

the Gazette

JULY 2024 | ISSUE 106

FOR PENSIONERS OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO



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Thanks to its five-year strategy, Imperial's half yearly results show the company is delivering strong financial performance together with operational and cultural benefits.

A STRONGER, MORE AGILE BUSINESS

HALF YEAR results for the six months ended 31 March 2024 show that Imperial Brands' five-year plan is driving a step-up in its financial performance by

becoming a stronger, more agile business.

The results drove a rise in the company's share price as it consolidated gains in market share in its priority tobacco markets and increased Next Generation Product (NGP) net revenue by 16.8 per cent.

Strengthening our performance

Stefan Bomhard, Chief Executive, said: "Our five-year strategy is continuing to drive operational and cultural benefits which, despite a

challenging external environment, are strengthening our performance and financial delivery. We are on track to deliver our full-year results in line with guidance and we look forward to building on this and playing a positive, distinctive role in this industry's transition to a healthier future."

More information about the half year results can be found at

[imperialbrandsplc.com](https://www.imperialbrandsplc.com)



Stefan Bomhard

“...we look forward to... playing a positive, distinctive role in this industry's transition to a healthier future.”



Our action on carbon reduction

Imperial Brands is making strong progress on its zero carbon journey. **Tony Dunnage**, ESG Director and Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustee, explains more.

“Great progress, but there's... more we can do.”



Imperial Brands has received an A rating from CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) and SBTi-validation for its net zero targets. Why is it such a big achievement to have met their standards?

CDP looks at the action we're taking on climate change every year. It scores thousands of companies on the quality of their actions and their impact. A is the highest score possible – less than two per cent achieved this rating – so it's something we should celebrate but not take for granted.

The SBTi (Science Based Targets initiative) examines our targets and calculations and validates that they are in line with the Paris agreement (this is where world leaders agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees). This is testament to the robustness of our plans and will give confidence to our stakeholders.

What does this mean?

Both CDP and SBTi are industry-leading organisations whose scores provide an investor compass. They are

consistently raising their standards which means it gets harder and harder to get top marks. It's a fantastic achievement and the result of a lot of hard work from so many people across the business. There is a lot to be proud of, but we must keep our focus on continuous delivery.

Why is it so important?

It's the right thing to do for our business and, beyond that, the planet we live on. Climate change is one of the biggest issues of our generation – with potentially large financial and social impacts.

We must continue to work on mitigating the risk from climate change to our operations and ensuring we play our part in the battle against it.

What's next?

We have reduced our emissions by 65 per cent since 2017, with more than 60 per cent of that coming in the last two years. This is great progress but there's still a lot more we can do, and we are committed to working towards continual improvement.

Promise of a steam train trip

◆ Thank you for continuing to send me the Gazette: Issue 105 was, as usual, full of special information which, as Imperial pensioners, we can't always be sure of finding elsewhere.

My husband Bill was an Imperial employee but died at age 61 some 28 years ago. He was a hard act to follow, and I've continued to live on my own ever since. Your attention to my pension was immediate and your staff were so very kind and efficient.

At 88 I am no longer very mobile but

have promised myself a return trip in a steam train, so the article about David Barnett and his new 'career' (March 2024, pages 6 and 7) was most interesting to me: he spoke of the noise, smoke and clatter of the engines, which I recall – and he looks the part in his smart uniform.

You have made an old lady very happy – more power to your elbows!

Sylvia Mansfield



An Imperial start

◆ I find the Imperial Gazette really interesting. I enjoy reading about the lives of pensioners and how it all began at various factories and other branches. I hope they keep coming.

It takes me back to my own start. I was born post war in 1947 and never had much, but Imperial changed that.

In 1962 aged 15 I started at Ogden's in Liverpool and worked on a machine with Olwyn, the operator. She was a lovely lady who was getting married for the first time at 48 to Sid, who worked in the cutting room. He was a similar age, and it was a first marriage for him too.

Olwyn took me under her wing, and I laugh when I think back to my ankle socks and school pumps. The older girls wore black diamond-mesh stockings, so I bought some and wore them with my white pumps. What must I have looked like!

Olwyn told me to buy a nice pair of black shoes with my next wage packet, which was £3.76, and to open an account with the Halifax in case I wanted to get a mortgage to buy a house in the future. She was wonderful but is sadly no longer with us.

M Dunford



Card set query

◆ This picture [left] features a set of WD & HO Wills cigarette cards called *Life in the Hedgerow*. It was given to my late husband, Gerry, when he worked as a sales rep for Sinclair Collis and always had pride of place in our home.

Gerry also worked for Palmer and Harvey in Glasgow in the 1980s and spent 15 years with Imperial in total. We were married for 42 years before he sadly died in 2017.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has the same picture or knows anything more about it.

Ellen Donaldson



▲ Do you know anything about this WD & HO Wills *Life in the Hedgerow* cigarette card set?

Opting in to going paperless is a fast, convenient and environmentally friendly way to receive Fund information, including *The Gazette*.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF PAPERLESS COMMUNICATION

AS REPORTED in the March issue of the Gazette, the Pension Fund Office is moving towards paperless communication, where appropriate, to provide a fast, convenient and environmentally friendly way of providing information to members.

It only relates to generic pension news updates and Trustee communications, such as the Gazette, Pension Fund Report and bulk mailings with news about the Fund. You will continue to receive all personal Fund correspondence such as pension payslips, pension increase letters etc, in paper format through the mail.

To opt-in and have access to the latest Fund news straight from your mobile phone, tablet or computer, go to bit.ly/ITPF-email or scan the QR code below.

To do this, open the camera on your mobile phone or other device and hold it over the QR code. Your device will recognise the code and display a notification on your screen. Tap on this and it will take you directly to the registration page.



“ Email or telephone is our preferred method of communication... ”

Jan Killick,
Head of UK Pensions

We still need to receive your changes in writing

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

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

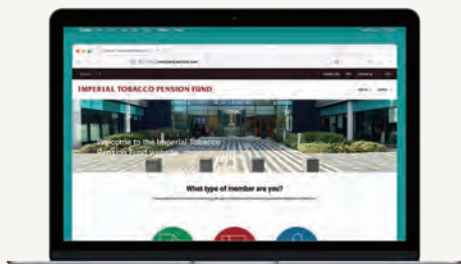


Jan Killick, Head of UK Pensions, said:
“While email or telephone is our preferred method of communication, it is important to remember that if your bank or address

details have changed, we will need to receive the new information in writing, accompanied by your signature.

