

the **Gazette**

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FOR PENSIONERS OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO



**FIFTY YEARS  
OF TRUST  
IN TREE  
CONSERVATION**

Page 4



**Memories  
of Horizon's  
Powerhouse**  
page 7



**Interview:  
Gordon's  
golfing talent**  
page 8



**They're  
back together  
at last**  
page 11

Shareholders are set to benefit from a strengthened balance sheet along with confidence in being able to deliver continued strong cash flows.

# SHARE BUYBACK PLAN HAS STARTED



Stefan Bomhard

**I**N LINE with its five-year strategy to deliver sustainable growth and enhanced shareholder returns, Imperial Brands has started an ongoing, multi-year share buyback programme.

It is the culmination of the two-year 'strengthening' phase of its plan, as it now moves into the next three-year 'improving returns' phase of the strategy.

Initially, up to £1 billion of shares will be repurchased before the end of September 2023, which would represent around 5.5 per cent of the issued share capital of Imperial Brands at the time of the announcement.

Over time, the company intends to reduce its capital base, providing an ongoing

source of shareholder returns in addition to dividends.

Stefan Bomhard, Imperial Brands CEO, said: "The launch of our buyback programme is an important milestone in our five-year strategy announced in January 2021.

## Improving performance

"Over the past two years, increased investment and a more consumer-centric approach have improved delivery in both our priority combustible markets and next generation product operations. Disciplined capital allocation has strengthened our balance sheet to reach our target leverage levels. The announcement is underpinned by this improving performance and our

**"...increased investment and a more consumer-centric approach have improved delivery..."**

confidence in being able to continue generating strong cash flows to support growing shareholder returns in the years to come.

"We are committed to a progressive dividend and an ongoing buyback programme to meaningfully reduce the capital base over time." **G**

## Committed to a healthier future for communities

◆ IMPERIAL BRANDS has updated its ESG (environmental, social and governance) strategy, focusing on three key areas and aligned with the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Tony Dunnage, right, Global ESG Director and one of the two new Company Nominated Trustees appointed to the Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustee Board, explains:

### Distinctive contribution

"We believe that we can drive a healthier future for our industry by making a distinctive contribution to the environment, the communities where we work, and the wellbeing of our people. We are committed to making a meaningful contribution to harm reduction by offering adult smokers a better choice of potentially less harmful products. We have committed to being a net zero company by 2040 – and



to a series of challenging intermediate objectives to reduce our carbon footprint – as well as regularly consulting with our key stakeholders to ensure the way we prioritise our ESG efforts aligns fully with their expectations of us.

"Right now, in addition to consumer health and climate change, we are focusing on six other key areas, spanning the full lifecycle of our products.

"We have grouped these areas into three broad categories: healthier futures (consumer health; climate change; packaging and waste), positive contribution to society (farmer livelihoods and welfare; sustainable and responsible sourcing; human rights), and safe and inclusive workplace (employee health, safety and wellbeing; diversity, equality and inclusion)."

● Find out more at: [www.imperialbrandsplc.com/healthier-futures/our-esg-strategy](http://www.imperialbrandsplc.com/healthier-futures/our-esg-strategy)

## Strong foundations will help in challenging environment

◆ TRADING IN the 2022 financial year was in line with expectations Imperial Brands said in an announcement on 6 October, ahead of the company's full year results on 15 November.

Targeted investment in Imperial's five largest combustible markets, which account for around 70 per cent of operating profit, is driving growth in total market share.

The growth rate of tobacco net revenue improved in the second half and, as expected, the recovery of international travel has led to a return to pre-Covid purchasing patterns over

the course of the year. Good progress is being made in implementing the refreshed NGP strategy. Further share gains have been made with Pulze and iD, the company's heated tobacco offering, in Greece and the Czech Republic, and in September it launched in Italy, Europe's largest heated tobacco market.

CEO Stefan Bomhard said: "In line with previous guidance, we expect full-year net revenue and Group adjusted operating profit to both grow by around 1 per cent at constant currency. Looking forward, we remain on

track to deliver against our five-year plan. The additional investment and actions taken during the initial two-year strengthening phase have built strong foundations and enhanced our resilience as we face a more challenging macro-economic environment.

"Over the next three-year phase of our plan, we continue to expect low single-digit constant currency net revenue growth."

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

# NEW PENSION TRUSTEE BRINGS RANGE OF KNOWLEDGE TO BOARD

**R**OSS PARKER has been appointed as the Employee Nominated Trustee on the Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustee Board, replacing Sam Miller who left the company earlier this year.

Ross leads the Group Corporate Affairs team for Imperial Brands, which is responsible for engaging with governments, regulators, and politicians across the globe.

Prior to this he was Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs at Fontem Ventures (the Imperial company behind the blu brand of vapour products) for two years, after holding a variety of other positions of increasing responsibility since joining Imperial in 2012.

## Involved in regulatory issues

"I have always been involved in regulatory issues: in Europe, the US, and in the developing world," said Ross, who was educated at Bournemouth School and Jesus College, Oxford, where he was awarded a First in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and subsequently an MA.

He also holds a postgraduate qualification



Ross Parker

in Public Administration from the University of York.

"In previous roles I was one of the Secretariat to the Independent Commission on Banking, which advised the British government on how to avoid another banking crisis; an advisor to the governments of Nigeria, South Africa, and the Dominican Republic on the privatisation of utilities;

and one of the team who set up the first competition authority in Tanzania." Ross built a strong working knowledge of finance during his time as an advisor to the Independent Commission on Banking between 2010-2011, and an understanding of stewardship working on a review of equity markets with leading economist Sir John Kay from 2011-2012.

While working at Imperial he has also had the opportunity to develop his skillset as a non-executive director through his Trusteeship of the Circadian Trust, an £11 million turnover charity that operates a network of leisure centres and sporting facilities in South Gloucestershire; as Vice-Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce's UK Tax Committee; and serving as a school governor and parish councillor.

"Becoming a Trustee is a perfect opportunity to use my skills in a field that is new, but not dissimilar, to areas that I have enjoyed in the past," he said. "It is also an opportunity to ensure that the retirements of my colleagues, those who came before us, and those who come after us, are secure and well-managed. I am delighted to have this opportunity."

## The Pension Fund remains in good financial health

### Update from Pensions Manager Jan Killick

**I**n recent months we have seen some media coverage on pension investments due to the significant changes to investments linked to UK Government bonds as expectations of future interest rates and inflation rose.

This was because of various factors, including the Government's 'mini' budget at the end of September, which led to fluctuations across investment markets



Jan Killick

and the need at short notice for additional capital.

The Fund, like other defined benefit pension schemes with liability driven investment (LDI) strategies, has had to react quickly to market conditions.

The Trustees, in collaboration with the company and its investment manager (Legal and General), worked quickly to reduce the impact of market fluctuations by making temporary changes to the amount of the liability hedge within the LDI portfolio.

