

the Gazette

NOVEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 95

FOR PENSIONERS OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO



ALWAYS READY FOR A NEW CHALLENGE

Pages 6 & 7



**STARTING
AFRESH**

page 4



**SALES
STORIES**

page 8



**CENTURY OF
MEMORIES**

page 9

SHOWING DEVOTION IN TRYING TIMES



When John Player & Sons ex-personnel administrator Shirley Fairlie spotted an article in a local paper about two former Stirling factory colleagues, Bob and Jean McAlpine, she immediately got in touch with the Gazette.

"I thought pensioners might be interested to see this article from the Stirling Observer, which highlights how those with loved ones in care homes are coping during these uncertain and changeable times," said Shirley, who joined Player's as a shorthand typist in 1955.

Team have been brilliant

"Bob, 89, and Jean, 85, have been married for 66 years – a year longer than I've known them – and have never been apart until Jean, who has dementia, moved into Wallace View care home in Stirling. The team there have been brilliant in their efforts to keep them in touch, even granting Bob daily visits during lockdown to wave to Jean through the window.

"They also delivered a letter to him in the shape of Jean's hand saying she loves

Jean has sadly died since this article was written.



and misses him." Bob, a former trouble shooter in the making department, trained in Nottingham for a year in preparation for the Stirling factory commencing production in 1956, while Jean worked as an instructress in the packing department. She left in 1967 to start their family. The couple have a son, Brian, daughter, Avril, and two granddaughters, Flora and Ruby.

"They were a very well-known and liked couple within the factory," continued Shirley, who worked initially, when the factory opened in 1955, with the then personnel officer Hilda Woolard, bringing in prospective employees for interview,


Bob waves to Jean from outside Wallace View care home in Stirling; left, Bob and Jean were married for 66 years

medicals and so on. She moved to various clerical positions within the office before returning to personnel in 1978 where she remained until the factory closed in 1983.

"Bob was very musically inclined and entertained with former colleague Bert Miller, singing and playing the accordion around the local folk clubs. They were always on call for the many stag and hen nights of Stirling employees!"

Lovely and devoted couple

Since March, Bob, who also left the company in 1983, has continued to pay regular socially distanced trips to Jean and, in recent months, has also enjoyed some garden visits with her.

Shirley, who lives near to Bob and has also been visiting him to provide moral support, added: "They are a lovely and devoted couple and it's this dedication, along with the kindness of others in helping to keep their spirits raised, that has been a lifeline through these difficult times. I hope their story provides encouragement for everyone coping with the challenges of COVID-19." 

Pensions team still working from home until it's safe to return


Imperial closed its Bristol office in March 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, to ensure the service to members has been maintained.


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."

 0117 953 0000

 pension.enquiries@uk.imptob.com

An update from Imperial shows that trading is in line with expectations, with the tobacco business continuing to perform well despite the disruption.



Resilience in adapting to COVID-19

◆ IMPERIAL BRANDS' full year results were released after the Gazette had gone to print but, in a trading update, it reported the tobacco business had continued to perform well despite the uncertain and disrupted trading environment.

The company has experienced some COVID-related changes in consumer behaviour, with increased overall demand as well as some demand shifts between different markets and channels.

This has resulted in better than expected volumes, driven by several key European markets and in the US. These positive trends have helped to offset relatively weaker market volumes in the duty-free channel and some traditional summer tourist destinations, where reduced travel has impacted demand.

Overall, tobacco net revenue is expected to increase by around 1%.

The company has significantly reduced investment in Next Generation Products

"...our priority remains the health, safety and well-being of our people across our operations."

(NGP) while maintaining a range of options for future growth. Trading has been in line with revised expectations and NGP net revenue is expected to be around 30% lower than last year.

Manufacturing costs

Group net revenue performance is slightly ahead of the guidance provided in the company's half year results and is expected to be broadly flat on last year. However, some additional manufacturing costs caused by the COVID-related restrictions have

been incurred and, due to the ongoing uncertainties, the company has increased its provisions, mainly in respect of stock and debtor positions. As a result, constant currency earnings per share are expected to be down by around 6%, in line with current market expectations.

"Imperial has continued to show resilience in adapting to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and our priority remains the health, safety and well-being of our people across our operations," said CEO Stefan Bomhard, pictured.

"In my first three months as CEO I have focused on reviewing our strategy, engaging with employees, and visiting as many of our key markets as possible. I have been struck by the energy and passion of my colleagues, which increases my confidence in our ability to deliver a stronger performance in the years ahead."

The Group's full year results can be viewed at www.imperialbrandspc.com

Senior appointments have been made to strengthen top team

◆ IN HIS FIRST few months as CEO, Stefan Bomhard has been strengthening his senior executive team to bring fresh perspectives and ensure the company has the right skills to take the business forward.



