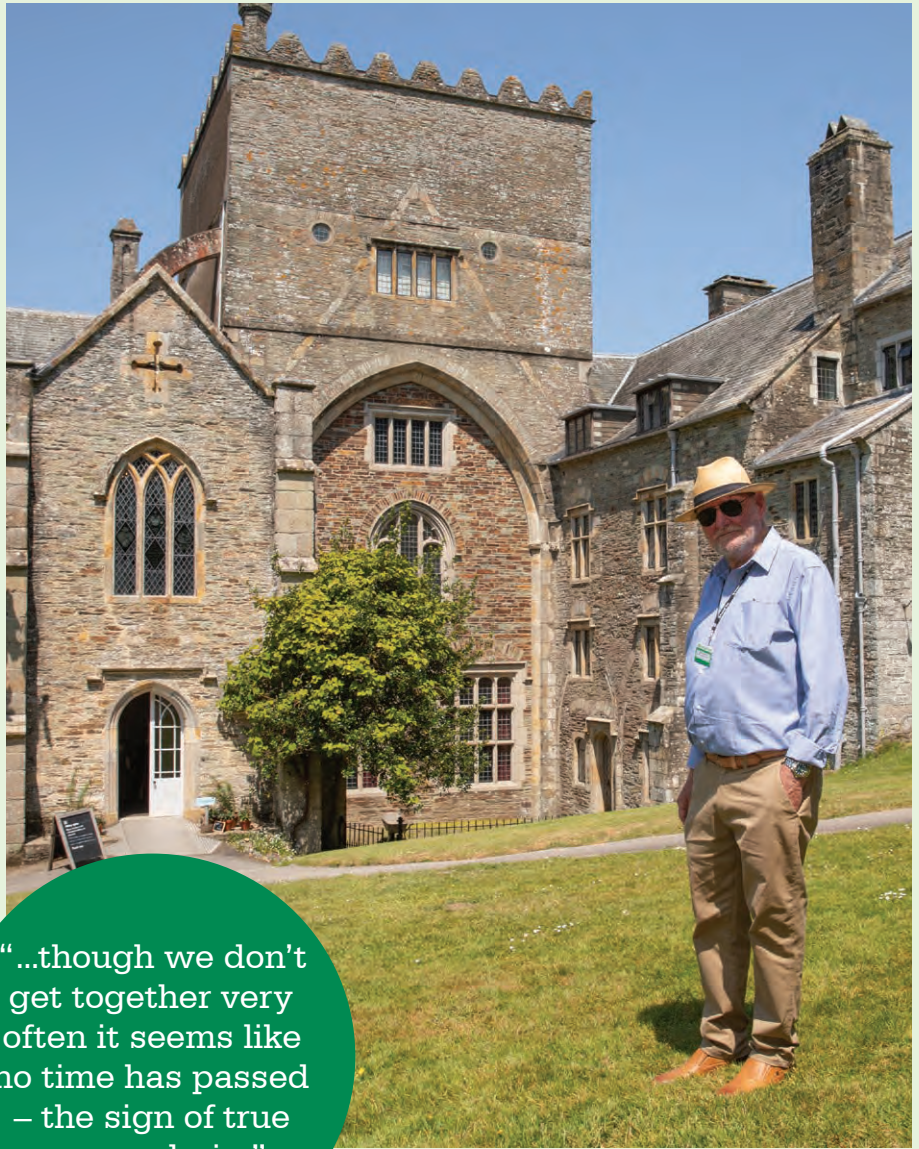
Although not fond of the usual sports, Martin occasionally played skittles and crown green bowls and attended numerous social events with other members of the legal department as well as annual dinners at The Little Thatch on Wells Road, Bristol.

When Hanson took over Imperial in 1987, the legal department was disbanded and all members – with the exception of Alan Porter – were made redundant.

“We were a close group and have remained in contact,” said Martin, who went on to work for Wansboroughs (now DAC Beachcrofts).

“Many of us enjoy meeting up at the Group Head Office reunion each October and even though we don't get together very often it seems like no time has passed – the sign of true camaraderie.”

After working for Wansboroughs for nine years, Martin managed the debt recovery department at Osborne Clarke in Bristol and



“...though we don't get together very often it seems like no time has passed – the sign of true camaraderie.”

