



**JAMAICA  
COMMODITY  
TRADING  
COMPANY  
LIMITED**

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**news  
basket**



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# LABOUR DAY

## ...when we remember the forgotten

On Labour Day, May 23, 1989, thousands of Jamaicans earned the reward of feeling good about themselves after a day of repairing and refurbishing schools across the island. Some painted, some fixed desks, some repaired roofs - all were busy putting in a day's worth of community work that would make others more comfortable.

The recipients at times helped themselves. At Norman Gardens All-Age, members of the PTA worked alongside with Jamaica Commodity Trading Company personnel to give the school a bright new look. A group of diligent carpenters also hammered and sawed away to repair some 60 desks for young students. Many of these desks had been in shambles before the operation; afterwards they were sturdy and ready for the rough and tumble treatment so often meted out by students.

JCTC's input into Norman Gardens' Labour Day Project was in the form of lumber, paint, nails and tools. The turn-out of JCTC staff was not as good as expected and Newsbasket would like to urge greater staff participation next year.

At the end of the day, those who participated were tired but content. It's amazing the difference one day of concerted effort can make. And whether we do voluntary work on a school,



Michael Martin supervises the painting of a wall at the Norman Gardens All-Age School.

community centre or a hospital, the cheer and lifting of spirits that it brings is heart warming. Not to mention the comfortable and satisfying feeling we ourselves experience when we give. Isn't it worth it?



Members of the school's PTA repair desks.



Cleveland Grossett at work.



Mr. H.C. Evans, principal, shows his prowess with the paint brush. Carole Walcott looks on.



# AN ERA ENDS; Another Begins

With more than 40 years of service to his credit, Financial Secretary Harold Milner left the public service in June 1989. In the true spirit of putting the nation's business first, Mr. Milner was known as a tireless worker who paid diligent attention to detail and correct procedure.

Speaking at a farewell function for Mr. Milner at the Jamaica Pegasus in June, JCTC's managing director, Andree Nembhard, noted, "Your performance over the years is one which we who come behind you can emulate. You have been of tremendous help to those of us at JCTC who have had the pleasure of working with you."

Mrs. Nembhard went on to say that now that Mr. Milner will no longer be called upon to work long hours, he will be able to devote more time to his second favourite pastime - pottering around in his garden.

JCTC's deputy managing director Michael Martin then did the honours of welcoming Mr. Milner's successor, Ms. Shirley Tyndall. "We welcome you, we wish you all that is good. We know the job is terribly demanding but we are confident of your expertise and ability."

Mr. Milner and Ms. Tyndall replied warmly and briefly to the kind words bestowed on them. Mr. Milner noted that external factors favoured JCTC at this time and he wished the Company all that was good. He was happy to say that he had enjoyed a good association with JCTC through the years.

Turning to the future, Ms. Tyndall said she looked forward



*Like the tide: Outgoing Financial Secretary Harold Milner has a word for his incoming successor, Shirley Tyndall, as she gets ready to face the challenges of her new position.*



*Harold Milner, a lover of horticulture, will plant more than kisses as he spends more time in his garden following his retirement. Andree Nembhard, JCTC's managing director is the proud recipient of a smack on the cheek.*

to a continued amicable relationship with the Company. She had been closely associated with JCTC in monitoring the IMF programme since 1980; and her association with Mike Martin went back even further to the days when he was stationed at the Collector General's Department.

As the past makes way for the future it is fitting to reflect on lessons learned and new steps to be taken.