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

- pension.enquiries@uk.imptob.com
- 0117 953 0000
- Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund, PO Box 3242, Winterstoke Road, Bristol BS3 9GY



Why not visit the Fund's website?

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

NOTICEBOARD

Diary dates

- ◆ The 2024 Group Head Office pensioners' reunion will take place at Knowle Golf Club, Bristol, on Thursday 10 October. Organiser Mike Paige will send invitations nearer the time.
- ◆ The Player's Garage and Motor Vehicle Repair reunion will take place on Monday 02 December from 3:30pm onwards at the Bell Inn, Nottingham. Contact Phil Bradley or Dave Lowe for more information.
- ◆ The second Player's reunion of the year will be held on Wednesday 11 December from 3.30pm at The Stage pub, Wollaton Street, Nottingham NG1 5FE. Contact Dave Clay.

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



Website: www.impact.org.uk

IMPAC members' helpline:

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

For membership queries

IMPAC membership agency (to update membership details only):
email: impact@dmb.org.uk; phone: 01438 840247 or write to:

IMPAC
c/o DMB,
18a Reynards Road,
Welwyn,
Herts AL6 9TP

New members welcome

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

Membership is free for the first 12 months.



▲ Player's pensioners raised £230 for charity When You Wish Upon A Star at their summer reunion held at The Stage pub in Nottingham

GOLD COAST VISITORS AT PLAYER'S REUNION



TRIP BACK to the UK from their home on Australia's Gold Coast was the perfect opportunity for Player's pensioners Gary Carver and

Gloria Charlesworth to catch up with old friends.

Their visit coincided with the Player's pensioners' summer reunion, which was held at The Stage pub in Nottingham. Both Gary and Gloria worked at the Horizon factory, Gloria in production and Gary as a making-machine trouble shooter.


There was a fantastic turnout for the event, which is promoted through the Facebook group *Imperial Tobacco...Past and Present*, a private group that has over 1,800 members and was set up to allow former colleagues to keep in touch.

The Stage always provides a buffet for the pensioners, which they don't charge for, so donations are collected for its chosen charity instead.

Familiar faces

This time the collection was for When You Wish Upon a Star, a charity that aims to grant the wishes of children living with a life-threatening illness, and more than £230 was raised.

"It was great to see so many familiar faces," said reunion organiser Dave Clay, who worked as an engineering mechanic at Player's for 37 years from 1969. "It was particularly good to catch up with Gary and Gloria, who timed their trip perfectly."

The group's Christmas reunion will be held on Wednesday 11 December from 3:30pm at the same venue. 



▲ Overseas visitors (from left): Alan Wakelin and Terry Moon catching up with Gloria Charlesworth and Gary Carver who now live on Australia's Gold Coast

More Fund members are celebrating their centenaries with friends and family.

MEMBERS MARK 100 YEARS

ELEVEN PENSION fund members are celebrating their 100th birthdays. Among them is **Bob Lea**, who worked at Ogden's in Liverpool for 42 years from 1940 and celebrated his special day with his wife, Pauline, surrounded by family and friends.

Bob joined Ogden's aged 16 and worked in the filling room. When the Second World War broke out, he volunteered as a fire watcher and remembers spending nights on the roof of the Boundary Lane factory looking out over the city. Happily, no bombs hit the building!

Choral singing

He then joined the RAF at the age of 18 as an Aircraft Engine Fitter, working in the UK and Northern India. When he was demobbed, he was still in Calcutta and had to make the long journey home which meant he had missed the deadline for returning to the factory, but fortunately Ogden's still reinstated him.



▲ Bob Lea with some of his 100th birthday cards

During his career Bob progressed to Foreman and then Assistant Manager of the Primary Department. He retired in 1983, aged 58, and during his long retirement has enjoyed choral singing, walking and cycling. He also acted as a lay preacher for the Church of England

for several years. Bob and Pauline, who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary next year, are now enjoying life in residential care in Cheshire.

Imperial Foods pensioner

Arthur Makepeace celebrated his centenary surrounded by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Arthur joined Buxted Chicken as its Accountant in 1959, just as it was getting established as one of the UK's first companies to enter the frozen chicken market. He was based in Buxted, East Sussex, but travelled around the country helping to open new depots and saw the company grow to over 200 employees.

Buxted was taken over by Ross Foods, which became part of the Imperial Group in 1969 and, in 1972, Arthur left the company, deciding to remain in East Sussex when the head office was relocated to Norfolk.



▲ Cheers: Arthur Makepeace at 100

Other pensioners celebrating their 100th birthdays:

Michael Bolland who worked at Imperial Group Head Office for 38 years, from 1940 until he retired in 1978.

Iris Cole who worked for WD & HO Wills from 1966 until she retired in 1980. Her husband Victor also worked for the company between 1964 and 1982. He died in 2009 aged 90.

Wills pensioner **Sylvia Haney**, who worked for the company from 1976 until her retirement in 1984.

Henrietta Harkness, widow of Kenneth, who died in 2008 aged 87. He worked for WD & HO Wills from 1950 until his retirement in 1980.

Player's pensioner **Caroline Holness**, who worked for the company from 1968 until her retirement in 1984.

Anne Lumsden, widow of Golden Wonder pensioner John who worked for the company from 1965 until his retirement in 1976. He died in 2012 aged 93.


Beryl Silvers, widow of John Player & Sons pensioner Lewis, who worked for the company for 42 years from 1935 until 1977. He died in 1996 aged 78.

Wills pensioner **Joyce Weaver**, who worked for the company from 1978 to 1982.

Buxted colleagues

He retired in the mid-1980s and, with his wife Dorothy, continued as a member of many local organisations including the Lions, local amateur dramatic and horticultural societies and a local bowls club, acting as Treasurer to these and others over the years.

In 2018 the couple moved to a retirement home, where Dorothy died in 2022. Arthur is now in a care home near Ditchling, East Sussex, and, although confined to a wheelchair, is still interested in life and would enjoy hearing from any old Buxted colleagues.

Irene Morrish, who worked for Ross Foods in the late 1970s and early 1980s, celebrated quietly at home with her son, Rob. "I fondly remember Graham Watkins and David Plester," she said. "I get cards from them but never did reveal my age, so this might come as a surprise. But age is only a number after all." 