Murray McGowan

Complementing existing divisional directors Dominic Brisby and Joerg Biebernick, chief financial officer Oliver Tant and manufacturing and supply chain director Walter Prinz, Imperial's senior leadership team includes the following new appointments:

- **Murray McGowan**, Group strategy and transformation director. Murray has a strong background in strategy gleaned from his time at McKinsey, Whitbread, The Restaurant Group and Yum! Brands.

- **Alison Clarke**, chief people and culture officer. Alison was previously chief human resource officer at Inchcape, with responsibility for all aspects of people and culture strategies.

- **Javier Huerta**, Group manufacturing and supply chain director. Javier will succeed Walter Prinz when he retires and is currently executive vice president supply chain for foods and refreshment at Unilever. He will join Imperial in the coming weeks. "Walter is a hugely respected figure in the organisation, a revered leader who has spent a total of 33 years with Reemtsma and Imperial," said Stefan Bomhard. "Although I've only known him for a short period of time, I'm fully aware of the outstanding contribution he has made and the affection employees have for him."

The company is also searching for a new chief financial officer following Oliver Tant's decision to retire once a suitable successor is found.



Alison Clarke

Chair Thérèse Esperdy said: "On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Oliver for the contribution he has made during his seven years with Imperial. We are actively progressing an external search for a successor and are focused on recruiting a high-calibre individual to support Stefan in strengthening performance and creating long-term value for stakeholders."

New face on the Board



◆ BOB KUNZE-CONCEWITZ has joined the Board of Imperial Brands PLC.

He has a wealth of international business experience and is particularly skilled at marketing, having held a number of senior roles at leading FMCG companies including Procter & Gamble and global spirits company Campari Group, where he has been CEO for the past 13 years.

Chair Thérèse Esperdy said "I am delighted to welcome Bob to the Board. He has a strong track record of successfully executing brand and marketing strategies and his experience and expertise will be a great addition to the Board's skillset."

FROM SALES FORCE TO SITE MANAGER



more than football

Former Imperial machine operator, then merchandising rep, **Ian Riley**, has learned a new role maintaining grass and synthetic sports pitches for Wallsend Boys Club.

Wallsend Sports Centre now boasts a full-size Astroturf pitch, as well as two senior grass pitches, five junior grass pitches and one mini-soccer grass pitch

Imperial pensioner Ian Riley is site manager at Wallsend Boys Club in North Tyneside, which has gained an enviable reputation for the early development of many professional footballers, including Alan Shearer, Michael Carrick and Peter Beardsley.

He first became involved with the club as a player at the age of 15 and, later in life, found himself back with his grandsons Louis and Kai and volunteered as a coach before he fell into the groundsman's role.

Ian joined the Wills Newcastle factory in 1977 making cigarettes and, when the factory closed in 1986, moved to Nottingham to work at the Horizon factory as a machine operator.

Time to volunteer

Four years later he joined the sales force as a merchandising rep moving back north, first to Hartlepool and then Newcastle, before being made redundant at the age of 50 when the tobacco advertising ban came into effect in 2002.

"I then started working for myself as a handyman fitting kitchens and bathrooms and carrying out general repairs. This gave me the time to volunteer as a coach and then, in 2010, the club suddenly realised that it needed a groundsman," said Ian, who lives in Wallsend with his partner Joan.

In June 2011, the club opened its first football centre alongside the Wallsend Sports Centre and Ian became site manager. Prior to this, the club had been playing on park and local authority pitches but the new centre provided

two senior grass pitches, five junior grass pitches, one mini-soccer grass pitch and a changing pavilion.

The development of the 15-acre site was funded by grants of £850,000 from the Football Foundation, £150,000 from The FA and £301,000 from North Tyneside Council, with the club itself raising £114,000. The site also now includes a new, full-size 3G (all-weather Astroturf) pitch.

Ian had no previous experience of maintaining grass and synthetic sports pitches but has completed the Grounds Management Association's Level One course and takes advice from professionals at Northumberland University and South Shields, as well as a specialist landscape company.


As site manager he is also responsible for ordering all of the kit and equipment needed for the club's 36 teams; carries out the maintenance of the pitches and stock for the café; and keeps the day-to-day accounts up-to-date for both the senior men's and ladies' teams.

In addition, Ian runs the canteen, but the club has recently employed some extra staff as there was just too much for him to do. He is still a coach and successfully took his under-eights up to under-elevens, winning the league each year and remaining unbeaten. As a result, he is now lead coordinator for the football section, organising the managers and coaches. The club is continuing to grow and is looking at expanding its facilities in

order to cope with demand from the local community. "We recently had planning permission passed for stage two of our project to redevelop and expand our existing building, adding a second floor," said Ian.

Cater for everyone

"This will provide a community hub area along with a physio room, classroom, changing rooms, kitchen, office and meeting room. The hub will focus on activities for younger people but will also cater for everyone in the community. Once we have completed stage two, which will cost around £1 million, we plan to seek funding for stage three, which will include an indoor 3G arena."

Ian, who has a son, Kevin, daughter, Michelle, and five grandchildren, also enjoys long walks with his Boxer dog Ruby, cooking and has recently traced his family history back to 1680. 