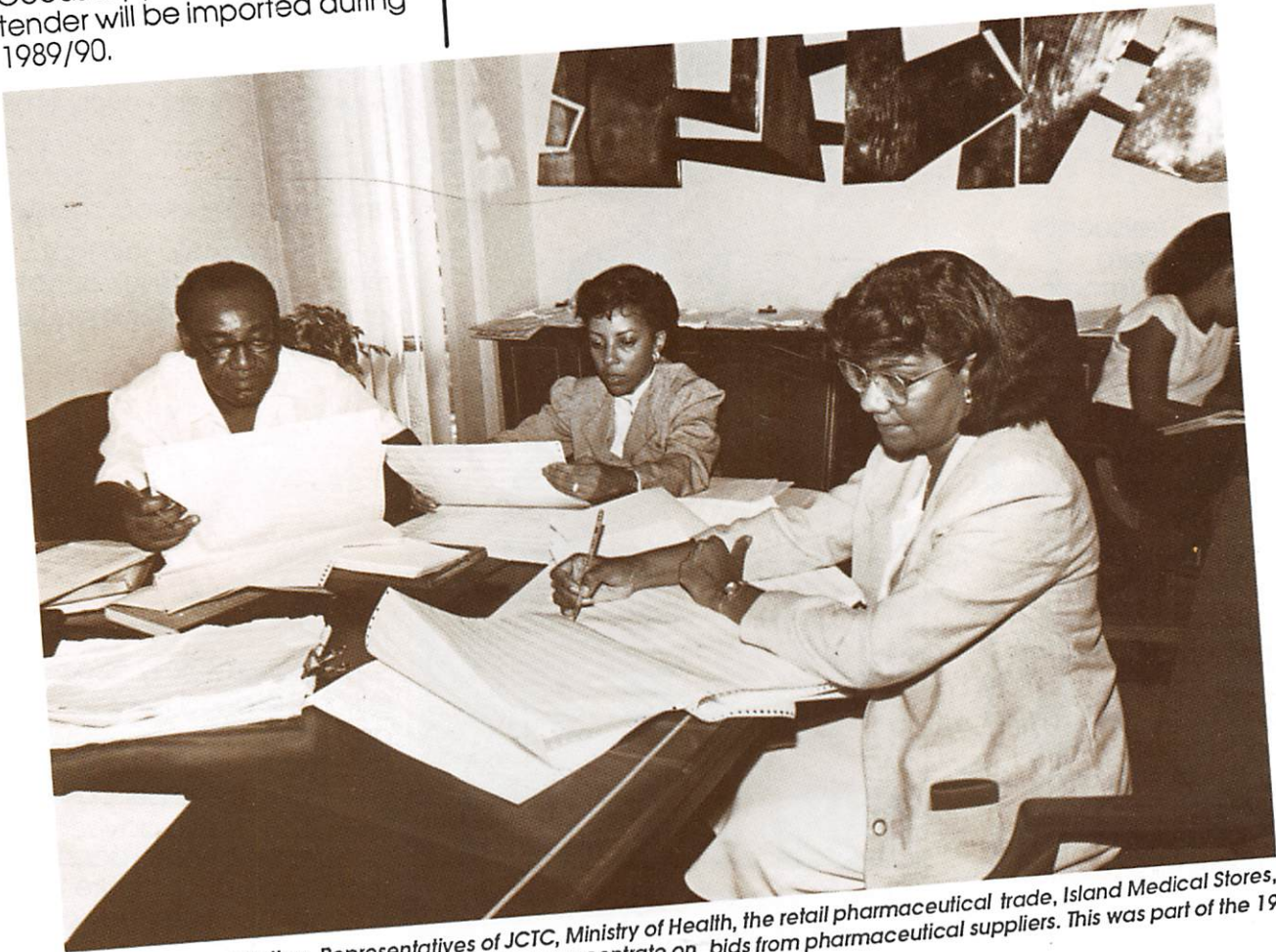
JCTC wishes Mr. Milner a pleasant and comfortable retirement. As for Ms. Tyndall, much hard and challenging work lies ahead, but Newsbasket trusts that there will be many moments of satisfaction and relaxation with family and friends after jobs well done. We hail these two stalwart sons of Jamaica.