GOLF SOCIETY CELEBRATES CENTENARY

Dave Lee and John Nelson-Smith, with the trophy won by Martin Goodall, and others who took part



CONGRATULATIONS TO Martin Goodall, former Head of UK Sales who, after 36 years with the company, won this year's Golf Challenge Cup on the event's 100th anniversary.

More than 20 current and former employees took part in the competition at The Bristol Golf Club in Almondsbury, where 18 holes were played in overcast conditions.

The 15-inch-high trophy was first presented in May 1924 and is inscribed: *The Golf Challenge Cup was presented to The Staff of WD & HO Wills in May 1924 by Vernon Wills for Annual Competition.*


The Bristol Classic Golf Society developed from that Cup and offers a great

opportunity to stay in touch with colleagues and enjoy some friendly competitive golf at different courses throughout the region at its annual event.

All levels of employees and golfers are welcome to take part and former Global Brand Manager Geoff Good is thought to be the longest-serving member, taking part for the 48th time since his first competition in 1976.

The most successful golfer to take part is FM Arkle, who won the competition six times between 1927 and 1939, including for four consecutive years. In more recent times, former IT Project Manager Keith Brown claimed the Cup four times between

1999 and 2009. Pension Fund Financial Controller Dave Lee, who has been involved in running the Bristol Classic Golf Society since 2003, said: "Specialist engravers are used to record the winner's name on the silver trophy each year, charging surnames by the letter.

"I was delighted to win in 2001 and saved the Golf Society a great deal of money over my predecessor John Nelson-Smith, who won twice in 2004 and 2008! Another memorable moment for me – along with the initial meet up each year with current and ex-employees over some legendary bacon rolls – is when I hit a hole-in-one on the 17th at Mendip Golf Club in 2003." 

Harry's return to Benidorm for their 16th visit

The Harry's enjoyed another successful trip to Benidorm, the 16th time the Player's walking group has visited the Spanish coastal resort.

The annual trip, organised by Dave Clay, who worked as an Engineering Mechanic at Player's for 37 years, was attended by 15 Harry's members.

"Unfortunately, the weather wasn't as kind to us this year, but we still had a great time as always and saw some brilliant tribute acts," said Dave.

Plans are already in place for the group's return in early May 2025.

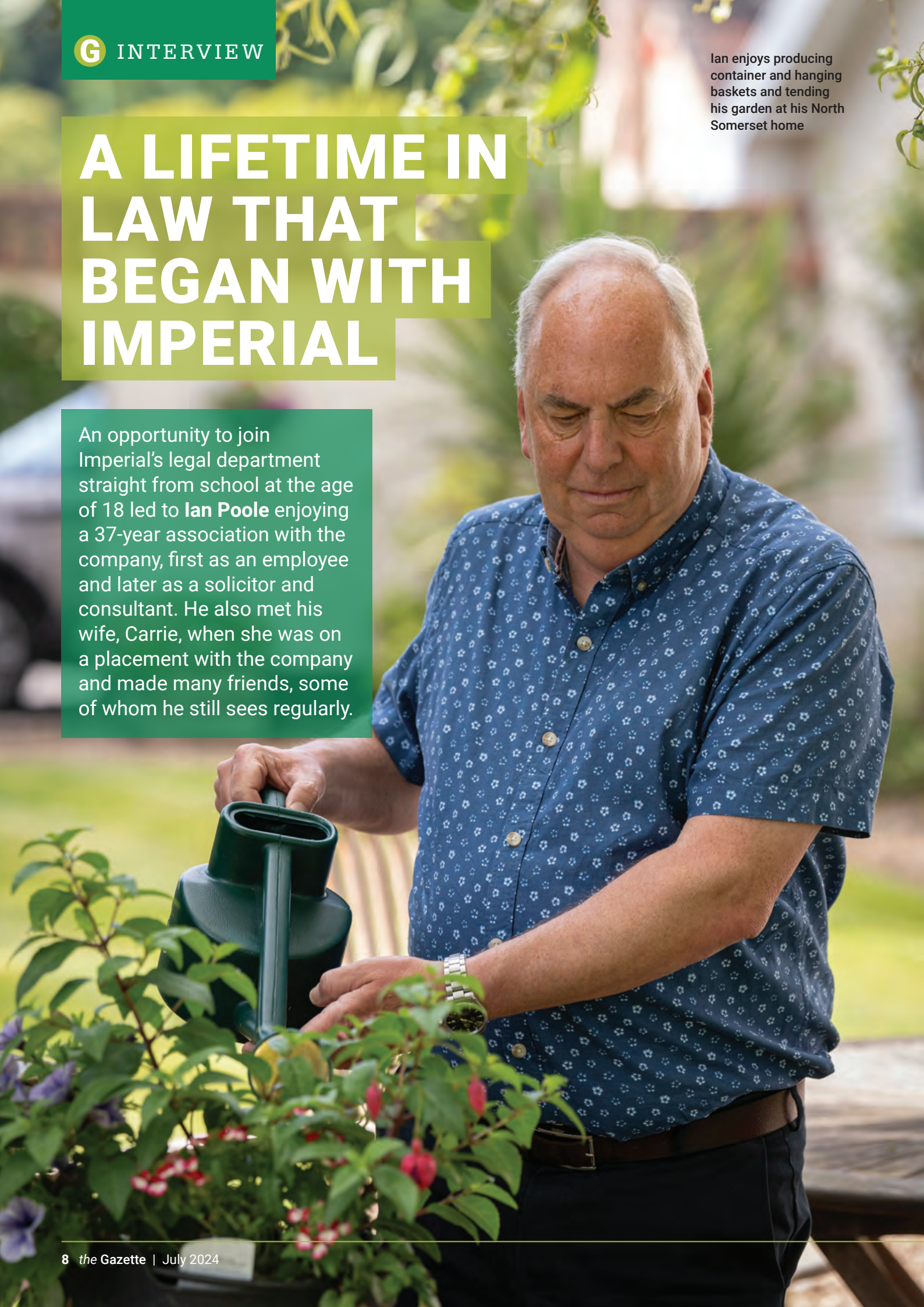
► The Harry's enjoying their annual trip to Benidorm, where they always show off their colourful Hawaiian shirts.