▲ History lover Martin is a volunteer guide at the National Trust's Buckland Abbey property, 12 miles from his home

also worked for a number of other law firms before setting up his own debt recovery company, which he ran for seven years until 2015.

He then continued to work as a consultant for a local law firm before retiring at

65 although he still does some ad hoc consultancy work for a London-based company.

During his career Martin was Chair of the Institute of Credit Management in both the Bristol and South West regions and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management. He was also regional Chair of the Civil Court Users Association and, while at Osborne Clarke, was on the committee overseeing and implementing the new Civil Procedure Rules known as the Woolf Reforms, which were intended to help reduce the cost and time courts spent on civil proceedings.

Always loved the water

Now 71, Martin lives on the banks of the River Tamar in Plymouth, about 300 yards south of the Tamar Bridge, with his wife Jill. The couple moved into the house in August 2004 and have extensively modified it to take advantage of the views across the river.

“I have always loved the water and have sailed for well over 50 years, getting the bug while at school,” said Martin, who has a son, Christopher, and two granddaughters Emily

continued on next page



Martin learns as much from history experts visiting Buckland Abbey as they do from him

continued from page 7

and Holly aged 7 and 4.

"My father also encouraged me to sail, having been a founder member of Clevedon Sailing Club, and I started racing dinghies when I was 16.

"I later enjoyed cruising around the South West and along the coast to Scotland and across the Channel to Cherbourg in my 26ft Sadler yacht *Sabrina*, which I bought with my Imperial redundancy money and named after the Roman name for the Severn Estuary."

Although Martin no longer owns a boat, he is still involved with Tamar River Sailing Club, which is located very close to his home. He was Commodore between 2009 and 2011 and again from 2019 to 2021 and is still active as a Race Officer.

Handicap system

"I predominantly preside over the Monday night yacht racing, with races usually lasting no more than two hours," he said.

"My role is to devise the course for the boats to sail depending on the wind strength and direction, as well as the tide. Boats of all different types and sizes race together so there is a handicap system in place to work out the winner as fairly as possible.

"It's always interesting that those that win thank me for marking out such a great course and those that don't do so well, blame me for a bad one!"

Martin is also interested in motor racing and his brother, Nick, who is Chair of Bristol Pegasus Motor Club, ropes him in to marshal at an annual timed sprint event at Castle Combe Circuit near Chippenham, Wiltshire, each October.

History is another passion of Martin's and, for the last six years, he has been a volunteer at Buckland Abbey, a Grade I listed property owned by the National Trust in Buckland Monachorum, near Yelverton, about 12 miles from his home.

It was built 700 years ago by the Cistercians who farmed the estate and also built the Great Barn, a Medieval tithe barn, which



▲ Martin enjoys tending the plants in his garden

remains virtually unchanged.

The Abbey itself was converted into a Tudor house when the monastery was dissolved during Henry VIII's Reformation and has since been owned by seafarers Sir Richard Grenville and later Sir Francis Drake. It remained in the Drake family until 1946 when it was purchased by local landowner Captain Arthur Rodd who presented it to the National Trust in 1951 when it was opened to the public.

Volunteer room guide

"I have always been interested in history and was looking to do some voluntary work in my retirement," said Martin, who also enjoys travelling with Jill, particularly to Italy.

"I really liked the Abbey, so offered my

services and have been a volunteer room guide ever since. I usually help every Sunday morning and also when an extra pair of hands is needed.

"The Abbey is a beautiful building and is unusual in that many parts of the original building were retained when it was converted to a house.

"During the winter I lead tours for 12-18 people around all areas of the property but when we are busy – particularly during the school holidays – I tend to stay in one room, welcoming visitors and answering any questions they may have.

"I can learn as much from the visitors as they learn from me as we often welcome history experts. It is a great deal of fun." G

DIARY DATES

◆ The second **Player's reunion** of the year will be held on Wednesday December 13 from 3.30pm at The Stage pub, Wollaton Street, Nottingham NG1 5FE. Contact Dave Clay.

◆ The 2023 **Group Head Office pensioners' reunion** will take place at Knowle Golf Club, Bristol, on Thursday October 19. Organiser Mike Paige will send invitations nearer the time. He can be contacted by phone or email.

◆ The **Player's Garage and Motor Vehicle Repair reunion** will be held on Monday December 04 from 3.30pm onwards at the Bell Inn, Nottingham. Contact Phil Bradley or Dave Lowe for more information.

