

A newsletter from the Fawley complex SUMMER 2022

# Community Matters

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## Welcome from plant manager

Welcome to our summer edition of Community Matters. This is my first time writing the foreword as I returned to Fawley as Manager of our Chemicals operation in February this year following assignments with our company in the USA and Saudi Arabia. Having started my ExxonMobil career at Fawley, I went on to work a total of 16 years on the site, so it is good to be back.

l'm aware our Fawley facility might currently be better known for the petrol, diesel and jet fuel we produce, but we do so much more. As a fully integrated operation (the largest of its kind anywhere in the UK), we also turn crude oil into a range of important chemicals that are the foundations for many of the items we use and rely on every day.

From pharmaceuticals and medical equipment to personal hygiene and cosmetic products, paint and car parts and even the humble post-it-note many will start their life as chemicals

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right here in Fawley. Furthermore, our specialised Butyl Rubber is used in tyres, and also to make an estimated 50% of the world's supply of Covid vaccine vials sealing stoppers.

On P8, one of our chemical experts, Jack Culshaw, gives a more detailed insight to our Isopar<sup>™</sup> unit and how you may be using products derived from the family of chemicals it produces.

And, of course, none of this production would be possible without the team of brilliant people we have working here. We are proud that we are growing that team, offering high value skilled opportunities to individuals across the New Forest and Southampton area.

We hope you will find this edition an interesting insight to some of what we do here at Fawley, and to the team who work here.

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Thank you.

Nick Bone Chemicals Plant Manager





### A big jobs boost for the Southampton area has seen 50 new Process Operators taken on at ExxonMobil Fawley.

The first intake of 26 recently finished a comprehensive 12-week training programme which began in February, and they have been joined by a further 24 trainees who are currently attending the training school and will soon complete their session.

Many of the new recruits will work towards a nationally recognised Science Manufacturing Process Operative Apprenticeship qualification.

Since 2015, 160 trainees have attended the training school at Fawley, graduating to the field and continuing to learn, develop and progress to Technician or Process Leader positions. As well as periods in the classroom spent learning the basic theory and skills necessary for their new jobs, the trainees will do hours of hands-on training in the workshop, field and also through virtual reality simulator sessions.

In addition they're benefiting from the new scaffolding training rig or PIT Stop – Practical Induction Training – which is teaching them skills including personal safety and hazard awareness.

The search for the new apprentice intake at ExxonMobil Fawley is also continuing apace and interviews have been held with the candidates who stood out during the application process, offering further career opportunities to local young people.

The closing date for applications was March 7, and a select number were invited for interview around mid-May, with offers made to the most promising interviewees. Those who take up the offer will begin their studies at college at the start of the new academic year.

## **Cooking with Gas** ExxonMobil Fawley's return to three bay LPG loading

#### ExxonMobil Fawley is most commonly associated with the production of petrol and diesel, but another vital product that starts life here is Liquid Petroleum Gas.

Angela Baird, UK LPG account manager said: "Each year over

# **Sustainable Aviation Fuel landmark for Fawley**

ExxonMobil and Neste Oyi have entered into an agreement to supply 2.5 million litres of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) to Virgin Atlantic airlines during the first half of 2022. Neste Oyi is the world's leading supplier of SAF and working in partnership with ExxonMobil, it is hoped that this agreement will help to reduce the carbon footprint of Virgin Atlantic's fleet of aircraft. The first shipment of SAF arrived at ExxonMobil Fawley on 25th April and has already started to make its way to Heathrow and into the tanks of Virgin Atlantic planes.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel is formulated from sustainably sourced, renewable waste and residue raw materials; meaning products such as used cooking oil, non-food crops, biomass waste and industrial waste gasses are used in its production. In a nutshell, the introduction of SAF will contribute to greener air travel, as it can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% of life cycle, compared to traditional fossil jet fuel.

sustainability."

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Suzanne MacDonald, ExxonMobil Aviation Commercial Manager said: "This was not only the first cargo of SAF to Fawley, but the first to any ExxonMobil facility in the world This achievement represents a strong collaborative and agile approach to moving things forward in the field of

Virgin Atlantic has committed to achieving net zero by 2050, and by partnering with ExxonMobil – Virgin Atlantic's largest fuel supplier at London Heathrow – and Neste Oyi, cleaner skies and carbon neutral air travel is one step closer to reality. So, the next time you board a flight on your way to a sunny holiday destination, remember there's a chance the fuel powering your flight is SAF provided by ExxonMobil and Neste Oyi.

nsert above Suzanne MacDonald Below: Gaia Barratt, Business Coordinator

# Fawley's fab four female engineersi

Four of ExxonMobil Fawley's senior female engineers, who hold some of the most important roles on site, are encouraging more girls to consider a career in engineering.

Annita McCurdy, Cat Flynn, Helen Ross and Sara Dawe have some of the most senior leadership positions at the New Forest complex – the largest in the UK.

But, while the number of female engineers in the UK is growing every year, women are still very under-represented in the field, and this is something they are keen to address.

