

# CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper for staff and their families.

MID MERSEY LIVERPOOL NORTH MERSEY  
DEE VALLEY HEAD OFFICE OSWESTRY  
GWYNEDD ABERYSTWYTH  
NORTH WIRRAL CLWYD MID CHESHIRE

Vol. 41. No. 2

February 1989

Manweb winner is highly commended

# CHURCH IS BETA BY FAR!

A CHURCH in Manweb's Mid-Cheshire District has won a national energy efficiency award. St Andrew's Methodist Church in Aston, Nantwich, received a Highly Commended Certificate in the electricity industry's prestigious Beta Awards, which aim to promote energy efficiency in commercial and public buildings. The first prize was taken by Norfolk County Council's Dickleburgh Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

The church qualified for the national final after winning the Manweb area competition, in a category for buildings of less than 1,000 square metres. The award was presented to a delighted church secretary and treasurer by HRH The Duke of Gloucester at a ceremony in London.

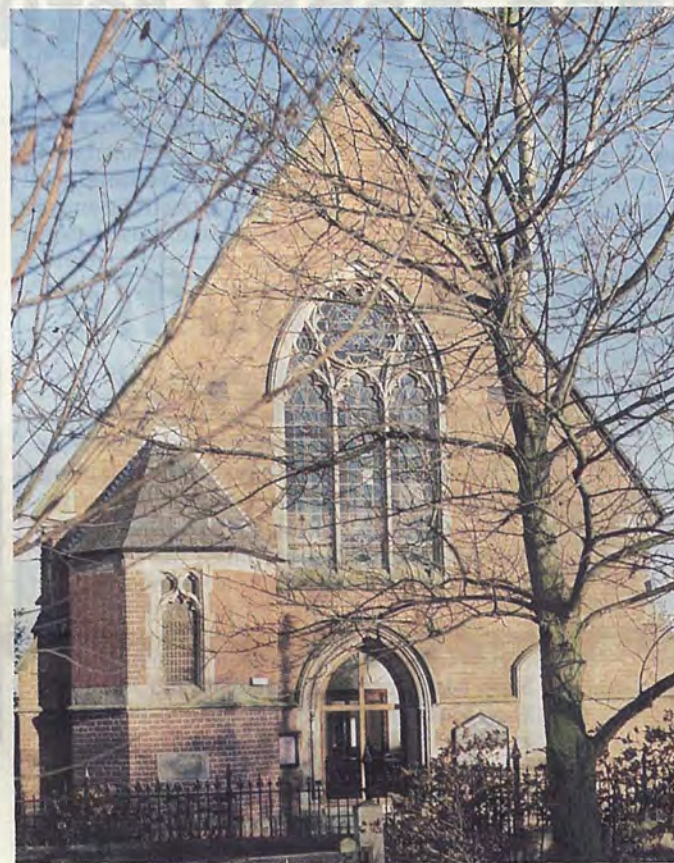
The once cold Wesleyan village place of worship has been completely transformed into a warm and welcoming environment without any alteration to its attractive red-brick exterior

and high pitched roof.

Chester architects J. Tweed and Associates have completely redesigned the interior of the building. A new suspended floor has been erected above the

chapel, creating a large meeting room.

A high degree of insulation has been installed throughout the building. Manweb has replaced the old and inefficient



The congregation is really warming to the improvements at the "highly commended" St Andrew's Methodist Church.

by Sam Doughty

oil heating system with modern electric storage fan heaters, which have sophisticated temperature controls to take account of external temperature changes and heat gain due to sunlight.

A constant temperature of 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees F) is maintained by seven Creda fan heaters, which can quickly

raise the temperature to around 19 or 20 degrees Celsius (70 degrees F) when the building is in use.

The running cost to the church for heating has been dramatically reduced. It is now less than one third of the cost of the old oil system which failed to keep the congregation warm!

Fred Wright said: "The church has been transformed to a comfortable modern environment, pleasant to be in and economical and simple to operate."

Representing Manweb in the national competition's category for buildings over 1,000 square metres was Roundout Ltd. Their Wharf Restaurant and Public House at Albert Dock, Liverpool, was first at local level, winning, like Aston Church, £1,000 and the Manweb Beta Award. However, at national level, they were beaten by J. Sainsbury plc, at Burpham, Guildford, Surrey, who took first place.

The competition attracted entries from 356 commercial and public buildings which have all saved energy or improved amenities or facilities through electric techniques.



## Blooming fantastic... and that's official

EVERYTHING in the garden is rosy for Manweb's Clwyd District Office...

The luscious lawns and neat shrubberies have for the second year running earned the District an award in the "Rhuddlan in Bloom" contest, organised by the local authority.

Pictured tending the gardens at the District Office in Cefndy Road, Rhyl, is green-fingered General Duties Assistant Gordon Raine.



Express delivery

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Dynamic duo

PAGE 12



Flying squad

PAGE 4



First aiders

PAGE 6

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Advertisement Manager: Denys King, D. & P. King, Stoneleigh Hall, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 3HN. Tel: 0342 324963. Fax No.: 0342 410060.





## Don's snap-happy retirement

PLANNING to devote more time to photography is Don Wright, pictured being presented with a lens for his camera by Mains Engineering Manager Stan Roberts (right) on his

retirement.

Don, Senior Engineer in Plant and Construction (Projects), started out as a 2nd Assistant Engineer in Transmission with the CEGB in 1951, and moved

to Manweb in 1972 as a 2nd Assistant Engineer, Production Control.

In 1974, he became a 1st Engineer, Construction and Transport, and moved to his

final post with Manweb, specialising in 132 kV overhead lines, in 1976.

Engineering Director Denis Farquhar was among colleagues who gathered at Head Office to give Don a special send-off.



## Re-shuffle in store

IT'S all change at Manweb's shops, where a series of secondments have led to a staffing re-shuffle.

John Bostock, Manager of Crewe Shop started the ball rolling when he joined the Marketing Section at Head Office as a member of the working party looking at the use of computers in shops.

His place at Crewe has been taken by Widnes Shop Manager Syd Farrimond, and Frodsham Shop Manager Mark Hodgetts is now at the helm in Widnes. The new Manager at Frodsham is Lorraine Balmer, who has been seconded from her post as Senior Salesperson at St Helens Shop.

Meanwhile at St Helens, Lorraine's place has been taken by Widnes Senior Salesperson Mark Sherrington, and to complete the circle, his replacement is Dave Kennedy, Senior Salesperson at Frodsham Shop.

● The new team at Widnes Shop, Senior Salesperson Dave Kennedy (left) and Manager Mark Hodgetts, are pictured just before their move from Frodsham.



CLOCKING off after 32 years' service with Manweb is General Duties Assistant John Owen Jones. A keen watch-repairer, John, who was at Legacy Depot, now has plenty of time on his hands to devote to his hobby.

Known as "Jack the Moss" because he lives in the Moss area of Wrexham, he is pictured (above) receiving his long service certificate from Dee Valley Office Manager Keith Griffiths.

## Changing faces

# Foreman's farewell

STORES Foreman Bernard Hewson has retired after clocking up 22 years' service with Manweb in Liverpool. Colleagues gathered for a farewell get-together, when District Manager Gerry Haughan presented him with George Henry Lee gift vouchers.

After leaving school at 14, Bernard started work as a messenger boy with the Commercial Telegram Company, and later joined a leather goods warehouse, where he worked until being called up for war service at the age of 18.

During his time in the Army, he served with the Enniskillen Dragoon Guards in the 7th Armoured Division as a gunner/mechanic. While fighting in France he was taken prisoner near Paris and sent to Stalag 6 near Berlin, later being released by General Patton's men.

On his return to Liverpool in 1947, Bernard worked for Morrow's Gents Outfitters, where he met his wife-to-be Edith, and later moved to English Electric, where he held a stores job for 15 years before joining Manweb in 1966.

## Neville cheques out

ENGINEERING Purchasing Manager Neville Hukin (third from the right) gives a farewell handshake to Principal Assistant John Thomson on his retirement recently.

Keen golfer John, a member of the Vicars Cross Club at Chester, joined Manweb in 1950 as a Clerk in Cooker Records, Commercial. After a spell at

Liverpool Central, he transferred to the Board's former headquarters at Love Lane in 1953, and then had various jobs in Purchasing up to his retire-

ment.

Colleagues gathered at Head Office to present John with a cheque, which he plans to use to buy garden furniture.



## Gordon gets a timely gift

MANWEB'S Telecommunications Manager Gordon Hood has "hung up" his career after 40 years' service in the industry. Pictured (above) with his wife Beryl, Gordon retired this month and at a farewell presentation he received a watch and other gifts from Engineering Director Denis Farquhar on behalf of colleagues.

Gordon started work as a graduate trainee Assistant Engineer in 1949 with SWEB, and in 1952 moved to the Southern Electricity Board as a Maintenance Engineer. In 1956 he joined Manweb as a Second Assistant Engineer, and then held posts in Technical up to his retirement.



Preparing for privatisation . . . preparing for privatisation . . .

# Appointment of Manweb's

Progress is being made

## top team



**John Roberts — Financial Director.**



**Denis Farquhar—Network Services Director.**



**Colin Leonard—Power Sales Director.**



**Peter Hopkins — Trading Director.**

**THE top team that will lead Manweb into privatisation is now in place. Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson designated the Executive Directors of the future Manweb plc at the end of January.**

They are: John Roberts — Financial Director; Denis Farquhar—Network Services Director; Colin Leonard — Power Sales Director; and Peter Hopkins—Trading Director.

Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston was earlier appointed Chairman-designate, and Deputy Chairman Richard Gales Managing Director-designate.

### Change

The titles of the main businesses and the corporate services have yet to be confirmed, as have the titles of individual posts. In the interim, the titles in the consultative document are being used, but may well change.

John Roberts, 42, has been Manweb's finance chief since 1984, previously holding various corporate and financial posts within the Board.

Denis Farquhar, 57, previously Engineering Director since 1986, has held various engineering positions with Manweb since joining in 1955 from John Brown and Company, Clydebank.

Colin Leonard, 48, was previously Secretary to the Board since 1983 after holding various corporate and computing posts. Before joining Manweb in 1967 he worked for Martins Bank Ltd, Shell Refining Company, and Cheshire and Leicestershire County Councils.

Peter Hopkins, 48, had been Manweb's Commercial Director since 1980. Previously he held various engineering and commercial posts at Midlands and Eastern Electricity Boards.

Other pieces of the jigsaw have also been put into place with the designation of the heads of corporate services, taking effect from February 10.

Nick Williams, Solicitor and Estates and Wayleaves Manager, has been appointed Company Secretary (designate) and has taken over the role from Colin Leonard.

Management Services Manager Geoff Abel has been appointed Head of Management Services (designate), Public Relations Manager Joy King is Head of Public Relations (designate) and Computer Services Manager John Peaker is Head of Information Services (designate).

Personnel Manager Jim Barraclough is to retire at the end of June 1989 and, pending

the appointment of his successor, is acting as Head of Human Resources (designate).

The interim reporting lines of Head Office managers have also been established to reflect the new organisation, and these also came into effect on February 10.

Reporting to Richard Gales are: Company Secretary Nick Williams; Head of Management Services Geoff Abel; Head of Human Resources Jim Barraclough; Head of Public Relations Joy King; Head of Information Services John Peaker; and Administrative Services Mana-

ger Tom Hamilton.

Those reporting to John Roberts are: Financial Manager (Audit and Accountancy) Bob Evans; Financial Manager (Expenditure and Stores) Peter Falcon; Corporate Strategy Adviser Arthur Ellinson; and Treasury Manager Dennis Hughes.

Reporting to Denis Farquhar are: Civil Engineering and Building Manager Harry Foreman; Resource Engineering Manager John Powell; Mains Engineering Manager Stan Roberts; Development Engineering Manager John Turner;

Central Field Unit Manager Brian Mather; and Project Management Adviser Kelvin Heywood.

Those reporting to Colin Leonard are: Financial Manager (Income) Alan Waddock; Tariffs and Economics Manager Mike Boxall; Contracts and Tariffs Adviser Terry Brookshaw; and Energy Marketing Manager Bryan Ogden.

Reporting to Peter Hopkins are: Contracting and Services Manager Derek Holman; and Appliance Marketing Manager Warwick Saunders.

**AS Manweb gears itself up to become Manweb plc, Harold Hague, Principal Engineer, Privatisation, takes a look at how the Engineering Department is preparing for privatisation. He writes:—**

Progress is being made within the major tasks which have been set within the Engineering Department to meet the needs of the future privatised business structures.

One of these tasks is to identify and specify the requirements for a system control and data acquisition system which will collect on-line data from generators, bulk supply substations and inter distco boundary locations, to enable the power sales and network services businesses to effectively carry out their activities.

The proposed system will interface with the settlement system currently being designed. This settlement will reconcile the internal dealings with the distribution and generator pools, and will be managed by the National Grid Company.

The focal point for receipt of all this information will be within an engineering/energy and trading control centre which will be integrated with the existing system control centre at Sealand Road.

To make the necessary data available it will be necessary to instal sophisticated metering equipment at all our commercial boundaries.

The vast majority of this equipment will be installed by the National Grid Company and Generators, and the Engineering Department is actively involved in its design and specification.

**Q. Will time off for public duties be allowed when we're privatised?**

A. It will be important to carry on our involvement in the community. We will be an important force in the region with an increasingly important role to play in the community.

## More Roadshow questions

**HERE is another batch of questions about privatisation posed by staff during the Chairman's recent Roadshow. More next month.**

**Q. Will there be a nuclear tax on electricity?**

A. Manweb plc must buy around 20 per cent of its electricity from non-fossil fuel generators, mainly nuclear power stations. It ensures we use different fuels for generation. The only difference is that we will have all costs clearly defined on the electricity bills.

**Q. Who will be responsible**

**for supply and supply shortfall?**

A. Manweb plc will be responsible for contracting for sufficient electricity to supply our customers. Most loss of supply situations come from faults on the distribution network rather than a shortfall in supply availability.

**Q. Will disconnections increase like those of British Gas have done since privatisation?**

A. No. British Gas have not had card meters. The introduction of these has enabled us to halve the number of disconnections this year to nearly the lowest of any of the area boards.

**Q. Why is it that prepayment meters are being phased out as people buy appliances through prepayment meters?**

A. The prepayment meter is

attractive to thieves and we advise customers to use a card meter which they can still use to include credit payments.

**Q. Will we retain customer care after hours?**

A. If we do not improve our customer services we will be in trouble. When companies are privatised, customers expect better standards. Customer service will be very important and standards will be set and monitored by the Regulator.

**Q. What will happen to the Consultative Council?**

A. The Consultative Council will be replaced by Consumer Committees appointed by the Regulator. They will continue to look after the interests of customers.

## Management line-up is strengthened

FATHER-OF-THREE Kelvin Heywood (pictured) has joined Manweb as Project Management Adviser. Reporting to Network Services Director-designate Denis Farquhar, his role is to assist in the management and control of capital expenditure.

Kelvin, 42, was previously Technical Manager of UML, part of the Unilever Group, for whom he had worked in various capacities for 16 years.

During his time with UML, in charge of their combined heat and power station at Port Sunlight, he was involved in a £17 million investment to instal a coal-fired boiler, new turbine and a large diesel engine generator.

Born in Manchester, Kelvin, who lives in Chester, served a student apprenticeship with

GEC AEI. After gaining an Honours Degree in Electrical Engineering at Salford University, he spent three years with Shell, including one year working in Holland, before joining the Unilever Group.

He said: "In my new job I will be operating across all the Districts, but initially I am concentrating on Dee Valley, which has a very high capital programme."

"I have had very close links with Manweb for 12 of the 16 years I spent with Unilever, particularly in my last job, when we were in fact operating parallel with the Manweb system."

"With the onset of privatisation, I think that link between Manweb and Unilever will be even greater."



## Modelling the future

A NEW unit has been set up in the Financial Accounts Section at Head Office to "model" Manweb's future.

The Modelling Unit has been established to help the three businesses within the privatised Manweb—Network Services, Power Sales and Trading—plan ahead.

Former Financial Accountant Graham Morris is heading the new unit. He explained: "The model is a computerised repre-

sentation of how the business works, and how it will be structured, what we expect the annual growth in turnover to be, and what economic factors we expect, such as inflation and salary awards.

"From that, the model should be able to provide the consequences of what is planned."

"The model has split Manweb into three basic businesses, for which we have tried to produce

a full set of accounts. This is something we've never had to do before because Manweb has always been just one business. There is so much change going on within Manweb that we recognise our work is only in the early stages.

"The unit itself is very small because we don't yet know how big it needs to be. It will need to grow as the new businesses develop and the new business managers require support."

Privatisation and your pension—page 8





A frame from the "DD Squadron" television commercial soon to take off on Granada.

## TV flying squad will launch campaign

A CAMPAIGN to convert Manweb's customers to paying their electricity bills by direct debit is about to get off to a flying start. A series of television commercials featuring the intrepid "DD Squadron" cartoon characters will begin on Granada at the end of this month, running through March into April.

The flying men and women will put across the message that direct debiting is simple and convenient, with the reassurance that the customer always remains in full control of his or her financial affairs.

The advertising campaign is being mounted by the High Street banks and their automated clearing service BACS. It is an extension of a promotion which has already run on Central Television and TVS, and which has helped add 12.8 million new direct debits per annum for electricity and other payments in the Midlands and South.

Manweb aims to convert 500,000 customers to direct debit by 1993. The scheme was introduced by the Board in 1987, and already more than 100,000 customers use this method to pay their bills.

"The customer benefits and so does the Board," said Manweb's Financial Director John Roberts. "A budget account helps to spread the cost of electricity evenly throughout the year, and customers find it very convenient to have the Board and their bank direct debit the monthly payments

rather than have to post a cheque or visit one of our shops to pay.

"Direct debits cost less to administer than cheque, giro or cash payments, and so help to keep Manweb's costs down," he added.

Manweb's conversions target of 500,000 represents more than 37 per cent of the Board's 1.33 million domestic customers, but Customer Accounting Manager Chris Cubbin believes it is a realistic figure.

"As people get more and more used to direct debiting through using it to pay utility and other bills, and particularly the community charge from next year, they will see it as the normal way to pay regular outgoings.

"Television will help us, too, starting with the 'DD' campaign on Granada from this month."

Linked to the television commercials will be a Manweb mailing campaign in April, May and June to promote direct debit to customers. The Board is also distributing 10,000 copies of the banks' "DD Mail" newsheet to customers and, for accounting and shop staff, the campaign preview booklet "Direct Debits on Granada", which has a question-and-answer sheet insert.