The Trustee Board continues to monitor market conditions closely to enable it to respond swiftly as required and it continues to consider the options available to manage and reduce investment risk.

Our priorities remain making sure that pensions are paid on time and monitoring the performance and risk of the Fund's investments. We want to reassure members that this market volatility has had limited impact on the Fund's overall funding position and our overall investment strategy is unchanged.

The Fund remains in good financial health, and we continue to be able to pay pensions as and when they are due.

## Pensions team update

◆ THE PENSIONS team is continuing to work flexibly, splitting their time between office and home working.

Service to members remains unaffected but, if possible, please make contact by email or phone. Postal correspondence will also be dealt with in a timely manner.

"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," said Pensions Manager Jan Killick.

"That way we can ensure the alteration is genuine and no mistakes are made."

Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund,  
PO Box 3242, Bristol BS5 9GY

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 0117 953 0000



**John James OBE** joined the Woodland Trust as its first employee and has now published a book, *From Little Acorns*, to mark the 50th anniversary of Britain's largest woodland conservation charity. He credits his marketing career at Player's and the support of former colleagues for helping him grow the organisation from owning 18 woods when he joined in 1977 to more than 800 when he stepped down as chief executive 20 years later.

# WOODLAND CHARITY TOOK ROOT AFTER PLAYER'S ROLE



**P**RIOR TO joining the Woodland Trust as its National Development Officer, John spent six years with John Player & Sons in Nottingham, initially as Catalogue Merchandise Controller.

Here he sourced over 1,000 items of merchandise and helped recruit and supervise a design agency to produce the Player's No 6 catalogue.

"I was liaising with departments handling millions of vouchers and despatching many thousands of products," said John, whose prior experience in mail order at the Spalding Bulb Company helped him secure the position at Player's.

"The role was a senior staff grade, but I was keen to get into management, so I applied for a job as Assistant Brand Manager, working on John Player Special and Gold Leaf for General Brand Manager, Spencer Fox."

While doing this role John applied for a Nottingham Roosevelt Travelling Scholarship to the USA, a post-war initiative sponsored by Player's to encourage scholars to foster a greater understanding of America and its culture.

"The application process got me thinking about my interests and priorities," said John, who lives in Cromer, Norfolk, with Margaret, his wife of 51 years.

"For as long as I could remember I had

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**"For as long as I could remember I had been interested in nature..."**

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been interested in nature and my ambition on leaving school had been to train as a land agent, until I failed my Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors exam!

"Through the scholarship I was able to spend four months visiting National Parks and wild areas in the USA and Canada and this rekindled my interest in conservation."

On his return and following a company reorganisation, John was appointed Marketing Planning Coordinator reporting to Ritchie Harrison. He joined the Woodland Trust 18 months later.

## Its first employee

"I felt a commitment to stay with Player's on my return, but the cigarette market was changing and many of my colleagues were looking for new jobs," said John.

"While we were searching the jobs vacant pages during our coffee break someone said: 'this would suit you, John, you're always going on about trees.' And so, I joined the Woodland Trust as its first employee."

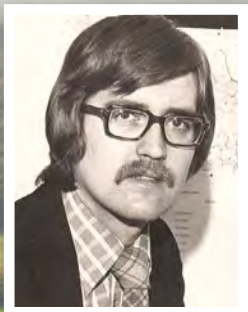
Much of what John achieved in the early days of the Trust was the result of what he had learned at Player's. Having had contact with some of the biggest names in advertising and knowing that successful marketing required a strategic approach – even with a small organisation as the Woodland Trust was then – he set about creating a marketing campaign to get the charity off the ground.

"I turned to past friends and colleagues for help," explained John, who made an early visit to Tony Garrett, retired Chairman of ITL, who was interested in planting trees.

"Player's design studio produced a new brochure – the first marketing material for the Trust – and agency Ogilvy and Mather, who I had worked with on Gold Leaf, helped with advertising.

"Many Senior Managers, like Gordon McKenzie and Bill Rudd, became interested in what I was doing, and I was also able to produce a series of picture cards featuring woods for Brooke Bond PG Tips because of a colleague's move to Nestlé. Player's even made space on its mainframe computer for my fledgling mailing list."

In fact, it was the advent of new concepts in technology, that, over the next few years, helped John propel the Woodland Trust into the ranks of Britain's largest fundraising charities. "I came to value the importance



Back in the 1970s: John James during his Player's days

of the 'administration arrangements' used at Player's for everything from big brand launches to small promotions. This proved invaluable when organising fundraising and awareness events that celebrities and senior politicians, including former Prime Minister, John Major, would attend," John added.

He was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1980 to visit America again to discover new ideas about conservation.

Inspired by San Francisco's Save the Redwoods League's memorial groves and with his marketing know-how, John set up a Commemorative Groves programme and later a Create a Wood farmland tree planting programme, which continues to raise large sums for the Trust.

Over the coming years the promotional activity grew, raising awareness about the serious threats woods and trees were facing, such as intensive farming and forestry, development, disease and neglect, and it raised increasingly large amounts from appeals – such as a record breaking The Week's Good Cause broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1983.

### A new wood every week

The Trust rapidly became one of the largest purchasers of land for conservation and established a network of regional officers to ensure that the increasing number of woods were looked after.

"My concern has always been about securing land for nature conservation and when I left the Trust it was acquiring, on average, a new wood every week," said John, who also helped the Trust pioneer a large-scale tree planting project to mark the new millennium. "By 1997 I had been with the Trust for nearly 20 years and, after receiving an OBE for services for nature conservation, I decided to move on."

Six years as a Non-Executive Director for the Forestry Commission followed before John and Margaret moved to Cromer to start a crafts gallery working with artists and makers inspired by nature. They sold the gallery in 2012, which is when John was asked




Walkers stroll through Gorsy Piece, an extension to Pepper Wood



to an event held at the House of Commons to mark the Woodland Trust's 40th anniversary.

"Very few of the attendees knew about the beginnings of the Trust," said John.

"I had always planned to write a book about its first 25 years and when a new Chief Executive took over the Trust in 2014 and suggested meeting up to hear more about its early days, I was happy to help.

"The end result is a book celebrating half a century of the Woodland Trust. It is part history, part memoir, and sets out to explore the making of this successful non-profit organisation, which I couldn't have done without first having worked at Player's." 

● *From Little Acorns* is published to mark the 50th anniversary of the Woodland Trust. For more information, visit: [www.woodlandrescue.co.uk](http://www.woodlandrescue.co.uk) or to buy the book, go to: [www.mascotmedia.co.uk](http://www.mascotmedia.co.uk)



Aerial shot of ancient Pepper Wood in Fairfield, near Bromsgrove, Worcestershire – a valuable community woodland bought by the Trust in the early 1980s

# HARRY'S GET TICKET TO RIDE IN LIVERPOOL

**M**

EMBERS of a Player's walking group, which meets every two weeks, enjoyed an outing with a twist in Liverpool – birthplace of The Beatles.

