



## Great day out at Chester Zoo

STAFF, pensioners and families took up the offer to visit Chester Zoo at a specially reduced price. Vouchers ensured that children could travel free on the monorail both ways, and that souvenir brochures could be obtained free.

Members of the Sports and Social Club were also issued with £10 vouchers for ice cream and face painting.

● Chris Byrne, Manweb legal department administrator, makes friends with a goat during the Chester Zoo Day. Alongside her are Anita Corbett, of Human Resources at Pentre Bychan, with her two-year-old son Daniel.

## Philippa's 10 miles boosts under fives

A MANWEB employee's 10-mile run round Sefton Park in Liverpool has boosted the funds for equipment at an under fives playgroup.

Philippa Burton, customer services representative in the Business Centre at Pentre Bychan, completed the 10th Liverpool Women's 10K Run in a creditable 1 hour 17 minutes.

By doing so she raised £300 for the playgroup in Huntington near Chester of which she is

chairperson. "My sister-in-law had competed in the run the year before and enjoyed it so I thought I would enter," said Philippa.

"It's a way of getting fitter and raising money at the same time.

"In the event I loved it. There was a great atmosphere and so many people were shouting their encouragement."

Philippa trained three nights a week for four months in preparation for the event.



## Golf success for Emyr

EMYR Hughes (pictured above), record draftsman at the Caernarfon office, won the coveted Trydan Cup in a hotly-contested golf tournament on Anglesey.

His triumph took place at the first golfing contest of the season of Manweb's Gwynedd Golf Society, held at the 18-hole, 5,800 yard Henllys Hall at Beaumaris.

The event, organised by project assistant Len Hicks, with the connection team at Caernarfon, attracted 21 competitors and finished in a play-off between Emyr and jointer Gareth Williams.

## Business talk to students

PAUL Devlin, Resources Manager, Wales Region, gave a talk to a group of A Level business students at The North Shropshire College.

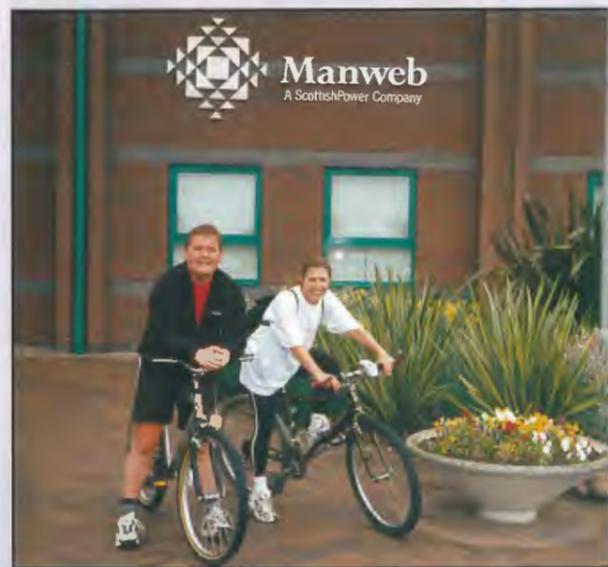
He focused on the company's movement out of the nationalised sector through privatisation and into ownership by ScottishPower.

## Heading for the Towers

A FAMILY day out to Alton Towers has been planned by the Manweb (Chester) Sports and Social Club for Sunday, September 3. Tickets are available from Geoff Littler up to August 4 tel. 805 2373 or 0151-609 2373. Prices are adult members of the Social Club £7, non-members £10. Children aged four to 13 are £7, with under-fours free.

## Have you got news for us?

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



## Joining in cycle to work day

CORPORATE Communications staff Wendy Ellison and Alun Jones both took part in the National Cycle to Work Day. They are pictured on arrival at Manweb House in Chester, taking a breather after dispensing with their safety helmets.

# Contact



Manweb  
A ScottishPower Company

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

Summer Special 2000

## Brookside star joins in birthday surprise for Michelle

# A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

FUNDRAISER extraordinaire Michelle Lewis, who has spent most of her young life raising more than £1 million for good causes, had the tables turned when she was given an 18th birthday surprise by Manweb.