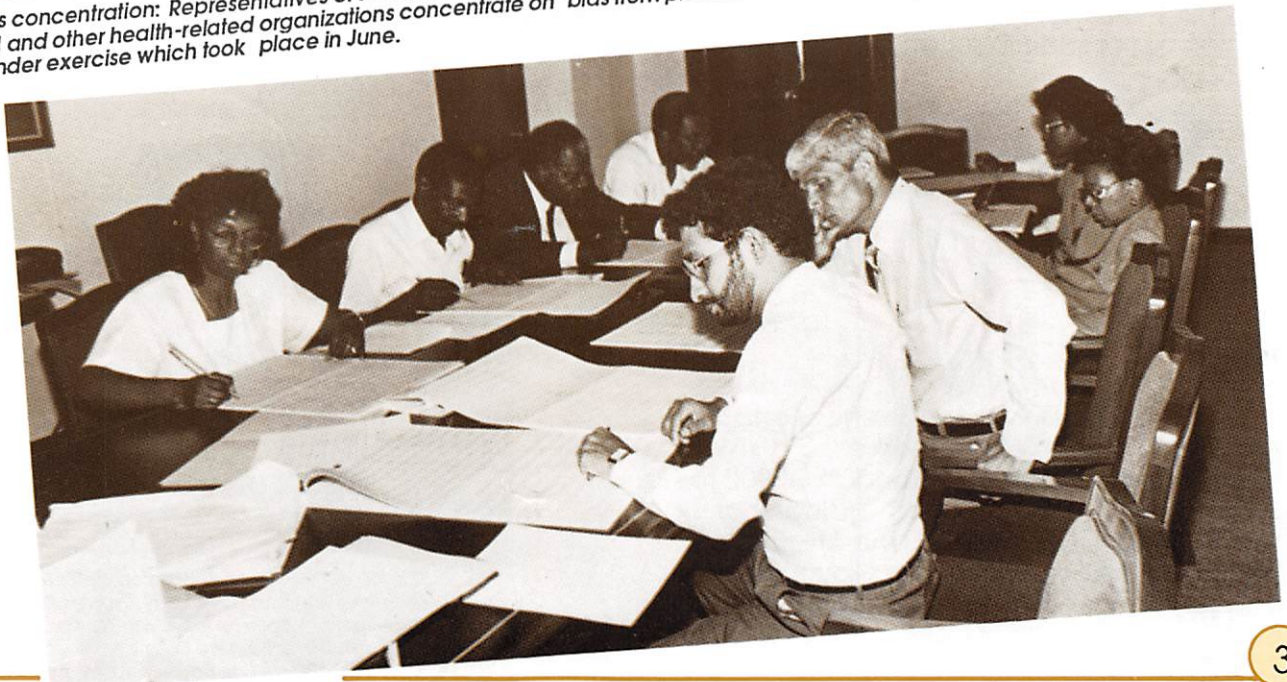
# PHARMACEUTICAL TENDER

Representatives of some 11 pharmacy-related organizations took part in a tender exercise at JCTC, during June 1989. Goods supplied under this tender will be imported during 1989/90.

A total of 726 items were awarded and the number of shared awards was 74. In all, 73 companies received awards including six new companies.



*It takes concentration: Representatives of JCTC, Ministry of Health, the retail pharmaceutical trade, Island Medical Stores, UHWI and other health-related organizations concentrate on bids from pharmaceutical suppliers. This was part of the 1989/90 tender exercise which took place in June.*





# DRESSING FOR THE OFFICE

*"Suits give a professional and business-like appearance. Separates are economical ..."*

There are obvious differences between dressing smartly for the office and wearing just about anything that's clean and tidy.

Visitors to JCTC frequently comment on the sharp appearance of the female staff. **Newsbasket** spoke with some of these ladies to find out the secret of their dressing habits.

One feature that was common to all five ladies was the attractiveness and economy of wearing two piece coordinates, particularly suits.

Eve Carty of Personnel and Office Management described her special favourites as suits with a tailored look and colours that can be teamed up; she prefers black, white, brown, dark blue and beige. "One can wear a solid-colour jacket, vest or skirt and complement this with a floral or striped fabric. For that special flair, she would bring all this together with a fashion pin or scarf in suitable colours.



Looking nice are, left to right, Eve Carty and Andree Thomas.

PR's Flo Wilson thought of economy and keeping cool. "Suits give a professional and business-like appearance. Separates are economical as they can be intermixed ... one plain skirt can be worn with different blouses, creating a new appearance every time.

"Bearing in mind the tropical climate - linen, challis, cotton and rayon are good choices."

Flo also mentioned that make-up should look as natural as possible and not look like a mask.

*"Personality and behaviour to a large extent determine your taste, and fashion is easily one major outlet for creativity and innovation."*

Massana Murray also touched on the need to economize and keep cool. She suggested that separates were ideal - one part plain, the other patterned. "Styles," Massana advised, "should be chosen according to the individual's figure type and not because they are the latest fad."