Ian enjoys producing container and hanging baskets and tending his garden at his North Somerset home

A LIFETIME IN LAW THAT BEGAN WITH IMPERIAL

An opportunity to join Imperial's legal department straight from school at the age of 18 led to **Ian Poole** enjoying a 37-year association with the company, first as an employee and later as a solicitor and consultant. He also met his wife, Carrie, when she was on a placement with the company and made many friends, some of whom he still sees regularly.



IAN POOLE was born in Lower Failand, Somerset, in 1961, growing up in the small village where he joined the church choir and played table tennis for the local club and worked on farms and at stables at the weekends and during school holidays.

After completing his A levels in 1979, he had a place at university but chose to go straight into work, applying to several prospective employers, including Imperial.

"Imperial had a reputation as a good employer and, after an interview, I was offered a position in either the legal or marketing department," said Ian, who lives in Churchill, North Somerset, with his wife Carrie.

"The starting salary in either department was £4,000 pa which was £1,000 more than National Westminster Bank was offering as a trainee manager."

Invaluable experience

A potential career in law appealed and Ian started in the legal department at head office in Lombard Street, Bedminster. For the first few months he worked in various support tasks such as filing, photocopying and franking the post, providing him with invaluable experience and teaching him the importance of some of the less glamorous aspects of running an office.

After six months Ian was offered a position working with the solicitors' litigation team, initially dealing with accident claims for company vehicles. He also began studying part time at Bristol Polytechnic, funded by the Company, qualifying as a Fellow of The Institute of Legal Executives four years later.

His role developed into wider areas including possession actions for John Courage, the brewing side of the business, taking court proceedings to remove managers from their service occupancy



▲ Ian and his wife Carrie met at Imperial in 1983



Ian has been playing golf for more than 35 years and is an active member of Mendip Spring Golf Club in North Somerset

and tenants after termination of their lease.

"This resulted in some amusing incidents, including one upset tenant throwing a vase of flowers at me when I arrived at the premises to enforce an order," recalls Ian.

"I quickly learnt that it was best to allow the court bailiff or High Court sheriff to enter any premises first! At that time, I reported to John Sparks and Clive Watts, two of the senior solicitors in the department, and learned a great deal from them."

In 1980/81 Ian began handling the company's personal injury (PI) claims from all ITL locations where the group provided its own insurance cover. He investigated the claims, interviewing personnel and then reported to the company's directors with recommendations on liability and the value of a claim.

This resulted in him attending various sites including WD & HO Wills in Glasgow, Newcastle, Swindon and

Bristol; John Player & Sons in Nottingham, Ipswich and Sterling; Ogden's in Liverpool; and other subsidiaries such as Robert Fletcher & Son and St Anne's Board Mill.

One of a small team

"I very much enjoyed dealing with the PI claims and travelling to different sites," said Ian. "I worked in an office with Alan Porter, who became Head of Legal after the Hanson takeover, and I will always be most grateful to him for his wise counsel."

Following the Hanson takeover in 1986 most of the 170 members of the legal department accepted redundancy but Ian was one of a small team of 13 who were retained to act solely for Imperial Tobacco Ltd. They moved to a mezzanine floor at the Hartcliffe factory where Ian continued to handle ITL's PI claims until he was made redundant at the end of October 1987, just three weeks after he married Carrie.

The couple met in 1983 when Carrie, a law student at Trent Polytechnic in Nottingham, carried out a nine-month placement at Imperial. She took her law finals in Bristol, working for a number of law firms before the birth of their first son

continued on next page

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Tom, in 1991, and twins Emily and Will two years' later. Carrie then retrained as a primary school teacher, teaching for over 20 years.

Ian enjoyed the social side of working at Imperial head office and played various sports.

Roscoe Tanner

"On one occasion I was fortunate enough to be playing tennis at the Imperial ground where players were practicing before taking part in the Lambert & Butler tennis championship," said Ian. "American pro Roscoe Tanner was hitting serves at 135 mph next to me which was quite incredible.

"During my time at Imperial I also played table tennis in the Bristol and District League, which I did for 35 years, and represented Somerset. Additionally, I took part in various inter-department sporting events including blindfold cricket and three-legged netball which was all great fun."

When he left Imperial Ian was offered several positions with some of Bristol's leading law firms and joined Cartwrights Solicitors working in its insurance department. He continued to act for Imperial, handling all claims arising from the self-insured period.

He specialised in industrial disease cases particularly relating to exposure to asbestos and industrial deafness, acting for many household name companies including British Steel, Hoover, Morrisons and First Group.

Cartwrights supported Ian's legal studies and after he qualified as a solicitor, he was appointed as an Associate, Senior Associate and ultimately a Partner at the firm, where he remained until it merged with Bond Pearce in 2001.

Managerial role

At this time, he left with two other insurance partners and set up Cartwrights Insurance Partners (CIP), specialising in all aspects of insurance law. He took on a more managerial role but retained some clients on a fee earning basis, including Imperial.

After 10 years, one of the company's major clients indicated that CIP would need to substantially increase turnover to continue to handle its work. Consequently, CIP merged with Morgan Cole Solicitors, which had offices in Oxford, Reading, Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol. As a senior partner in the firm, Ian became head of insurance and a member of the managing board.

"After five years it became apparent that our insurance team needed to move in a different direction and transferred to Beachcroft, based in Bristol, providing me

"I work to provide a pathway for development"

with a perfect opportunity to retire early in 2014," said Ian.

"But my journey with Imperial wasn't quite finished. A few months later Beachcroft asked me to undertake a period of consultancy to train staff in the handling of ITL's disease cases, which the firm had successfully tendered for.

"I worked closely with Alan Porter, and some of his team, until his retirement from Imperial and we continue to meet up for a coffee or lunch now and then."

In retirement Ian was appointed Chair of Governors at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form, a large state-funded school in his village, a role he enjoyed for 10 years. He also continued as secretary of Failand Table Tennis Club for over 30 years until recently, having played there since he was 11. He still continues to help the club with any legal matters, including the purchase of land for its premises from the former Tyntesfield estate in 2023.

In the late 1990s Ian started playing golf and, when his younger son, Will, demonstrated huge natural talent for the game about 20 years ago, he took on responsibility for the juniors at his local club, Mendip Spring Golf Club in Congresbury, North Somerset.

This led to him working closely with the county's organisation, Somerset Golf Union, and he has served on its executive committee since his retirement as County Junior Organiser and was also

appointed County President in 2024. Ian has responsibility for around 75 boys aged from 10 to 18 and specifically manages the county's U18 team, accompanying them to all matches and championships.