Cutting edge: Ian with his ride-on mower



The sad day when factory's closure was announced

◆ It was about 50 years ago that I got invited to an Imperial Bowls tournament in Bristol so myself and three others made the journey 'down south' to play.

We were beaten by one shot by the Bristol team, who went on to win the contest. My wife, Helen, and I both worked for Wills at the Alexandra Parade site in Glasgow for 27 years.

Fantastic place to work

I secured a role as a storekeeper in the engineering department in 1965 after Helen, who was already employed in the laboratory, encouraged me to

Michael and Helen Hendry both worked at the Alexandra Parade site, Glasgow, for 27 years

apply for a job there. We were married at the time, so Helen left but was asked to return and ended up serving as a security officer at the site. It was a fantastic place to work

and the job was terrific – I enjoyed it so much I once walked six miles in the snow to make it in!

We both shared great memories there and I

recall that sad day in 1990 when Newcastle manager Ken Irvine visited and told everyone, with a tear in his eye, that the site was to close within a couple of years.

Helen passed away a couple years ago, after 56 years of marriage, so I will always look back on our time at Wills with fondness. If I was asked to go back again tomorrow, I would love to.

Michael Hendry



Courtesy of the Herald & Times Group

Happy and fulfilling marriage for parents who worked at Wills

◆ I thought former colleagues would like to know that my mother, Pat Phelan (née Waudby) has died, aged 91. She and my father, Ken, met at Wills in East Street, Bedminster, in the late 1940s when she was a shorthand typist and he was, I think, a junior manager.

Pat worked for the company until they married in 1951 so was never a member of the pension fund but supported my father throughout his career at Wills, which included the job of industrial relations manager. My mother often took on the role of being a 'corporate wife' attending

work functions and sponsorship events with my father, such as the snooker at The Crucible in Sheffield.

My father retired in the mid-1970s as factory manager at No.4 factory in Raleigh Road and died in 2008.

Water colour artist

My mother lived alone for several years until she developed dementia and, in her last five years, was cared for in a Bristol nursing home.

Articles in The Gazette, featuring friends such as David Redway and John Smith, became a good source of

conversation and reminiscence for her as I had also worked as a student in the East Street beating up room. These talking points also linked into her memories of the 'girls' with whom she worked.

My mother Pat was an accomplished water colour artist and found great enjoyment in craft work including dress making and knitting. She was

also a volunteer for the WRVS meals delivery service and, with myself, a voluntary adult literacy tutor for many years.

My parents' meeting at Wills, their happy and fulfilling marriage and the enduring friendships that were made at the company, will stay with me.

Linda Phelan

Scottish lunch cancelled

The annual Scottish pensioners' lunch, due to take place on Wednesday December 9, has been cancelled.

The decision was taken as a result of both the British and Scottish Governments' directives on the COVID-19 pandemic and with the health and welfare concerns of those who would have been attending the lunch in mind.

"I appreciate this will come as a disappointment to those pensioners who have enjoyed our lunches over the past 12 years but it is in our own interest to stay safe and eliminate any risk of catching this virus," said event organiser Colin Martin.

"I would hope that we would be clear of COVID-19 by next December to allow us to continue with our lunches so keep an eye out for an announcement in future issues of the Gazette."

DIARY DATES

The following events have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions:

- The Player's garage and motor vehicle repair reunion, set to be held on Monday December 7 from 7.30pm at the Bell Inn, Nottingham, is still planned to go ahead, depending on updates from the Government. Contact Phil Bradley or Dave Lowe for more information closer to the date.
- The Player's Christmas reunion, set to be held on Wednesday December 9 at The Stage pub in Nottingham has been cancelled. Contact Janet Stanley or Dave Clay for details of future events.
- The 2020 Group head office pensioners reunion planned for October was cancelled. Plans are still in place to hold the event in 2021 and more details will follow nearer the date. Contact Mike Paige.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Bob Chamley's 'why not?' attitude led to an interesting and varied 30-year career in the Imperial sales force as well as a series of new challenges in retirement including working the 4.30am shift in a newsagent, becoming a Poppy Appeal organiser and secretary to his local Chamber of Trade.

Transferable skills: Bob's ASM experience comes in handy as Poppy Appeal organiser

B

Bob Chamley was born in Bradford and attended St Bede's Grammar school before leaving and starting his first job in the fire and marine department

at insurance company Phoenix Assurance in Sept 1967.

"Although Bradford is a long way from the sea there was a busy import/export trade because of the woollen industry," he said. "The fire claims department was also busy especially because of the 'accidental' fires at the less successful mills."

In September 1970 Bob applied to join John Player & Sons as a merchandising representative (later known as an indirect account rep), prompted by his older brother, Jim, who was already working for the company as a direct account rep in the Halifax and Huddersfield area.