IMPAC

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

Website: www.impact.org.uk

IMPAC members' helpline:

email: helpline@impact.org.uk or write to IMPAC, PO Box 10486, Oxton, 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.

Pam Bugler, who worked in the ITL Research Department for more than 20 years, has enjoyed several different careers and hobbies over the years, but none more rewarding than her current role trying to improve the lives of those who become mentally ill.

PAM'S EXPERIENCE IS PUT TO GOOD USE

IN 2017, aged 70, Pam Bugler (Archer) became ill with the second of three bouts of mental illness she has suffered, leading to her being referred to an NHS psychologist and visiting a psychological therapies centre.

"My family nearly all suffer, or have suffered, from mental health problems, so I have been looking to find a way to help those who are affected by poor mental health all my life," said Pam, who joined the ITL Research Department in Bristol in 1964 before moving to the Additives Guidance Panel (AGP) in 1979.

Bristol-based charity

"My referral six years ago finally introduced me to a way to become involved through my lived experience. First, I sat on interview panels and attended meetings, which led to the opening of the Safe Haven Crisis and Recovery Centre in Weston Super Mare.

"Leading on from this, I became a Lived Experience Representative for the Independent Mental Health Network (www.imhn.org), which was originally a Bristol-based charity.

"I now attend a wide variety of NHS/ community meetings and conferences which are held to discuss improving mental health services and the treating of mental illness in the future.

"I am very involved in the One Weston, Worle and Villages Locality Partnership,



co-producing the new integrated mental health team model, which will help to fill the gap between primary NHS care and secondary mental health care. It is first of its kind to go live in the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care System."

As part of this, Pam has participated in many meetings, helped recruit new staff and given talks to many different groups of people, describing her mental health issues and the new service available to sufferers.

Pam lives with her husband John, former Cigar Leaf Manager, in Bleadon, near Weston-super-Mare. They met at Imperial, but it wasn't until 1985, while Pam was working on the AGP, that they got to know each other better as John was developing new products like Castella Classic cigars and had to get permission from the AGP before taking them to market. That same year the Research Department was relocated to the company's new Hartcliffe

factory and Pam helped organise a celebration party to mark the event.

"The party was one of the social highlights of my time at Imperial," said Pam, whose career with the company came to an end when she took voluntary redundancy in 1987.

"I remember making my fingers raw knotting the balloons we used to decorate the party area but fortunately we were able to use the laboratory's compressed air line to blow them up!


Extremely busy

"I think the party was a success for everyone but to John and me it was a special occasion because we made our relationship public knowledge. To this day, we still celebrate this anniversary with a bottle of bubbly."

After leaving Imperial Pam has kept herself extremely busy with, for example, a role at the Tourist Information

Centre in Cheddar; completing a Foundation Course in Art and Design as well as Accounting Technician exams; opening an art gallery in Wells; and running a painting group.

"Although I really enjoyed my time at Imperial and my gallery years, my current role is by far the most rewarding," she added. "Based on having experienced poor mental health myself, I have been offering my views for more than four years now. I enjoy it immensely and am passionate about it, knowing it will improve the experience for those who seek help for this type of illness.

"The people planning the services tell me that they really value my contribution and that I have played a key role in co-designing the new services." 

"...my current role is by far the most rewarding."



Pam and her husband, John, at their home in Bleadon, with their dogs Stella, left, and Suki

Designer of the distinctive JPS packaging and F1 racing car livery

Richard D'Arcy, who designed the iconic black and gold packaging for John Player Special cigarettes, has died aged 78.

Born in Beaconsfield, Richard grew up in Hythe, Kent, where he attended Brockhill School, before the family moved to Dover. He showed early promise as an artist and attended Folkestone School of Art followed by Canterbury College of Art, where he was awarded a bursary by the Royal College of Art as the most Dynamic Young Designer of the year.

On completing his education, Richard moved to London, where he worked as a graphic artist for advertising agency J Walter Thompson, before moving to Nottingham to work for John Player and Sons in 1967.

It was in Nottingham that Richard met his first wife, April (née Morrell), who also worked



at Player's as a Secretary. He adopted April's daughter, Joanna, and the couple went on to have a son, Alex.

