



PC Les Howell in training with a police dog at the former Legacy Depot site.

Venue for police dog training

THE former Legacy Depot site at Pentre Bychan has taken on a new role as a venue for police dog training.

The dog section of North Wales Police uses it up to twice a week as an "open location" where dogs can practice searching procedures.

"Our 13 dogs and their handlers regularly use the site which is brilliant for the purpose," said PC Graham Fradsham, the Police Dog Instructor for the force who supervises each of the sessions.

"We are always looking for safe places for our dogs and this is an environment where no-one else is about. The dogs are trained to search for people who are missing from home, or for criminals who might be lurking in the bushes."

Manweb Distribution Engineer John Burton said: "We are happy to let the police dog trainers use this site which was vacated in the early 1990s. It is ideal for them and it secures the site for us."

WARRINGTON WOLVES, whose community development programme is sponsored by Manweb, have been chosen to host a regional centre for the Government-backed Learndirect project.

TV pundit Trevor Brooking CBE, Chair of Sport England, launched the new onsite Learning Centre at the rugby league club, with Manweb Managing Director Stewart Saunders also present.

The Centre in the Wilderschool educational wing, one of 1,000 nationwide, will provide computer facilities and access to the Internet for all levels of experience, from absolute beginners to advanced, while also offering learning guidance.

The BBC expert, accompanied by Wolves' Chairman Lord Hoyle, watched a Manweb/Sportsmatch Tag Festival organised as part of Primary Link, the grass roots scheme to encourage rugby in schools, and he was also given an overview of the community development programme.

Learndirect is the Government's flagship for the delivery of learning through the Internet.

It covers a wide range of subject areas including business and management technology and courses for specific industry sectors.

Wolves to host learning project



Manweb Managing Director Stewart Saunders chats with TV soccer pundit Trevor Brooking, left, and Warrington Wolves Chairman Lord Hoyle at the launch of the new onsite Learning Centre at the Wilderschool educational wing.

Crucial safety initiative

YOUNGSTERS learned about the value of electrical safety during a Crucial Crew event held over a week at St Helen's College.

Pictured are Yvonne Lucy (Operations), Lady Mayor Cllr Pat Robinson, Moira Renwick, Manweb Community Liaison Officer, and Kathy Turner (Operations).



Think big, win prizes

MANWEB employees are being given the chance to dine with a partner at the Gary Rhodes restaurant in Manchester for free in a ScottishPower competition which asks for ideas for new products and services.

Entrants for the "Think Big" competition are asked to submit new ideas on product development, no matter how "wacky". They could involve a new product or service, or an extension to an existing one, and include financial or time savings. There are two prizes per quarter, one for best idea and one for best wacky idea. For more details and an entry form see the company intranet.

Contact



Manweb
A ScottishPower Company

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

January 2001

Police praise double rescue hero

METERING MARVEL

A METER man in the Manweb area is being hailed as a hero for saving the lives of two women in separate rescues on his round in Liverpool.

David Kirkham, aged 43, who has read meters for ScottishPower's Metering Services for 18 months, has been commended by Merseyside Police for preventing a "possible fatality" by calling the emergency services to an elderly woman who had collapsed in thick smoke from a pan fire.

And he has been praised as a life saver by relatives of a lady whom he found in a state of collapse from a stroke 10 days later.

David - who previously worked as a postman for 23 years without a single incident on his round - carried out his heroic exploits within a 10-day period.

His first intervention was at Fazakerley when he noticed smoke inside an elderly person's flat as he bent down to put her dial card through the letterbox. "I saw smoke in the hallway and a lady lying on a couch, overcome by the fumes. I shouted to her to come to the door and she tried to crawl forward on hands and knees. But she couldn't get out - and I could not break the glass because it was reinforced."



Modest hero David Kirkham.

"I called the emergency services and they brought her out. I believe she would have died if I had not raised the alarm."

The next rescue was in Aintree when David entered a house and discovered a 78-year-old lady on the floor with her eyes closed. Her husband had gone into shock and the quick-thinking meter reader, recognising the signs of a stroke, took it into his own hands to contact the ambulance service.