After completing his initial training in and around Halifax, Bob moved to Stafford and worked around the Midlands before moving back to Bradford in 1976 to work areas in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

International secondment

During the early 1980s he carried out relief cover for direct accounts in Lancashire, working in Liverpool just after the local riots, and, in 1986, was seconded to Imperial's international division, latterly working in Saudi Arabia where Imperial had introduced Regal King Size and Regal Mild cigarettes.

"The job was to work with the agencies' sales teams – who were multi-brand agencies – to make sure our products got their fair share of the team's efforts," said Bob, who lives with his partner Andrea Waddell in Boroughbridge, near Harrogate.

"Representatives the world over are pretty much the same and all enjoy their refreshment breaks. The main difference in Saudi was that the roadside burger van didn't do bacon sandwiches but did a sheep's brain sandwich instead!

"Similarly, I thought it was kind of the sales team to invite me to a weekend barbecue – the weekend being Thursday afternoon and Friday. Little did I know that it involved driving into the desert, building a fire on flat stones then – at about midnight – clearing the fire and cutting up a sheep to grill on the hot stones. As a guest, I got to sample the



Bob and Andrea: together for 25 years

working at the newsagents, Bob read in the local newspaper that a new volunteer was needed to take on the role of Poppy Appeal organiser as the previous one was standing down after 19 years.

"I asked myself my usual question and volunteered," said Bob. "A meeting was agreed and the volunteers formed an orderly queue – of one.

"It transpires that many of the skills used as an ASM apply to this activity as well. This year is different but, normally, the skills used to set up in-store demonstrations translate easily into setting up an in-store Poppy Appeal collection, run over a week with a rota of up to 34 volunteers manning the stand over a six-day 10-hour period.

"Similarly, the team of reps is replaced with a group of 20 plus volunteers who collect house-to-house in their local area and then there is the distribution of over 60 collection boxes to schools and businesses.

"There is also the Remembrance Day Parade to organise, which is the primary responsibility of the town council but I act as central liaison between the council, church

heart: it actually wasn't too bad."

In 1988 Bob returned to the UK and became regional tactical rep controller, responsible for a team in Lancashire and North Wales who carried out tactical brand distribution drives within specific call types, such as pubs or certain types of retailer. After that, a role was created with the central division – business development specialist – which was targeted with finding new and/or

"...I was fortunate to experience a great variety of roles, each of which taught me something different..."

lost businesses not being called on.

"I think my best find was a chain of 60 plus seasonal shops based around the country in holiday resorts," said Bob.

Area sales manager

In 1992 the regional boundaries were redrawn and Bob became part of northern division as distribution supervisor responsible for a team of indirect reps within a sales area headed by an area sales manager (ASM), who had responsibility for a team of direct reps.

Two years later he was appointed ASM for Leeds and Bradford, a role he enjoyed until 2006 when the boundaries were again redrawn and he became responsible for an area which stretched coast-to-coast from Hull and Scarborough in the east to Blackpool and Cumbria in the west. Following another reorganisation in 2009, Bob retired.

"Working for the same company for 30 years is something out of the dark ages these days, but I was fortunate to experience a great variety of roles, each of which taught me something different and had the security of continued service," he said.

After retirement, the local newsagent, who was a direct account of Imperial, asked if Bob was interested in a part time job opening up the shop in the morning and he responded as he had throughout his career with 'why not?'

As a result, for six years he opened up three mornings a week at 04.30am when the newspapers arrived and assembled them for 25 paper rounds in between serving the early morning customers. In 2012, while

and local groups such as scouts and guides and the army at the local camp."


Bob likes to keep fit and belongs to a gym at the local hotel where he held his group meetings from 1995 to 2006.

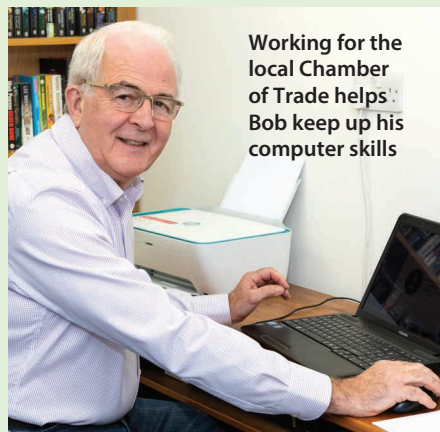
"The owner, who I know quite well, explained that his ideal gym member paid their subscription in January, attended in February and then stopped visiting!" said Bob.

"As I was going regularly and wearing out his equipment, he thought I needed a job. Of course, he knew of one and I soon found out he had recommended I become secretary to the local Chamber of Trade, a role I still do, which helps me keep up with computer skills."

Bob has also been involved with IMPAC since 2012, through which he still sees fellow ASM Chris Jackson and maintains links with Iain Cameron, another former ASM, and licensed trade supervisor Sean Woodhead, who now lives in France. Under normal circumstances, he also meets up with members of his old group two or three times a year to put the world to rights.

Bob and Andrea, his partner of 25 years, who was an Imperial multiple trade manager until her retirement in 2010, have been on several cruises including to the Norwegian fiords, the Caribbean and America and the Mediterranean. They are also frequent visitors to Majorca although COVID-19 has put pay to many of their plans this year.