In choosing materials, one should forget the flimsy, thin

## SHARING WHAT WE HAVE

On June 27, Ms. Maxine Spencer and Mr. Audley Nain, both of the marketing division, handed over a cheque valued at \$4,000 to Ms. Joanna Boyd, pre-school co-ordinator at VOUCH. Ms. Boyd received the cheque on behalf of three-year old Peta Gaye Williams and six-month old Nadia Shields who were both present at a brief ceremony in the JCTC Board Room.



The joy of giving is reflected on staff's faces and those who received were just as happy. From left are corporate relations manager Laker Levers, Wayne Colthirst, Joanna Boyd, VOUCH representative; Maxine Spencer is holding Peta Gaye Williams, Nadia Shields, Sylvia Bogle and Audley Nain.



ones; dresses and skirts should not be too short, she recommended, adding that casual wear outfits should never be entertained at the office, not even on a Friday.

Andrea Thomas had some definite views: "Skirt dresses have wide appeal as they can be dressed up or down at will with jackets. Skirts and blouses are universally accepted. Blouses should never be transparent as this brands one as unprofessional. Skirts should flatter the figure but not overly emphasize it by being too snug.

"The slim lady generally is at an advantage where fashion is concerned. The chief failing of the plumper ladies is with skirts and blouses. If one has a high waist, skirts and blouses with belts in the waist are most unflattering.

"When one is on a budget, clothing should ideally be a type of uniform with simple, interchangeable pieces which can be dressed up or down with scarves, pins and belts. Different blouses add interesting colour.

Yvonne Kerr of Personnel & Office Management echoed some of the above ideas but



**And feeling fine are, left to right, Flo Wilson, Massana Murray and Yvonne Kerr.**

had some of her own. One of her points was, "Ladies and gentlemen have a tendency to aspire to fashion clichés rather than make fashion statements. Creativity, innovation and individuality have gone out the door and 'What's in?' has replaced them. Yvonne would like to see each person blending colours, choice of fabric and fashion to suit their own personality and not try aimlessly to keep up with the latest fad. She adds: "Co-ordinates create a wider wardrobe range to select from and eliminate the 'sameness'."

Yvonne made another statement that is worth thinking about. "Your self image - your mental and spiritual concept or picture of yourself is the real key to personality and behaviour. Personality and behaviour to a large extent determine your taste, and fashion is easily one major outlet for creativity and innovation."

So, with these words of wisdom and sound advice from Eve, Flo, Massana, Andrea and Yvonne, the ladies of JCTC should bloom even more attractively than ever as they try out these ideas from some of the more fashion conscious in the midst.



*Making life a bit better for them: Peta Gaye Williams and Nadia Shields will enjoy more care and attention now that JCTC's marketing division has contributed to their welfare. The funds were raised through the division's annual Christmas party last year.*

The two little girls were being adopted by JCTC out of funds collected at the annual Christmas party presented by the marketing division. The Company has agreed to match the \$4,000 raised by Marketing so another two children will be adopted later.

Corporate Relations Manager Laker Levers said he was happy that the Company had been able to assist VOUCH in this way and promised that the staff would keep in touch with the children and pay special attention to their welfare.

Answering on behalf of VOUCH, Ms. Boyd thanked JCTC for showing interest in Nadia and Peta Gaye. "Your kindness will go a far way in alleviating the stress experienced by their parents. They are most appreciative."



# Reasonings

## KEEPING YOUR WORD

A friendly voice. A prompt reply. A promise kept. This is the kind of treatment we expect when we telephone a business place. Too often, this is not the case.

We all know that the national telephone system leaves a lot to be desired. But even in offices where phones are working, they frequently ring 10, 12 times or more before someone answers. When an answer does come, there is often no

hint of courtesy or helpfulness in the voice. "He is in a meeting," or "She is too busy to talk," or "He is out of office", is often the bald answer. Dutifully, the caller leaves a name and number knowing full well that the party will probably not return the call. If the caller has important business that needs input from the party called, he must then call and call until he is 'lucky' enough to catch the officer on an off chance.

The caller thanks his lucky stars and states his business. The party on the other end of the line promises to get the information and call back. Then begins another wait culminating, as is now expected, with a

re-run of the previous chain of calls all over again.