Neighbour Jacqueline Sillery said: "David saved this lady's life and her relatives regard him as a life saver. She had been in a collapsed state since at least the previous evening."

Modest David, a father-of-two who lives in Aintree, said: "I was flabbergasted that two similar incidents happened within such a short time. It has made me aware how vulnerable elderly people are."

Archie Speirs, General Manager of Metering Services, praised David for his "outstanding efforts."



AN electrifying performance is guaranteed in *The Lost Dragon* at Chester Gateway Theatre, as Michael Faraday, who discovered electricity, demonstrates to Graham Morris, Head of Finance for show sponsors Manweb. The heroine of the play uses the boffin's information on electrical circuits to defeat the Prince of Darkness.

Champions honoured

See centre pages



News from ScottishPower Learning

Prince's visit to Rhyl Town Hall

PRINCE Charles made a special visit to a Prince's Trust Cymru open day at Rhyl Town Hall.

Earlier in the day he had met Neil Hunter, Regional Manager of ScottishPower Learning, through the Division's work with Business in the Community.

While he was at Rhyl the Prince met members of the Caernarfon and Colwyn Bay Prince's Trust Volunteers team who had recently completed projects in the local community.

Faye Turner, the Colwyn Bay team leader who is seconded from the Benefits Agency, said: "What really impressed me was the way that His Royal Highness took the time to speak to all 15



team members about their experience on the PTV programme."

● Pictured is Prince Charles at Rhyl Town Hall with, left to right, Neil Hunter, SPL Regional Manager, Roy Jones, PTV Franchise Manager, Sally Burgess, New Deal Co-ordinator for ScottishPower Learning and Faye Turner.

THE Millennium Dome was the venue for the Prince's Trust Volunteers Millennium Awards attended by representatives from ScottishPower Learning and local PTV "stars".

Wales Division gained two nominations – no mean feat from the total of 76 programmes being delivered in the region.

Jane Cook, seconded to the PTV from Employment Services to run a team in Wrexham, was nominated for the Community Project in which she built an eco-pond at St Christopher's School.

Ruth Bradley, nominated as a

Gala night at the Dome

New Dealer, was originally on a PTV programme in Caernarfon, and then found employment on the Isle of Arran.

Also at the Dome for the celebrity-packed evening were Roy Jones, PTV Franchise Manager, and Neil Hunter, Regional Manager, Scottish-

Power Learning, and Denise Griffiths, team leader on a Wrexham team seconded from the Inland Revenue.

The Awards were held to give recognition to the various aspects of the PTV programme including the 50,000th volunteer.



Staff learning successes

CELEBRATING success were just some of the Manweb staff who have engaged in learning in their own time while being supported by Open Learning.

David Pierce, David Watts, Scott Parmenter, Jerry Hammond (West Cheshire College,) Wendy Ellison, Sue Kavanaugh, Diane Bellis, Robert Martindale, Tony MacFarlane and Tricia Ellis gained NEB Supervisory Management Certificates. (This group are pictured above).

Eric Stacey, Peter Jones, Gary Davies and Margaret Wales achieved an HNC in Business and Finance. Alison Mayo, Nicola Wilde and Anna-Marie Noble gained Certificates in Personnel Practice.

Bob Maddocks (Deeside College,) Adrian Morris and Frank Hughes gained an ONC in Electrical Engineering.

Chance for you to take part in fun challenge

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to take part in an Outward Bound Course being run by ScottishPower Learning in partnership with the Outward Bound Trust. The course will take place from March 12 to March 16 and is guaranteed not only to challenge people but also to be a great deal of fun.

Anyone interested in taking part should write giving their reasons for applying and stating how they feel their participation will help them as part of their personal development to Pat Lewis, ScottishPower Learning, Manweb House, Chester Business Park, Wrexham Road, Chester. CH4 9RT.

A worthy holiday

TERRY Cook, a cable jointer with Manweb, who has helped at the annual Disability Awareness Day in Warrington for nine years, received an award from the town's Committee for Disabled People in a presentation ceremony at the Town Hall.