"Over a working career of 30 years there are inevitably negatives as well as positives but if I was asked if I would do it all again then yes, why not?" 



Working for the local Chamber of Trade helps Bob keep up his computer skills

Being reunited with a former Imperial colleague has prompted **Keith Lawrence** to reflect on his career in sales development.

It was hard work but really rewarding...

Keith Lawrence has been reunited with former colleague Lyn Pearce after almost 30 years, thanks to an article in the July issue of the Gazette.

The pair worked together in the 1980s but had lost touch before Keith contacted the Gazette team after reading Lyn's interview.

"I first met Lyn when I was regional tactical rep controller and she worked as a tactical rep in John Viney's team," said Keith, who joined WD & HO Wills in 1974 as a merchandising rep, which was the start of his 22-year career in the sales force.

"We organised sales drives and kiosks and attended sponsored events with customers, as well as introducing new products and displays into various outlets, including pub chains."

Keith then became a sales development rep working for area sales manager Ian Mann, with whom he is still in contact. This role involved sales promotions with local major customers, coastal drives and arranging events such as greyhound racing where the company would sponsor a meeting and invite major customers.

"Organising events was hard work but really rewarding," said Keith, who occasionally

enjoyed standing in for Ian to run area meetings.

"We sponsored the Shire horses at the East of England show in Cambridgeshire and always had a good representation of our brands through advertising and sales units.

"I remember one year in particular when the Queen Mother was the royal guest and I was invited to have lunch with her – along with representatives from the other sponsor companies.

Embassy World Darts

"Another of my favourite stories is from the 1995 Embassy World Darts Championship, held at Frimley Green in Surrey. We were entertaining customers at the event, which was won that year by Ritchie Burnett.

"After the final I decided it would be a good idea to challenge Ritchie to a game, which he accepted with good grace. Needless to say, I didn't come out on top but it was good fun all the same."

When the Wills and Player's sales forces joined to form Imperial Tobacco in 1986, meetings began to be held at the former Churchman's (then Player's) factory in Ipswich, which is where Keith met Pat Meyer who was a supervisor.



Keith and Judie Lawrence celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2018 with a cruise around the Mediterranean

The encounter led to a close friendship between Keith and his wife Judie and Pat and her husband Herman, with the couples even holidaying together.

At the time of the sales force reorganisation in 1996, Keith applied for early retirement, which was accepted. He was due to retire in September but suffered a heart attack in July, which preventing him returning to work.

"I had hoped to carry on my work helping friends renovate older properties but this was put on hold," said Keith, who lives with Judie in Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich.

"It took me about a year to recover and while I was unlucky enough to have the attack, I am lucky enough to have survived and be back to 'normal' for a 76-year-old.

"I have always been keen on DIY and always




Keith Lawrence (right) presenting the winner's rosette at the Embassy-sponsored Shire horse event in 1990

fancied buying an old house and updating it. I was able to achieve this in 2003 and spent several weeks knocking down walls, building an en suite in one of the bedrooms, fitting a new kitchen and bathroom and redecorating throughout.

A great company to work for

"I was pleased with my efforts and rented the property out for eight years, which gave me additional income. I still do odds and end for friends and family, but only small jobs now."

Keith and Judie have been married for 52 years and have two sons, Stephen and Paul, and five grandchildren. The couple enjoy travelling and before COVID-19 went on holiday two or three times a year.

"Imperial was a great company to work for and I met some wonderful people there," added Keith. 

One of the first promotions Keith set up at Tesco in Hadleigh, Suffolk, in 1977



Looking back at 100

Ethel Hill receiving a 30 year service award at her retirement in 1978 from Ken Gilding, admin manager of Player's No. 3 factory



Ethel Hill joined John Player & Sons in 1948 at the No.3 factory on Churchfield Lane

in Radford as a catcher girl, inspecting the cigarettes from the making machine.

"It was a happy place to work," recalls Ethel, who has a daughter, Maureen, two grandsons, four great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter, who was born during lockdown.

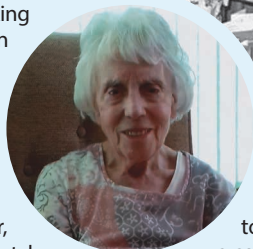
"Back then, we would take our knitting into the toilets to have natter during brektime. If one of us was still knitting when our break was up, another would finish it for us!"

After passing a staff test, Ethel was promoted to the making office and worked with Frank Pearson, Frank Wheeldon, Bill Else, Godfrey

Shelton and Carol Wilson. The team was responsible for looking after the newly appointed shift managers when double day working commenced in 1969.

"I met Ethel when I joined the company in 1966," said Carol. "We started working together as the making and packing clerks in 1969 and, despite a 30-year age gap, we became good friends. I have fond memories of us completing the crosswords together, firstly in the Daily Sketch and then the Daily Mail – sometimes with a little help from some of the foremen."