Richard was appointed Art Director and, among other things, designed the JPS packaging as well as the livery for the JPS racing cars before leaving the company in 1978.

In 1980, shortly after a move to Cirencester, where Richard had been appointed Art Director at direct mail

company Christian Brann's, Richard and April separated.

It was in Cirencester that Richard met his second wife, Sally, and, two years after their first meeting, they moved to Amsterdam, where Richard was appointed Creative Director of Turmac Tobacco Company, a tobacco advertising company. The

couple married in 1984, a year before returning to the UK, and had two daughters, Emma and Chloe.

Artist and painter

Richard went on to work as Creative Director of Royle Publications and, following a move to Cheltenham in 1997, took a position with a security monitoring company as creative opportunities were limited in the city.

During his final working years and after retirement in 2004 he began to hone his skills as an artist and painter and was a regular exhibitor at Open Studios, a biannual event in Cheltenham.

Richard is survived by Sally, Joanna, Alex, Emma and Chloe.

Familiar livery of the JPS F1 racing car



Six centenarians who worked for Imperial are remembered

Six of the Fund's oldest members have died after passing their centenaries.

Noreen Bell, who worked for Smedley-HP Foods in the late 1970s/early 1980s, and WD & HO Wills pensioner **Henry McWhinney**, have both died, aged 102.



Henry, pictured above, joined the company in Glasgow in 1955 and spent 25 years with the company, first in the sign maintenance department and later as an area leader/driver. In 1972 Henry and his late wife Mary, who died in 2011, moved to Warminster, Wiltshire, to take up the role of advertising supervisor for the South West of England.

The couple had three children – daughter, Carole, and sons

Ronnie and Gordon – and spent 10 years 'down South' before returning to Glasgow. In retirement Henry enjoyed holidays and bowls and was involved with the Glasgow Evangelical Church, where he was its organ player until he was 94. He was also a member – and one-time president – of the WD & HO Wills Social Club.

Four other pensioners have died shortly after passing their centenary milestone. Player's pensioner **Olive Coward**, who worked for the company for 13 years from 1962 until 1975, **Gladys Findlay**, who worked for Finlay & Co between 1964 and 1982, **Joan Hastings**, who worked for Smedley-HP Foods from 1973 to 1983, and Wills pensioner **Leonard Tozer**, have all died at the age of 100.

A former cigar factory foreman, Len (pictured above right) began his career with the company in 1938 working in the warehouse of the No.3 factory on Raleigh Road, Ashton, as a junior cigar machine mechanic.

He met his wife, Eileen, who died in 2018, at a dance three years



later before discovering she too worked at Wills in the stripping room of the No. 4 factory. The couple married in 1945 when Len was a flight lieutenant in the RAF. He returned to the company in 1946 and later joined the RAF Reserves for five years.

Len went on to work in various departments and spent three months of his career in Glasgow helping to set up the cigar factory at the Alexandra Parade site in Dennistoun. He retired as foreman of the packing and primary departments at the No. 2 cigar factory in 1980 after 42 years with the company.

In retirement Len and Eileen enjoyed many motoring trips and holidays to Europe as well as spending time with their three children, John, Janice and Anne, eight grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Chris joined as apprentice

Player's engineer **Christopher Bernard Jackson** has died, aged 66.

Chris joined the company in 1973 as an engineer's apprentice at the No. 4 factory on Radford Road, following in the footsteps of his father, Derek, who died in 2019.

Derek enjoyed a 40-year career at Player's, also joining as an apprentice, working in the engineers and air conditioning department and then in technical development before becoming foreman of the No. 4 factory.

Chris was the eldest of Derek and his wife Teresa's three children and worked for the company for 34 years until his retirement from his role as an engineer at the Horizon factory in 2007. His younger sister and brother, Julie and Adrian, also spent time working for the company.

Chris is survived by Teresa, Julie, Adrian and two children.

The deaths are reported, as at 31 May 2023, of the following retired employees:

HEAD OFFICE AND ITL

Philip Malcolm Dennett, 70;
Richard John Vibart Dixon, 88;
William Evan Peter Lloyd-Williams, 90;
Jill Maureen Violet Smith, 84;
Jean Wood, 90.

