



After over thirty-three years service in the Patents & Licensing Department of the BICC Group, Joan Rowbottom took early retirement on 31st January. Joan joined the Patents Department of Cable Research, later to become the Patents Department of BICC, in 1951. This was after working for 18 months for United Telephones, on the staff of Mr. Urmston (who was formerly in charge of BICC Research). Initially, Joan was a clerical assistant to Miss Ena Calman, who was secretary to the Patents Officer at that time, the late Mr. R.L. Cleaver. In a very short time, Joan's excellent secretarial capabilities were recognised and she became personal secretary to the late Mr. R.J. Battersby, a Chartered Patent Agent who was specifically responsible for dealing with registered trade marks and for whom she worked for some 8 or so years. On Mr. Battersby's retirement in 1959, Joan assumed responsibility for BICC trade mark matters under the guidance of Tony Daker who was, by that time, Patents Manager of the BICC Group. When Miss Calman retired in 1967, Joan became Tony Daker's personal secretary and also assumed responsibility for the accounts of the Department. Shortly after Ron Tarbox succeeded Tony Daker as Patents Manager in 1968, Joan was appointed Office Manager of the Department and she held that position, with continued responsibility for trade marks and accounts, until her retirement. Throughout her career, Joan has given constructive and friendly advice with regard to patent formalities, trade marks and accounts to all OPCOs and to the many Patent Assistants who have passed through the Department during her 33 years of loyal service. Her present colleagues will miss her more than they realise but, fortunately, at least for a few months she will be helping out in the Department on a part time basis. Her early retirement was recognised on 31st January by a small reception when she was presented with some gifts of her choice and a cheque subscribed to by her many friends and colleagues in the Group.