Carol moved jobs in 1975 but would still see Ethel at parties and the friends visited each other's houses and still



keep in touch. "I don't know if we were drawn together through a common thread of having our daughters at a young age or simply because we made each other laugh," Carol added. "Whatever the reason, we just gelled."

After retiring, Ethel kept in touch with many former

colleagues and was a regular attendee at the popular annual Player's tea party. She also enjoyed sequence dancing with Ray, her husband of 53 years, who died in a road accident in 1993. She continued to dance twice a week until she was 92.

Ethel, who lives in her own home in Papplewick, Nottingham, enjoyed a small family party for her birthday.

Also marking their centenaries are:

● **Mary Cook**, widow of St Anne's Board Mill pensioner Dennis who worked for the company from 1934 to 1977. He died in 1995.

● **Catherine McAlinden**, pictured, widow of Finlay & Co employee Bernard, who worked for the company from 1960 until 1976, celebrated with visits from her family in small



groups at her home in Chester, where she has lived for the last 16 years.

The couple were married for 56 years until Bernard's death in 1996 and have two daughters, Jean and Barbara, a son, Brian, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. "Mum was a redhead in her youth and now has hardly any grey hairs," said Jean. "She is a remarkable woman and, with a little

support, still lives independently in her own apartment."

● **Robert Fletcher pensioner Wilfred Oldham**, who worked for the company for 33 years from 1948 to 1981.

● **Dorothy Sudlow**, who joined the ATS in 1939 and had her photograph taken by the famous Cecil Beaton. She is the widow of Anthony who worked for Ross Produce from 1963 until 1979 and died in 1997.

A love of music and performing

Michael (Mike) Pullin, former stalwart of the Wills Staff Pensioners Association, has died aged 87.

He was born in Marshfield, Wiltshire, in 1932; the village he lived in all of his life. His father was tragically killed in a motorbike accident during the blackout in 1940 when Mike was only seven years old.

On leaving school, aged 16, he joined the WD & HO Wills sales office and then left the company in 1951 to complete his National Service in the RAF where he was posted to Gloucester.

Mike returned to Wills in 1953, initially in the wages office before joining the salaries office the following year. He remained in this department until 1987 when he retired as salaries controller.

"As reported in the letters section of the July Gazette, Michael collected a number of interesting items of memorabilia over his years at Wills," said his cousin Trudy Shellard.

"As a result, a number of people got in touch and we sent a few of the items to several people who collect such things and he was very pleased to know these had gone to good homes."

During his time at Wills Mike took part in many of the social activities and sport, playing tennis, table tennis, squash, snooker and bowls. Outside of work he was involved in the life of St Mary's Church in Marshfield, being a member of the choir from the age of six. He also sang in the Bristol Cathedral Choir for 48 years and had a love of music and performing.

Using his financial experience, he took on

the role of treasurer for St Mary's for 50 years and looked

after the accounts of many other organisations. Mike also travelled widely on holidays overseas and in the UK.

"Over the last few years, with his health deteriorating, Michael took the difficult decision to move into a local care home," said Trudy. "He was very happy there and enjoyed the activities such as singing, quizzes and art."

"Despite the recent lockdown and no visits, he remained positive and upbeat during daily telephone calls with family and friends until he became very poorly and passed away."

"So many people knew Michael and described him as a true gentleman and always smiling."



Paul played hockey and was a keen bird watcher

Former Imperial hockey captain Paul Chadwick, who worked at WD & HO Wills all his working life, has died aged 92.

He was born in Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, in 1927 and was educated at Seaford College, West Sussex, before joining the Wills general office in Bristol in 1944.

Royal Navy service

He saw active service in the Royal Navy as a sick berth attendant from 1945 until 1947 when he returned to the engineers' department. In 1956 Paul moved to the statistics department and, 11 years later, was appointed assistant to the sales research manager. In 1978 he became sales research controller and retired three years later.

Paul played hockey for Imperial and was



captain of the first XI from 1962 to 1965. He was also a very keen birdwatcher and was President of the Ornithological Section of the Bristol Naturalists Society as well as the first chairman of the Avon Ornithological Group from 1986-89.

"Paul was a member of the British Trust for Ornithology for over 50 years," said his nephew

David Chadwick.

"He was also a bird ringer and took part in the national Nest Record Scheme, which gathers information on the breeding success of Britain's birds, before he finally had to give this up in 2018 when he became less active."

IMPAC

An organisation for all Imperial Pension Fund members

Website: www.impact.org.uk

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The National Council has cancelled all remaining meetings scheduled for this year and 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 the Spring newsletter.

IMPAC members' helpline:

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

For membership queries

IMPAC membership agency (to update membership details only): email: 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.



Clubnews

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

Bristol

Wills Staff Pensioners Association

Secretary: Ruth Bwyne

In view of the present conditions, monthly meetings have been cancelled although it is hoped that these will resume in the autumn of 2021.

If feasible, a rearranged annual reunion will also take place next year on a date to be announced.