## Board to host 32nd safety event

MANWEB is to host this year's electricity supply industry Safety Conference. The three-day event, from April 3 to 5, is the 32nd annual conference and around 80 delegates from as far afield as Ireland and the Channel Islands are expected.

Manweb's Safety Adviser Colin Herbert said: "We are looking forward to hosting this year's conference, and the theme will be safety in the 1990s — post privatisation.

"There will also be a display of safety equipment, a safety workshop, and the engineering exhibition will be open to the delegates."

Mr Edwin Cooper, OBE, the

Electricity Council's Chief Safety Officer, will welcome guests to the conference, and Manweb Deputy Chairman Richard Gales will then make an introductory speech.

Among the other guest speakers will be Dr John Cullen, Chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, and Mr Roger Farrance, Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Council.

## Team to the rescue

Report by Dave Quinn  
2nd Engineer Mains  
North Wirral District

IT didn't look like it was going to be a very merry Christmas for one of North Wirral District's industrial customers. During an oil change on one of the 1,500 KVA MV/LV transformers at the Morganites factory at Bromborough, the transformer core was found to be damaged beyond on-site repair.

The damage included distorted core brackets and discoloured and distorted low voltage bus bars, and arrangements had to be made to send the transformer back to the manufacturers for close examination.

With only a week to go before the production line was due to start again after the Christmas holiday shutdown, the company, which makes insulation materials, seemed to be facing a crisis until Manweb came to the rescue.

North Wirral District organised an emergency team of fitters, jointers and engineers, who were soon on site with heavy machinery. After cutting the damaged transformer from the network, it was then partially dismantled so that it could be lifted clear of the sub station building.

A temporary road was laid across the grass leading to the site, and a huge crane was used to lift out the damaged transformer and put in its replacement. The emergency team then had the transformer installed, tested and providing power in record time.



Easy does it . . . a crane hoists the old transformer from the Morganites factory sub station.

The factory was able to restart production on schedule after the Christmas shutdown, and the following comment from an engineer at Morganites bodes well for the privatisation of Manweb.

"I'm very pleased with the service Manweb offered and impressed that they could do the job at such short notice over the Christmas period."

## Give us a call

WHAT'S new in your District or Department? Have you a view you'd like to air or an idea for a story? Then why not let Contact know?

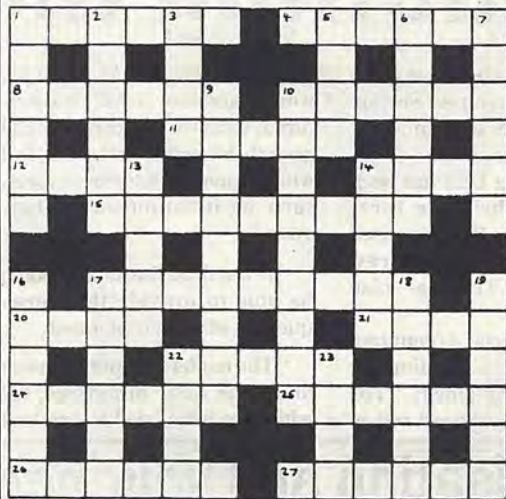
Write, phone or come and talk to Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth in Room 5E1, Head Office, ext 2090, or get in touch with one of the District Contact reps. They are as follows:—

North Mersey: Edna Courtney, ext 2167, Liverpool. Teresa Kelly, ext 2117, Mid-Mersey: Ena Harding, ext 2231, Dee Valley: Steve Parry, ext 2112, North Wirral: Mike Townson, ext 2202, Mid-Cheshire: Pat O'Neill, ext 2111, Clwyd: Rod Taylor, ext 2118, Gwynedd: Malcolm Donaldson, ext 2250, Oswestry: Sid Warburton, ext 2230, Aberystwyth: Keith Jones, ext 2202, Hoyle Training Centre: Pauline Lewis, ext 251.

## Crossword No. 7

### Across

1 Go into it aggressively (6). 4 Go in for careless lying (6). 8 One has visions of Jeremy finally spending some time in science (6). 10 Time to appear dignified (6). 11 Fiery poet? (5). 12 The lady would have to be cast off



(4). 14 Eager to make one's unhappiness known (4). 15 Quick to come back when the rest lie in disarray (9). 17 Look around to find no sin possible in old age (9). 20 Applause and laughter maybe (4). 21 Make dramatic progress one year (4). 22 Asking too much when so inclined (5). 24 Where sailors might be fed by slaves? (6). 25 Calm, dry and neat at departure (6). 26 Creature to turn the other way up (6). 27 Put behind bars after many a scrape (6).

### Down

1 Not entirely involving Tom and Sal (6). 2 Does he give one a trying time over the bed? (6). 3 Where a child could sleep in a confined space (4). 5 Cross indication of more to come (4). 6 An obstinate creature but finally displaying charm (6). 7 Concealed at the last minute not to be heartless (6). 9 Freak cat killer (9). 10 Not favouring the awful dopes you find down under (9). 13 Put off being respectful (5). 14 Go down to pay respect (5). 16 Clever of the second character to go to one side (6). 17 A lot of smoke perhaps or lack of colour (6). 18 You'll be sorry to be put in an enclosure again (6). 19 Put the cloth out for a meal (6). 22 Shut up an animal (4). 23 Look noble (4).

Solution on Page 11

## Annual conference

THE Mid-Cheshire District LJCC Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, March 30, 1989, when the guest speaker will be Manweb's Public Relations Manager Joy King. The meeting will be held in the Greyhound Suite, The Black Greyhound Hotel, Hall Lane, Wincham, Northwich, starting at 7 pm.

Retired staff who wish to attend should notify General Services at the District Office so that sufficient transport can be made available. Transport will be provided from Macon Way only.

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# Express delivery!

STAFF at Aberystwyth District really are on the right track when it comes to first class service . . . and it was a case of "let the train take the strain" when they recently set out to prove they will go to any lengths to keep their customers satisfied!

British Rail came to the rescue when Manweb received an order for storage heating and a new cooker from a couple in Glandyfi, near Machynlleth.

The couple, Jim and Sally Marshall, live in an old railway house beside the rail bridge over the River Dyfi at Dovey Junction, which can only be reached by train or boat.

The nearest road to remote Ty Bont House is at Glandyfi on the south bank of the river and Ynys Farm on the north bank and complete the rest of their journey home on foot,

along the railway track, bringing in their provisions by wheelbarrow.

Energy Marketing Assistant Ursula Byrne said: "In order to carry out the storage heater installation, a special trolley was hired from British Rail.

"The six storage heaters, hot water cylinder and new cooker were loaded on to the trolley at Machynlleth Station by our delivery team and were unloaded beside the house by two British Rail staff and our Electrician Geraint Williams and Commercial Foreman Meirion



A wave from the British Rail engine driver as Energy Marketing Assistant Ursula Byrne and Commercial Foreman Meirion Wyn Jones make tracks for remote Ty Bont House. Also pictured (carrying bricks) is Electrician Geraint Williams.

Wyn Jones.

"This had to be done during a gap in the train timetable, and because it is a single track line

and it is several miles between Dovey Junction and the next loop at Tywyn Station, the operation had to be quick."

# Shops find the key to success

MANWEB'S 58 shops are to go hi-tech with the installation of computer systems for point of sale and customer service applications. Middlesex-based KPOS Computer Systems Limited have won a £1.05 million order for IBM POS terminals in each of the shops.

The terminals, which will bring full colour edited CICS screens to the point of sale, will perform credit and stock availability checking and automate the printing of all sales documents, including invoices and credit agreements. They will also be used for simple carry-away sales of small appliances.

KPOS is writing the software for the Manweb shops and will also undertake shop wiring and installation, plus staff and helpdesk training, while IBM will provide project management and network planning services for the project, which is due for completion by Spring 1990.

Manweb's Commercial Director Peter Hopkins said:

"The new computer retail system will ensure we are able to offer a speedier and more efficient service to our customers.

"The service will further strengthen our position as the leading electrical appliance retailer in the area."

● Manweb's Liverpool City Centre shop is the latest to benefit from the on-going £2.5m refurbishment programme.

The shop, in Houghton Way, St John's Precinct, closed on February 4 for about 14 weeks while being enlarged and modernised. A full customer service is being maintained in temporary premises opposite, at 46/47 Houghton Way.

# Retirement round-up

STARTING this month . . . the column written specially for Manweb's retired employees. If you have an idea for a story or a picture, write or telephone Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, ext 2090.

Preparing for a happy retirement is this group of Manweb employees, pictured (right) during a recent Pre-retirement Course at Head Office.

The four, who have since left the Board, are (left to right) John Thomson (Plant Supplies), John McDonald (Queensferry Stores), Ron Thompson and Bill Cubbon (both System Management).



# Launch date for new group

THE inaugural meeting of the Manweb (Aberystwyth) Retired Staff Association will be held on Friday, March 31. The meeting, in the new canteen at the District Office, will start at 1.30 pm and all retired Aberystwyth staff are invited to attend.

A Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee will be elected and suggestions will also be received for future meetings, outings and welfare activities. A buffet lunch will be available.

Those who wish to keep in touch but who are unable to attend should contact General Services at the District Office. If you would like to go along to the meeting but are experiencing transport difficulties, contact Mark Tracey on Aberystwyth (0970) 623141 ext 2203.