The state-of-the-art scooter which was presented to her together with a special cake at Lister Drive offices, where she works as a Skillseeker, will give Michelle extra mobility vital in the hilly part of Rainhill where she lives.

On hand to wish her Happy Birthday were Brookside star Michael Starke and Paul Pagliari, Group Human Resources Director of ScottishPower, who emphasised that the gift was in recognition of the amazing work Michelle has done for others.

Despite having arthrogyposis, Michelle was awarded the title of Fundraiser of the Year at the Pride of Britain Awards and is a previous Manweb/Chronicle Community Champion. Paul said: "Michelle is a source of inspiration to everyone. Her thoughtfulness for others is unique and remarkable, and she sets an example for them to strive forward."

### Speechless

"ScottishPower is proud to be associated with someone who has done so much for the community – her positive attitude is very much in line with our Living Values. The scooter will give her more personal mobility and help her achieve what she is trying to do in her life."

The birthday girl herself was speechless when the surprise was revealed. After testing out the scooter – which was specially chosen in red because Michelle supports Liverpool – she said: "I am overwhelmed, and I was so shocked to get the present. The scooter will be really useful to me when I go shopping."

Michael Starke – who plays Sinbad in the Liverpool soap – said: "Michelle gets her pleasure from doing things for others, but it is really nice to see her getting something. She is the most normal, down to earth person I know."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Paul Pagliari, left, Group Human Resources Director of ScottishPower, Michelle Lewis and Michael Starke of Brookside pictured outside the Lister Drive offices following the presentation of the scooter.



Dramatic helicopter lift in Snowdonia – page 3



Manweb's Joe Morgan, left, and Steve O'Connor, both of Liverpool Customer Service Centre, talk about electrical safety with pupils from Leamington Junior School, left to right, Jenna Sanders, Teri Worswick and Jason Septon.

## Making children aware of electrical safety

MANWEB participated in a child safety week on Merseyside.

Customer Services representatives took charge of one of the stands at the Croxteth Gems Community Centre in Armill Road, Liverpool, and gave children tips on electrical safety throughout the five-day session.

Year Six pupils from schools in the Norris Green area had been invited to take part in the multi-agency initiative, whose participants included Merseyside Fire Service, Merseyside Police, Coastguard officers and Road Safety experts together

with Manweb and a number of other agencies.

The youngsters toured the stands in groups and were then presented with a safety pack which included Manweb balloons and pens.

"The event was highly successful in making the schoolchildren aware that they must be careful wherever electricity is present – an especially relevant message in the light of the summer holidays," said Alex James, Team Manager at the Liverpool SuperCentre who co-ordinated Manweb's contribution.

A "one stop Internet shop" for small and medium-sized businesses has been launched as a joint venture between ScottishPower and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Work 24 is a small business portal where people can access a wide range of products and services and comprehensive business information which is specifically tailored for their needs. The site will offer web building services, several exclusive offers on office supplies and stationery, computer software and hardware, and an e-office facility. It is targeted at the UK's 3.6 million small and medium businesses.

The service is called Work 24 because work is what the service is about and 24 because it links with the concept of the diary, the clock and organisation.

Work 24, which will tap into Scottish-

# Internet shop for businesses

Power and Royal Bank of Scotland's existing customer base of small and medium size companies, aims to have more than 100,000 registered users within two years.

The £70 million joint venture aims to create new channels for utility and banking services. Over time the portal – at [www.Work24.co.uk](http://www.Work24.co.uk) – will combine the ScottishPower energy and home packages with the Royal Bank of Scotland's banking

network, facilities and expertise.

Work 24 can be used by organisations ranging from those with one employee to those with a payroll of about 50 people and with a turnover of less than £5 million.

It will enable them to increase sales, by providing everything a business needs to launch into e-commerce with its website-building facility and tools to monitor visits and orders to the website.