Terry gave up his own holiday time to contribute to this year's event at Walton Gardens, and was praised at the Appreciation of Efforts Awards by organiser Dave Thompson, disability services adviser for Warrington Community Health Care Trust, who said: "Terry became my legs and arms for the week in which the Awareness Day was held."

Lottery winners

AMONG the £172 prize winners of the third PowerBall staff lottery in December were Karen Bohana, Energy Supply, Caernarfon, Susan Geddes, Power System, Lister Drive and Jonathan Molyne, Power Systems, Chester. The winners of the Santa's Prize Draw for PowerPartners were Julie Archibald, Andrew Robertson, Hamish Hamilton, Sandy Redhead and John Kirkwood.

Praised

SCOTTISHPOWER lifted the Environment Award, sponsored by Datum Solutions, at the Utility Industry Achievement Awards. The company was judged to have fulfilled all the necessary criteria, and was especially praised for its attention to performance indicators.

Certificate

NEIL Broadbent, assistant team leader at Mold for Power Systems, Wales, has received a certificate from the NHBC for co-ordinating the electrical supply to a housing development at Connah's Quay.

POWERPartners

Appeal goes down a treat

AN imaginative PowerPartners link-up with a radio station to supply festive foods to elderly people in mid Wales was hailed a huge success.

The Manweb ScottishPower Hamper Appeal was run in conjunction with Radio Ceredigion and involved a van being sent out to primary schools to collect donated delicacies.

The van transported the eatables to Age Concern in Aberystwyth whose members packed them into more than 500 hampers before distributing them to people who had been identified as being in need of some extra cheer at Christmas.

Thousands of radio listeners were kept up to date by a Radio Ceredigion presenter who travelled with the van and they were able to follow the progress of the hampers as they went out to social services day centres,

the London House luncheon club at Aberaeron, the Cross-roads agency caring for carers and a number of people identified by the Church.

"The scheme was a fantastic success," said Penny Stanley, Director of Age Concern Ceredigion.

"We have had so many cards and letters from grateful recipients of the hampers who were especially touched that young people had donated the food."

John Morgan of Radio Ceredigion, a former Manweb employee who worked in Contracting, said: "The Appeal really took off and the youngsters responded extremely generously."

As well as promoting PowerPartners the initiative also provided a way of giving information about Manweb's PowerDesk.



Melanie Jones, left, and Lorraine Jones pictured before they began their charity pole climbing challenge.

The Jones go up in the world... all for charity

KEEPING up with the Joneses will be a lot harder in future. Wales and mid Cheshire SuperCentre Manager Melanie Jones and Lorraine Jones, her counterpart in Merseyside and Wirral, rose to their latest charity challenge by climbing to the top of an electricity pole.

The gauntlet was thrown down by Anne Thompson and the High Street Customer Service Centre Managers who had raised a match-funded £3,500 for PowerPartners and Children in Need - and wanted to know what the two SuperCentre bosses were going to do to add to it.

On a clear but windy day at the Hoylake Training Centre the two plucky "volunteers" completed their 30-foot climb without a hitch, and raised £450 (also to be matched) into the process.

Melanie said: "Now we have the perfect answer to any linesmen who tell us that at least we don't have to climb up poles."

Lorraine - who has been up a pole before - said: "I enjoyed the climb even though it was the windiest day of the week."



Primary schoolchildren queue up to deliver food to the Manweb ScottishPower Hamper Appeal van.

Giving help to older people

AS part of a PowerPartners initiative in Mersey Region staff from Customer Operations liaised with Age Concern to help out at the Longsdale Centre, which caters for local people who live alone by providing a Christmas Lunch and entertainment.

● AN Age Concern Open Day was held in Caernarfon at which customers received low-energy bulbs, cold alarms and energy efficiency advice.



Heading for the top... Melanie, above left, and Lorraine in action during their electricity pole climb.



★ Wales Man of the Year Denis Hadley with Simon Weston OBE

★ Wales Woman of the Year Glenys Pearce with Simon Weston OBE.

★ Idris Hughes collects award for Wales Champion Team of the Year Llanrwst Youth Project, with Simon Weston OBE

★ Wales Young Person of the Year Steven Wynne Hughes, with Simon Weston OBE

★ Wales Special Award winner George Johnson with Simon Weston OBE

ENTHUSIASTIC audiences gathered at two glittering presentation evenings to mark the final awards stages of the 2000 Chronicle-Manweb Your Champions campaign.