Annita, Cat, Helen and Sara came to work at Fawley after initially taking part in work placements at the site while studying at universities across the UK. All showed their aptitude for engineering and were offered places on ExxonMobil's graduate programme on completion of their studies.

Annita and Helen who are Process Managers for the Refinery and Chemicals units respectively, both live in the local area and work with their teams on the safety, reliability and efficiency of operations. Annita reflected on her decision to pursue a career in engineering.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left school. I loved maths and science but wanted to do something practical and have a vocation after I graduated - a careers adviser suggested Chemical Engineering and I didn't look back!"

Since she started in 2003 she has worked in a variety of roles including operations, commercial and trading, and strategic planning. She has had the opportunity to work in a number of locations across Europe and the USA.

"I love change and continuing to learn and develop myself, and that's one of the reasons engineering has been perfect for me. The variety and responsibility continues to grow all the time – and now in the time of the energy transition that only becomes more exciting!

"Throughout my career I have met incredible women in our industry and I am passionate about active support for females in engineering – I would strongly encourage any young women with a passion for STEM to consider engineering."

Helen also spent some time deciding on her career options, "I always enjoyed science and maths at school, understanding now things worked and problem solving in teams – and realised engineering actually offered all of these."

She started her career at Fawley in 2004, and held various roles at the site from development and operations engineer to business analysis and supply economist. She also met her husband David there.

Left to right: Helen, Sara, Annita and Cat.

Since then they have lived and worked in Fife, Houston and ExxonMobil's headquarters in Dallas and Helen just recently returned to Fawley as the Chemicals Process Manager.

"I have been extremely lucky to work in a range of different locations and meet some truly inspirational women. I've also had the opportunity to play a part in producing and developing products that are used in everyday applications, from face masks to tyres, nappies to hand sanitiser, and excitingly working with customers to develop lower carbon products of the future," she said.

"Studying engineering provides such a broad base of potential careers and will be critical for the energy transition. I also like to think that I will inspire my daughter to explore a wide variety of career options, without any boundaries or feeling she needs to follow a set path."

Cat Flynn, is Business Team Leader for the Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit, Residfiner and Treating Complex at Fawley, which makes petrol and diesel and the feed stock for the chemicals side of the site. She is responsible for an 80-strong team.

She started out as a development engineer before moving into a scheduling role in the supply organisation then into an economist position.

She worked for two years in ExxonMobil's UK headquarters where she was responsible for buying crude oil, returning to Fawley in 2020 in her current role.

"I have experienced a bit of gender bias, with people not expecting me to lead a team, butsome of my closest allies have been male and they have helped me a lot along the way.



"When I started we had one female operator, we now have eight. I am the first female team leader of the CAT plant, and more women are now considering engineering as a career, which is great."

Sara Dawe is the Reforming and Lubricants Business Team Leader looking after the business performance, safety and reliability of the products made in her units.

The Reforming units make petrol by improving octane ratings and removing impurities, as well as providing hydrogen for other units on site, while the Lubrications units make de-waxed oil and wax for the specialties market.

Sara started working at Fawley in 2009 and has had many roles within the Technical group and a UK supply operations role, where she worked to help meet customer demand for petrol and diesel.

She has also worked as a product analyst and at the Fawley Marine Terminal as the Marine Terminal supervisor, working with external companies and groups making up Southampton Harbour to manage the Fawley jetty's daily operations.

"I have had a very varied career and enjoyed it all," she explained.

"The best part of my current job is working with lots of different and very talented people. If I have any challenges I know that we have the skills to come up with solutions, and it is always good when you get positive results.

"I am a bit more introverted than some of my co-workers, but there is now much more recognition that people work in different ways and that these ways can lead to just as good, if not better results.

"I would encourage any girls considering a career in engineering to go for it but to be authentic and true to themselves and not try to meet a particular stereotype."

THE REAL PROPERTY.

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# Focus on... the lsopar<sup>TM</sup> Unit

The first in a new regular feature in Community Matters, 'Focus on...' will shine a spotlight on a particular unit or piece of equipment or department that is vital to operations here at ExxonMobil Fawley. In this inaugural feature, we spoke to Jack Culshaw, Isopar Contact Engineer to gain an insight into how the Isopar Unit works.

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#### Isopar™? What's that then?

I'm glad you asked. The answer is a little complex though, so bear with me

The term 'Isopar™' is a brand name owned by ExxonMobil, and it refers to a particular type of paraffin. The full name for this group of products is 'isoparaffins,' which are alkanes – chemicals which are composed of varying numbers of carbon and hydrogen atoms, and are created from oil. Isopars are essentially paraffins that are used in the production of a wide range of everyday products.

#### OK, so what kinds of products are Isopars used in?

Depending on what type of end product is to be manufactured, a different grade of Isopar will be purchased by third parties from ExxonMobil, and in turn used to make new products.

These include things like solvents, paints, printer ink, cleaning products and industrial coatings. Isopars produced at ExxonMobil Fawley come in several different grades – namely G, H, L and N – and these are differentiated by the average boiling point of each grade.