## Fundraising lands Graham in hot water



GRAHAM Morris ended up in hot water when he volunteered to help raise money for his church. The Manweb Head of Finance is an elder and treasurer of the United Reform Church, Upton-by-Chester.

When his wife Alita, and friend Corin Kingsley decided to raise funds for the church by cooking dinner for 70 people, Graham bravely volunteered to do all the washing up if people would sponsor him.

Manweb agreed to double the amount of cash raised by the dinner which went to buy an industrial strength dishwasher to help the church with its catering commitments.

Luckily the dishwasher arrived the day before the dinner took place, so Graham was able to be the first to use the new addition – though he still had to load and unload it!

● Graham is pictured with the polished crocks.



Far left, the helicopter lifts up an overhead line wooden pole; left, the pole is transported over the rugged Snowdonia terrain; and, above, the pole is lowered into position.

A HELICOPTER was called in to help conquer rugged terrain during a ScottishPower network rebuilding operation at a spectacular location not far from Snowdon.

The single-engine Squirrel lifted 30 overhead line wooden poles each weighing 500 kilos across an undulating landscape sandwiched between Dinorwic Mountain and Llanberis Lake near Deiniolen, within sight of the mist-shrouded slopes of Wales' highest mountain.

Pilot Ernie Gibson, of Inverness-based PDG Helicopters, dramatically manoeuvred the poles into position along a 2.4 kilometre route, shuttling back and forth and dropping them from the helicopter sling at sites 100 metres apart.

During a week's preparation in the run-up to the lift, staff from Alstom Network Services, formerly ScottishPower Contracting, had placed triangular markers along the new route for

# Dramatic air lift in Snowdonia

the 11Kv overhead line, and dressed the replacement poles with steelwork and insulators.

The procedure was part of a wider £249,000 network rebuild in the area under the Quality of Supply Programme.

### Stronger

The 11kV section near Deiniolen was being upgraded to a 33kV specification, although the voltage will remain the same, with physically stronger poles which are more capable of withstanding the weather and ensure better quality of supply.

In the other section of 3.6 kilometres, where the helicopter was not needed, the line is being refurbished rather than



Alstom Network Services Machine Driver Rob Carlin videoing the operation.

Network Services, said: "This is the first time we have worked with a helicopter in this kind of location outside Scotland.

"Given the difficulty of the terrain, with access problems, it was the most cost-effective solution and the best way of limiting damage to the land. Gwynnedd Roberts, ScottishPower Contracting foreman, did a great job in arranging for the site preparation to be completed in time."

The operation was completed in 1 hour 20 minutes, just before the mist rolled in followed by thunder and lightning which would have undoubtedly stopped the proceedings.

replaced, with 0.4 kilometres of 11Kv cable being placed underground.

The circuit in its totality, which feeds into Dinorwic and Deiniolen, serves 900 customers and has been assessed for upgrading under the company's network tapering policy.

Kevin Hurley, Manweb Distribution Engineer, said: "Access to the 2.4 kilo-metres near Deiniolen is difficult and the helicopter was called in to help out.

"This is a high-cost operation but the upgrading of the line to a stronger specification will make all the difference to what has been a poor performance line in the past."

Kevin Williams, Utilities Manager, Distribution, at Alstom



The team which organised the Snowdonia operation, left to right, Linesman Andy Horan, Machine Driver Paul Stoddard, Manweb Distribution Engineer Kevin Hurley, Alstom Network Services Utilities Manager (Distribution) Kevin Williams and Machine Driver Rob Carlin.

## Praise for quick action

SATISFIED customers have written to express their thanks for efficient service supplied when they experienced a total loss of power at their home. Mr and Mrs A. Gleave of Bodelwyddan praised the prompt action of the call out engineer for organising a temporary supply, and thanked the "efficient and pleasant" repair crew who arrived at the stated time.