WD & HO WILLS

Brenda May Aubrey, 95;
John Francis Baker, 84;
Roderick Charles Baker, 74;
Raymond Banks, 88;
Doreen Evelyn Barter, 94;
Iris Lilian Bird, 90;
John Buchanan, 80;
Donald Cains, 90;
Paul William Chandler, 83;
Jean Margaret Chard, 92;
Owen Christie, 78;
John Cowan, 89;
Paul Sydney Daniels, 76;
Susan Davidson, 67;
Patricia Helen Davies, 90;
Catherine Donnelly, 68;
Sheila Ann Dunnell, 78;
Jean Mary Flood, 93;
Thelma Daphne Furse, 89;
Edward Kennedy Grose, 96;
Roy Gordon Hanney, 94;
Betty Barbara Harris, 94;
Susan Headlam, 76;
Hazel Herbert, 86;
Isabella Wilson Hogg, 91;
Anthony George James, 80;
Isabella Money McKay Kelly, 93;
David James Larkham, 76;
John Lawlor, 76;
Kevin Longley, 58;
Charles Andrew McCord, 84;
Henry McWhinney, 102;
Jessie Somerville Morgan, 81;
Amy Ada Rosina Morris, 93;
Marguerite Morris, 92;
Roger John Palmer, 75;
Terence John Palmer, 91;
Derek Plumb, 67;
William Desmond Pritchard, 92;
Elizabeth Lee Rafferty, 90;
Sheila Doreen Rendall, 88;
Lily Irene Saunders, 97;
Shirley Sinclair, 80;
Barbara Ann Smith, 87;
Peter William Edwin Stinchcomb, 82;
Betty Summers, 94;
Leonard Alfred Tozer, 100;
Bryan Christopher Webber, 89;
Edward Hugh Welch, 86;
Graham Frederick Wrangles, 84;
Olive May Wring, 93.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS

Alan John Anthony, 88;
Mary Naomi Chapman, 73;

Mona Elizabeth Chapman, 92;
Kathleen Brenda Charles, 67;
Jayne Allison Clare, 60;
Patricia Ann Cobb, 76;
Olive Irene Coward, 100;
Richard John D'Arcy, 78;
Alan Fox, 92;
Colin Paul Gilchrist, 71;
Phillip Martin Gould, 71;
Joyce Maud Greenshields, 76;
Eileen Pamela Gridley, 84;
Dennis Hiram Grimshaw, 94;
John Anthony Hardwick, 90;
John Albert Hare, 81;
Hyacinth Harrison, 84;
Lydia Alice Hickman, 95;
David James Hunter, 80;
Edward Lewis Keeton, 79;
Christopher Bernard Jackson, 66;
Violet Leech, 90;
Rhoda Blanche Miller, 96;
Jean Wailes Mitchell, 90;
Vera Madge Sophia Page, 93;
Kenneth Edward Potkins, 85;
Reginald Frederick B Powell, 96;
Marie Yvonne Rowell, 77;
Eileen Jean Stevenson, 76;
John Mathieson Todd, 93;
Doreen Ivy Tricker, 91;
Monica Vera Mary Wade, 95;
Mary Walters, 82;
Pamela Joyce Ward, 90;
Thomas Welsh, 90.

OGDEN'S

Alfred Edward Bowers, 64;
Deborah Ann Ennis, 57;
Jean Mary Greenall, 84;
Catherine Kelly, 89.

FINLAY & CO

Peter Thomas Anthony Dodd, 97;
Gladys Mary Findlay, 100;
William Hall, 95.

LOWFIELD DISTRIBUTION

Joyce Preston, 83.

RIZLA

Alan Davies, 86.

ROBERT FLETCHER & SON

Ernest Betton-Fisher, 86.

SINCLAIR COLLIS

Elizabeth Allfrey, 86;
Doris Batty, 95;
Patricia McConville McKenna, 84;
Angus John McLean, 92;
Janet Routledge, 93;
Robert Alexander Smith, 92;
Joseph William Somers, 70.

ST ANNE'S BOARD MILL

John Christopher Calvin, 78;
Victor John Emery, 99;
Michael George Thomas, 88;
Arthur William Whiteman, 85;
Donald Sidney Wood, 88.

IMPERIAL FOODS LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE

Margaret Ross Anderson, 97;
Peter Brown, 76;
Peter Cheney, 66;
Ronan Herbert Dent, 73;
Roy Arthur William Guest, 96;
Elsie Margaret Hunston, 86;
John Jackson, 90;
Irene May Mead, 89;
Norman Alan Reynolds, 91;
June Tideswell, 75.