# Busy programme for Mid-Cheshire

THE Mid-Cheshire District Retired Employees Association will hold its 15th annual general meeting at Macon Way, Crewe, on Wednesday, March 15, 1989, starting at 2.30 pm. Association Chairman George Currie said: "All members and those interested in joining are invited to attend. The Committee would appreciate a good attendance so we can get, at first hand, the views of our members on the running of the Association.

"During the current year we have maintained our high standard of service for our members and an equally interesting programme for 1989/90 is almost complete, and these matters will be discussed at the AGM."

Among the events arranged by the Association during the current financial year were trips to Liverpool's Albert Dock and Maritime Museum, with lunch at the Maritime Catering College, the Bulmers Cider Works at Hereford, Llandudno,

Manchester Opera House to see *Oklahoma*, and the Blackpool Ice Show.

In October members (pictured below) spent a week holidaying on the Isle of Wight, and in November the Annual Social was held at the Rolls Royce Social Club, Crewe. This month the group is to visit the Granada Studios and the Annual Lunch at the Fourways Inn, Delamere, will wind up the year's activities.



# Meter man's starring role

CLWYD Meter Operative Eric Evans became a TV star for the day when he helped HTV make a news item about a poster campaign aimed at the elderly.

The news crew were publicising the campaign by Manweb, Mold and Deeside Crime Prevention Panel and Clwyd Age Concern urging pensioners to be on their guard against bogus callers and to ensure visitors such as meter readers are

genuine.

Manweb's Printing Section designed and produced 2,000 posters to help get the message across, with spaces left for pensioners to fill in their account numbers.

"Genuine meter readers always know account numbers and pensioners will be able to write their electricity and gas numbers on the posters so they can easily double check if in

doubt," said Alan Waddock, Manweb's Income Manager, who helped launch the campaign at Mold Police Station.

The campaign is the first in a series which Manweb plans to continue throughout Merseyside and North Wales. The picture above shows Eric calling on Mold pensioner Mrs Minnie Delaney while the HTV cameras roll.



# Electricity Supply Industry's 40th First Aid competitions were red and bloodied . . .

## was extend

### Unsworth like Hall

in a battlefield. Battered, lies lay groaning in agony, worked feverishly to ease. Victims had tripped over a and fallen against a type-ad wound, nose bleed and fallen from the chair she each a book from the shelf, n, cut her knee and was

casualty, a linesman, had fractured pelvis, concussion. After falling from an orth victim had fractured her foot after dropping a

plastic blood. The gory scene was completely stage-managed, and the so-called victims were merely acting their parts for the Electricity Supply Industry's 40th First Aid Competition.

Hosted this year by Norweb at the Daniel Training Centre in Chorley, the competitions attracted 22 teams, including four from Manweb.

But it was the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst who emerged the overall winners, taking both the Open and Men's Pairs titles, and first and third places in the Reserve Contest.

In addition, Russell Benton, Capenhurst's No 2 in the Open Pairs, won the Best Individual Award of the day with 73 points from a possible 80.

But Manweb didn't come away empty-handed. For the first time in five years, the Board was represented in the Ladies Pairs.

#### Arena

Having drawn 21st place in competing order the team from North Wirral—Rachel O'Connell, Lynn Jones and Ann Marshall—had a long wait before entering the arena.

And it paid off when, with a respectable score of 122, they



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Below: Manweb's First Aid teams at the start of the competition. On the back row, from left to right, are Norman Carew, Jack Frost, Steve Morgan, Brian Emberton, John Howson and Alec Eden. Front row, from left to right, Rob Hilton, Rachel O'Connell, Lynn Jones, Ann Marshall and Graham Kelly.



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four of the Manweb teams had some success on the day, and everyone enjoyed themselves very much. Old friendships were renewed and new ones were made, and Norweb made us very welcome.

"Good luck to the North Wirral Ladies team, who will now try to lift the national trophy for us. The trophy is affectionately known as 'Florence', as it is a statue of Florence Nightingale standing 2 ft 6 ins on a heavy base—guaranteed to give any winning captain a rupture!"

He added: "Next year's venue was not announced, as the format for competitions after privatisation is to be discussed in London during the summer. But if the pattern continues, the 1990 competitions should be held at Capenhurst.

"If, of course, the first aiders

wish a continuation of the competitions, the best way to do it is to form teams early in the year and train regularly.

#### Dedicated

"I heard people saying at the end of the day: 'Oh dear, Capenhurst have won again'. But you can't take away from them the fact that they have twice as many training sessions a year as any other team in the area, and they are a very dedicated group—but not unbeatable!"

"Any First Aiders in Manweb who wish to form a team will have the full support of the branch committee, and information on competition work can always be obtained from any committee members or from Sister Sheila Ehlen at Head Office, ext 2032, who will steer them in the right direction."

## Safety in numbers

MANWEB'S current safety campaign to encourage employees to wear the correct gear and take more care at work has inspired Safety Adviser Colin Herbert to pen the following poem, which should be food for thought for us all.

#### The Numbers Game (or It Can Happen To You!)

Ten little linesmen boys Looking fit and fine, Forgot to wear a safety belt And then there were nine.	If they could lift the heavy load And then there were three.
Nine little sparky boys One was tempting fate, Forgot to test the cable And then there were eight.	Three little safety men All good men and true, Contractors wedged the fire door And then there were two.
Eight little jointer boys Looking up to heaven, Forgot to guard the joint hole And then there were seven.	Two little drivers Driving out for fun, Hit a large oak tree And then there was one.
Seven little GDAs* Thought they knew the tricks, Forgot to wear their ear muffs And then there were six.	One Manweb person Thought safety overdone, Said "Accidents will happen" And then there were none.
Six little typists Full of vim and drive, Leaned far back upon a chair And then there were five.	*GDA is short for General Duties Assistant.
Five little managers Going through a door, Fell on trailing cables And then there were four.	If you have any rhymes or verses which contain a safety message, send them to: "Safety Poem", The Editor, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. The senders of the best three entries will each receive a £10 book token.
Four little fitter boys Didn't look to see	

## Obituary

IT is with sadness that Contact reports the deaths of the following Manweb employees and retired staff. Roger Martin Pugh, a Storekeeper at Aberystwyth, died on January 6 at the early age of 58. Mr Pugh, known to his friends as Roy, had retired due to ill-health the day before his death, and has left a widow Gwen and son Stephen.

Jessie Faulkner, who worked in the canteen at Rhostyllen as a cook, died on January 19. She was the widow of Jim Faulkner, who also worked for Manweb for 21 years.

The following retired staff died during December: Kenneth Barnes Povey, a former Labourer at North Mersey District up to his retirement in 1974, died on December 4 aged 79.

Isaac Harold Abel, father of Management Services Manager Geoff Abel, died on December 4. Mr Abel, 76, was an Admin Assistant at Queensferry up to his retirement in 1976, and had worked in the electricity supply industry since 1933.

Joseph Richard Davies, a Driver at Aberystwyth, died on December 7 aged 66. He retired from Manweb in 1965 after clocking up 16 years' service.

John Graham, a former Electrical Fitter at North Wirral, died on December 8, aged 72. He joined Manweb in 1951 and retired in 1979.

Thomas Poole, a former Assistant in Meter Records, Area One, died on December 11 aged 88. He retired in 1965, after 29 years' service, initially with Liverpool Corporation.

Former North Mersey Sub Station Attendant Francis Tomlinson died on December 17 aged 67. He retired in 1978 after 25 years' service.

Wilfred Dodd, a former 4th Assistant Engineer (Meters) in

Area Two died on December 17 aged 71. He retired in 1964 after clocking up 29 years' service, originally with St Helens Corporation.

Former Dee Valley Fitters Mate Lindsay White died on December 18 aged 77. He started his career in 1946 with Wallasey Corporation and retired in 1972.

Arthur Riley, a former Dee Valley Meter Reader/Collector, died on December 22 aged 77. He retired in 1976 after 20 years' service.

Margaret Daley, a former Clerk at North Wirral, died on December 22 aged 82. She started her career with Wallasey Corporation in 1942 and retired in 1966.

Former 1st Assistant Engineer, Area 2, Henry Leo Greer died on Christmas Eve aged 87. He retired in 1966 after 47 years' service, initially with St Helens Corporation.

James Stuart Jones, a former 3rd Assistant Engineer at Gwynedd, died on December 24 aged 68. He retired in 1978 after 30 years' service.

Former Dee Valley Fitter Harold Ellis died on December 28 aged 79. He retired in 1972 after 13 years' service.

Albert Edward Wilcock, a former Chargehand Storekeeper at Chester, died on January 5 aged 83. He retired in 1970 after clocking up 13 years' service.



# On the Wire

## For sale: one red raincoat

THE old red raincoat hanging in the switchboard room at Head Office has almost become part of the furniture. It's rumoured to belong to Telephone Supervisor Irene Matthewson, whom I'm told turned up for work in it one rainy day . . . but never took it home again.

The coat, which is in pristine condition, has been hanging there for the last 12 months and I understand Irene has been trying to give it away. But there are now fresh moves to find the coat a worthy owner.

The following poem was written by Irene's colleagues:—  
One red raincoat for sale.

Hardly been used at all.  
Turned down plenty of offers.  
Even one from Jerry Hall.  
Because: This bargain is for  
Contact readers.  
It's so glamorous it must be  
seen.  
So give us a ring on HO 2245,  
And ask for me, yours truly,  
Irene.

## I-spy with my little eye

SOME people have an imaginative way of dealing with a crisis. But the story I heard about two female employees stuck in one of the lifts at Head Office was a real eye-opener.