"Somerset has qualified for the England golf finals and several boys have progressed to the top of the amateur game representing their country at The Walker Cup, a biennial amateur golf match contested by 10-man teams from Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America," said Ian, who was Club Captain at Mendip Spring in 2018.

"Many have turned professional, including Will. I set the budgets for the County Juniors and work with coaches and external experts to provide a pathway for the boys' development."

Container and hanging baskets

Carrie and Ian enjoy travelling and going to concerts and the theatre. They are also keen walkers, cyclists and members of the National Trust.

The couple have a fairly large garden and Ian enjoys tending to it and, in particular, producing container and hanging baskets, not surprising as his mother was brought up on a flower nursery and his father showed roses at horticultural shows. They also enjoy spending time with their three young grandchildren Arlo, Isla and Otilie.

Ian has kept in touch with Charles Timoney, formerly a patent agent with Imperial, who lives near Paris, as well as other former legal department colleagues and enjoys catching up at the head office get-togethers. 



▲ Ian is Somerset Golf Union County President 2024. He is pictured with first team players Andy Isaacs (left) and Curtis Edwards

From Land Girl near Gloucester to Wills in Bedminster and Hartcliffe via France: **Lily Dagger's** life was full and varied.

WILLS PENSIONER Lily Dagger, who died earlier this year aged 99, enjoyed reminiscing about her life and career, which prompted her daughter, Jackie Hayward, to get in contact with the Gazette.

Lily was born and raised in Bristol but, in 1942 aged 17, she became a Land Girl, lying about her age and moving to Daglingworth, near Gloucester, to join 15 other girls based there.

It was very hard work, but the living conditions were good, and the girls enjoyed going to the local pub at the weekends, which is where she met her first husband, Marius Charbonnier, who was in the free French para troops.

The couple married in Cirencester in 1944 and had two children – Jackie, who was born in Bristol in 1945, and Michel who was born the following year in France, as the couple moved there after the war had ended.

Started in the beating up room

The family returned to Bristol in 1950 but unfortunately the marriage dissolved although the couple remained on good terms.

Lily had several different jobs before she joined WD & HO Wills in the early 1960s, working in the Bedminster and Hartcliffe factories for 23 years. She started in the beating up room where she weighed the tobacco and met her friends Pat Meecham and Joan Letherby.

Her working day started at 7.30am five days a week as well as Saturday mornings and two nights each week



▲ Lily and Ken Dagger



LILY AND HER LIFE WELL LIVED

“an amazing lady and full of life”

▲ Lily Dagger. In 2008 she received a special badge and certificate (inset) in recognition of the contribution the Land Girls made during the Second World War

until 7pm, which was overtime but compulsory.

“Mum was proud to tell people that she worked for Wills,” said Jackie. “She always said she loved working there as they were very good employers and she made many friends, some of whom were still friends when she died.”

Lily and her friend Dot used to arrange coach trips for the Wills factory girls, travelling to places like Holland and Belgium, as well as weekends in Blackpool.

In 1967 Lily met her second husband, Kenneth Dagger, a roofer. Unfortunately, he had an accident which meant he could not continue in his trade, but he got a job working for Wills in the warehouse. He stayed with the company for 16 years, moving – with Lily – to the new Hartcliffe factory when it opened, until he retired in 1989 aged 60.

Lily took early retirement from Wills in 1983 when she was 58 but carried on

working as a cleaner until her late 70s as she said working kept her alive.

Wrote a book

“Mum and Ken enjoyed 38 years together before he died in 2006,” said Jackie. “Even though she was in her 80s, Mum went on many short breaks to France, revisiting the village where my brother Michel was born, and reminiscing about those days.

“She wanted her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know what it was like during the war and the times afterwards when life was so different to how it is now, so she wrote a book about her life and family, which I cherish.

“My mum was an amazing lady and full of life. I accompanied her on a hot air balloon flight for her 92nd birthday, which she thoroughly enjoyed, and she always said: ‘you only have one life; live it.’

“She is greatly missed and always remembered.” **G**

Former Radio Officer with a passion for classic cars

Classic car enthusiast and former National Accounts Manager Graham Hall has died in Gibraltar, aged 78, after being taken ill while on a Mediterranean cruise.

Born in 1945, Graham was brought up in London before moving to Redruth, Cornwall, in 1961 where he completed his schooling.

In 1962 he went to Plymouth College of Technology where he studied and qualified as a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy, accepting his first job with International Marine Radio of Croydon a year later.

Graham served as a Radio Officer on a range of vessels for a year before leaving to pursue a new career in sales, following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather.

Vending specialist

For two years he worked 65 hours a week as a taxi driver in Truro while completing a correspondence course in the Art of Salesmanship before joining John Player & Sons as a Merchandising Representative for West Cornwall in April 1967.

Graham was promoted 14 months later to become Sales Representative for Gloucestershire, initiating a move to

Cheltenham. Later, in 1977, he enjoyed a six-month secondment to the National Accounts team in Nottingham before being appointed as Vending Specialist covering an area stretching from High Wycombe in the east to Aberystwyth in the west.

In 1982 Graham became acting Area Sales Manager for Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Dorset before securing the same role permanently, managing a team of 14 covering the North of Scotland, including all of the islands.

What was to be his final role came in 1984 when he was offered a position as Key Account Manager in Nottingham, where he remained until his retirement, aged 58, in 2004.

Graham had a passion for classic cars, buying his first one – a 1974 Mercedes 230 saloon with just 18,000 miles on the clock – in 1995 and his second, a 1979 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, in 2004. He attended many shows with both cars, with each winning numerous awards.

In 2012 it was time for him to say goodbye to both of his classic cars, but he replaced them with a 2001 Mercedes SL320 limited edition.

Graham married Claire in 1980 and the



▲ Graham Hall: a great number of friends

couple enjoyed travelling the world, visiting places such as St Petersburg, Los Angeles, most of the Caribbean islands, Hong Kong, Cape Town and Mauritius, until she died unexpectedly in 2017.

“Graham was a big character and made a great number of friends throughout his time with Imperial,” said friend and former colleague Julian Banks, who worked with Graham in the national accounts team.

“He was the life and soul of any get together and his zest for life was infectious. He will be sadly missed.”

Doug worked at Bondelivery for 15 years

Former transport manager Doug Clements has died aged 87.