The group, known as The Harry's, is coordinated by former Engineering Mechanic Dave Clay, who took 11 other former engineers on a themed walking tour of the city to explore its sites while learning about the band's history.

## Magical Mystery tour

Covering 10 miles over the course of two days, they stopped off at the Cavern Club on Matthew Street (where The Beatles made their first appearance), The Beatles Story Museum at the Royal Albert Dock and even enjoyed a Magical Mystery bus tour on which they saw where members of the band grew up and went to school as well as places that inspired some of their songs.

"The song Penny Lane was named so because John Lennon and Paul McCartney used to meet there to catch a bus into town," said Dave, who lives in Nuthall, Nottingham, and worked for the company for 37 years. He has been running the walking

▶ On the bus: the group take in the sights while singing along to iconic Beatles songs on a Magical Mystery tour of the city



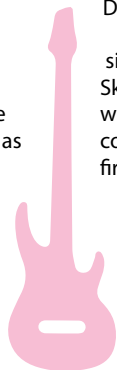
group since 2007 and also organises the biannual JPS reunion.

"It was a fantastic excursion and something a bit different to our regular walks, which are often in Nottingham or Derbyshire."

The Harry's also completed their six-mile annual coastal walk from Skegness to Chapel St Leonards, which was followed by a meal in the coastal village of Ingoldmells, for the first time in two years.

The trek, in memory of their fellow walkers who have passed away, stopped due to Covid restrictions in both 2020 and 2021. **G**

▶ Stopping off for a drink in the famous Cavern Club



▲ The Harry's enjoying their belated annual memorial walk in Skegness

Guitar: Freepik

## **G** LETTER

### A 'terrific' Ross Foods manager remembered

I saw the name John Edward Sweetland featured in the obituary section of the July Gazette and was sad to learn it was the same Mr Sweetland of Ross Foods who offered me a job as Sales Manager in 1973.

He was the Regional Sales Manager at the time and quite a character – one of those people you could get so close to the line with

but would never dare to cross it!

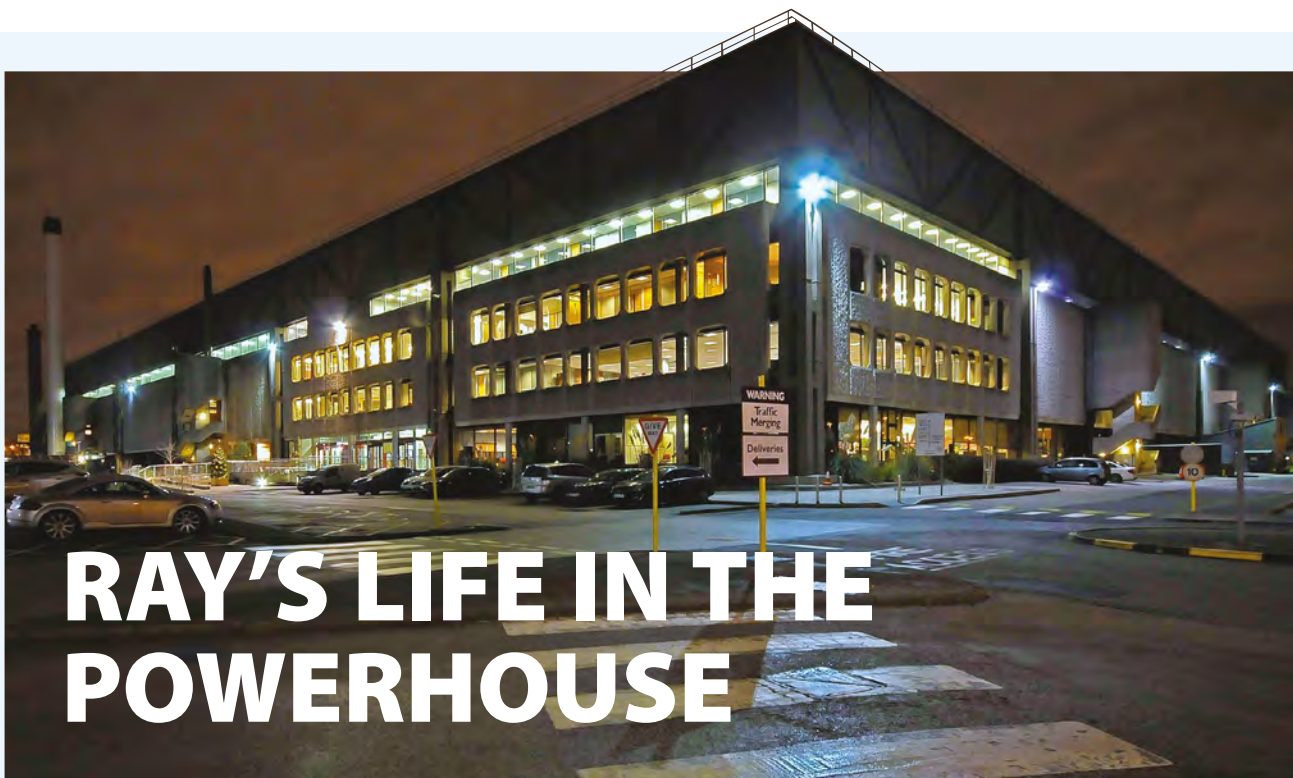
John interviewed me with the then Area Sales Manager Graham Smith. I recall waiting nervously after the interview for over 10 minutes thinking I hadn't got the job and then he came out and told me the good news.

I stayed with Ross Foods for 11 years before leaving as a Key Account Manager

responsible for 45 Tesco stores and I have John to thank for that.

He was a terrific manager, probably the best I've ever had. My thoughts are with his family.

**Patrick Powell**



Courtesy of Paul Bloomer

# RAY'S LIFE IN THE POWERHOUSE



WHEN THE Horizon factory opened in 1972 it was not connected to the National Grid, generating all of its energy needs in

the Powerhouse.

Among the many that worked there is electrician Ray Dring, who joined Player's in 1974 after spending 10 years as a contracting electrician working all over the UK.

"After marrying my wife Linda and when my daughter was on the way, I thought it was time to stop travelling and so I joined Player's," said Ray, who lives with Linda in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, in the same 150-year-old pair of terraced cottages they knocked together 50 years ago.

## Powerhouse Controller

"I served my probationary period at the Radford Road factories before moving to the Horizon factory as an electrician working in the Powerhouse. It was a job I loved, so much so, that I spent 35 years there, much later being offered the post of Powerhouse Controller – a fancy name for a supervisor. I am not sure I was that good a supervisor, but I tried."

The department was manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year over four shifts.

For the first 15 years, the factory generated all its own energy using 12 dual fuel gas turbines, which each drove an 11,000 volt, 1 megawatt alternator.