Having emerged completely unruffled after being trapped between floors for what must have seemed like eternity, the cool couple were asked how they had occupied the time. "We played I-Spy," they revealed. IN A LIFT! C is for ceiling, F is for floor, D is for door . . .

**DO you have a funny story to tell? Then why not let "On the Wire" know (in strictest confidence, of course). Phone or write to Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth, Room 5E1, Head Office, ext 2090.**



# Convenient spot for a sub station

MANWEB has some strange requests for help, but none more strange than the recent one from the production team of the popular TV soap opera *Brookside*, which left staff in the Public Relations office feeling somewhat flushed.

For some weird and wonderful reason, the makers of *Brookside* had cause to film character Jonathan Gordon-Davies walking past a public loo, but finding a "convenient" location had really caught them short!

They searched high and low until their quest for a suitable spot had almost driven them round the U-bend. But then . . . the penny dropped.

With a few stage props such as "Ladies" and "Gents" signs stuck on the exterior wall, Man-

web's Toll Bar Sub Station at the corner of Prescott Road and Lugsmore Lane, St Helens, could really look the part!

Permission to make the necessary adjustments and film outside the building were sought, prompting the obvious response from an incredulous PRO: "Are you trying to take the water out of us?"

But no, the request was genuine. The filming had to be done in that location, and the Toll Bar Sub Station would make a perfect public toilet, so to speak. And so permission was granted.

Actor Steven Pinner, who plays Jonathan, is pictured during the filming of the sequence outside the sub station.



"Any bones broken? . . . Brian Emberton and Steve Morgan, from North Wirral, carefully check over a casualty in the Open Pairs section of the competition. Steve won a "Best in Lane Two" award.

## What the judges had to say . . .

"As always we saw some very good efforts . . . and some not so good."

"Padding was either not enough or too much around injuries, and not always applied in a position of maximum protection to the injuries."

"Strapping bandages were, on the whole, too slack. If they are not going to be firm in support, they are better not applied."

"For nose bleeds, pressure needs to be applied to the soft parts of the nose—not on the bridge."

"More attention should be given to gentle handling and shock treatment."

"Approach work was good, and also reassurance of casualties. In general, the first aid carried out would be effective as long as the above detail was noted and carried out."

# Norweb ho Batte but it all pro

Story: Jackie  
Pictures:

IT looked like a scene from a movie as a casualty, bloodied and bandaged, was brought in while anxious first aiders tended to their pain. One of the casualties was a writer, suffering a nasty laceration on her forehead, while another had been standing on top of a wall and had fractured her arm and was badly shocked.

Meanwhile, another casualty was brought in with a fractured leg and a serious head injury. A first aid team, near an electricity pole, and a first aid team near her knee and badly bruised her back with a heavy item.

The ambulances were on their way, and in the meantime those suffering had to be made as comfortable as possible.

### Best

Fortunately, it was all make-believe, and the groans of the casualties were as fake as the



Alec Eden (left) and his Lister Drive team-mate John Howson tend to an "injured" man in the Men's Pairs section of the competition. Alec's efforts earned him a "Best in Lane One" award.

## District's winter update

MORE than 30 representatives from various welfare and care organisations were given a "Winter Update" when they attended a recent meeting at North Wirral District Office.

District Manager Des Lock was joined by Customer Accounts Manager Edna Holroyd and Debt Counsellor Sheila Golbourne to discuss such topics

as card-operated meters, pre-payment policy, care of the elderly during the winter months, debt and disconnections.

Mr Lock explained a new idea in the District—the introduction of a caravan equipped with card-operated meters and anti-burglary advice. With the close co-operation of Victim

Support, the caravan will move into areas where burglaries have occurred to show Manweb customers with slot meters the benefits of switching to card-operated meters.

The idea was welcomed by those who attended the meeting, including representatives from Age Concern, Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Social Services and Community Centre workers.



# Norweb hosts Industry's 40th First Aid competition

## Battered and bloodied but it was all pretend

Story: Jackie Unsworth  
Pictures: Mike Hall

IT looked like a scene from a battlefield. Battered, bloodied and bandaged bodies lay groaning in agony, while anxious first aiders worked feverishly to ease their pain. One of the victims had tripped over a trailing cable in her office and fallen against a typewriter, suffering a nasty head wound, nose bleed and shock, while another had fallen from the chair she had been standing on to reach a book from the shelf, and had fractured her arm, cut her knee and was badly shocked.

Meanwhile, another casualty, a linesman, had been brought in with a fractured pelvis, concussion and a serious head injury after falling from an electricity pole, and a fourth victim had fractured her knee and badly bruised her foot after dropping a heavy item.

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### Best

Fortunately, it was all make-believe, and the groans of the casualties were as fake as the

plastic blood. The gory scene was completely stage-managed, and the so-called victims were merely acting their parts for the Electricity Supply Industry's 40th First Aid Competition.

Hosted this year by Norweb at the Daniel Training Centre in Chorley, the competitions attracted 22 teams, including four from Manweb.

But it was the Electricity Council Research Centre at Capenhurst who emerged the overall winners, taking both the Open and Men's Pairs titles, and first and third places in the Reserve Contest.

In addition, Russell Benton, Capenhurst's No 2 in the Open Pairs, won the Best Individual Award of the day with 73 points from a possible 80.

But Manweb didn't come away empty-handed. For the first time in five years, the Board was represented in the Ladies Pairs.

### Arena

Having drawn 21st place in competing order the team from North Wirral—Rachel O'Connell, Lynn Jones and Ann Marshall—had a long wait before entering the arena.

And it paid off when, with a respectable score of 122, they



Above: A woman with "head injuries" is treated by Lister Drive Fire. Below: Manweb's First Aid teams at the start of the competition. On right, are Norman Carew, Jack Frost, Steve Morgan, Brian Emberton and Alec Eden. Front row, from left to right, Rob Hilton, Rachel O'Connell, Ann Marshall and Graham Kelly.



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# Pensions to go up 5.9 per cent

by Mike Davis, Payroll and Pension Manager

**THE pensions rise payable under the Industry's pension increase arrangements with effect from April 1, 1989, is 5.9 per cent.**

This increase relates to pensions which came into payment before April 2, 1988. Proportionate increases are payable on pensions which came into payment during the period April 2, 1988, to March 1, 1989.

The increase of 5.9 per cent represents the increase in the Retail Price Index over the 12 months ending in September 1988 and is the rate by which State pensions will be increased with effect from April 10, 1989.

The increase payable under the Industry's pensions increase arrangements applies to pensioners aged 50 and over and to all widow(er)s and dependants in receipt of pensions. In the case of pensions payable by the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, the increase is also payable to pensioners under 50 in receipt of ill-health retirement pensions.

Children's allowances payable under the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme will be increased as from April 1, 1989, from £679.32 to £719.40 a year or, where payable at the higher rate, from £1,018.92 to £1,079.16 a year.

Where a pension is payable under the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme which includes a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) then, as the State normally pays pensions increases on the GMP, the increase is payable on the Scheme pension in excess of the GMP.

Where the State does not pay pensions increases on the GMP, in most cases the increase is paid on the full amount of the Scheme pension.

## ESI Scheme will not be put at risk

**PRIVATISATION will not put at risk electricity supply pensions. That was the reassuring message from Manweb's Assistant Personnel Manager, Mike Metcalfe. The White Paper stated that privatisation would not affect the benefits payable and the Government have indicated that they wish to honour this statement, he said.**

"The Pension Scheme contains protection clauses which prevent members' contributions being increased or benefits being reduced, against the member's will. The intention of the legislation is to require future plcs to ensure that all members of the Scheme at Vesting Day will continue to enjoy the same protection they have at the moment.

"It is also intended that future plcs will not be able to withdraw from the Scheme by choice, or require its employees to leave the Scheme other than on a voluntary basis. However plcs cannot be legally bound under all circumstances to continue in the Scheme and provisions will have to be made to deal with each situation.

"For example, even if unrealistic, we have to cater for insolvency of one of the successor companies."

He added "There will be other changes to the Scheme designed to enable the continuation of a single Scheme covering 15 separate plcs when each plc is accountable to its own shareholders.

"Members are assured that their pensions and future pensions are secure."

Some of the questions raised and answers given at the recent annual general meeting of the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme are as follows:—

**Q.** Would a plc be able to establish a new Pension Scheme for new employees which provided lower levels of benefits than the existing Scheme?

**A.** Plcs would be free to make their own decisions in relation to the pension benefits to be offered to new employees, but everything is being done to ensure the Scheme's investment performance and its benefit structure will be sufficiently attractive that plcs will find the Scheme a suitable vehicle for new employees.

**Q.** What would happen if a plc could not maintain its contributions to the Scheme and wanted to pay less?

**A.** The plc would have to discuss the matter with staff representatives. However, existing members of the Scheme could not be put in a worse position after Vesting Day.

**Q.** Would the increasing number of pensioners and decreasing number of contributors to the Scheme if carried on create financial problems for the Scheme?

**A.** The Scheme's actuary stated that on the basis of prudent assumptions as to investment income, salary increases and pensions increases, there were sufficient resources to meet the liabilities of the Scheme up to the last member, assuming no new members, and existing members and the Boards continued to pay contributions at the current levels.