He worked in transport for most of his working life, dedicating more than 15 years to Bondelivery, Imperial's specialist tobacco delivery company.

Born in 1936, Doug left Bristol Cathedral School in 1952 and joined British Road Services (BRS), where he stayed for almost 20 years, apart from an interruption in 1955/6 for National Service where he served in the Royal Navy as an engineering mechanic.

In 1960 Doug began a two-year BRS management training course and became Office Manager of the Bristol site, eventually working his way up to Assistant Manager, before spending two years at the BRS Exeter depot as manager.

He soon returned to his Bristol roots and, in 1972, Doug joined Bondelivery, which collected tobacco leaf from the warehouses in Bristol and delivered it to Imperial's factories, as assistant to the Managing Director.



▲ Doug Clements: MD's assistant at Bondelivery

He remained with the company until Imperial was taken over by Hanson in 1987 and Bondelivery was sold to Rockwood and Doug went with it. He was made redundant two years later and moved to Lloyds Bank, which had

just moved its head office from London to Bristol. He became manager of the bank's car scheme, where he was responsible for a fleet of 3,500 vehicles, until he retired in 1996.

Bristol Film Unit

During his retirement, Doug was a member of the Clifton Downs Probus Club and served as President during 2004. He also volunteered for the Bristol Film Unit, a charity organisation that showed films to people in sheltered and residential homes across Bristol before it folded in 2017.

Doug enjoyed gardening, wine tasting and regular caravan holidays around the UK and France with his wife, Jean. Jean recalls that Doug was great at navigating their way around France, having learnt conversational French at night school. When they eventually sold their caravan, the couple also enjoyed taking river cruises around the British Isles.

Doug is survived by Jean, their two sons, Paul and Mark, and six grandchildren.

Tobacco buyer who narrowly escaped injury during military service

Imperial pensioner, Colin Fraser-Mackenzie, has died aged 86.

Born in the north of Scotland in 1937, he grew up in a rural area and, on leaving school, serviced and mended cars in a local garage before working in a solicitor's office in Inverness.

He was called up for National Service but failed his medical test due to a suspected heart condition and instead went to Zimbabwe, where he spent two years working on a tobacco farm.

When he returned to the UK in 1960 Colin went to officer cadet school and, on graduation, joined the Seaforth Highlanders, which later merged into The Queen's Own Highlanders. During his service he completed two tours of duty in the Royal Guard at Balmoral with the late Queen Elizabeth II and became a Captain in the regiment.

Nothing more than bruises

Colin's military service was marked by a few near-misses including falling 60 feet on a rope held only by a small nut jammed into a rock crevice while working as a climbing instructor for the Army.

On another occasion, he was catapulted out of the back of an Army jeep when the driver lost control, landing on the wheels of a following bus. Miraculously, he emerged from both incidents with nothing more than bruises.

He was later invalided out of the Army due to knee problems and joined WD & HO Wills as a management trainee in 1966 and went to the Swindon factory to learn about the manufacturing process.

The factory's doctor referred Colin to a knee specialist to try to improve his mobility and he agreed to have surgery on both knees at the same time. Despite getting septicaemia, he survived thanks to an experimental drug from the USA and Wills sent him to RAF Headley Court for several months of rehabilitation.

In January 1974 Colin moved to Imperial's Leaf Division and embarked on a training course with the American Leaf Organisation in North Carolina. He became a tobacco buyer, visiting all the main tobacco growing countries used by Wills, including Canada, Malawi, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, India, Brazil and Thailand, and later a cigar and pipe blender.



▲ Colin Fraser-Mackenzie: loved the countryside

In 1976 he met and married his wife, Verona, and they enjoyed a weekend honeymoon amidst his busy travel schedules.

Following the Hanson takeover, the Wills and Player's leaf departments were merged, and the new leaf division found a home in No. 4 bonded warehouse on Winterstoke Road, Bristol.

Prior to his retirement in 1992, Colin completed an evening course in financial planning so he could help others and, once retired, he took charge of the finances of the failing charity Mendip Vale Workshops, a printing and light manufacturing company that provided supportive employment for people suffering with mental health issues.

Unfailing sense of humour

After a few years, when the charity was back on its feet and thriving, Colin trained and became a volunteer advisor for Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau, also taking on the positions of Treasurer and Trustee; roles he continued until 2017.

In 2009 he became a guild member of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Blenders, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He also loved the countryside and had an unfailing sense of humour.

Colin is survived by his wife, Verona, their two sons, Richard and Peter, and granddaughter Isla.

Service spanned four decades

WD & HO Wills pensioner Brian England has died aged 92.

Born in Bristol, he attended St George Grammar School, leaving in 1948 aged 16 to join Wills, following in the footsteps of his father, William (Bill), who worked in the Wages Office during the Second World War. His younger brother John also worked for Wills from 1951 until 1987, firstly in the Sales Office and then, from 1965, as a Sales Representative.

After completing National Service Brian studied at night school for five years to obtain a Certificate and Diploma from the British Institute of Management and was appointed as Wills Training Officer before being selected for management training.

In 1966 Brian was posted to Glasgow cigar factory as a Production Manager



and, five years later, moved to Bristol cigar factory in the same role.

He was then selected for the Industrial Relations Department as a manager for Wills, and subsequently Imperial Tobacco, spending his remaining time with the company liaising with seven trade unions. He retired in 1986 after 39 years' service.

Brian met his wife, Margaret, at St Mary's Church in Fishponds. The couple were married for over 68 years and had two children, Roger and Jane. Their daughter continued the family tradition, working for Imperial from 1985 until 2022, mainly in the Company Secretary's Department at Head Office.

In retirement, Brian spent five years as a school bursar in Clifton and was also a school governor in Clevedon, North Somerset, where he and Margaret lived for more than 40 years. The couple were active members of two local Probus Clubs, enjoyed holidays abroad and spending time with their four grandsons.

Brian is survived by Margaret, Roger, Jane and four grandchildren.

Allan was a former Pension Fund Trustee

Allan Russell, a former Imperial Tobacco Pension Fund Trustee, has died peacefully at home, aged 78.

He joined the Wills Alexandra Parade factory in Glasgow in 1965, aged 20, and worked in the maintenance department before being selected to attend a company-sponsored Outward Bound course, following which he was appointed Warehouse Supervisor.

