

# Triple sky dive boosts charity

**K**ATRINA Povey joked to colleagues that she would like to try skydiving – little knowing that a few weeks later they would decide to join her in planning just such a daredevil airborne feat.

Pentre Bychan Customer Services Representative Katrina explained she would find a solo jump difficult, so David Roberts and Trudi Threadgold offered to keep her company.

As a result a jump has been booked, and the three of them are to make their leaps for charity from a charter aircraft at Tilstock Airfield near Whitchurch on June 2.

PowerPartners has agreed to match-fund the skydives, with money raised going to two of the designated charities, RNID and NCH.

Katrina said: "When David and Trudi came back to me and said they wanted to jump with me, I realised it was the



chance of a lifetime. It will be a sensational experience. Being able to raise money for charity at the same time makes it all the more special."

David, who co-ordinated the fund-raising, is also a Customer Services Representative at Pentre Bychan, as was Trudi at the time although she has since left to take up another job.

He said: "We are all happy to take up the challenge. It will be great fun - and it is good to know that the Power-Partners charities will be benefiting."

● NCH is organising a national sponsored walk day on June 9. If you would like information on taking part, or would like to organise a walk yourself, please contact Wendy Ellison on 01244-652079 or internal 800 2079.



Charity skydivers Katrina Povey and David Roberts.

## Have you got news for us?

IF you have a story for *Contact* please get in touch with editor Anne Benson on 800 2098 (internal) or 01244-652098, or Ron Quenby on 01244-678575 or fax 01244-678749.

## Seeking soccer signings

GARETH Prytherch, Caernarfon customer services representative, is looking to make new signings to strengthen the football team which he manages in the North Gwynedd and Anglesey Sunday League. The Crown side has struggled recently because foot and mouth has meant they have had to play on makeshift pitches.

## Magnificent seven in Rome

SEVEN rugby enthusiasts from Caernarfon depot travelled to Rome to watch Wales play Italy. They were among the 20,000 Welsh fans who made the trip and who witnessed a thrilling 32-22 win by their team.



## Tony's Easter egg run

TONY Clayton, PSMC despatcher based at Prenton, took part in the annual Easter Bike Run from New Brighton where hundreds of motorbikers drive through Wirral and present Easter eggs to children at Arrowse Park Hospital.



## Mini rugby World Cup

A total of 120 youngsters took part in a mini World Cup at Wrexham Rugby Club, with 12 teams from primary schools in the area playing against each other.

Each school was given a country and a special T shirt in the event, which was held as part of Manweb's ongoing sponsorship of youth rugby in north Wales.

Hafod Y Wern primary school, Wrexham (Argentina) beat St Mary's RC primary school, Wrexham (Wales) in the final.

The two teams now go forward to play in the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff in an all-Wales tournament to be held in front of 70,000 people immediately before the Welsh Cup Final takes place.

● Pictured above are youngsters from Hafod Y Wern primary school pictured holding the cup with their teacher and Manweb Assets Manager Andy Stubbs (back row right).

## Support for council's home insulation programme

# CASH HELP TO SAVE ENERGY

**A** LOCAL authority on Merseyside has become the latest official recipient of a massive grant from Manweb towards its home insulation programme.

St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council was awarded a certificate to mark the grant of £32,000 with which they will install energy-saving measures in more than 200 homes.

A further 11 local councils and housing associations in the Manweb region have received similar grants which are being made under the company's ongoing Energy Efficiency Commitment, a regulatory requirement under the licence agreement since 1994.

In the third of a series of initiatives under Standards of Performance (SOP) in Energy Efficiency, Manweb has put money into four types of scheme - home insulation for owner occupiers, social housing, low energy lightbulbs and energy-saving fridges.

### Commitment

The grant to St Helens MBC, under the social housing category, will be used by the council to improve the energy ratings of their own housing stock through cavity wall and loft insulation.

Malcolm Bebbington, Manweb's Energy Efficiency Manager, said: "We are delighted to present this award to St Helens Council as part of our commitment to energy efficiency and our continued partnership. We are working with local authorities to install energy-saving measures which help our customers and council tenants to reduce their fuel bills and have a warmer home."

Marie Rimmer, leader of St Helens MBC, said: "We would like to thank Manweb for this award as it allows us to increase our programme of installing insulation which saves energy and improves the comfort of tenants' homes."

The latest grant was awarded to St Helens because last year's £33,000 grant from Manweb - under the previous phase of SOP - was so successful.