Newcastle

Sinclair Staff and Pensioner Group

Organiser: William Lynn

Nottingham

Player's Pensioners Club

Secretary and treasurer: Ron Ancliffe

The deaths are reported, as at 30 September 2020, of the following retired employees:

WD & HO WILLS

Royston John Bailey, 91;
Edna Pearl Bamford, 91;
Marvel Mertella Bean, 85;
Harold John Bracey, 83;
Sylvia Irene Brench, 97;
Valerie Merina Brown, 86;
Ian Cameron, 82;
Paul James Chadwick, 92;
Barrie Lewis Compton, 90;
Michael Joseph Cooke, 82;
Florence Ethel Cottrell, 100;
Agnes Currie, 69;
Gladys Margaret Daley, 96;
David Fraser Dring, 83;
Christopher Richard Dugard, 82;
Stephen Frank Edwards, 78;
Robert Henry Gamble, 90;
Gladys Amelia Godwin, 92;
Peter John McCauley Goldie, 83;
Barbara Ann Henderson, 80;
Clifford Hendrik Henneveld, 86;
Mary Winifred Herridge, 85;
Michael John Horseman, 87;
Janice Horsfall, 60;
Derek John Hughes, 83;
Ian Imrie, 82;
Frederick Keith Ingram, 94;
Dennis Raymond Jacobson, 98;
Ellen Wallace Kane, 82;
Graham Richard Knight, 75;
Gillian Ruth Knight, 80;
Harold Sidney Lovell, 85;
John McCafferty, 68;
Robert McConnochie, 93;
Pamela Margaret Orlowski, 93;
Frederick Owen, 90;
Ernest Clement Packer, 93;
Arnold Thomas Page, 94;
Shirley Doris Picton, 85;
Ronald William Postlethwaite, 90;
Michael Edward John Pullin, 87;
Glenn Edwin Seamark, 87;
Rose Sharman, 90;
Doreen Olive Silcocks, 94;
Albert Richard Smith, 92;
John Gordon Smith, 85;
John Trevor Smith, 86;
Nora Bridget Stewart, 83;
Jean Arthur Thompson, 69;
Rex Thornley, 89;
Iris Lilian Torrington, 90;
Garry Walter Wilkinson, 75;
Gordon Frederick Williams, 85;
Idris Woodfine, 84;
Audrey May Yeo, 94;
Dorothy Margaret Yeo, 68.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS

Jean Dorean Bartholomew, 86;
Shirley Ann Burton, 84;

Ernest James Crofts, 81;
Patricia Marie Cuffe, 66;
Stephen John Day, 66;
Joyce Myrtle Flatt, 93;
Frank William Gibbons, 72;
Jean Margaret Green, 87;
John Michael Hardy, 74;
David Anderson Hulston, 78;
Graham Barrie Johnson, 81;
Richard Bruce Laverick, 77;
Mazlin Aseneth Lindsay, 92;
Elizabeth Annie Mann, 98;
Angela Elizabeth Marsh, 91;
John Measham, 82;
John Campbell Pollock, 77;
John Lawrence Price, 76;
Kathleen Honor Rich, 87;
Barbara Share, 80;
Kamlesh Kumari Sharma, 82;
John Eric Smith, 91;
Etelka Somora, 88;
Richard Frederick Storey, 94;
Jessie Maud Stringer, 90;
Hazel Nancy Thurlow, 85;
Michael Timmins, 68;
Roy Samuel Walker, 96;
Joyce Agnes White, 80;
John Harvey Williams, 85;
Michael Anthony Woodward, 86.

OGDEN'S

Sydney Burgess, 87;
Marjorie Banks Gough, 84;
Doreen King, 85;
Kenneth Lawson, 91;
Joyce Brenda Moorcroft, 94;
May Parker, 91;
Joan Richardson, 98;
Sheila Webb, 82.

FINLAY & CO

Ena Clare Castle, 89;
Sheila May Cleaver, 92;
Edward Frederick Farmer, 93;
Helen Haig, 93;
Sheila Joyce Leatherbarrow, 97.

HARDY & COLLINS

John Robert George, 84.

J & H WILSON

Arthur Metcalfe, 84.

LOWFIELD DISTRIBUTION

Peter Thomas Beasley, 76.

RIZLA

William Raymond Walters, 75.

ROBERT FLETCHER & SON

Derek Pendlebury, 83;
Raymond Reardon, 91;
Malcolm Spedding, 73;
Frank Williamson, 98;
Brenda Nelly Yates, 78.

SINCLAIR COLLIS

Alistair Andrew Auld, 88;
Roy James Carver, 93;
Dennis Aimer Douglas, 93;
Anthony Edward Dryland, 84;
Kenneth Charles Humphrey, 88;
Wendy Margaret Sykes, 74.

ST ANNE'S BOARD MILL

Ralph Herbert Clark, 88;
Henry George Gray, 78;
Raymond Henry Watts, 92;
Keith William Westlake, 78.