For the 12th year, our special champions from the community were honoured after being chosen from hundreds of names submitted by the general public, charities and business organisations from across the region.

Hosting the Cheshire awards ceremony at the Chester Grosvenor Hotel were Manweb Managing Director Stewart Saunders and Chronicle Newspaper Group Managing Director David Faulkner, with Alan Halsall, alias the popular Tyrone from Coronation Street, as guest of honour.

At the North Wales presentation at St George's Hotel, Llandudno, the main hosts were ScottishPower Director of Corporate Affairs Dominic Fry and North Wales Independent Press Managing Director David Faulkner, with courageous Falklands War veteran Simon Weston OBE, who has set up

Your Champions honoured at glittering awards nights

the Weston Spirit charity, as guest of honour. Overall winners were chosen from seven nominations (three in Wales) in each of four categories, and two special awards were also given, each of the accolades recognising the unsung heroes and heroines who add to the life of their local communities.

Readers of Chronicle Group newspapers, including those of North Wales Independent Press, had been asked to nominate their local "stars" in the different categories.

Overall Cheshire Champion, recipient of the special award, was 10-year-old Christiann Barlow, who despite being a special needs pupil helps homeless and underprivileged people over Christmas and supports an African Aid charity throughout the year.

Other awards in Cheshire went to Your Champion Man of the Year Bill Armes, a sprightly 83-year-old former scout leader who is a volunteer for Halton Play Council and an assistant woodwork teacher at Dunham Hill Primary School; Champion Woman of the Year Jean Morris, aged 70, who has dedicated herself to improving the circumstances of women with breast cancer since having a mastectomy 25 years ago; Team of the Year Cheshire Penguins, a Northwich-based club which regularly sends swimmers to represent



The hosts at the ceremony at Llandudno, left to right, Dominic Fry, Corporate Affairs, ScottishPower, Guest of Honour Simon Weston and David Faulkner, Managing Director, North Wales Independent Press.

and Complaints Group, Age Concern North Cymru and Disability Wales. He is also active in the Ron Smith Cancer Appeal.

Awards also went to two winners for the Champion Man of the Year title, Denis Hadley (in the Herald and Mail area) a taxi driver from Holyhead who set up the Fisherman's Fund after his brother-in-law drowned while fishing off rocks and has devised a system of lifebuoys round the coast, and Geraint Roberts (in the Visitor Series area) a music teacher in Abergele who is a selfless motivator and mentor of young musicians.

Special

Overall Woman of the Year was Glenys Pearce who has raised thousands of pounds for children at special needs schools including Ysgol Delyn in Mold, attended by her daughter Bronwen, aged 15, who died from cancer 15 years ago. Glenys, who also campaigned to save Bangor's pier, has appeared on BBC's Songs of Praise to talk about her daughter.

Champion Team of the Year was the Llanrwst Youth Project, a group of parents and grandparents who set up a much-needed youth club for 13 to 17 year olds in the town, and Young Person of the Year was Steven Wynne Hughes, aged nine from Ruthin, who



Alf Scorer, Man of the Year from the Ellesmere Port area

helps care for his younger brother – a special needs pupil – and does the housework and helps with the shopping for his mother who last year suffered a severe stroke leaving her paralysed on her left side.

Both awards evenings were moving occasions presented with expertise by Masters of Ceremonies Trevor Green, Granada TV News presenter, in Chester and Dilwyn Young-Jones, HTV News weather presenter, in Llandudno. Musical entertainment was provided at the Chester Grosvenor by the Kintamarni Saxophone Quartet, and at the St George's Hotel by Graffiti Classics, who wandered round serenading the audience and even played lying on their backs at one point! Both sets of musicians appeared by courtesy of Live Music Now!

Commenting generally on the standard of entries, Stewart Saunders said: "This year was notable for the excellence of the nominees. We are always amazed by their dedication to good causes in the communities which they serve."



Margaret Jones, of Huntington, the Chester Woman of the Year, with (right) Chester MP Christine Russell.