## Easter tales treat for youngsters

EASTER Egg-stravaganza... Above, Charlotte Gibson, Emma Gibson and Kieran Barrington pictured with storyteller Michael Harvey at the Prenton office during his Easter Tales treat laid on for the children of Manweb staff. And, left, Holly Ainsworth enters into the Easter spirit by sporting a pair of bunny ears while listening to the stories. The fascinated youngsters were presented with books and eggs and given the chance to create their own stories. SEE REPORT PAGE 3.





# LOTTERY Winners

THE latest PowerPartners Lottery winners include I. Williams, Wales Region, £1,117, E.G. Allsup, Power Systems Wales, £167, and E. Perry, Customer Services, Mersey Region, £167.

For your chance to win £2,000 every three months fill in the Powerball mandate form inserted in this month's edition of Contact. It's that easy.

## Festival discounts

THANKS to ScottishPower's sponsorship of the New York City Ballet, Manweb staff are entitled to a 10 per cent discount on all tickets purchased for any of the performances during the Edinburgh International Festival 2001 (not including Fireworks Concert tickets).

To book employees should simply phone the privileged box office number, 0131-473 2000 and quote the Company Privilege Card number, 358142.

## Earthquake appeal cash

REPRESENTATIVES from Punjab Radio visited Pentre Bychan to be presented with a cheque for £1,500 towards their Indian Earthquake Appeal.

Customer Services' Sue Stratton-Symes and Anne Thompson acted as co-ordinators for the appeal which raised funds for self-build village projects for homeless communities in the state of Gujarat.

## Stars out for charity show

A SPECIAL Stars in Their Eyes night staged at Thingwall Road Sports and Social Club raised £1,907 for the Whiston Burns Unit.

Staff from Lister Drive, Prenton and Warrington put on acts which included The Corrs (featuring one of the organisers, Yvonne Lucy), Frank Sinatra and Elvis.

# POWERPartners It's a Knockout 2001

## Bigger and brighter...

THIS year's PowerPartners It's A Knockout promises to be bigger and brighter than ever. The event is to be held at the Warrington Wolves rugby club next to the Manweb offices on Wilderspool Causeway, on Saturday July 14.

The usual water-based games will be complemented by a disco and a buffet in the evening and all present will be guaranteed superb facilities and car parking.

Wolfie, the rugby team's mascot, will be there and youngsters will be entertained by a variety of diversions in what is being billed as a community event, with other firms and organisations involved as well as the usual entrants from Manweb, ScottishPower in Scotland and Southern Water. Please fill in the form below if you are interested.



Action from last year's PowerPartners It's a Knockout.

# IT'S A KNOCKOUT 2001

Entries are invited from teams of six - each including hopefully at least one female

NAME OF TEAM: ..... CONTACT NUMBER: .....

TEAM MEMBERS: .....

Tick box if you wish to attend the evening entertainment as well

PLEASE SEND ENTRIES TO:

Jane Hall, Operations Department, 1st Floor office, Prenton.

## Special offer for a cut-price day out at the zoo

CONTACT readers are invited to take advantage of a superb cut-price offer at Chester Zoo. Entry by ticket only to the special Zoo Day on Sunday June 24 is only £7.50 per adult or child. Also included are a free zoo guide and a free return journey on the overhead railway for each party.

Members of Chester Sports and Social Club who apply also receive a £10 voucher which can be spent at any of the catering or ice cream outlets or at the face painting hut.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Chester Zoo is taking every precaution to ensure that its animals are safe during the foot and mouth outbreak. Anyone who has been in direct contact with farm animals during the previous 14 days is asked not to visit.

## CHESTER ZOO VOUCHER

(please print clearly)

I would like ..... adult tickets (inc.free monorail)

I would like ..... children's tickets (inc.free monorail)

Name .....

Full Address (internal or home inc. postcode) .....

Contact telephone number .....

M(C)S & SC Membership Number (if applicable) .....

Please return before June 11 to Wendy Ellison, Corporate Communications, Manweb, Manweb House, Chester Business Park, Wrexham Road, Chester CH4 9RF

## New technology 'mole' breaks new ground in Deeside project



The Trenchless Technology "mole" is fired up and ready to go.



A successful outcome... the drill emerges on the far side of river bang on target, having laid the pipe below the river.

# Trenchless power link under river

SUPPLIES to nearly 2,000 domestic and business customers have been made secure, thanks to Manweb's use of a mole.

Trenchless technology experts were called in to drill under the River Dee to allow new 33KV and 11KV cables to be pulled through beneath the river.

Manweb has been at the forefront of developing trenchless technology expertise where cables are laid below ground without digging long trenches and massive earth disturbance.