The waste heat in the hot turbine exhaust gases was extracted by large steam-raising boilers on the ground floor below. They produced steam at 150PSI (10Bar) which supplied the primary department's production needs as well as the heating and cooling requirements of the factory and later also the regional distribution centre nearby. Some of the

"For the first 15 years, the factory generated all its own energy using 12 dual fuel gas turbines..."



▲ Celebrating 50 years of marriage: Ray Dring and his wife Linda. The couple have a daughter Tonya, son Jonathan and four grandchildren

steam produced was further directed through a high-pressure steam turbine to drive a compression chiller, like the one in a standard refrigerator, while the low-pressure exhaust from the steam turbine was directed through two very large absorption chillers, like portable gas-powered camping fridges.

"Much of the steam and chilled water

▲ The Horizon factory: The triangles pictured on the roof space are the visible parts of the bridge-like steel structure that supported the concrete ceiling of the main production floor and the flat roof of the factory as well as the air conditioning machinery

produced was piped up to the roof space where 35 large air conditioning plants were situated," explained Ray. "These filtered, washed, cooled or heated and humidified the conditioned air supply to the factory.


"The high voltage electricity was distributed to seven sub-stations where it was transformed down to 110, 240, and 415 volt industrial supply systems running through the service void.

## Energy saving system

"In today's climate change world this highly efficient energy saving system would be commended."

The gas supplied to the factory was at a low price on the condition that the factory was on an interruptible tariff, able to shut off all consumption at an hour's notice for up to 30 days a year. To meet this condition, the Powerhouse team had to keep the turbines tuned ready to change over to gas oil (diesel) while they were still running and so they kept 30 days' worth of this fuel in two huge underground tanks.

The Powerhouse also contained other equipment including the compressors and air driers, and the vacuum generators whose output fed directly to the production machinery and other Player's locations.

"The large pumps for the cooling towers as well as the fire suppression sprinkler systems and even the music, came from the Powerhouse," added Ray. "It was a large department that was largely invisible to most factory workers." 

# GORDON'S SUCCESSFUL WORK-SPORT BALANCE



**Gordon Sneddon** has lived in Bristol for almost 40 years but his career with Imperial, which spans just as long, began when he was recruited for a training programme at Wills in Glasgow. Learning from the bottom up laid the foundations for many opportunities that followed, culminating in his role as Operations Manager for cigar manufacturing across the UK, Ireland and Europe. Now Chairman and Director of Knowle Golf Club, he enjoys playing a few rounds of golf each week and catching up with former colleagues.

Teeing off: former Bristol and Glasgow Wills World Golf Tournament winner, Gordon, enjoying a round





LASGOW RANGERS fan Gordon Sneddon grew up in the city and applied to become an apprentice electrician at Wills after completing his O-level

exams. He narrowly missed out, due to being older than the accepted recruitment age, but was offered the opportunity to join a new training initiative.

"The course was called STW and was a two-year training programme for potential supervisors, though I cannot recall what the STW stood for," said Gordon, who joined the programme in 1963, aged 16.

"It involved being trained in every aspect of every job across the pipe, cigarette and cigar factories, learning from the bottom up. The scope was broad, ranging from machine operations to warehouse distribution and office work and included spending time in the laboratories understanding quality control methods and sampling and measuring materials."

Gordon clearly made an impression and was one of just two candidates to be offered a permanent job out of the six who completed the course.

### Raleigh Road training school

He then spent a year being taught how to fix cigarette making and packing machines, which included eight months at the Raleigh Road training school in Bristol, where he now lives with his wife, Alexis, who also worked at Wills in Glasgow, in the wages office.

"I met Alexis at a bus stop after work in 1966," explained Gordon, who has been married for 52 years and has two sons, Graham and Stuart, and four grandchildren.

"It was just before I went to Bristol for training, which is where she always thought we'd end up living. And we still do: in the same house in Hengrove we first moved into some 40 years ago."

Gordon was a keen footballer in his youth and played for Wills in Glasgow until an injury put him out of action and nearly cost him his job. "I was playing one Saturday and sustained a bad shoulder injury, which put me out of work for one of the weeks I was supposed to be training," he said. "My then Foreman, John Patterson, called me into his office and, without looking up, said:

**"The manner of his reply made it clear that I had to focus on either work or football."**



Gordon became a Director of Knowle Golf Club in Bristol in 1998

'I hear you like football' to which I answered 'yes'. The manner of his reply made it clear that I had to focus on either work or football.

"Needless to say, I focused on work and, thanks to Alexis's father, Alex, I took up golf instead. It didn't take long before I started beating him on the 9-hole course we used to frequent and I've been playing ever since, although my handicap has risen from four to 10 as advancing years take their toll."

Gordon, who won the Wills World Golf Tournament in both Bristol and Glasgow, which golfers across the company competed in, continued to work on cigarette making machines until the early 1970's.

It was during this time the Glasgow factory was migrating onto a double shift method of working and he was temporarily seconded to the training department to train the new staff and machine operators needed to accommodate the change. He continued to teach others over the next few years while also fulfilling the role of temporary section supervisor for the factory's making department.

A promotion to secondary supervisor followed when making and packing production for cigarettes combined

– a new initiative to cut costs and improve efficiencies.

Then, in 1982, when the company rationalised due to falling sales and the new factory at Hartcliffe came on stream with new generation machinery that was much faster, the Glasgow site closed. Gordon transferred to Bristol to work in cigarette manufacturing and soon became a regular golfer and member at Knowle Golf Club.

### 200 million cigarettes a week

"There were similar jobs available in Bristol so, after consultation with Alexis and my line manager Keith Dutton, I applied and was offered a job at the Hartcliffe factory," said Gordon, who, after four years, was promoted from Supervisor to Secondary Foreman, responsible for producing more than 200 million cigarettes per week. "It was quite a step up and a bit of a culture shock

*continued on next page*



◀ Gordon has been chairman of Knowle Golf Club for the last seven years

▶ Married for 52 years: Gordon and Alexis met while working at Wills in Glasgow



continued from page 9

compared to operations in Glasgow, where there were just a few machines in a room. Hartcliffe was the size of three or four football pitches with multiple machines and about 13 supervisors."

The Hanson takeover which followed resulted in another company rationalisation and the closure of the Hartcliffe factory in 1992. Fortunately, part of the rationalisation included bringing cigar production back to Bristol in a new factory in Winterstoke Road.

### Interesting time

"Like everyone at the time, I had to re-apply for my role and I was very pleased to get transferred to the new operation," said Gordon, who remained with the cigar division for 12 years.

"It was an interesting time establishing new machinery and consolidating a new work force of former Glasgow, Ipswich, and Bristol personnel to staff the new operation.

"Initially my role was similar to my previous one in cigarette production but on a smaller scale. It was still vital to get the correct output to the desired quality, but cigar production is quite different and much more labour intensive. To compare, 300 to 400 million cigars were produced a year and 200 million cigarettes a week."