**Q.** To what extent will the future plcs be required to fund any further deficiency in the Scheme?

**A.** The plcs would inherit the requirement as employers to meet any deficiency which related to their employees and former employees (or those taken over from a Board). It would be for the plcs to determine their own policy regarding pensions increases where the RPI increase exceeded five per cent.

**Q.** What protection would be applied to members who transferred employment within the plcs?

**A.** The intention is to provide protection under the Regulations to be issued so as to ensure a member retained his Scheme protection whilst he remained in continuous employment of one of the successor companies.



## Housing improvements win Civic Shield awards

**TWO prestigious Gwynedd housing schemes have received Civic Shield awards from Manweb. Seventy houses at the Llanfaes Estate, near Beaumaris, Anglesey, were completely refurbished by the Borough Council. The original heating was by Electricaire for the ground floor only, providing just background heat, and this was replaced by a mixed scheme of storage and panel heaters.**

The second scheme was the refurbishment of married quarters at RAF Valley, and 42 properties were fitted with convective storage and panel heaters.

Gwynedd District Manager Dick Owen (third from left) presents the awards to (left to right) Group Captain Mike Craghill, Station Commander, RAF Valley; Ian Waters, of the Department of Environment's Property Services Agency, Colwyn Bay; Hefyn Roberts, of Anglesey Borough Council's Housing and Property Department; Housing and Property Director Keith Jones; and Councillor John Chorlton, Chairman of Housing and Property.

## Big prizes for bright ideas

**A TOP prize of £500 and a five-day trip to America is at stake in a major awards scheme aimed at encouraging young innovators within the electricity supply industry.**

Energy Horizons 1989, launched by Schlumberger Industries Electricity Management, invites employees of area electricity boards aged 16 to 35 to put forward their visions for the creative use of electrical energy in the year 2000.

### Creative

As a guest of Schlumberger's American metering operation, the winner will visit Atlanta, Georgia, and meet counterparts at a US utility as well as taking in the main local attractions, including Stone Mountain.

Two runners-up will each receive £250 and spend three

days in Paris, hosted by Schlumberger's leading international research centre at Montrouge, in the south of the French capital.

Energy Horizons seeks creative vision rather than purely technical ability, and entries are invited in three categories—energy in the home, energy in industry, and energy in business and commerce.

### Dream

Entrants are asked to dream up new ways of using and managing electricity, answering such questions as: What new applications for electricity will there be in 2000? How will we control, measure, monitor and pay for electricity in the next century?

Those interested can obtain an information leaflet and entry form from Energy Horizons 1989, Schlumberger Industries Energy Management, Langer Road, Felixstowe IP11 8ER. The closing date is April 28, 1989.

## Young artists to brush up on safety

**YOUNG artists throughout Manweb's area could have a brush with success in a painting competition.**

Invitations have gone out to 320 secondary schools for pupils to take part in the competition, which is on the theme of Electrical Safety.

Awards of £200 each will be made to three winning schools, and the successful pictures will be used in a calendar to be produced by Manweb for 1990.

Schools taking part must submit a set of four paintings or drawings, each depicting a different season of the year. Each painting/drawing must be from a different age group—under 13, 13–14, 14–15 and 15–16.

Manweb's Safety Adviser Colin Herbert said: "Our aim is to promote electrical safety, to make pupils think about electricity and its dangers while developing their theme for the competition.

"The autumn and winter theme is Electrical Safety in the Home—for example, wiring plugs correctly, avoiding trailing electrical leads, turning the electricity off when repairing Christmas tree lights, and avoiding letting young children touch plugs and sockets.

"For spring and summer the theme is Electrical Safety Outdoors. Children could paint or draw a picture about the hazards of flying kites or model aircraft near overhead lines and why anglers should avoid touching overhead lines with their rods. The dangers to children playing in Manweb substations is also of great concern to us."

## Doug's in the chair

**MANWEB'S Environmental Services Manager Doug Gregg has been elected Chairman of Chester and North Wales Chamber of Commerce's Public Affairs Committee. He takes over from Mr Brian Hopper, Manager and Director of Chester Waterworks Company.**



**AIR FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE**

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## Talks could lead to link-up

**PRELIMINARY** discussions into proposals to increase the capacity to import electricity from Scotland will soon get under way between the National Grid Company Division of the CEBG and local planning authorities and other interested bodies.

Reinforcement of the existing links would enable the inter-

change of electricity between Scotland and England and Wales within a competitive environment—in line with the Government's privatisation plans.

A decision to proceed with actual construction of enhanced links would depend on consents being obtained and contracts being negotiated between the

South of Scotland Electricity Board and the distribution companies of England and Wales—or other customers—to take the imported power.

The proposals include the construction of a short section of 400 kilovolt overhead line between Llandegla and Legacy in Clwyd.



# Manweb on display at Social Evening

by Jackie Unsworth

THE mysteries of Manweb were unveiled when staff brought along their families to a recent social evening at Head Office. Organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineering and hosted by Engineering Director Denis Farquhar, this year's IEE Centre Chairman, the event was a showcase for the wide range of Manweb activities.

The visitors, many of whom were children, watched various demonstrations, including cable jointing, the latest techniques in electronic surveying and electric cooking.

There were rides in the Simon Lift outside the building, and among the interesting displays was a "fashion show" of the safety equipment which must be worn by Manweb employees. There was also a tour of the new Computer Centre.

The evening was a great success and after the microwave cookery display, food items were raffled off, with the proceeds going to the EEIBA.

## Pictures by Max Cooksey

Left: The cable jointing display was of particular interest to visitors.

Right: Engineering Director Denis Farquhar and his wife Anne go up in the world... courtesy of Manweb Fitter Chris Davies, who gave them a ride in the Simon Hoist.



Above: "You're no dummy if you're wearing the correct safety gear..." 11-year-old Lucy Ellinson, daughter of Corporate Strategy Adviser Arthur Ellinson, investigates Manweb's safety equipment.



## Congratulations Linda strikes gold

CLERICAL Assistant Linda Gordon has struck gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Linda, 24, who works in Debt Control at Lister Drive, Liverpool, is now the proud holder of a Gold Award after completing a number of projects. These included looking after mentally handicapped children and a three-day camping expedition in Snowdonia.

"I am very proud to have received the Gold Award, I really enjoyed taking part, although I found the expedition quite difficult. I walked approximately 50 miles, and as I'm not particularly fit, it was tough going. My feet were aching afterwards," said Linda, who also holds a Bronze Award, which she won when she was 16.

## Long serving staff

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Manweb employees who have completed 20, 30 or 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry during January.

**40 YEARS:** North Wirral—Frederick Murphy (Storekeeper); Mid-Cheshire—Eddie Hollinshead (Supply Engineer) and Eddie Spruce (Shift Electrician); Oswestry—George Brunt (Craft Attendant, Overhead Lines).

**30 YEARS:** Dee Valley—Len Ridgway (Meter Operative); Clwyd—Llewellyn "Bill" Price (Overhead Linesman); Aberystwyth—Ray Pugh (Overhead Linesman).

**20 YEARS:** Head Office—Ray Morgan (Admin Assistant, Mail Room) and Bob Singfield (Principal Assistant, Industrial Relations); Liverpool—Robert Giddins (Craftsman Electrician); North Wirral—Helen Kennedy (Energy Marketing Assistant).



## Council's Civic Shield

HALTON Borough Council has won a prestigious Civic Shield award from Manweb for an energy efficient all-electric flat development in Widnes. The 26 one-bedroom flats form Phase One of the project in Kendal Road, Ditton, and further flats are planned under Phase Two of the scheme.

The Civic Shield certificate and plaque were presented to Councillor Derek Twigg, Chairman of the Housing Committee, by Manweb's Mid-Mersey District Energy Sales Manager John Ellis, who said: "Halton Borough Council has had previous success with electric heating to our Civic

Shield specification, and they were very happy to consider our proposals when they decided to redevelop the area around Kendal Road.

"Phase One of the development is now complete and the feedback from tenants has been very positive."

John Ellis is pictured (2nd left) presenting the Civic Shield certificate to Councillor Twigg, while Austin Gaskell, of Halton Borough Council's Architects Department, proudly shows off the plaque. Also pictured is Manweb 2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing, Fred Houghton.

## EEIBA's lucky winners

V. AZOUZ of Mid-Cheshire District was the £300 prize-winner in the EEIBA's December draw with the lucky number 1250. The other winners were as follows:—

£200 — K. A. Williams, Oswestry (806); £150—J. E. Young, Engineering, Head Office (241); £100—I Jones, retired (2382); £75—C. M. Durham, Income, Head Office (974); £75—D. C. Tait, retired (223); £50—P. Davies, Dee Valley (2619); £50—S. M. Davenport, retired (362); £50—W. G. Jones, retired (793); £50—M. R. Rush, Income, Head Office (919); £30 — S. Cooper, Retired (84); £30—S. W. Jones, Income, Head Office (448); £30—R. Frost, retired (1391); £25—O. Henighan, retired (1549); £25—H. G. Nulty, retired (2183); £25—J. Fussell, retired (1707); £25—R. Tomlinson, Clwyd (1012); £25—F. B. Doyle, Dee Valley (238); £25—M. B. Norton, Oswestry (659); £25—D. L. Virgin, retired (1915).





## Cheesecakes for an Easter treat

EASTER is just a few weeks away and now's the time to start planning those festive family treats. No-bake cheesecakes are delicious and easy to make, and using a food processor or blender will save you plenty of time. Here are some useful hints to ensure you get the most efficient use out of your food processor.