The above sequence of events takes place far too often to be ignored. It is frustrating, time wasting and indicates an insidious lack of good faith on the part of persons called.

So often, the calling party is a busy person who sometimes wastes hours daily just trying to get through to a few people.

There was a time when keeping one's word was requested as part of maintaining one's honour. And people would die in pursuit of honour. Not so now.

## TRIBUTE TO Secretaries

Theirs is not the highest position in any organization but they often rise to great heights starting from a comparatively low rung on the ladder.

It used to be said that they would largely be replaced by the computer but they have taken control of the keyboards, making the PC work wonders for them while they use the time saved to develop their other professional skills.

They are expected to have a good memory and be alert at appropriate times but at others they must see and "be blind", hear and "be deaf".

When their boss is away and the telephone is ringing madly with queries and asking for decisions they must maintain their cool and perform like the boss. They must be polite at all times even when the calling party is trying their patience. They must be firm. And they must understand the operations

of the company.

In spite of their many virtues **Newsbasket** would like to suggest that secretaries should improve their English. Many make copious typing mistakes because they are unaware of the rules of grammar.

However, **Newsbasket**

commends the secretaries of Jamaica on the attainment of Secretaries' Week 1989, April 23-29. You have progressed through ambition and hard work. We hope you will continue on your path of success.



### A GIFT FROM ITALY

Mrs. Fay Tortello, Italian Consul-General to Jamaica (centre), heads a group of officials who were at Kingston Wharves on May 5 to inspect a shipment of food stuff, a gift from Italy to the government and people of Jamaica. The shipment comprised 2,500 metric tons of rice, 50 metric tons of minestrone soup and 15 metric tons of dried beef. Other officials pictured are (from left) Mrs. Carole Walcott,

public relations manager of the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company which imported the rice; Laker Levers, manager - corporate relations, JCTC; Luci Emmanuel, sales & marketing manager, Jamaica Freight & Shipping; Dr. Gianpaulo Ukmar, Italian Consul; Denis Richards, traffic manager, JCTC; and Coppole Guiseppe, captain of the 'Tigre' on which the goods arrived.

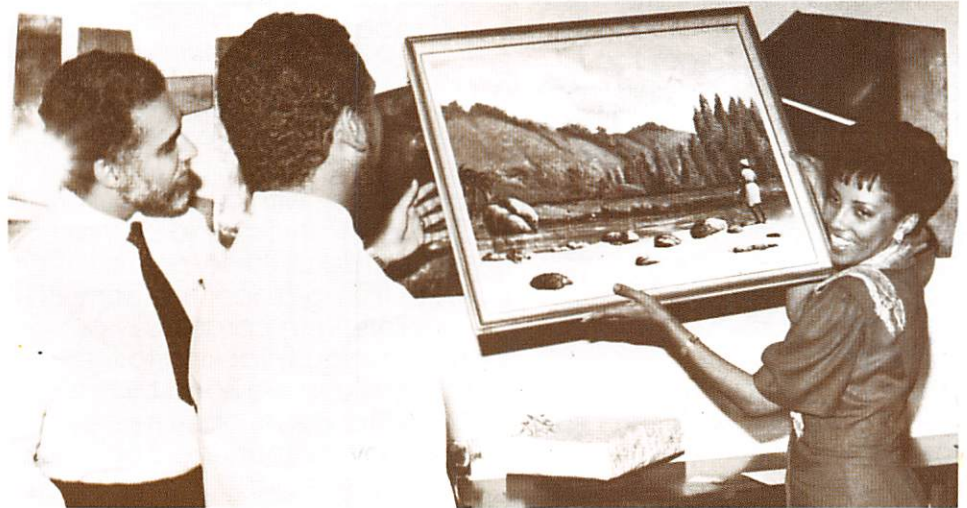


# Goodbye TO A LOVELY LADY

It is said that if you give off warmth you attract more of the same. This was certainly true of Mrs. Maureen Graham, JCTC's Pharmaceutical Manager, who was leaving JCTC after 11 years for studies overseas.

The greetings from the many staff who gathered in the Board Room to bid farewell were sincere and congratulatory. Eva Henry, her successor, noted that Maureen had been one of the pioneers in the Company and over the years had become known as one who took on challenges which she never failed to see through to a successful conclusion.