After a few years, Gordon, who became a Director at Knowle Golf Club in 1998, was promoted to Cigar Manufacturing Manager for the site. In charge of all manufacture and processes, he was involved in methods



▲ Glasgow Rangers fan, Gordon, with a signed photo of club legend John Grieg

to improve efficiency, including modifying cigarette making machines to create cigar rods and investing in microwave drying to enable more rods at a time to be transferred into packs.


It was around this time that Imperial had started to expand, buying tobacco-related companies in Europe and Ireland and Gordon was promoted to Operations Manager for Imperial's cigar business in the

UK, Ireland and Europe. "It was the highlight of my career, which had provided me with so much opportunity to grow and advance throughout – although I often found that I happened to be in the right place at the right time," said Gordon, who took early retirement, aged 54 and after 39 years with the company, in 2004, a year after the cigar division amalgamated with OTP (other tobacco products).

"During my latter years with the company, we explored many ways to keep the cigar market going but, sadly, it was the no smoking indoors ban introduced a few years later which killed it."

In retirement Gordon has turned more of his attention to the management of Knowle Golf Club. Using the skills honed during his career with Imperial, he helped to streamline the running of the club, which he has been Chairman of for the last seven years and was Vice-Chair of for several years before that.

"It's now not a hands-on role due to the excellent structure the club enjoys, which is also down to the support of a very capable group of directors," said Gordon, who keeps in touch with former Glasgow Secondary Supervisor John McGuinness, who transferred to Bristol and now lives in Nailsea and also worked in the cigar division, as well as Bristol colleagues Mark Dury, Leon Simms and Mike Baker, who are all members of the club.

"Golf must run in the family as my oldest son Graham is Captain of the club this year and my 13-year-old grandson Thomas is also showing promise as a golfer in the Gloucester Junior Academy." 

## Celebrations for Pension Fund centenarians



TWO PENSIONERS, who between them clocked up more than 55 years' service with the company, are celebrating their 100th birthdays.

**Doreen Berridge**, above left, who worked for Player's in Nottingham for 40 years, celebrated her special day with a party for 30 friends and family.

She joined the cigarette making department in No 1 Factory and worked in a number of different locations. When she retired in 1978, she was in charge of a department in Research and Development.

In retirement Doreen enjoyed holidays in the UK and overseas, dancing, swimming and bowling. "I have many happy memories of my time at the company," said Doreen. "It was a great place to work."

Smedley-HP Foods pensioner **Dorothy McGrath**, above right, known as Dot, is also

celebrating her milestone birthday. She joined Smedley at its factory in Spalding, Lincolnshire in 1957, initially working on the shop floor before becoming factory supervisor: a role she held until her retirement on her 60th birthday in 1982.

"It was quite a big thing at the time, for a woman to be a supervisor," said Dot, who still lives in Spalding. "I was popular but very strict when it came to working. Everyone was treated the same."

Dot's late husband, William, also worked at Smedley and the couple travelled to and from work together every day.

### Travelling together

William, who had been captured during the Battle of Arnham in The Netherlands during WW2, was a foreman in the yard, dealing with the vegetables as they arrived at the site ready for processing.

He took redundancy when Dot retired so the couple could enjoy their retirement travelling together. They visited America four times, Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg as well as many parts of the UK.

The couple were married for 75 years before William's death in 2012 and had a daughter, Patricia. "I made many friends during my time with the company who are sadly all

long gone now, but I have enjoyed making new friendships over the past decade and make regular trips out with them, especially to play bingo with lunch after," said Dot.

"I had a wonderful birthday, with lots of visitors and phone calls, and so many flowers I ran out of vases to put them in! I had a special lunch out with a few of my friends and Patricia and her husband, who attached a 100th balloon to their car so I was waved at by lots of people. It was an absolutely fabulous day."

### Also marking their 100th birthdays are:

**Myriam Baker Fedeli**, whose late husband JA Baker, worked for Finlay & Co from 1956 until his death in service in 1973.

Finlay & Co pensioner **Gladys Findlay**, who worked for the company between 1964 and 1982.

**Isobel Warnes**, widow of Norman, who worked at Smedley-HP Foods and died in 2017.

After three years without a **Group Head Office reunion** due to Covid restrictions, former colleagues were able to pick up where they left off.

# REUNION WAS WORTH THE WAIT

**P**ENSIONERS ATTENDING the 2022 Group Head Office reunion picked up where they left off at Knowle Golf Club in Bristol, three years after the last event took place there.

The annual get together, which was postponed due to Covid and last ran in 2019, marked 36 years since the closure of Group Head Office and saw around 75 pensioners reunited with friends and former colleagues.

"It still amazes me how keen pensioners are on gathering together after all this time," said organiser and former Pensions Manager Mike Paige, who welcomed guests and gave a speech.

## A great day spent with friends

"It's clear that time hasn't lessened the camaraderie of the group – assembled from Raleigh Road, Temple Street, Lombard Street, Upton Road and the rest – and we are grateful to the company for continuing to make our reunions possible. We've all had a great day in terms of weather, catering and time spent with friends."

Making the most of the sunshine and the club's picturesque grounds, guests rallied outside for a whole group photograph (see page 13), which was a first for the event.

Among the reunion's regular attendees were also a few new faces, including Yvette Stapleton, who joined Imperial's Tobacco Intelligence Department in 1972 when she was 18. "The department was later renamed the Commercial Marketing and Intelligence Department, which better reflected the type

► **From surveyor to caterer: Bob Gray, second from right, caught up with long-time friend and former colleague Jenny Manning, second from left, at the event. A former Quantity Surveyor, he left Imperial after 16 years to set up a catering business**

of work we were doing," said Yvette, who worked for the company for 17 years.

## Training was brilliant

"It was my role to study and analyse newspaper articles and adverts, working closely with the Trade Marketing Department to keep an eye on (and stay ahead of) the competition and to anticipate market share, which Imperial had the majority of – and wanted to keep it that way.

"I worked long days but enjoyed the work and later moved to the Public Relations Department as a PR assistant and was also involved in doing a lot of factory tours. It was all such fun, and the training was brilliant."

Fellow first-time attendees Tim and Heather Hinton, who both worked in the catering department, and former Cigar Leaf Manager John Bugler and his wife Pam, who both worked in the Research Department, also enjoyed the occasion.

For John and Pam, it was their time at

*continued on next page*



▲ **Celebrating 66 years of marriage Mick and Pat Hall met when they were 16 and 15 and are now 89 and 88. "I wouldn't swap her for the world," said Mick, who spent his final years with the company as a Quantity Surveyor in the Estates Department and previously worked in the Group Technical Services Department with colleagues Bob Gray, Peter Parish, Paul Rossiter and Keith Stenner, who were also at the reunion**



◀ **Tim and Heather Hinton met while working in the Catering Department at Lombard Street in Bedminster, but it wasn't a case of love at first sight:**

"Like a good wine our relationship aged with maturity," said Tim, who joined the company in 1974 as a chef in the kitchen and retired as a Shop Steward in 1984.