At the WNO Concert Party at the Ucheldre Centre, Holyhead – David Seaman, Pianist, Nicola Morgan, WNO, Iona Ross Jones, Manweb customer services representative, and Gareth Rhys Davies, WNO.



The WNO Brass Consort plays to passers-by at the Victoria Shopping Centre, Llandudno.

WELSH National Opera's Manweb-sponsored Community and Education Projects earlier this summer delighted both young and old.

A diverse range of projects were held across the North Wales region as part of the WNO's Manweb North Wales Season. An opera education project based on Bizet's Carmen travelled to two mainstream primary and two special needs schools in Caernarfon and Llandudno.

The youngsters involved all came together finally in a collective workshop in the Ocean Lounge in the North Wales Theatre.

"They put together everything they had learned in earlier workshops," said Jo Williams, the WNO's Development Officer. "Their dancing was brilliantly Carmenesque, and their curriculum-based drama and music featured their own songs and rhythm work."

**Tuition**

Masterclass workshops were held for members of various amateur operatic societies at the Ocean Lounge, North Wales Theatre, Llandudno, on the day before the first night of Carmen, where WNO understudies Simon Thorpe, baritone, Claire Bradshaw, mezzo soprano and Graham Jackson of the music staff gave expert tuition in songs from the opera.

Older people were thrilled by the five concert parties given at Residential Homes and venues throughout North Wales, including the Llys Elian Residential Home in Colwyn Bay, the Town Hall, Ruthin and the Ucheldre Centre in Holyhead.

# Opera goes into the community

"We took music out to people who would not normally be able to get to concerts," said Jo. "We offered a light operatic repertoire in the residential homes and community areas."

Light opera such as Hansel and Gretel, together with more populist pieces such as When the Saints Go Marching In, was the order of the day when the WNO Brass Consort gave a free public concert in the Victoria Shopping Centre, Llandudno.

"The WNO is not elitist in the slightest," said Jo. "We believe in access for all and we are very grateful to Manweb for giving our Community and Education programme such support."

"It was lovely that Manweb representatives were involved in the sessions, and the season was a big success. We have had so many thankyou letters from members of the community whom we visited."



A WNO masterclass at the Ocean Lounge, North Wales Theatre for members of the Colwyn Bay Operatic Players, (the three on the right) Hazel Stockdale, Lesley Pullin and Penny Martin.



Above, a WNO masterclass at the Ocean Lounge, North Wales Theatre for members of the St Asaph Choral Society, (the three on the left) Alison Rome, Jeff Tidman and Rita Thomas.



Left, three young girls play xylophones during the WNO visit to pupils from the mainstream primary school Ysgol Gynradd Bontnewydd in Caernarfon.

# Donation came at crucial moment

PEOPLE with Alzheimer's Disease in Wirral now have access to treatments like aromatherapy and massage in a community resource centre – thanks to a major £20,000 grant from Manweb.

In the latest initiative to have grown out of the developing relationship between the company and Age Concern, a Manweb Treatment Room has been created in the Devonshire Resource Centre in Birkenhead, the charity's new Wirral day base.

The room allows people with Alzheimers to have such treatments from visiting experts as aromatherapy, massage, hair-dressing or chiropody.

Annette Roberts, Senior Manager for Support Services at Age Concern Wirral, said: "The room will supply a need from older people with Alzheimers for whom we are caring on a day to day basis."

"This facility at our day centre will allow visiting chiropodists to attend to their feet, for example."

"The spacious, private room will enable treatment previously unavailable to them."

Manweb's grant came at a key moment for Age Concern Wirral. The organisation had moved out of previous premises and was renovating the building



Annette Roberts, Senior Manager for Support Services at Age Concern Wirral, and John Kennedy, Manweb's Community Relations Manager, and watch a patient receiving treatment in the Manweb Therapy Room.

in Park Road North, Birkenhead, but it seemed to have reached an impasse.

"We were delighted to receive the donation because it came at a time when we were down in the dumps," explained Annette.

**Clinic**

"It did not look as if we could achieve what we wanted."