In 1988 he was promoted to Regional Distribution Centre (RDC) Foreman and, two years later when the Glasgow factory closed, he relocated to the RDC in East Kilbride, where he was Quality Systems Co-ordinator and later Health and Safety Officer.

Allan chose to retire in 1995 and shortly afterwards moved, with his wife Patricia, to Auchterarder.

During his 30-year career with Imperial Allan was involved with the Fund as both a member and spokesperson for the Pension



▲ Allan Russell: well respected

Fund Consultative Committee (PFCC). In 2001 he was appointed to the Board of Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustees, as a Member-Nominated Trustee, securing 65 per cent of the vote, and retired from his PFCC

duties to focus on his Trustee duties. In his retirement Allan chauffeured part-time for a local company and was much involved in his local parish church as Property Convenor and Treasurer as well as many other duties.

A very happy laid-back man

He enjoyed indoor bowling, collecting coins and banknotes and swimming at his local health club with Patricia. The couple also enjoyed their cruising holidays, travelling to the Caribbean and Mediterranean, and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

"Allan was well respected and loved by many," said Patricia. "He was a very happy, laid-back man and was never happier than when we were all together as a family. We will miss him greatly."

Allan is survived by Patricia, children, Allan Jnr, Stuart, Jennifer and Jason, and six grandchildren.

Architect who designed hatcheries for Buxted



Imperial Foods pensioner, Barry Metcalfe, has died aged 90.

Born in Haworth, West Yorkshire, he attended Keighley Grammar School until age 16, when he began training as an architect. In his early career, he joined the Atomic Energy Commission in Lancashire and was required to sign the Official Secrets Act to enable him to work on the

development of a nuclear power station in Scotland.

In 1966, Barry qualified as an Associate of the Royal Institute of Architects and relocated to Scotland with his wife, Jean, where he worked for the New Towns Development Corporation.

Two years later, an opportunity arose for the family to return to England, and they settled in Thirsk, North Yorkshire. Barry joined Buxted Poultry Ltd to work on the design and

development of hatcheries across the UK. Following the takeover of Buxted by Imperial Foods in 1978, Barry's work took him to their headquarters in Norwich, which saw him working on overseas contracts and visiting countries like Nigeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, with the aim of developing a more diverse food supply.

Later in his career, Barry was self-employed and had the opportunity to consult on the restoration of a chateau in Pas-de-Calais, northern France, while also using his experience to restore their family cottage in Norfolk.

On retirement, Barry and Jean moved back to Haworth, where he enjoyed catching up with friends from his early days and exploring the countryside. A keen steam train enthusiast, he also spent 10 years volunteering for the Keighley and Worth Valley steam railway.

Barry is survived by Jean, sons Giles and Adrian, and three grandchildren.

Keen dancer and fundraiser in the community

Arthur Hobbs, who worked for Imperial for almost 50 years, has died aged 101.

Born in Clerkenwell, London, in 1923, Arthur joined Imperial at the age of 14 and enjoyed a varied career as a Canvasser and Traveller, having worked for Edward's, Ringer & Bigg, Churchman's and Ogden's, retiring in 1982.

He was conscripted in 1942 and served with the 15th Scottish Division in Europe and the Indian Army in Burma before re-joining Imperial five years later as a Canvasser, selling products and advising

on how they should be advertised at the point of sale. Arthur was also involved with the Tobacco Trade Travellers Association (TTTA), which was started in 1907 with the aim of promoting friendship and benevolence among tobacco travellers through fundraising and distributing gifts. He was President of the association in 1978 and Secretary for more than 20 years.

Arthur married his wife Doreen on Christmas Day 1947 and the couple enjoyed 73 years of marriage prior to her death in 2020. They were keen dancers,

going two or three times a week and competing in their younger days in both ballroom and Latin dancing.

In retirement Arthur was very active in the community, fundraising for various organisations, including the Scout Movement and the NSPCC.

He is survived by his three children, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson.



The deaths are reported, as at 31 May 2024, of the following retired employees:

HEAD OFFICE AND ITL

Marion Kitty Barnett, 87;
Margaret Elizabeth Bubb, 69;
Roger David Cains, 84;
Colin Lionel Angus Fraser-Mackenzie, 86;
Jill Kathleen Golby, 77;
Graham Charles Hall, 78;
Philip Charles Lewis, 88;
Roger Newman, 78;
Bernard Robert Rapley, 78;
Brian Smith, 78;
Robert William Whileman, 90;
Thomas Clive Willey, 86.

WD & HO WILLS

Joyce Ellen Ball, 95;
Bryan Charles Banham, 90;
June Patricia Barnes, 92;
Jack Clifford Barratt, 92;
Muriel Jane Brice, 85;
Bryan William Broadhurst, 89;
Margaret Ann Broderick, 87;
Elizabeth Mary Langston Brown, 71;
Robert Harold Casey, 92;
Irene Betty Collins, 92;
Evelyn Edith Cooke, 87;
Marie Currey, 87;
Kathleen Margaret Date, 88;
Barbara Jean Davis, 92;
Robert Arthur Charles Drew, 81;
Brian Arthur England, 92;
Muriel Mary English, 89;
Peter Evans, 86;
Donald Henry Geddes, 87;
Eileen Harle, 104;
Bernice Winifred Hayes, 93;
John Middleton Hendrikz, 81;
Audrey Beatrice Hibbs, 92;
Albie Hopkins, 85;
Mair Knight, 91;
Mary Kyle, 70;
Florence McPhee Lamb, 67;
Patricia Lambe, 85;
Terence Robert Lane, 95;
Loreen Ann Massingham, 73;
Jane Thomson McColl, 94;
Kevin McCoy, 69;
John Edward McFarlane, 92;
Ian McGregor, 85;
Jean Margaret Miles, 96;
Janet Morien 63;
Clive Morris Burnett Moyse, 91;
Michael John O'Connell, 87;
Allan Gordon Russell, 78;
Alan John Sandford, 94;
Iain Sinclair, 87;
Margaret Stewart, 91;
David Leonard Truman, 92;
John Edward Anthony Waller, 83.