GOLDEN WONDER

Marjorie Edna Childs, 98;
Jean Margaret Cole, 92;
Robert Michael David McKinnon, 82;
Anthony Kenneth Smith, 79.

ROSS FOODS

Mavis Anderson, 91;
Kenneth Atkinson, 91;
Pauline Joan Donald, 84;
Anthony Michael Forster, 76;
Keith Lawson Gibbons, 88;
Ronald Norman Giblett, 83;
Bernard Frederick Hartley-Yates, 76;
Marie Grace Hollyman, 90;
Kenneth Holmes, 90;
Beth Kerridge, 89;
Gwendoline Betty Pierce, 89;
Rose Mary Sutton, 91;
Eileen Tongue, 94;
Gilbert Stanley Turner, 85.

SMEDLEY-HP FOODS

Doreen Joan Batchelor, 94;
Noreen Mildred Bell, 102;
Ena Mary Elden, 92;
Derek Alfred Hambly, 89;
Joan Hastings, 100;
Michael Clifford Pope, 86;
Simeon Antony Michael Viveash, 89;
Graham Stuart Woolsey, 70.

YOUNG'S SEAFOOD

Vivian Henry Baggs, 93;
Christina Irving, 95.

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

Correction

The following John Player & Sons pensioners were incorrectly listed under WD & HO Wills in the March issue of the Gazette:

Derek Alan Aizlewood, 74;
Michael Lord, 85;
Geoffrey John Rowell, 92.

Unfortunately, the computerised system automatically assigns the listing, based on the company individuals are reported as working for at the time of their retirement. We apologise for these – and any subsequent – errors.

Harry's head to Costa Blanca

THERE WAS fun in the sun for Player's walking group, The Harry's, on their annual trip to Benidorm.

It was the 15th time the group have visited the Spanish coastal resort, which has been their destination of choice since the trip was first organised by Dave Clay in 2007.

Tribute acts

"Benidorm is our favourite place for walking and the entertainment at night is second to none, with many tribute acts," said Dave, who worked for Player's for 37 years and has organised all of the overseas trips.

"We had to miss a couple of years due to



Covid restrictions, but we were back in 2022 and this year was one of our biggest, with 15 of us making the trip."

The group of former engineers stayed at the Hotel Calypso for the four-day break. Dave, Bob Stirland and Dave Coxon have attended all of the annual trips, while Ian

▲ The Harry's showing off their colourful Hawaiian shirts while soaking up the sun in Benidorm

McFarlane attended this year for the first time. Plans are already in place for the group's return to Benidorm in May 2024.

GREAT TURNOUT FOR REUNION



Cheers! From left: Lee Campion, Dave Crunkhorn, Trev Sterett, Ade Pavier, Dave Wilkinson, reunion organiser Dave Clay, Mick Eaton, Tony Fisher, Rick Straw

THERE WAS a great turnout for the first Player's pensioners' reunion of the year, held at The Stage pub in Nottingham.

A group of 160 attended the event, which is promoted through the online Facebook group *Imperial Tobacco...Past and Present*. They enjoyed catching up over drinks and a buffet and took advantage of the pub's outside area to make the most of the glorious weather.

Chosen charity

"The Stage always puts on an amazing buffet for us," said former engineering mechanic Dave Clay, who organises the get together.

"They don't charge us for it, so we collect donations for their chosen charity instead, which this time was the Neonatal Intensive

Care unit at Queen's Medical Centre, one of the Nottingham University Hospitals.

"We raised £330 – a fantastic figure for such a worthy cause." **G**



▲ Getting together: from left, Carole Bradshaw, Janet Horry and Pat Haywood

Contact us
by email or
phone



Please continue to make contact with the pensions office by email or phone, if possible, as the team continues to work flexibly, splitting their time between office and home working.

Service to members remains unaffected and postal correspondence will still be dealt with in a timely manner.

Jan Killick (above), Head of UK Pensions, said: "While email or telephone is our preferred method of communication, it is important to remember that if your bank or address details have changed, we will need to receive the new information in writing, accompanied by your signature.

"This is so we can ensure the alteration is genuine and no mistakes are made."

✉ pension.enquiries@uk.imptob.com

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