The Kintamarni Saxophone Quartet which performed at the Cheshire Awards.



Overall Wales winner George Johnson receives his award.



★ Cheshire Special Award winner Christiann Barlow.

★ Cheshire Man of the Year Bill Armes (right) with hosts.

★ Sheila Mason collecting award on behalf of Cheshire Woman of the Year Jean Morris, with hosts.

★ Anne Calvert collecting award on behalf of Cheshire Team of the Year The Cheshire Penguins, with hosts

★ Cheshire Young Person of the Year Emma Foster with hosts

Merseyside rise to challenge

Lighting up Christmas

FOR the fourth year running Merseyside Region rose to the challenge, issued by Business in the Community, of "lighting up someone's Christmas."

Under the scheme local charities and organisations send in a "wish list" and businesses such as Manweb are invited to fulfil some of their requests.

Six employees from Operations/New Connections helped to run a Santa's Grotto on the

Albert Dock for Barnardo's. The volunteers worked the till, dressed as fairies and elves and guided children and parents round the grotto.

Breaks

A team of jointers answered the call to supply and decorate a Christmas tree for the Winged Fellowship in Southport, a holiday centre providing breaks for the severely disabled, and respite for their carers.

A total of 18 food hampers



Fun at Santa's Grotto at Albert Dock with, left to right, Manweb staff Peter Dibbert, George Henson, Andy Croft and Phil Manley, and, of course, Santa himself.

went to the Nugent Care Society which caters for families and individuals in need in liaison with social services.

Generous Lister Drive staff

also contributed 22 shoeboxes and three bin bags full of toys for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal, in aid of needy youngsters in Azerbaijan.

Staff are rewarded for an accident-free year

POWER Systems staff in Wales are being rewarded in an imaginative way for completing an accident-free year in 2000.

John Menzies, Power Systems Managing Director, has agreed to fund a reward scheme which will allow employees to nominate activities in their local communities for financial support from the company.

A sum of £2,500 is being made available and this will be boosted by £1,600 holiday vouchers which have also been earned by the achievement of registering 12 months without a lost time or reportable accident.

Don McRae, Network Manager for Wales, has decided to issue the staff with T-shirts bearing the emblem Supersafe 2000 Wales as a tangible mark of the milestone.

He said: "Wales Region has come from being bottom of the league in safety to achieving the best safety record."

"John Menzies has written personally to everybody concerned to congratulate them on this dramatic improvement. To go for so long without accidents is of great benefit to everybody's welfare and happiness."

Customers can pay at Post Offices

UNDER a new deal between ScottishPower and the Post Office and Girobank, customers will be able to pay or part-pay energy bills and buy meter cards at the UK's 19,000 Post Offices, free of charge.

The deal, one of the biggest of its kind ever, will create 20 million additional transactions a year and will double the number of outlets in the North West and Wales.

In Yuletide mood

A SERIES of Christmas lunches throughout the Manweb region put staff in the mood for the Yuletide season. At Lister Drive 80 people enjoyed meals served up by six managers led by Andy Palin, Operations Manager, and money raised from a nominal charge went to canteen staff. In Chester, £244 was donated to the Alzheimers Society from the proceeds of a similar "festive lunch levy."

Witty caption competition winners

THE winners of the Drayton Manor Park competition in the last edition of *Contact* are Mrs S.D.Crabtree, of Holt, Wrexham, P. Pickett, of Warrington, Alan Smith, of Greasby and Peter Jones of Colwyn Bay. They all win tickets worth £47 each to admit two adults and two children to the park any day during the forthcoming season. The best suggestion for the title of the painting of the buzzard on power lines by Cliff Davies as featured in the last edition is Buzzard on Pole (Bwmcath ar y Polyn for Welsh speakers) by Kevin Hofmann.



Wedding Bells...

CONGRATULATIONS to Alun Jones, Welsh Affairs Officer at Corporate Communications, and Sian Hughes, of Customer Services at Pentre Bychan, who were married on December 1.

PENSIONERS NEWS

Passion for the theatre

THEATRE is a passion for numerous members of the Dee Valley retirees association - so it was fitting that the group opened the curtain on their New Year with a trip to Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold.