#### That seems pretty straight forward...but isn't this a focus on a unit or piece of equipment?

Indeed! And this is where things may be a little confusing.

See, Isopars are the ExxonMobil branded name for these various grades of parafins; but they are 'created' by a piece of equipment called the Isopar Unit. This clever bit of kit takes olefins, produced on our Higher Olefins unit, and via a process of heating and refining separates the different variants of Isopar. This process is completely odourless and very quiet - the image on this very page shows the Isopar Unit as it looks when illuminated at night.

#### Interesting. What else can you tell me about this Isopar™ Unit?

The ExxonMobil Fawley Isopar Unit is one of the newest units on site, having started operating in 2017. Up until then, the ExxonMobil complex in Antwerp, Belgium would carry out the Isopar refining. Building the Isopar Unit at Fawley meant that we could complete the entire process here in the UK without having to ship products back and forth between Fawley and Antwerp. The process for creating Isopars within the Isopar Unit involves heating the raw materials to around 200 degrees celcius – about the same temperature that a kitchen oven can reach - which is a lot lower than you may expect.

#### Wow – I think I'm pretty clued up on Isopars and the Isopar Unit now - is there anything else I should know?

Well, next time you need to refill your printer's ink cartridge, have a little think about the Isopar Unit doing its thing – there's a good chance that ink started life at Fawley!



**Jack Culshaw** Isopar Contact Engineer

# Helping to Keep Air Ambulance flying high

Over the last 10 years ExxonMobil Fawley has supported the vital work of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) with regular donations. In that time it has given more than £50,000 and, in what continues to be a very testing time for the service, it has been happy to continue the valued relationship.

Pre-Covid the funding helped promote the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects in every area of the work of the air ambulance.

Through outreach youth work and the LifeLines project, which offers an insight into the daily life of HIOWAA's Critical Care Team, it aims to inspire and motivate future generations.

Its crews of doctors, paramedics, pilots, dispatch assistants and engineers are a perfect example of STEM being used in the real world and projects are designed to highlight some of the challenges the teams face daily.

Throughout the pandemic, when the outreach work was forced to stop, donations have helped to support the welfare of the crew members through a wellbeing programme, as well as the development of their skills through education and qualification attainment.

Ray Southam, Fundraising Manager for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance said: "We really value the long-standing link we have with ExxonMobil Fawley.



Above: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

"Our crew wellbeing programme has proved vital, particularly over the past couple of years. The types of incidents that we are called out to means that our crew experience numerous severe trauma incidents on a daily basis. Over time this takes its toll on individuals. The programme provides confidential advice and support when they need it, as well as many interventions that avoid them reaching the point of burnout.

"Additionally, the education and ongoing development of our crew means that we can ensure our crews are trained in the highest levels of critical care and therefore ensure our service remains resilient, operational, and fit for purpose."

## RAPIDREACH ))) **Keeping you informed**

Here at ExxonMobil Fawley we have introduced a new information system which will keep our local communities up to date with the latest operational activities from the manufacturing complex.

Here we answer some of the more commonly-asked questions.

#### What is RAPIDREACH?

Rapid Reach is an easyto-use notification system to help keep members of the public informed of operational updates at our facility or to let them know about when we may need to use our flare. It sends information directly to a recipient's email or via a text message.

#### Why is it being introduced?

We want to be able to let our neighbouring communities know about things that may be of interest to them as soon as we can, to keep them up to date with what we are doing and why we are doing it.

#### Why should I sign up?

For those who are interested in receiving operational notifications from ExxonMobil Fawley, this is the quickest and easiest way to get them.

#### How often will I receive notifications?

Those who have signed up will only be contacted when there is any operational information that we think is important and of interest to the local community.

#### How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy and takes less than 60 seconds. Recipients just enter their contact details and a password in the attached form and they are good to go. The step by step guide shows you how: www.exxonmobil.co.uk/ Fawley\_notification



The **RAPIDREACH** privacy statement ca be viewed at sign up. Right: Olivia Burt on work experience in 2013.

## Inspiring young people in тетогу of Olivia

Since it was set up in 2020 the charity Olivia Inspires has helped provide support in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects for over 200 local young people.

And here at ExxonMobil Fawley, we're pleased to have been able to support the charity from the outset.

It was established by Nigel Burt, Community Affairs Manager at ExxonMobil Fawley for over 20 years, and his wife Paula, in memory of their daughter who died in a tragic accident while at university.

Olivia Inspires provides grants to help disadvantaged young people aged between 11 and 18 years in the New Forest area to achieve their potential.

It has helped students at schools and colleges to take part in everything from



outdoor learning modules to Duke of Edinburgh Awards and extra maths tuition after lockdown to woodland management courses.

Olivia completed a work experience placement at Fawley in 2013, and enjoyed learning about the technology involved in refining oil, getting out on the processing units and meeting the technicians in the control rooms.

Her dad Nigel said: "We are fantastically grateful for the support that the site has given and continues to give US.

"It is really making a difference to the lives of young people whose families are struggling."

#### **Engage with us**

To contact us or just to find our more about what we do, please choose one of the options below.

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