



## **Jayar Car Parts pays tribute to retiring colleague after 38 years' service**

**28 September 2026 (Maidstone, Kent) – Jayar Car Parts, one of the UK's largest independent motor factors, wishes to place on record its sincere thanks, admiration and respect to one of its longest-standing employees, Chris Lacey, who is retiring after nearly four decades of service.**

Chris joined the family-run motor factor in February 1988 as 'employee number three' after spotting a job advertisement in a local newspaper. After being interviewed and offered a position by owner John Ratcliffe, she began her Jayar journey in the Granville Road branch in Maidstone.

With customer orders being made either by telephone or over the counter, Chris's job was to take stock parts off a stand-alone computer system manually. Paperwork was completed by hand or using basic computer software.

Once business management software solutions were introduced, Chris became a credit controller for Jayar's then four branches – Maidstone, Sittingbourne, Northfleet, and Wingham. Chris said: "The rest is history!"

Chris revealed why she chose to stay with Jayar for 38 years: "For me, it's been about enjoying the work, embracing new challenges, and believing in what we're trying to accomplish. I'm incredibly grateful to John and Judith Ratcliffe for giving me the opportunity to learn new skills, and it's been a privilege to watch Jayar grow over the years.

"You never quite know what the day will bring. Sharing those days with the wonderful team in my office, thank you girls for the laughter – and the occasional tears!"

On what she'll miss the most, Chris said: "Without a doubt, it will be the people. Over 38 years, colleagues have become so much more than people I worked with – they've become friends and, in many ways, like family.

"We have zip-wired together, gone to the theatre, had weekend lunches, gone out for dinner. Back in the day, we *even* had a long weekend away in France with John Ratcliffe's approval for an early Friday finish!

“We’ve shared work challenges, successes and countless memories together. Those relationships are what have made coming to work so special, and they’ll be the hardest thing to leave behind.”

Jayar Car Parts Managing Director, Nick Ratcliffe, said: “Chris has been a loyal, respected and hard-working colleague. Every day, she puts smiles on faces, fills colleagues with confidence, and has knowledge that is invaluable to our business.

“On behalf of everyone at Jayar Car Parts, I would like to thank Chris for her 38 years of dedication and service, and everyone wishes her and her family a happy and healthy retirement. Jayar is a better company because of Chris.”

Chris plans to spend more time with her family and friends, particularly those that live in South Africa: “It will be a different pace of life, and I’m looking forward to making the most of it.”

For more information about Jayar Car Parts, go to [www.jayar.co.uk](http://www.jayar.co.uk)

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**About Jayar Car Parts:**

Jayar Car Parts was established in 1976 by John Ratcliffe, who began supplying the motor trade from a prefab he built in Aylesford, Maidstone. The company initially focused on commercial vehicle parts, with its first dedicated car parts branch, AJAY, opening in Aylesford in 1991. Jayar’s head office remains in Maidstone.

Fifty years in business, Jayar Car Parts remains family run under the leadership of Nick Ratcliffe, son of the founder, who serves as managing director and is also a co-founder of Independent Motor Factors. The company has grown to become one of the largest independent distributors of car parts and accessories in the South of England, with over 70 branches.

Jayar Car Parts supplies its customers with a significant, versatile and readily available range of stock. Brands include Allied Nippon, febi, Blue Print, Yuasa, Borg & Beck, Granville, NGK, Dayco, Continental Direct, WAI, MAHLE, KYB, Beckermann, GT Automotive, BGA, Klarius, LuK, Granville and Valeo.

Jayar Car Parts is a proud member of the International Motor Factors Associated LTD (IFA) and AD International.

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