Always make sure you have enough mixture to cover the blades; never overfill the bowl, especially with hot liquids which will spurt out; be careful when mincing—using a pulse button will help you to get just the right texture. Not all foods should be puréed to pulp! If you are having problems with lumpy sauces, for a speedy rescue operation, pour the sauce into the processor and mix until smooth. Return to the saucepan and heat through.

### BAVARIAN RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE (serves six to eight)

**For the base:** 9 oz (250 g) ginger biscuits, broken; 3 oz (75 g) butter.

**For the filling:** 8 oz (225 g) cottage cheese; 4 oz (125 g) quark or fromage frais; two size 2 eggs, separated; 3 oz (75 g) caster sugar; 13/4 oz (385 g) can raspberries, drained; 0.4 oz (11 g) sachet gelatine; quarter pint (150 ml) double cream; three tbsp sieved raspberry jam; frozen raspberries to decorate.

**Method:** Process the biscuits in a food processor or blender until they turn to crumbs. Melt the butter and stir in the crumbs. Spoon into an eight inch (20 cm) spring-clip tin and press down well. Chill.

Process the cottage cheese, quark, egg yolks, sugar and canned raspberries in a food processor or blender until smooth. Pour into a bowl. Into a separate small, heatproof bowl, put three tablespoons of cold water and sprinkle on to the gelatine. Place over a pan of gently simmering water and leave until dissolved and clear, then whisk into the raspberry mixture.

In another bowl, beat the egg whites until just stiff and fold into the mixture. Then pour the filling into the chilled base and return to the fridge to chill and set for about three hours.

When set, using a hot knife (dipped in boiling water and dried), loosen the cheesecake by running the blade around the inside of the tin. Release the spring clip and carefully lift off.

Just before serving, whip the cream until stiff and spoon into a piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle. Fill a small greaseproof paper

icing bag with the raspberry jam and snip off the point. Pipe cream and jam around the edge and top with frozen raspberries.

### TANGY LEMON AND LIME CHEESECAKE (serves six to eight)

**For the base:** 8 oz (225 g) digestive biscuits, broken; 3 oz (75 g) butter or margarine.

**For the filling:** one lime jelly (makes one pint); 10 oz (275 g) low fat soft cheese; 2 x 5 oz (150 g) cartons natural yoghurt; one lemon; lime slices and sprigs of mint to decorate.

**Method:** Place the biscuits in a processor or blender and process until they turn to crumbs. Melt the butter in a pan and stir in the biscuit crumbs. Mix well and spoon into the base of an eight inch (29 cm) spring-clip tin and press down well. Chill in the fridge.

Break the jelly into pieces and place in a heatproof bowl over a pan of gently simmering water and leave until dissolved and clear (if you have a microwave, cook on high for about 30 seconds until dissolved).

Meanwhile, place the low fat soft cheese and yoghurt into a food processor or blender and process until smooth. When jelly is slightly cooled, stir into the cheese mixture. Grate the rind and squeeze the juice of half the lemon and add to the mixture. Pour on to the chilled base and leave to set for two hours.

When set, remove from the fridge and loosen the edges with the blade of a hot knife (dipped in boiling water and dried). Release spring clip and carefully lift off. Decorate with slices of lime and remaining lemon.

## Vacuum cleaner is a tonic for hospice

A VACUUM cleaner donated by Manweb proved to be a real tonic for St John's Hospice in Bebington, Wirral.

Manweb came to the rescue after hearing that the Hospice's existing machine was literally on its last legs.

In a letter to Commercial Director Peter Hopkins, Hospice Administrator Reg Worthington said: "Thank you most sincerely for sending us a new machine for cleaning our carpets."

"It was something we needed badly, because our existing cleaner had been in constant use since we opened in June 1983." Margaret Tyson, a voluntary helper at the Hospice, is pictured (right) putting the new vacuum cleaner through its paces.



## Invitation to a London lecture

DEVELOPMENTS in metering since the Ferraris Wheel induction meter was invented in 1884 is the theme of a lecture meeting to be hosted by the CEGB in London on Tuesday, March 7.

Manweb employees are invited to attend the meeting, organised by the Association of Supervisory and Executive Engineers. It will start at 6 pm in the Lecture Theatre at Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AU, following light refreshments at 5.30 pm. Admission is free.

Entitled "Intelligent Metering—Tariff and Otherwise", the lecture will look at the technological developments leading to the new generation of multiple function, programmable meters for tariff and control.

## Manweb helps Merseysiders 'keep warm'

MANWEB Secretary Colin Leonard presents a £250 cheque to Mr Ron Stoneley, Manager of the Merseyside-based "Keep Warm" charity.

Linked to Merseyside Council for Voluntary Service, Keep Warm has bases in Liverpool and St Helens and provides a community insulation and heating advice service.

Manweb pledged a total of £500 to the charity, to be donated in two instalments, during a particularly cold spell last winter, and Mr Leonard is pictured handing over the second cheque.

As part of the sponsorship package, Manweb also produced and printed, free of charge, 300 posters advertising Keep Warm's low cost draught-



proofing scheme available to people on Housing Benefit, Income Support or Family Credit.

The posters will be placed in libraries, Social Security offices, Age Concern and other care

agency bases.

Mr Leonard said: "We are delighted to lend our support to 'Keep Warm', which is working hard to help the old and needy on Merseyside."

Also pictured (left to right)

are Sharon Rodriguez, a 2nd Engineer in Manweb's Management Services Department, Steven Hawkins, Divisional Manager of MCVS Projects, and Keep Warm Section Manager Steve King.

MANWEB



MITEH.

"THAT'S WHAT I CALL TAKING ADVANTAGE—HE'S JUST PERSUADED ME TO PAY HIS ELECTRICITY BILL FOR HIM..."





# Engineers examine latest techniques

THE latest developments in cables, joining techniques and equipment for cable installation came under scrutiny during a series of seminars held recently at Head Office.

The one-day seminars, attended by a total 260 engineers and foremen from Districts and Head Office, were organised and run by Cables and

Lines Manager Tom Garmory and Roger Bracey, 1st Engineer, Cables.

Pictured examining a new type of 11 kV cable joint are (left to right) Roger Bracey; Mid-Cheshire Mains Manager Paul Wilkinson; Denzil Ellis, 1st Engineer, Mains, Oswestry, and Tom Garmory.

## Going through a phrase

HERE'S a selection of sayings depicted in cryptic fashion. Test your brain power by working out the well-known phrases.

Then jot down the answers on a piece of paper, add your name and address or work location and send them to: Going Through A Phrase, Contact, Room 5E1, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

The senders of the first two correct answers opened after Friday, March 3, 1989, will each receive £5.

● The winners of Contact's "Sum-What-Puzzling" competition are M. E. Cowle (retired), of Bebington, and A. Hughes, of Clwyd District Office. They will each receive a £5 prize.

Prizes are also on their way to the winners of the Christmas Road Safety quiz. Nigel Harrison, of the Projects Section at Head Office, will receive a motorist's hand lamp, and runner-up E. Foster, of Mid-Cheshire District Supplies Section, has won a road atlas.



OHOLENE



## Crossword No. 7 Solution

ACROSS: 1 Attack, 4 Sprawl, 8 Mystic, 10 August, 11 Burns, 12 Shed, 14 Keen, 15 Resilient, 17 Pensioner, 20 Roar, 21 Leap, 22 Steep, 24 Galley, 25 Serene, 26 Turtle, 27 Grated.

DOWN: 1 Almost, 2 Tester, 3 Crib, 5 Plus, 6 Amulet, 7 Latent, 9 Curiosity, 10 Antipodes, 13 Defer, 14 Kneel, 16 Bright, 17 Pallor, 18 Repent, 19 Spread, 22 Seal, 23 Peer.

## HOLIDAYS

**Brittany/SW France** — Caravans and mobile homes. Self-drive pack. Tel: Crewe internal 178 or 0270 766675 (Ian Linford).

**Caravan** — Towyn, Near Rhyl. Six-berth, two bedrms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978-362615/352653 (Mrs Jones).

**Cardigan** — 12 miles. Lux. six-berth static caravan, near beaches. Families only. Tel: 0492 68253 (evenings).

**Carmel** — Caernarfon. 19th Century stone cottage in own grounds. Excellent views. Three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge and parlour. Large kitchen with cooker, fridge and freezer. Tel: 0286 880 749. Alwyn Pritchard, 16 Maes Hyfryd, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

**Criccieth** — North Wales. House overlooking village green. Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

**France** — B & B, H/B, caravans and camping. Tarn et Garrone Region. Close to Junctions 8 and 9 on Autoroute between Bordeaux and Toulouse. Excellent catering, including French, Indian and vegetarian cooking. Much to see and do, or just relax in sunshine. Ex-SEB employee. Tel: David Boniface, 010-33 (63-95-95-20).

**French Riviera** — Six-berth caravan, all amenities on site, within easy reach of Monaco, St Tropez, etc. Golf, riding close by. SAE to M. Williams, The Lodge, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, or tel. 0544 267579.

**Newquay** — Cornwall. Luxury caravans with shower, and economy vans. Colour TV, flush toilet, etc. Pleasant site near town and beaches. Cleaned and maintained by owner. From £50 per week. Tel: 0637 876589 (Gill).