JOHN PLAYER & SONS

Jean Brisbane Atkinson, 95;
Heather Christaine Barritt, 85;
Giuseppe Bavetta, 87;
Geoffrey Ernest Brown, 90;

Ivy Adessa Byfield, 83;
William Malcolm Carr, 83;
Elizabeth McKenna Cattigan, 82;
Barbara Anne Crampton, 71;
Lesley Cross, 70;
Valerie Anne Dexter, 83;
Terrance John Dilks, 74;
John Ferguson, 78;
Jeanie Beveridge Gardner, 99;
Jacqueline Linda Green, 68;
Keith Harris, 70;
Jean Mary Hedger, 77;
Anthony Raymond Howlett, 76;
Philip Adrian Jackson, 61;
Barbara O Jennings, 75;
Irene Mavis King, 96;
Marianus Gerald Kevin McElhatton, 86;
Kenneth Cecil Moss, 91;
James O'Brien, 91;
David Ronald Oldham, 76;
Benito Olivero, 100;
Marion Gladys Otto, 92;
Evelyn May Percy, 99;
Ena Violet Potter, 98;
Grenville John Pulfrey, 85;
Margaret Ann Pullen, 86;
Joyce Virginia Raymond, 90;
Trevor Anthony Robinson, 76;
Michael Severn, 80;
Raj Rani Sharma, 83;
Steven Southall, 66;
James Strachan, 81;
Phyllis May Swift, 88;
Ronald Taylor, 86;
Henry Barrie Taylor, 94;
Cyril Walker, 95.

OGDEN'S

Marion Abbott, 93;
John Crawford, 83;
Ann Veronica Davies, 81;
Joyce Mary Estall, 96;
Arthur Richard Hobbs, 101;
Rose Evelyn Jones, 76;
Dennis Walter Kettlewell, 84;
Margaret Lilian Lewis, 90;
Elaine Murphy, 62;
Dorothy May Rigby, 88.

BONDELIVERY

Douglas Malcolm Clements, 87.

FINLAY & CO

Ronald Alfred Edwards, 88.

LOWFIELD DISTRIBUTION

Philip John Eves, 70;
James Reginald Northey, 88;
Robin Halliday Service, 75.

RIZLA

David Stephen Flaherty, 79.

SINCLAIR COLLIS

Mary Benn, 94;
Mark David Jones, 65;
Janet McColm, 88;
James Anthony McGarvie, 78;
Carol Irene O'Neil, 67.

ST ANNE'S BOARD MILL

Raymond Dennis Bowdrey, 93;
Arthur James Lukins, 94;
Robert James Penney, 81;
Royston James Wade, 91.

IMPERIAL FOODS LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE

Angela Butler, 69;
Francesco Covelli, 77;
Peter Davies, 87;
John Henry Gainham, 89;
Colin Grounds, 80;
James Johnson, 91;
Paul Barry May, 67;
John Barry Metcalfe, 90.

CROWN NOODLE

Edna Irene Brain, 90.

FLORAPAK

Mavis Eileen Townsend, 93.

GOLDEN WONDER

Beatrice Maude Lees, 94;
Kenneth Peter Reynolds, 74.

ROSS FOODS

Kenneth Bottomley, 86;
James Simon Bright, 74;
Raymond Victor Davis, 78;
Edith Eileen Dixon, 95;
Mollie Ewart, 95;
Brian Robert France, 81;
Elaine Ann Harland, 72;
Allen Harris, 79;
Norman Jones, 96;
Audrey Kelly, 95;
Caroline Ann Maggs, 64;
June McLatchie, 78;
David Roger Milbank, 79;
Brian Moir, 88;
Ivor Thomas Moore, 86;
Dorothy Maud Wilkinson, 100.

SMEDLEY-HP FOODS

Evelyn May Burton, 86;
John Carman, 87;
Peter Richard Collyer, 92;
Forbes Thomas Davidson, 80;
Anthony Gilchrist, 86;
Mary Teresa Grant, 92;
Ruth Eileen Kelly, 98;
Kathleen Ann Lee, 84;
Mervyn Setchfield, 83.

YOUNG'S SEAFOOD

Arthur Frank Barron, 71;
June Watson, 85.

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

Correction

John Player & Sons pensioner Terence Moore, 88, was incorrectly listed under WD & HO Wills in the March 2024 issue of the Gazette. We apologise for the error.

Ben Willis worked 25 years for Imperial, starting as a window dresser, then joining the advertising display department at City Road as a display designer and maker.

LIFE AT LONDON'S CITY ROAD

Ben with the Spitfire he flew to mark his 70th birthday



"I was given the opportunity to take the controls..."

THE ADVERTISING Display Department, based in London's City Road, was responsible for designing and making the displays used in shop windows, in-store and at exhibitions to promote Imperial's products to its consumers.

Cyril Willis, known as Ben, worked with the team for two decades from the age of 20 until the department was closed when Hanson took over the company in 1986.

Ben joined Imperial as a Window Dresser in 1961 aged 15, following in the footsteps of many members of his family who worked for the company. He was based in his hometown of Orpington, Kent, before he moved to City Road to design the displays he had spent the previous five years installing.

Worked in the same department

"There were about 30 of us in the department, including designers, makers and those in administration roles," recalls Ben, whose father, Cyril Arthur Willis, worked in the same department for over 40 years.

"I started designing and making the displays but later moved to the admin side of things. "I particularly remember

the national launch of John Player Special King Size in 1980. Our design team put together special displays using the *Black a Winner* banner which went into 11,000 windows across the country.

"Three different ones were created: a three-dimensional solus display that was built into the space behind the window; one that was stuck onto the actual glass of the window; and a standard display."

Ben also recalls the team building a very large display to house the JPS racing car,



▲ Ben in 1970 when he was an assistant display designer in London

which was taken to railway stations around the country to show the car and advertise JPS cigarettes. When the City

Road office was shut in 1986 Ben created advertising for a firm of funeral directors for around 18 months before joining the civil service, where he remained until his retirement in 2006, aged 60.

Easier than driving a car

Ben was gifted the opportunity to fly in a World War One Tiger Moth plane for his 60th birthday. It was an experience he greatly enjoyed and, to mark his 70th birthday, his family arranged for him to fly in a Spitfire.

"I was given the opportunity to take the controls and was amazed that I found it easier than driving a car," said Ben.

"In films you see people dramatically shifting the controls to get the plane to change direction, but the reality is that it is a very small movement."

Ben lives in Bromley, Kent, with Linda, his wife of 54 years, who he cares for full time. The couple, who have a daughter, Jennifer, previously enjoyed walking, gardening, photography and coach holidays all over Europe and still enjoy cruising. **G**

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