"I worked there as a waitress for 11 years until 1987 and a year later we got married," added Heather. "It was a very friendly, sheltered and family orientated company to work for."

The couple caught up with former Catering Department colleague, Jackie Hudson, pictured left, who worked for Imperial for 21 years. "We had many happy times in the kitchen... there was lots of singing and banter, it was good fun," said Jackie, who worked with Tim as a cook before moving to Hartcliffe to work in the Cigar Department, first in quality control and then in overlaying



continued from page 11

Imperial which led to their marriage in 1988. "We knew each other but saw each other infrequently because we worked in different buildings," said John, who joined the Research Department in 1967 and worked for the company for 25 years.

"By 1985 we both found ourselves unhappily married but, fortunately, we found happiness in each other and made our relationship official at the Raleigh Road leaving party that same year.

**Fantastic time**

Pam started working in the laboratories of the Research Department in 1964 and moved on to work for the Additives Guidance Panel (AGP) in 1979. "It was the AGP that made our paths cross as John had to get permission to sign off certain things," said Pam, who left the company in 1986.

"Our careers with Imperial brought us together and we've been meaning to attend a reunion for years. We're glad to have finally made it to one and have had a fantastic time."

For former Quantity Surveyor turned Caterer Bob Gray, his career with Imperial took him all over the country inspecting maintenance and structural work that went on across various company buildings – including Youngs, Golden Wonder and Courage Brewery.



▲ Pictured with Sally Pearn (seated centre right), Staff Secretary's ladies: Lynn Smith (sitting left) and Lynne Lloyd (standing right), who was attending her second Group Head Office reunion, and Legal Department ladies (from left): Theresa Moore, Julie Rhodes, Phillippa Nutt and Sheila Selwood (seated right) have all known each other since 1975.

Oddly and despite working in different departments twins Lynn and Julie's careers followed an almost identical path. "Mike Paige interviewed us both and we thought only one of us would get a job, but we both did," said Julie, who joined the company with sister Lynn in 1975. "It's funny and I suppose quite spooky really as we both started work on the same day and ended up leaving as PAs on the same day in 2014. It must be a twin thing!"

He caught up with friend and ex-colleague Jenny Manning, who worked in the Staff Secretaries' Department for eight years from 1960 and whom he's known for over five decades.

"I worked with Jenny's ex-husband David Smith," said Bob, who joined the company in 1966 and was made redundant when the department closed in 1982. He and his wife, Sherry, then started a catering company, which they ran together for 35 years.

"Dave and I were the two surveyors selected to oversee the development of the Courage Brewery building in Reading, where we drove from Bristol every day for five years."

Sailing enthusiast Martin Wood worked in the Legal Department for 19 years and travelled to the event from Plymouth. Recalling when he joined as an office junior, aged 17, he said: "I was getting ready to sail



◀ First time attendees: John and Pam Bugler met while working in the Research Department. They have now been happily married for 34 years.  
▶ John and Pam at the company during the 1980s

**DIARY DATES**

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

- ◆ The Player's Garage and Motor Vehicle Repair reunion will take place on Monday December 05 from 3.30pm onwards at the Bell Inn, Nottingham. Contact Phil Bradley or Dave Lowe for more information.
- ◆ The Player's biannual reunion – the group's second event of 2022 – will be held on Wednesday December 7 from 3.30pm at The Stage pub, Wollaton Street, Nottingham NG1 5FE. Contact Dave Clay.

**IMPAC**

An organisation for all Imperial Pension Fund members  
Website: [www.impact.org.uk](http://www.impact.org.uk)

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The National Council is reviewing its schedule of meetings and will announce the new programme in 2023. Further details will be published in the next issue of the Gazette.



**IMPAC members' helpline:**

email: [helpline@impact.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.impact.org.uk). Membership is free for the first 12 months.

one weekend and who should walk by but Neil Douglas – head of the Legal Department. I was a junior at the time and was surprised when he stopped to say hello and took an interest in my boat, which I ended up showing him.

“I was into sailing but my brother, Nick, preferred motor racing and is now chair of Pegasus Motor Club. In fact, I’m about to help him out at Castle Combe,” added Martin, who, following the reunion, officiated at the racecourse as a marshal at the start line.

### Wonderful memories

Martin, 71, who lived in Clevedon, Bristol, for many years, left Imperial in 1987 and went on to work at Wansbroughs (now DAC Beachcrofts), Osborne Clarke and other legal firms before starting his own business.

“Imperial provided a lovely start to my long legal career and attending the reunion has brought back many wonderful memories.”

Fond memories were also firmly in the mind of former waitress Mary Walsh, 90, who was fortunate enough to meet Queen Elizabeth II in 2005.



▲ Mary Walsh meeting the Queen in 2005 and, right, catching up with fellow catering department colleagues at the reunion

Following Her Majesty’s recent passing, Mary, who worked for the company for 17 years remembers the time she met the Queen at The Park in Knowle – a former school housing learning and development projects and small businesses.

“I was taking adult education classes there studying computers and had just passed my ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) course when the Queen popped in,” said



Mary, who was accompanied to the reunion by her son, Bernie.

“I was asked if I would like to be presented to her and so I was. She asked me all about the courses I had done. It was quite unexpected but something which I’ll never forget.” **G**



Pensioners enjoying getting together at the first Group Head Office reunion held since 2019

## Queen Elizabeth dedicated herself to our service

■ Following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, The Gazette pays tribute to our country’s longest-reigning monarch, who visited the Wills factory in Bristol in 1950, three years before her coronation.

It was her first visit to Bristol and the then Princess began her tour with the offices and workrooms at the No. 1 factory.

She then went into the factory to see where tobacco leaf was stemmed, conditioned and manufactured also visiting the warehouse and on-site restaurant, where factory employees were eager to catch a glimpse of her.

Queen Elizabeth’s dedication to service over seven decades, guiding the UK and the Commonwealth since 1952, has been an inspiration to us all.



# Well-known civil rights campaigner and Bristol bus boycott stalwart

St Anne's Board Mill pensioner and civil rights campaigner Lurel Roy Hackett MBE, known as Roy, has died aged 93.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Roy moved to Liverpool in 1952, aged 24, to seek better opportunities. Due to the reluctance of landlords to provide housing to black people he found it difficult to find a job and housing in the city, so moved to Wolverhampton and then London, where he worked as a labourer for contracting company Taylor Woodrow.

In 1956 the company moved Roy to Somerset to become a construction worker at Hinkley Point nuclear power station before he moved to the Sir Robert McAlpine company in Llanwern, south Wales, where he worked as a labourer and spent time as a teaboy with Tom Jones – the soon-to-be pop star.