**Llandudno** — April Court. Small family-run private hotel (Welsh Tourist Board—two crown). Close to local amenities, beaches, town centre, theatres, golf courses, etc. New Alpine Ski Complex in beautiful natural setting. Ideal base for exploring beauty-spots of Snowdonia. Good home cooking and comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Children welc. Tea-making facilities. Car park. Bed and breakfast, with or without evening meal. Enquiries to April Court, St David's Place, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2UG. Tel: 0492 77898. Disc. for Elec. Board employees and families (both past and present).

# Free Ads

**Pony-Trekking** — And farm holidays. Accompanied one-hour to full-day treks for novices or experienced riders. Holiday cottages available. Self-ctrng. or bed and breakfast, full or half-board. Lic. restaurant open to non-residents. Lunch, afternoon tea, dinner. Private parties catered for. Further details: Hwylfa Ddafydd Country Farm Holidays. Tel: Colwyn Bay 516965.

**Port Grimaud** — Six miles St Tropez. Four/six-bth. caravans, with electricity, h. and c. water, shower. On three-star hotel site. Luxury coach travel from most areas. Tel: 0670 712399.

**Porthmadog** — Holiday bungalow, sleeps six. Black Rock Sands five minutes' drive. Convenient Ffestiniog Railway, Snowdonia National Park. For infmtn.: C. Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog. Tel: 0766 2519.

**Tenerife** — Get away to the sun. From £30 per week. Aprtmnts. in Los Christianos. Access to two large pools, tennis crts., two restaurants, maid service. Only 50 yards from a golden beach. Flights arranged. Tel: 061-483 8314.

**Weston-sup'r-Mare** — Static caravan on farm. Six-berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All-season price £70 per week. Tel: 093472 292 (Mrs Huett).

**Newquay** — Cornwall. Family-run guest house with good home cooking. Family rooms. Friendly atmosphere, Sea views. 200 yards from town centre. Dinner, bed and breakfast from £70 per week. Former Merseyside family will make you welcome. Disc.

for Manweb empls. Apply Avondale, 28 Georges Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 872234.

**Florida** — Kissimmee/St Cloud resort area of Orlando. 30 minutes from airport, Disney and Sea World etc. Luxury 2-bed/2 bath home situated in an adult community (no children). Sleeps four. Club house, swimming pool and jacuzzi. £250/£350 week. Available from June '89 onwards. Photos available. Tel: 0745 591729.

**Newquay** — Cornwall. Fulmar Guest House. Sea views. Two minutes' walk to beautiful beaches. Quiet area close to town. Specialising in good food, comfort and friendliness. Car park. Terms from £73 per week B/B and evening meal. Discount to Manweb employees. Send sae to Mrs M. Pleasants, 43 Pentire Avenue, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 874291.

## FOR SALE

**Learn German** — Language course. Unused set of records. £65 (cost £110 new). Contact Jeff Harrison at Chester shop or telephone 0244 818885 evenings.

**Interior Dbl Glazing** — Polycell. One 5 ft x 4 ft and three 8 ft x 4 ft windows, all with 3/8 ins glass included. £100. Contact Mrs Thomason on 051-608 3234.

## VEHICLES FOR SALE

**Caravanette** — Talbot Express Camelot. 1984. Two-litre engine, 20,000 miles. Two berth, shower, cooker, fridge, heater. Many extras. £9,995 ono. Contact Clive Murdoch, Queensferry Plant Stores, ext 207.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FREE AD. ON THIS COUPON OR ON PLAIN PAPER

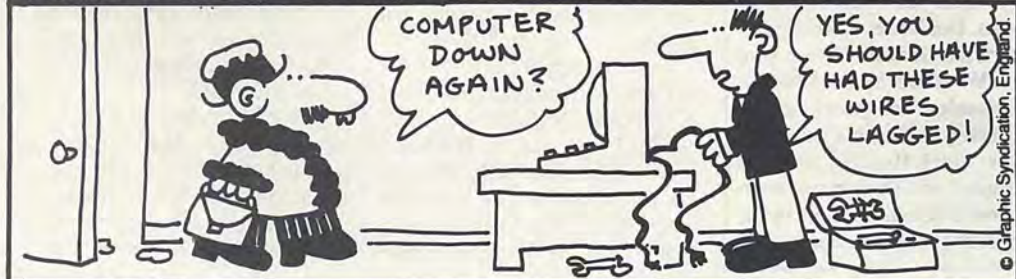
(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

Name: .....

Work place (or retired) .....

Send to: 'CONTACT' FREE ADS, MANWEB, SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER CH1 4LR.

## HAMBONE by Mike Flanagan





# CONTACT Sport



## Like father, like son...



### son...

by Jackie Unsworth

**ROB and Steve MacKenzie make a formidable father-and-son team. The dynamic duo had a double success recently in their local squash club's Christmas Knockout Competition.**

And when they're not "squashing" the opposition on court, Rob and Steve team up again at work in the Transport Department at Manweb's Legacy Depot.

Rob, a Chargehand Mechanical Fitter, and 18-year-old Apprentice Mechanic Steve joined Wrexham's Park View Club three years ago, although the elder MacKenzie had been playing team squash for the previous nine years at Wrexham Sports Club.

In the Christmas Knockout, Steve beat Kim Harcombe to win the Group C prize, while his dad thrashed John Edwards and collected the prize in the Group B section. The deadly pair are pictured with their trophies.

## Jazz Band tops bill

THE Alt River Jazz Band will "top the bill" at a buffet dance to be held at Head Office on Friday, March 3.

Although organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, all Manweb employees are welcome. The host for the evening is Engineering Director Denis Farquhar, this year's IEE Centre Chairman.

Tickets, costing £7.50, are now available from Geoff Ravenscroft, Management Services, Room 5E1, Head Office, tel ext 3231.

## Sporting gesture

LIVERPOOL'S Olive Mount Hospital has been given a £400 boost thanks to a sporting gesture by fund-raising cricketers who took part in a sponsored fun run. Liverpool Electric Supply Cricket Club handed over the cheque to a hospital representative during their recent annual prizegiving at Thingwall Road.



## Top tennis teams

**BUDDING** Boris Beckers and Steffi Grafs from the Head Office Sports and Social Club Tennis Section proudly show off their trophies after two successful seasons. The trophies were presented to the 1987 and 1988 Tennis Knockout winners during a recent lunch and awards ceremony.

The 1987 winners were former Manweb Commercial Secretary Joan Hughes, who won the ladies' singles and doubles, the latter with associate member Sandra Johnson; Dave Croston, of Computer Services, and his daughter Sarah, who won the mixed doubles; Calum Kennedy, of Commercial, Lister Drive, who won the men's singles; and Martin Jones, of the Cash Office, who together with Ken Sinclair of Wayleaves, won the men's doubles.

Joan Hughes retained her ladies' singles crown in the 1988 contest, and the other winners were Computer Operator Mike Gibbs, who won the men's singles and doubles, the latter with Martin Jones; Carol Gorman, Senior Project Leader in Computers, who won the ladies' doubles with

Val Pugh, wife of Joe Pugh, Executive Officer in Computers, and Calum Kennedy who, together with his wife Jackie, won the mixed doubles.

Up to 40 players take part in the knockout tournament every year, and matches are played either at lunchtime, evenings or weekends at various venues.

The 1989 season is due to start after Easter and will run until October. Anyone interested in taking part should look out for further details on the notice boards at Head Office.

**Pictured above: Former Sports and Social Club Secretary Gren Roberts, now retired (centre) presents trophies to the 1987 winners (from left to right) Martin Jones, Dave Croston, Joan Hughes, Calum Kennedy and Sandra Johnson. Ken Sinclair and Sarah Croston were unable to attend.**

**Below: Gren (third from the left) also presented the 1988 prizes to (left to right) Martin Jones, Carol Gorman, Mike Gibbs, Joan Hughes and Calum Kennedy. Val Pugh and Jackie Kennedy did not attend.**



## Staff push mini bus fund nearer its target

**A CASH** appeal to provide a mini bus for disabled athletes is a step closer to reaching its target thanks to the generosity of Dee Valley staff. The fund now stands at £9,000 following a recent £200 boost, mainly through sponsorship from District staff for a 10k wheelchair push at the Wrexham Queensway Sports Stadium.

The 17-seater bus is for the Wrexham Sports Club for the Disabled, founded eight years ago to promote sport for the disabled. The club hosts games for the disabled at Wrexham

annually, and last year eight Olympic athletes preparing for Seoul were among those who took part. Many records were broken, including two world records.

This year the club will hold its second international event, when athletes from all over Great Britain and Europe will attend.

Fund organiser Carol Dean, a Clerical Assistant in Work Control at Dee Valley District, said: "Each year the Wrexham athletes travel over 3,000 miles to attend games all over the country and this year they also hope to go to Dublin to take

part in the Irish Wheelchair Games.

"They are in desperate need of a mini bus and the appeal has been running for just over 12 months. A 17-seater bus modified to take wheelchairs and to include a rear tail lift will cost £17,500.

"Fund-raising events and the generosity of local people and industry has brought the total raised to £9,000."

The club is also looking for new members, both disabled people keen on sport and able-bodied willing to help. Anyone interested should contact Carol Dean on Dee Valley int ext 2278.

**The race is on to raise funds for a mini bus for disabled athletes. Dee Valley Commercial Electrician Gary Brereton, who joined Wrexham Sports Club for the Disabled two years ago, is pictured pushing his brother-in-law Nigel Huxley, and his colleague Carol Dean gives Dawn Jackson a helping hand during the recent 10k wheelchair push.**