



ExxonMobil
Chemical

**A newsletter from the
Fawley Site**

MARCH 2010 Issue 15

www.exxonmobil.co.uk

You can now also see
Community Matters online at:
www.fawleyonline.org.uk

COMMUNITY MATTERS



The completed IB-2 structure at night

Isobutylene Unit Celebrates 20 Years

Way back in 1989, the 'EPIC Project' – which involved the construction of a new multi-million pound Isobutylene unit at Fawley – was nearing completion. Isobutylene is one of the main chemicals used in the production of halobutyl rubbers by the refinery.

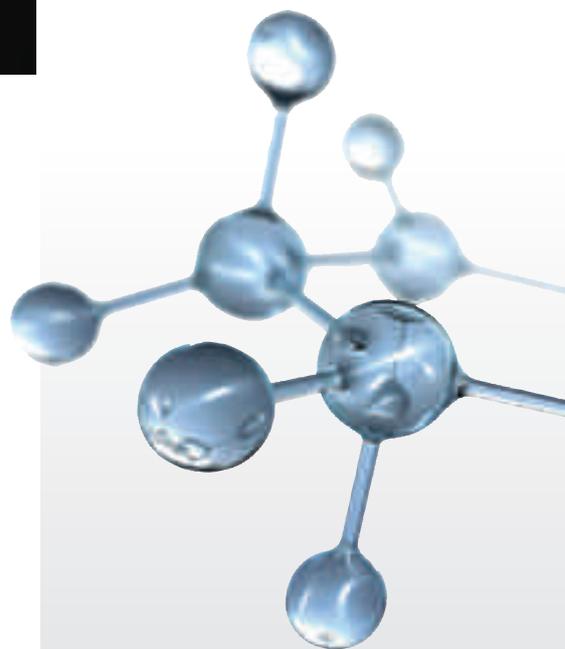
Halobutyl rubbers are mainly used in the manufacture of the inner liners of tubeless tyres that ensure that they stay inflated. Because they are impermeable to most gases, they are also used in the manufacture of pharmaceutical stoppers.

The 'EPIC Project' ultimately transformed Fawley's chemical complex, as it enabled larger quantities of isobutylene to be extracted using its novel etherification technology. A key advantage of this process is that it is significantly less

polluting than the old isobutylene plant that used sulphuric acid technology. The new unit was finally started up on 1 December 1989, after months of planning and training.

Since those early days, the plant has undergone a number of significant changes and has also expanded. Its original production capacity was 65,000 tons per year but this has now grown to over 100,000 tons per year. In total, the unit has produced approximately 1.7 million tons of isobutylene over its 20 year life.

Lead Engineer Mark Welford reports: "To mark the 20th Anniversary on 1 December, a celebration was held, involving the Chemicals team that operates, maintains and supports the plant. A special cake in the shape of a reactor had been baked and was quickly consumed by all of those present!"



**WELCOME TO OUR MARCH 2010
EDITION OF COMMUNITY MATTERS.**

*If you would like to know more about
us or have any queries, please ring 02380 892511
and ask for Community Affairs*

Photography by Ian Jackson & ExxonMobil Employees
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A Natural Flare

Occasionally, you may see yellow flames appearing from the top of some high structures in the refinery. These are called flares and occur when excess gas is being burnt off. In fact, Fawley is recognised as one of the best ExxonMobil sites in Europe in terms of the low amount of flaring it produces.

Flaring provides a safe way of releasing gas from a process. However, it needs to be used as little as possible as the flames and the noise can worry local people. It's also a waste of fuel that could be used as part of our processes.

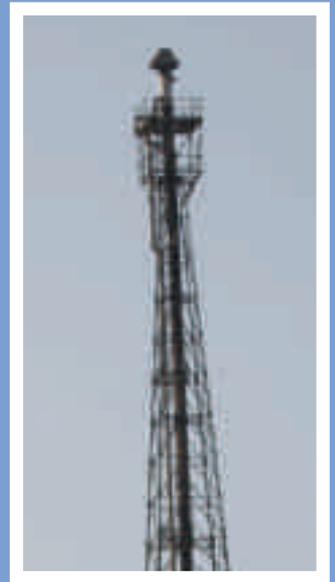
Fawley Refinery has a flare gas recovery compressor but flaring can still occur on occasions. However, the site is committed to a 'best practice' of aiming for zero flaring. One approach that will help us to achieve this is the use of a flare 'cushion'. Instead of waiting until

there's a flare, the site tries to maintain some space in the gas compressor. This allows some flare gas to be recovered before the compressor gets too full and flaring occurs.

When Canada's Nanticoke Refinery wanted help to reduce its flaring recently, Fawley's Environment Group Head, Graham Neal, was asked to visit the site as part of a team. He shared Fawley's practices and also helped the team to come up with an action plan for the site.

Graham comments: "It's gratifying to know that Fawley is recognised as a leader in this area. It was good to be able to help another refinery to look at practical ways of reducing its flaring as well as getting some more ideas from them and the other sites represented there." We are now looking to share some of our practices with other refineries in Europe.

A flaring stack



Gaining From Training Apprenticeships Good for our Business

ExxonMobil has underlined its commitment to training apprentices by incorporating a logo of the new Apprenticeship Employer's Badge on its website. The badge was launched recently throughout the UK to alert consumers and potential recruits to businesses that hire apprentices.