They enjoyed *Cinderella*, *The Panto With Soul* in the Anthony Hopkins Theatre, which was billed as an upbeat, updated version and featured classic pop songs such as *Rock Around the Clock*.

Guarantee

METICULOUS planning by Denis Atkinson, organiser of the Clwyd retirees association, is set to guarantee the group a holiday to remember.

Denis has sent out a detailed "question and answer" form to apprise members of the pros and cons of a trip to Switzerland in September, and gauge their interest.

Replay

MEMBERS of the Mid-Mersey retirees association were so pleased with the venue and facilities of last year's holiday that they have done an "action replay."

"We liked Torquay as a place and the hotel in which we stayed so much that we have made exactly the same booking for March," said chairman Eric Hough.

Titanic

THE mystery of the newspaper dated 1912, covering the Titanic disaster, which turned up in the offices at Prenton has been solved. A caller to the Contact office pointed out that the Daily Mirror had reprinted this particular edition when the blockbuster movie *Titanic* was released. Thanks to all those who contacted us.



Members of the Halton Royal British Legion receive the plaque from Sue Reece, Operations Manager, Electricity and Dual Fuel: (left to right) Norman Cubley, Barry Martin, Derek Lorenz, Alan Leitch and Wilf Hickenbottom.

Plaque in honour of two war heroes

A PLAQUE dedicated to two Runcorn workers who lost their lives in World War One has been donated by Manweb to the Royal British Legion.

The memorial was erected at the Warrington office more than 40 years ago as a tribute to the men, who worked for the former Mersey Power Company in Runcorn and who were members of the Cheshire Regiment.

When employee Alan Leitch, a member of Halton Royal British Legion, spotted the plaque he made a suggestion to the management. "I

asked if it could be given over to the Legion and they told me they thought it would be a fitting gesture to return it to Runcorn," he said.

"Our members were very pleased to receive the plaque at a ceremony at the Manweb office. Now we are working out a suitable place to hang it to give it pride of place."

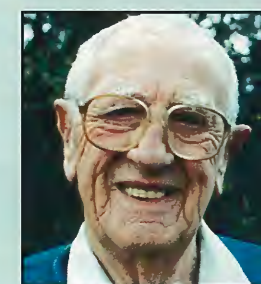
Sue Reece, Operations Manager, Electricity and Dual Fuel, based at Warrington office said: "We thought Alan's idea was an excellent one and we were glad to present the plaque to his Royal British Legion group."

Tributes paid to former company stalwart Eric

TRIBUTES are being paid to former Birkenhead District Foreman Eric Coley who has died aged 76.

Eric, who was born in Sheffield but moved to Wirral and was with Manweb for 42 years, was well-loved locally for his sense of humour and his willingness to help others.

He belonged to the Ramblers Association and organised walks for Manweb's North Wirral retirees association as well as members of the Friends in Retirement organisation. *Contact* has carried reports on the trip to Hilbre Island which he led, and on his recent find of a 300 million years old stone dur-



ing a walk with his "Prenton Backpackers" near Thornton Hough.

Eric was also a member of model aircraft flying clubs and played piano to entertain pensioners at the Cottage Hospital in Hoylake. "He will be sadly missed," said Lil Martland, organiser of the North Wirral retirees.

Winners...

THE following are the winners of the EEIBA Prize Draw for October 2000. The EEIBA have issued their apologies for incorrectly supplying the previous year's winners for publication in the Christmas edition.

- £300 J.B. Jones, retd; £200 D.G. Gee, retd; £100 J.A. Jones, Oswestry; £75 D. Mannion, First Hydro; £50 P.A. Roberts, Redwither; £50 H.C. Foreman, retd, H.D. Taylor, retd, F. Griffiths, retd, J.D. Fitch, retd, J.H. Downward, retd; £25 W.E. Owen, retd, J.A. Bevan, retd, E.N. Sinclair, retd, R.C. Hodson, retd, R. Maddaford, Prenton, P.R. Rowlands, Llandudno, D.G. Owen, First Hydro, K. Griffiths, retd, O.W. Kulicke, retd, C.E. Donovan, retd.