Managing director Andree Nembhard praised this quiet, hard working lady for her dedication to duty while deputy managing director, Michael Martin, spoke of her calm, her congenial manner, and her friendliness. Maureen's religious side was commended by her friend Maxine Burnett.



## GIFTS FOR MAUREEN . . .



Replying, Maureen looked back at her time with the Company. She said she had gained a great deal from her association with JCTC and mentioned that she often prayed for successful outcomes to various situations.

As parting gifts, Maureen received a painting, a hand-embroidered tablecloth and a clock.

All the best to you and your family, Maureen.

## AND A SPECIAL KISS FROM 'YOU KNOW WHO'



**GIFT OF PHARMACEUTICALS FROM CANADA:** Ms. C. Aleen Gray, Pharmaceutical Manager of T. Geddes Grant, presents a gift of tranquilizers to Mr. Granville Forbes, Chief Pharmacist, UHWI. The medication was manufactured by Novopharm Limited, Canada, and was presented through its local agents, T. Geddes Grant. Others seen are from left, Mrs. Maureen Ennis, Customer Relations Officer, JCTC, which imported the drugs; and Mrs. Monica White, Deputy Chief Pharmacist, UHWI.



# Taking Things 'NICE AND EASY'

By: Karie Russell

It was an ideal time for the staff of JCTC to just 'cool out', hang loose and forget the daily office routine ... the filing, figures, lumber, rice and the wharves. The occasion was JCTC's 1989 Fun Day which was held on Saturday, April 22 at the White Hall Estate Great House, St. Mary. The day as expected, turned out to be a relaxing and enjoyable one.

The estate was very beautiful with a spacious, widely-grassed landscape which seemed to stretch for miles.

Everyone enjoyed themselves in their own way ... some lounged in and around the

swimming pool, while others engaged themselves in various games such as dominoes, cards, scrabble, football or horseback riding.

The food was also 'nice and nuff'. We were served in true Jamaican style. We can still remember the delicious ackee and saltfish with dumplings, and the very tasty fish and bammy dish. While all these activities were taking place, the party of revellers were consciously or unconsciously rocking to the lovely music provided by the Lone Star Disco, operated by Anthony Thomas, the 'cool and deadly' selector.

As the day climaxed, everyone began swarming on to the once vacant dance floor and

soon a very hot, but swinging mini fete was on the way.

The music was good, the venue was right, everyone was sociable, everyone had a great time ... but as happens with all good things, we were all too soon, reluctantly preparing to leave this lovely paradise.

It was an occasion really worth supporting, the only fault being, that the day was not long enough; next time let's make it a weekend.

**Newsbasket**, would like to thank the Staff Association and the hardworking organizers: Pete Smith, Sandra Ewen and Yvonne Headley for planning a very entertaining and relaxing day. Many thanks.

## HAPPENINGS

### WELCOME BACK

We all look forward to an annual vacation. **Newsbasket** hopes that the following members of staff who were recently on vacation have returned rested and ready to go.

#### FINANCE

Sonia Barrett  
Carlton Graham  
Charmaine Leckie

#### PURCHASING

Gladwyn Nugent

#### MANAGING DIRECTOR'S

Jasinta Lumley  
Massana Murray  
Karen Ford-Warner

#### PHARMACEUTICALS

Eva Henry

#### MARKETING

Hector Cummings

### PERSONNEL/ OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Evelyn Carty  
Olive Fletcher  
Marcia Berry

### VISITS FROM THE STORK

Congratulations to Sandra Hill and Karlene Johnson who were each blessed with a son and to Audley Nain who now has a daughter.

### WELCOME ABOARD

#### MANAGING DIRECTOR'S

Roderick Barham

### PERSONNEL/ OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Karen Young  
Dwight Dougal

#### FINANCE

Orville Allen  
Headley O'Connor

### MARKETING

Ezron Auston  
Carlton Whyte  
Gladstone Bell  
Marvin Robinson  
Mabricio Ventura  
Andrea Guy  
Devon James  
Lennox Gray

### REGRETS

Sincere condolences to Hillary Alexander who lost her father-in-law, and Audley Nain who lost his grandmother recently.

### RESIGNATIONS

Best wishes for the future to Sandra Ewen and Sandra Morris who resigned recently.

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