Apprenticeships are growing in popularity. A record number of apprentices – a total of 139,900 – embarked on training programmes throughout England between 2008 and 2009.

An apprentice learning on the job



Approximately 75% of these apprentices were less than 25 years old. This suggests that businesses are increasingly recognising the value of nurturing young talent.

Research commissioned by the National Apprenticeship Service indicated that over 80% of people are more likely to use a business if it offers apprenticeships to young people. It also showed that 64% of consumers would use a register that enabled them to choose a company that hires apprentices.

Apprentices at ExxonMobil

There are currently more than 100 ExxonMobil-sponsored apprentices working at ExxonMobil refineries in Fawley, Fife and Aberdeen. Fawley is the biggest employer of apprentices in the New Forest and Southampton area, with a current total of 44 on its books – who are at various stages of their training.

Nathan Jones, the refinery's Maintenance Group Head, says:

"An apprenticeship is a great platform for a future career. I started at the refinery as an apprentice and I now manage the team that looks after half of the site's apprentices. If we didn't invest in bright young talent, there would be no future maintenance here.

"The benefits are two-way. The trainees bring passion and great energy to the site, and it's also motivating for our experienced technicians to see young people with a real thirst to learn. It creates great team dynamics."

If you would like more information about apprenticeships in general, please visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk. The Apprenticeships logo is now displayed on ExxonMobil's website (www.exxonmobil.co.uk) and our logo will, in return, be added to the Apprenticeships website.

Pay Us A Visit!

The November issue of Community Matters mentioned the free tours of Fawley Refinery for local residents and organisations. These started in the New Year and the first one proved highly successful.

Thirteen people took part in the tour and they were all delighted with it. Their comments included: "Very informative"; "This company has a good reputation"; "I was impressed with the safety"; and "I realised how important the site is to local life and the part played in the national economy".

Each visit starts with an introductory talk about the refinery. For instance, did you know that the saltmarsh that borders the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is home to



The first visitors to come on the tour

some 22 species of birds? The refinery is also surrounded by a tree screen that includes some 50,000 mature trees and shrubs.

Further visits have now been planned twice a month throughout April, May, June and July. Each tour is open to residents in the SO31 and SO45 postcode areas only. Visitors must be over 16 and up to three people are allowed per household. All visitors must bring personal identification (either a valid photographic driving licence or a passport). To comply with security regulations, this information may be subject to external verification.

The talk is followed by a coach tour of the site (please note that visitors aren't allowed to leave the coach during the tour). All tours take place on weekdays, between 1.30pm and 4.00pm. If you would like to join one, please fill out the form below and send it to: Francesca Toma, Community Affairs, Esso Refinery, Fawley, Southampton, SO45 1TX. Alternatively email your details (including full postal address) to francesca.toma@exxonmobil.com

We will then email or post an application form to you.



Send an application form to:

Full Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Email:

Objective in visiting Fawley Refinery:

.....

Does anyone in your party have mobility problems?.....

.....



For office use only

The visit will consist of an introductory talk followed by a coach tour of the site. Visitors will not be permitted to get off the coach at any time during the visit. Security searches may occur through bag searches therefore it is recommended that visitors do not bring bags on the tour with them. Only the person(s) named on the letter of confirmation will be able to attend the tour. ID, in the form of a valid passport or driving licence, will need to be produced in order to gain entry into the site.

A Class Act

The Waterside Theatre Company is celebrating its Diamond Anniversary this year. Its roots date back to 1950 when, along with the construction of the refinery at Fawley, Esso built a social club for employees and their families. This was located across the road from the site in Long Lane, Holbury.

The club included a theatre, which became home to the Esso Music and Drama Group. The cast and crew were made up of employees, their friends and their families. The group's first performance was 'Merrie England' - a comedy opera set in the court of Queen Elizabeth I. The new theatre's facilities allowed them to use full sets and lighting, as well as lavish costumes. They performed to over 200 people a night.

Over the years, the group has staged over 100 shows - including extravagant musicals, classic comedies, fun-filled pantomimes and even Shakespeare (at Beaulieu

Abbey). As well as appearing on stage, Esso employees have been involved in the construction of sets, playing in the orchestra, making costumes or working as part of the backstage crew.

Stuart Collins, who works as a Scheduler at the refinery, says: "After 60 years of entertaining the local area, and with a name change in 2003, the Waterside Theatre Company celebrated this special anniversary with "Lights! Camera! Entertainment!" in February. This show featured songs from stage and screen and hilarious sketches written by members of the group."

For more information about the group and its history (or even about how to get involved!), visit www.watersidetheatrecompany.org.uk.

These pictures show former employees, friends and family taking part in a production at the 'old' Esso Club.



competition

This month Community Matters is giving you the chance to win a BUSH DVD 7in Dual In Car DVD player. Entertain your kids on a long journey with this in car DVD player, it will guarantee no arguments coming from the back seats! They can even watch two separate DVDs and it comes with headphones for a peaceful journey. If watching films isn't entertaining enough, then you can even play CDs and you can listen to your favourite tracks without disturbing anyone else.

Answer the following question correctly to enter this month's competition.

Approximately how many tons of isobutylene has the IB-2 unit produced over 20 years?

Remember, you have got to be in it to win it!

Please send your answer on a postcard, with your contact details, including telephone number, to: Community Matters Competition, Community Affairs, Esso Refinery, Fawley, SO45 1TX.

**The deadline for entries is Friday
23 April 2010.**