A move to Bristol followed and, once again, Roy found himself being turned away by a succession of landlords before finding lodgings in the St Paul's area, sharing a room with three other men.

In 1961 Roy joined St Anne's Board Mill and, a year later, became one of the

founders of the Commonwealth Coordinated Committee (CCC), aiming to improve the quality of life for people in Bristol, promoting integration and equal opportunities.

## Bus boycott

When one of its young members was turned down for a bus conductor job because of his colour, the CCC formed the West Indian Development Council and organised the 1963 Bristol bus boycott.

Standing in the middle of Fishponds Road to block the entrance to the city's main bus station, Roy's aim was to draw attention to the Bristol Omnibus Company's refusal to employ black and Asian people as conductors and drivers. It worked and, after four months of campaigning, the company withdrew its refusal. The boycott had widespread support and led to the appointment of Bristol's first non-white bus conductor in the same year and helped persuade the Labour government to introduce Britain's first piece of anti-racist legislation: the Race Relations Act of 1965.

Throughout his 19-year career at St Anne's,



Olumecia

Roy continued to campaign and maintained his involvement with the CCC (now the Bristol West Indian Parents and Friends Association), lobbying for better housing and employment conditions for black people in the city. He fought against racism right up until his death.

Roy's role in the Bristol bus boycott was commemorated with a plaque, unveiled at Bristol bus station in 2014, and a mural painted on a wall in the city in 2019. He was appointed MBE a year later for his long-time work as a civil rights activist and campaigner.

He is survived by three children, Claudette, Dawn and Clive.

## Awarded the BEM for services to the community

Wills pensioner and charity campaigner Kenneth Logan has died aged 77.

Ken joined Wills as a Sales Rep in 1964 covering central Edinburgh and went on to become Relief Area Sales Manager for Imperial.

He retired in 1996 and committed much of his time to charitable pursuits, raising thousands and volunteering for organisations including as a lorry driver for Balkan war

charity Edinburgh Aid Direct and as a member of the Rotary Club of Braids, Edinburgh.

Through this organisation he visited communities in Tanzania, East Africa, supporting a range of community projects. He was also the District Polio Coordinator for the Club, travelling to the outskirts of



Delhi as part of a polio immunisation programme, which supported Rotary International's wider Purple4Polio initiative to End Polio Now.

A keen sportsman, Ken was delighted to be selected to be part of the Olympic torch relay UK before the opening of the London 2012 Games.

In the 2020 Honours List Ken was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to the community.

"Dad was absolutely over the moon to be awarded the honour," said his son, Brian. "Due to Covid, the award ceremony only took place in March this year and it was an extremely special moment."

Ken is survived by his sons Iain and Brian and four grandchildren.

## Ogden's pensioner will be remembered with affection



Ogden's pensioner Edith (Ede) Bradshaw, whose career spanned five decades, has died aged 93.

Ede was born in Liverpool and spent her entire life in the city. She was educated at Emmanuel C of E School and then Heyworth Street School, both in the city's Everton district.

She joined Ogden's on Boundary Lane aged 14, where she worked in the factory, initially stripping tobacco leaves. She was later promoted to Clerical Assistant working in the front office.

It was around this time that Ede met her husband, Alf, who also worked in the factory. The couple saved to buy their first house in Kensington, Liverpool, and married in 1953.

## Many fantastic friends

Ede left Ogden's three years later to raise their daughter, Jean, returning in 1968 to resume her clerical duties. She retired in 1983.

"My mother kept in touch with many former colleagues such as Amy Ley, Bill Faulkner and Nora Fisher," said her daughter, Jean. "She enjoyed the company of many fantastic friends during her life and I'm sure they will remember her with affection and

recall many happy times together."

In retirement, Ede and Alf, who moved to Allerton, a suburb of Liverpool, in 1973, ended up sharing their home with her sister Rene and husband Ralph and, together with her daughter Jean and husband Kevin, they enjoyed many holidays and cruises together.

Ede and Alf later settled in Linksview retirement home in nearby Woolton, where Ede remained after Alf's death in 2015, before she moved to Beechside care home where she stayed happy and active to the end.

Ede is survived by Jean and Kevin, who added: "Ede was loving, kind and steadfast in her devotion to her family."

The deaths are reported, as at 30 September 2022, of the following retired employees:

**HEAD OFFICE AND ITL**

Adrian Conrad Baldwin, 75;  
Mary Dicks, 97;  
William Robert James, 88.

**WD & HO WILLS**

Beryl Elizabeth Allen, 88;  
Carol Lilian Baggs, 80;  
Anthony Peter Baker, 87;  
Daphne Georgina Bartlett, 93;  
Kenneth John Beard, 79;  
Florence Harriet Billen, 87;  
Sheila Rose Bristow, 86;  
Colin Richard Bush, 91;  
James Ritchie Wylie Campbell, 95;  
Charles Charlesworth, 91;  
Allan Clark, 66;  
Roger Martin Clark, 88;  
Vere Raymond Joseph Collins, 84;  
Ann Cooper, 80;  
Mary Maureen Crone, 81;  
Patricia Marcelina D'Lima, 95;  
Ian Donkin, 81;  
Ronald Scott Douglas, 89;  
William Alfred Dyke, 91;  
Violet Exon, 98;  
John Charles Fearnley, 85;  
Andrew Martin Field, 71;  
Donald McIntyre Gallagher, 89;  
Brian Arthur Gent, 88;  
Anthony Gilfoyle, 63;  
Dorothy Jane Graydon, 74;  
Doris May Haberfield, 91;  
Frederick Arthur Marshall Hall, 87;  
Megan Heard, 87;  
Rosina Hennessy, 82;  
Victor James House, 87;  
Geoffrey Thomas Hughes, 97;  
Bryan John Hunt, 79;  
Trevor James Albert Isom, 84;  
Evelyn Mary Knight, 84;  
Kenneth Logan, 77;  
Annie McDonald Welsh McCairns, 91;  
Anna Maria Moscardini, 93;  
William Cyril Roy Newman, 92;  
Margaret Regina Scott, 92;

Ethel Rosina Searle, 97;  
Patricia Belline Smith, 93;  
Shirley Ann Smith, 86;  
Edna Dorothy Tennyson, 93;  
John Windsor Tovey, 91;  
Alice Trodden, 79;  
Reginald Gordon Whitnell, 89;  
Alan Wilson, 74;  
Alexander Gibson Wilson, 88.