IMPERIAL FOODS LIMITED HEAD OFFICE

June Anderson, 87;
George Bowers, 93;
Geoffrey Etherington, 87;
John Richard Read, 70;
Gordon Thornby, 87.

CROWN NOODLE

Mary Eileen Jones, 76.

GOLDEN WONDER

Janet Creek, 60;
Margaret Leadbetter, 74;
Delia Magner, 94;
Ellen Payne, 84.

ROSS FOODS

Joseph Benzie, 87;
John Roger Collingham, 83;
Clevise John Court, 73;
Dorothy Davison, 87;
David Keith Driver De Valle, 73;
Henry Joseph Hampson, 95;
Philip Charles Lawley, 68;
Ena Margaret Lee, 71;
Stephen Price, 71;
Roland William Storr, 84;
James John Thomson, 78;
Amy Josephine Windley, 88;
Freda Garniss, 89;
Richard Williams 62.

SMEDLEY-HP FOODS

Mohammed Gulzar Baig, 89;
Michael Henry Brogan, 70;
John Alexander Findlater, 83;
Rita Gensiorsky, 84;
Kathleen Mary Handford, 91;
Edward Derwick Higgins, 88;
Michael John Lacy, 67;
Angus Millar, 92;
Gwendoline Winifred Palmer, 93;
Sheila Mary Parr, 92;
Gordon Walter Thompson, 101.

YOUNG'S SEAFOODS

Robert Ivan Stone, 99.

Can anyone provide a home for Player's memorabilia?

This 1959 letter of appointment is among the collection of photographs and documents needing a home

Former Player's secretary **Wendy Wild** is seeking a new owner for some unique and captivating archive material.



The cast of a play put on by the Player's drama group take their bow

Wendy Wild, whose husband Tony worked at John Player & Sons all his working life, has unearthed some interesting documents and photographs while clearing the loft in her home.

Among the items are a letter of employment for a position within the Player's engineer's department dated 15 January 1959 and a maroon managers' overall, as well as several photographs of the Player's drama group.

Co-op Arts Centre

"My father-in-law, Alan Wild, was a keen member of the group and I remember they used to perform at the Co-op Arts Centre in Nottingham, now known as the Nottingham Arts Theatre," said Wendy, who worked as secretary to Player's chief accountant Gordon Walker in the mid to late 1960s.

"The letter of employment is also his and he worked in the building section until his retirement. His wife, Doris, was a 'Player's Angel' in the factory in Radford Road before she had Tony in 1943. She then returned when the No.6 gift office was set up and worked there as a supervisor until she retired." Tony joined Player's straight from school as an engineering

apprentice in 1959 – the same year as his father. He was one of the first engineers when Horizon was being built and was the youngest employee, at the time, to be made foreman. He took early retirement at the age of 56, after 40 years with the company, ending as a senior engineer.

"Tony and I met when we were 16 and 15 respectively and have been happily married for 56 years," added Wendy. "I remember him saying that he enjoyed every day of his working life: who can say that today? He now has Alzheimer's

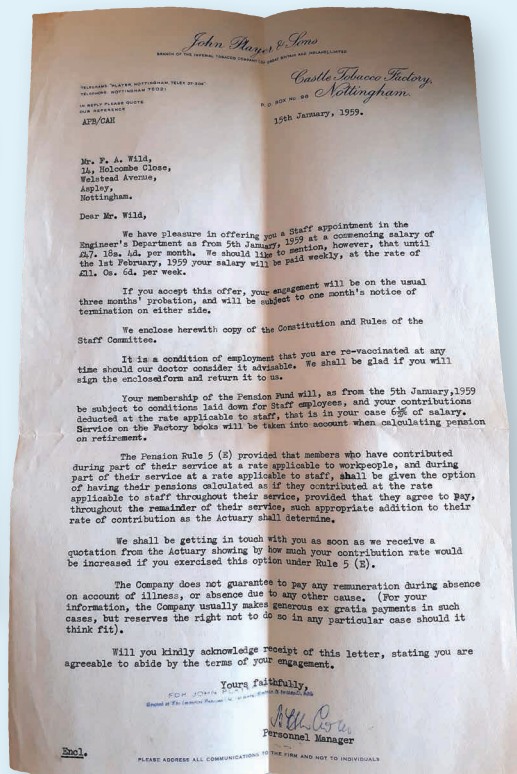
disease and is in a care home and I would love to be able to find a good home for the memorabilia as I know that it will not mean the same to our daughter, Helena, if she has to clear these items in the future.

"Player's was a wonderful place to work and gave us all good friends and a good living."

Wendy can be contacted by email at: a.a.wild@btinternet.com



On stage: a scene from the same play in progress at the Co-op Arts Centre in Nottingham, which is now known as the Nottingham Arts Theatre



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:

The Editor, James Reed PR, Archway Office, Barley Wood Stable, Long Lane, Writington BS40 5SA

0117 428 8725 gazette@jamesreedpr.co.uk

Design: Andrew Buchanan Print: Hampton Printing (Bristol) Ltd