The new 220m cable needed to be put into place quickly after movement of the river bed disturbed the cables, in order to

safeguard the supply to 1,910 customers in Queensferry, and the Manweb trenchless team was efficiently supported by staff from Avoidatrench in Shropshire.

Don McRae, Wales Network Manager, said: "The unusual thing about this job was the speed with which it was undertaken. Often it can take months but this one was completed within just three weeks.

### Urgently

"Everyone worked well together and the Environment Agency and Transco were very helpful once they understood why this project needed completing urgently.

"Not only does this cable supply many domestic customers but it also feeds a large industrial estate where the businesses need to be confident they have a safe and secure supply."

The drill was controlled by computer from the surface and a specialist steering engineer had to be flown in from abroad to work the highly technical equipment.



The experts prepare to insert the cable into the pipe

## Happy buzz over Easter holidays

MANWEB offices at Wrexham, Prenton and Warrington were buzzing with the sound of happy children's voices during the school Easter holidays.

Professional storyteller Michael Harvey wove his web of enchanting Easter Tales on themes such as the hare and the hedgehog as children of company staff showed their appreciation with gasps of excitement at each twist and turn.

The youngsters received free Easter Eggs and a story book. A tape of the stories they created with the help of the storyteller will also be sent to them.

Funding for the sessions was provided under an Arts and Business New Partners project - a national organisation promoting links between business and the arts.



## Sir Ian Robinson retires after six years at helm

SIR Ian Robinson, Chief Executive of ScottishPower, has retired after six years at the helm. Under Sir Ian's leadership the company acquired Manweb and Southern Water, and merged with PacifiCorp, to become a major player in the league of global utilities.

But he believes his greatest contribution is in the quality, drive and strength in depth of

the people he leaves behind. "Getting on and building a quality team here, giving it the leadership that creates the next level of resource and brings through the young people who will manage a bigger ScottishPower in the future, that's the fundamental achievement," he said.

Sir Ian has handed over the reins to his deputy Ian Russell.

## Graeme looks forward to new job challenge

GRAEME Stewart, pictured, is the new Network Manager of Mersey Customer Operations, based at Prenton. He is responsible for the operation and management of the network which covers Merseyside, Cheshire and Wirral.

Graeme says that he is on a "steep learning curve". However, he is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

He added: "The business targets are already in place and my objectives are to reach these in the best way possible. I am very committed to the management of capital and spending costs with the ownership and accountability of these being at the team leader level."

"It is very critical that we are seen in the community pro-actively managing customers



within any areas that have perceived supply problems so that people are aware of the operational side of the business."

Graeme has been a keen rugby player as wing forward with Livingstone Rugby Club and is now looking to join a side in the Manweb area.

Pupils at Kingsley Primary School with John Phythion, left, Manweb jointer at Warrington, and Graham Arthers, linesman at Chester depot.



## Switched-on youngsters

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Kingsley, Cheshire, proved they were switched on when they took part in a two-day workshop about electricity.

The youngsters from Kingsley Primary School enjoyed an action-packed programme including safety talks and demonstrations on simple circuits, overhead lines and jointing.

The workshop was held under Manweb's ongoing commitment to giving youngsters an insight into how electricity is distributed, and how they can keep themselves safe.

## ScottishPower Learning's Prince's Trust Scheme creates another first-class community facility



Mark Tami, Prospective Labour Party candidate for Alyn and Deeside, cuts the ribbon at the new garden watched by PTV volunteers, landscapers and Melrose Centre staff.



Above left, PTV members position a new bench for the garden and, above right, Gladys Hemmings and Winnie Salter, users of the Melrose Centre, put it to good use while they enjoy a nice cuppa.



# Sensory garden gives Trust the sweet smell of success

**A**N overgrown mound surrounded by tarmac has been transformed by a Prince's Trust Volunteers team into a "sensory garden" filled with fragrant plants and a fountain.

Under the PTV scheme, which is run in North Wales by ScottishPower Learning, the Deeside group spent four weeks at the Melrose Centre in Shotton after being called in to create a new "green" space which would suit the elderly visitors to the day centre and the special needs groups who also use the building.

Responding to the Centre's brief which required the garden to be disability-friendly and accessible, the team led by Warren Finney has installed wood features painted bright blue to appeal to the visually-impaired, and scented plants with different textures to the touch.

Gravel and mulch pathways give different surfaces for those with sight problems, and an



PTV members pictured in the garden, left to right: Sarah Collins, volunteer, Becky Collard, volunteer, David James, volunteer, Warren Finney, team leader, Douglas Johnson, volunteer and Richard Pendlebury, volunteer.

easily-negotiated square patio has been laid.