**JOHN PLAYER & SONS**

Michael John Attenborough, 83;  
Michael Burnham, 78;  
Barbara Mary Colton, 79;  
John Morley Cottrell, 91;  
Maureen Patricia Delaney, 69;  
Harry Dexter, 102;  
Leonard Edwards, 92;  
Alan Frederick Elliott, 81;  
Arthur Foster, 93;  
Anthony Lindley Glover, 91;  
Sybil Mahala Graham, 87;  
John Michael Green, 86;  
Margaret Mary Hawley, 85;  
Trevor Hubbard, 70;  
Geoffrey Keith Huffer, 86;  
Marlene Mandy Jackaman, 63;  
Minnie Fay Jones, 84;  
Uney Blanche Jones, 92;  
Jeanette Pearl Mackenzie, 84;  
Valerie Romaine Mallett, 88;  
Pamela Hazel Marsh, 89;  
Marina Annie Moss, 85;  
Melita Ann Nelson, 76;  
John Alan Nightingale, 72;  
Margaret Jean Norton, 71;  
Shirley Pierce, 88;  
Nancy Ratcliffe, 90;  
Patricia Constance Sadler, 90;  
Jack Robert Sherriff, 93;  
Denis Smith, 89;  
Rose Eileen Staff, 90;  
Dorothy May Stevenson, 100;  
Roy Charles Studley, 83;  
Lilian Irene Teate, 92;  
Phyllis Vickerstaff, 93;  
John White, 92;  
James William Woodhouse, 87;  
Violet Wright, 91;  
John Russell Wyatt, 81.

**OGDEN'S**

Edith Bradshaw, 93;  
Ronald Irvine Cottam, 89;  
Winifred Donnahey, 101;  
Rita Doran, 86;  
Margaret Lily Harty, 76.

**FINLAY & CO**

Barbara Jean Cutts, 94;  
Iris June Roach, 88.

**LOWFIELD DISTRIBUTION**

Joseph Cullen, 88;  
Elizabeth McAlpine, 88;  
Peter Frederick Rogers, 84;  
Geoffrey Wells, 75.

**ROBERT FLETCHER & SON**

George Raymond Platt, 75.

**SINCLAIR COLLIS**

Christina Milne Garden, 86;  
Madge Gilruth, 88;  
Joan Lutener, 93;  
Cynthia McPartlin, 85;  
Andrew Francis Miller, 82;  
Andrew John Olivero, 77;  
Margaret Smith, 86;  
Peter Summers, 89.

**ST ANNE'S BOARD MILL**

Brian William Attwood, 94;  
Gerald Gilbert Clark, 87;  
Granville Clarke, 90;  
John Herbert Cowlshaw, 85;  
William Ernest Eddolls, 97;  
Royston James Fulham, 91;  
Lurel Roy Hackett, 93;  
Ian John Hatherall, 99;  
Anthony Ernest House, 76.

**IMPERIAL FOODS LIMITED**

**HEAD OFFICE**  
John Derek Appleton, 82;  
Kenneth Goodrick, 83;  
Angus Murdoch Gordon, 87;  
William Brian Killen, 88;  
Robert Livesey, 95;  
Dennis Ivor Revell, 97;  
Keith John Shea, 68;  
Enid Mary Taylor, 92;

Alan Joseph Vladimir Toft, 91.

**GOLDEN WONDER**

William Edward James Pease, 79.

**ROSS FOODS**

Doris Bunn, 90;  
Geoffrey Andrew Crang, 70;  
Michael Forster, 79;  
Frances Gwyneth Hadfield, 92;  
Ronald Arthur Houghton, 73;  
Brenda Johnston, 95;  
Clive Paul George Kilby, 84;  
David William Marshall, 84;  
Eileen Margaret Marshall, 84;  
David John Portlock, 77;  
Catherine Duncan Ross, 90;  
Peter Senior, 84;  
Amrik Ajula Singh, 91;  
Gary David Kenneth Smith, 78;  
Thomas Waddington, 83;  
Brian John Wilson, 82;  
Ronald Lewis Wilson, 79;  
Edward Cecil Dennis Woodhouse, 79.

**SMEDLEY-HP FOODS**

Roger Simon Bennett, 75;  
Wendy Elizabeth Harmer, 69;  
Joyce Manning, 85;  
David Moore, 85;  
Pearl Elizabeth Panners, 85;  
Philip Plotkin, 80;  
Dorothy Maud Rains, 95;  
Angela Kathrina Richardson, 64;  
Gillian Carole Shipley, 65;  
Sylvia Joy Smyth, 87;  
Lilian Eileen Doris Walden, 97.

**YOUNG'S SEAFOODS**

Susan Bampfylde, 77;  
Graham James Birkenshaw, 73;  
Peter Horace Holman, 95;  
Richard Brook Hutchinson, 81.

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

# Death of three of the Pension Fund's oldest members

Three of the Fund's centenarians have died.

The oldest is **Harry Dexter** who worked at John Player & Sons in Nottingham from 1938 to 1950 and has died aged 102.

Fellow Player's pensioner **Dorothy Stevenson** has also died shortly after celebrating her 100th birthday. Dorothy

followed in her father Arthur's footsteps by joining the company in 1940 and completed 42 years' service before her retirement in 1982, aged 60.

**Drive in a Rolls**

In addition, **Winifred Donnahey**, who worked as an Administration Clerk in the Ogden's office in

Liverpool from 1935 until 1981, has died aged 101.

She celebrated her centenary in style with a drive in a Rolls Royce with the Mayor of Wirral, where she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and enjoyed a glass of Champagne.

Win met her husband Alan, who died earlier this year, at

the Ogden's factory where he worked in the maintenance team. The couple were married for 60 years and shared a love of walking and hiking, being members of the Liverpool Rambling Association and travelling together all over Europe with the Ramblers in their younger days.



# POIGNANT RECORD OF FACTORY'S DEMISE

Ivor King's view from Troopers Hill, Bristol, of the partly demolished St Anne's Board Mill

Photographer and St Anne's Board Mill pensioner, **Ivor King**, is hoping his unique photographs of the factory will attract a new owner.

**S**T ANNE'S Board Mill pensioner Ivor King documented the final hours of the factory prior to its closure in 1981. The album of photographs shows the personnel working the last night shift in various parts of the mill and finishes with images of the chimneys being demolished.

## A good home

Ivor, 93, joined St Anne's as a tester in 1960s. The testing laboratories checked the quality of the board for strength, water content etc and were stationed at each end



▲ What has become of them? Arthur Fowler (left), John Bishop (second left) and Ivor King (seated), with St Anne's Board Mill machine operators

of the board making machines, which were about 100 meters long. He is now hoping that Gazette readers can identify some of his former colleagues and that someone

might want to give the album a good home. "I am only aware of one former St Anne's pensioner – John Bishop, who lives in Brislington – whose name has not yet appeared in the obituaries listing in the Gazette," said Ivor, who lives in Pill, North Somerset.

"I have already shown John the album so I am hoping there is someone else who would enjoy having it in their possession.

"I took all of the photographs myself to serve as a reminder of the last night at the mill. I can remember all the people in the photographs but can only name a few of my fellow board-testing colleagues."

● Do you remember any of the other faces in the photograph above, or would you like the album? Please get in touch with the Gazette team (details below).



▲ About to go, going, going, gone: last moments of the St Anne's Board Mill chimney

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

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