Heavy labour was needed to remove 30 tons of spoil before installation could begin, after which the 12 team members worked with landscapers to bring the design to reality.

Honeysuckle, a Zepherine Drouhin scented rose, clematis and a bamboo willow were

keynote ingredients in the makeover. Raised beds were created so that wheelchair users will be able to do some gardening.

Manweb's RuralCare donated £350 worth of plants to the project, while the greenery was offset with coloured gravels and decking surrounded by bamboo.

Team leader Warren, who was

seconded to lead a PTV programme from his job as cable jointer at Mold Depot, said: "We were brought in to re-landscape the garden and it was a huge project. All the team members feel the slog has been worth it and the final result looks fantastic."

### Valued

Roy Jones, of ScottishPower Learning, said: "The project at the Melrose Centre incorporated all the objectives of the PTV scheme. Youngsters were involved, facilities were provided for elderly people, practical skills were used and environmental criteria were met."

The Melrose Centre's Manager Sandra Knowles explained that the need for a disability-friendly garden became apparent last year when one of the elderly centre users went out in his wheelchair and got stuck.

"During the day we have about 30 local older people in our Centre, who will really value the green space as a change from being stuck inside. The visually-



Melrose Centre user Mark Bagby and guide dog Ulrick, Melrose Centre Manager Sandra Knowles, Anthony Davies of Actual Landscapes and Rory Tompsett of Actual Landscapes.

impaired, people with physical and learning disabilities, and young people who have had a mental breakdown also use our building at various times and they will also benefit from the garden.

"The PTV group has done a wonderful job and everyone at

the Centre is ecstatic with the result.

"A young man with learning disabilities has worked with the group during the project and he will do the maintenance.

"I would like to thank the PTV and also the Friends of Melrose House who raised funds."



## Mr Merseyside says farewell

BILL Tubey, well-known throughout Manweb as a champion of Merseyside and as the man who shaped the Mersey Region, has retired.

Bill spent 35 years with the company, having joined as a student engineer. After working in North Mersey as an engineer and section head he spent time in the commercial department in Chester. On his return to the engineering side he took the job he had always wanted as Liverpool District Manager.

After the takeover by ScottishPower, when the company was looking for a "Mr Merseyside" to present its face to the region, Bill was the obvious choice and he was the



John Marsh presents retirement gifts to Bill Tubey watched by his wife Pat, son David and colleagues past and present.

man who between 1996 and 2000 led Mersey Region to become the holder of the Supersay Cup.

John Marsh, Business Support Manager, New Connections, said: "Staff are unanimous in saying that Bill was one of the best managers they have worked with. He

managed to combine the achievement of success with enjoyment in the job, and he was a pleasure to work for."

Father-of-two Bill, aged 53, who during his last year was Chief Executive of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, continues in that post for a further year.



Michaela Hughes with her Good Citizen Award and certificate.

## 'Stalwart' sister wins top award

A MANWEB-SPONSORED Good Citizen Award has been presented to a schoolgirl for supporting her twin brother after he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Michaela Hughes, aged 10, was presented with the bronze award after her teachers at St Raymond's School, Netherton on Merseyside judged that she was the most worthy recipient.

Head teacher Chris Vaudrey said: "Michaela was a real stalwart in helping brother Matthew through a traumatic time. Thankfully he is now back at school."

"Manweb's Community Liaison officer Moira Renwick took a personal interest in the award and we are grateful to the company for their sponsorship of the trophy."

Manweb is sponsoring another Good Citizen Award, also presented under the Foundation for Citizenship scheme, at a school in Bootle.

● Moira has been commended by Lord Alton, Director of the Foundation, for her work in contacting every school in the Sefton Education Authority to encourage them to take part.

## Acrefair centre gets makeover

IT was just like an episode of the hit TV makeover programme *Changing Rooms* when Manweb staff set to work decorating a community centre.

What's more Karen Bloor and her team are now looking forward to meeting the star of the highly popular programme, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, when he visits the centre next month.

Karen, who is customer services team leader in Wales, based at Pentre Bychan, organised Manweb's response to a Business in the Community appeal under its Flintshire Cares programme to help transform the Acrefair Community Centre near Wrexham in north Wales.

Accompanied by Dave Grady, RuralCare Permissions Manager, Mark Tracey, team leader in Personnel, and her husband Trevor who works in multi-utility projects, she set to work with a paintbrush.

The team, together with staff from three other organisations, painted the the centre's hall in bright colours such as orange, yellow and green. The walls were decorated with murals on a sporting theme, featuring ballet, cycling and

football. Then the Manweb quartet did a makeover on a smaller room, giving it a whole new identity in lilac paint. "Laurence would have been proud of us," said Karen. "He is scheduled to visit the centre in May and we are hoping to have our picture taken with him while a *Changing Rooms*-type makeover is done in the kitchen area.

"Of course he might say 'Oh my God, what have you done?' when he sees our decoration, but we hope he likes the transformation."

Karen added: "The exercise was all about encouraging team learning skills. It showed that staff are prepared to go out in their own time, and that the company is prepared to support us."

● The team received a thank-you letter from Teresa Hughes, Project Co-ordinator, for the Dee Valley Family Project. She said: "It is amazing how much we achieved in just two days. The sports hall and youth rooms have been transformed into exciting colourful spaces and the whole building has benefited from your hard work and enthusiasm."



BUSY painting a room at the community centre are left to right Dave Grady, Karen Bloor and her husband Trevor.



## Rocking horse gift

ACE wood craftsman Ivor Roberts is embarking on a new project to make a rocking horse to be donated to a children's hospital. Ivor, a member of the Clwyd retirees association and former foreman in the overhead section, will take most of the year to perform his labour of love. His last rocking horse, complete with horsehair mane, was given to children at the Alder Hey Hospital.

## Popular demand

ALBERT Roberts is to become vice-chairman of the Dee Valley retirees association by popular demand. Albert stepped down from the role of chairman, which he had held for 10 years, after a triple heart by-pass operation, but he is making a good recovery.

## Literary day trip

MEMBERS of the Dee Valley retirees association are planning a trip to Lancashire and Yorkshire which will combine serious shopping with serious literature. When they have spent time at the Boundary Mill retail outlet they will move on to Haworth, home of the Bronte sisters.

## Wonder(ful) holiday

A pilgrimage to see the "Eighth Wonder of the World" was high on the list of priorities for the Clwyd retirees association when they visited Cornwall. They were keen to see the newly-opened Eden Centre, the series of domes containing different climate zones and plants from all over the world, near St Austell.

# Rambler Mal given ultimate accolade

MALDWIN Evans has received the ultimate accolade for his work with the Ramblers Association – he has had a footpath named after him.

Retired Manweb engineer Mal, who is an active member and President of the Aberystwyth retirees association, has had his name incorporated in the title of a new walking route linking Borth and Ystumtuen. The challenging 16-mile footpath known as the Mal Evans Way takes in the communities of Borth, Talybont, Bontgoch, Bwlch Nant yr Arian and Ystumtuen.

Mal, aged 74, said: "It's a very varied path covering quite a lot of difficult terrain and it takes in bog, field and mountain. The route is a continuation of an existing footpath which had become disused."

"I don't know why they named the path after me. I wasn't the only one involved but it's quite gratifying that our work with the Ramblers has been recognised."

Mal, who lives in Aberystwyth



Mal Evans on the footpath named in his honour.

and was based there as a system engineer for Manweb for 29 years, was the founder chairman of the Aberystwyth branch of the Ramblers Association in the late eighties.

The group, which organises a regular programme of walks, has been working with Ceredigion Council in a five-year project to

resurrect former routes and build stiles.

Mal added: "I have been an active walker in North Wales for many years and it is a great way of getting exercise. I have always been very keen to keep footpaths open and so it is wonderful that this latest route fulfils exactly that ambition."

## Reader offer to enjoy Paris in the Springtime

IN springtime the charms of Paris are at their most enticing. Specialist package holiday company ICT is offering *Contact* readers the chance of two weekend nights in a hotel in the French capital for £125 throughout May.

The bargain off-peak offer, which excludes Bank Holidays, involves travelling on designated Eurostar trains from Waterloo and back.

Brussels, the sophisticated capital of Belgium, also has an undeniable allure. One night in a hotel in that city can be booked for £90, and two nights for £130.

Throughout the year until October, similar two-night stays in Paris and Brussels, with departures any day of the week, are available from £159 and £149, based on two persons sharing a twin/double room.

South Quay Travel is also offering *Contact*



The famous Paris landmark, the Eiffel Tower.

readers a three-night break in New York departing on November 8 from Manchester Airport, at a special price of £480.

For more information and booking please contact ICT/South Quay Travel on 020 7537 4686, and quote Manweb offer. Details are also on [www.southquaytravel.com](http://www.southquaytravel.com).