With the new day centre now up and running, facilities are also now on offer allowing people to be treated by staff from a travelling clinic operated by social services.

Staff at Age Concern – one of the PowerPartners five nomin-

ated charities – are especially delighted with the Manweb donation because of the message it sends out. "The sponsorship gives us hope that there are other people out there who are willing to help and put their money where their mouth is."

John Kennedy, Manweb's Community Relations Manager, said: "We were happy to be involved in supporting this new and innovative idea. This is another of our tangible and sustainable community initiatives which benefit older people."

# Sad death of Old goldfish

SYLVIA Old is mourning the death of a goldfish which she bought an amazing 26 years ago at a fair. Sylvia, who works on the emergency help desk at Lister Drive, obtained it for her son Stephen, who was then nine, at a cub scout fair in St Johns' church hall at Waterloo.

Fishy, who only needed feeding once a week, lived for two and a half times the average age of a goldfish.

Sylvia said: "I am very sad that he has died. I loved him and it seems a lifetime that he was with us. I've buried him in the garden under the privet hedge and marked the spot with a cross."

● The Guinness Book of Records entry for the longest-living goldfish in the UK is 41 years.

# Not a bridge too far

ENTRIES are invited for the 27th Electricity Supply Industry Bridge Competition to be held at the British Power Barnwood Sports and Social Club, Gloucester on October 14.

Entry form and details from Bernard Lloyd, Ringsbury House, Ringsbury Close, Purton, Swindon, Wilts SN5 9DE or phone 01793-770272.

# Rural care team transform school

MANWEB'S Rural Care team has helped to transform the grounds of a primary school by creating a new wildlife area and outdoor play and classroom for pupils.

The team donated wood to build benches for a newly-created paved area in the grounds of Bodfari School, where children will be able to read or even play life-sized draughts during breaktime.

Eighteen native hardwood trees were also planted in one corner as part of a wildlife area and 180 birch trees have been put in to form a screen of hedges around the outdoor classroom area.

● Youngsters investigate the new paved area at Bodfari School, with Andy Churchman of Rural Care (front right.)



# American themed party was just swell

FROM beach bums to cowgirls to Chicago hoods – Manweb energy supply staff sure did dress up to party for PowerPartners on July 4.

Celebrating an American theme for Independence Day, customer sales and service dudes at Pentre Bychan, Warrington, and Caernarfon played a leading role in the ScottishPower fund-raising day for the five nominated charities.

Customer Service Manager Martyn Jones transformed into Michael Jackson by donning a face mask and strutting his stuff around the offices – thus making good his pledge that he would impersonate Liz Taylor's friend if a certain cash target was raised.

Warrington came up with an especially ingenious ruse. Balloons were filled with raffle tickets, and electricity call centre staff were informed that they could claim a balloon as soon as they took a call from a customer whom they could connect in some way with the US.

During the afternoon calls were verified as coming from a Mr N. York and a Mr Anthony Bennett, while addresses included a Madison Square and a Lincoln Street. An American lady actually rang in, asking to change a meter reading.

"Everybody entered into the spirit and it was a really great day," said Sue Reece at Warrington. "We had deli bars dotted all around the offices with donuts, muffins and nuts, and people just helped themselves."

The offices at Caernarfon were decked out for the day with line dancing flags, while Pentre Bychan staff were especially strong on the historical side – costumes



Yeesh-hah... Warrington cowgirls Sarah Millington, Gas Call Centre representative, and Joanne Heyes, a mentor in the Gas Centre.



Pentre Bychan staff decked in Star and Stripes are Andy Cronshaw, credit management, and Sue Stratton-Symes, team manager, credit management,

ranged from Red Indian culture to the modern gangster idiom.

Jennifer Moss-Ellis, at Caernarfon Call Centre, said: "The Independence Day fund-raising was very enjoyable for all who took part – and of course it was in a good cause."

\*Manweb staff in Caernarfon are organising an ox roast on September 2 to raise money for the PowerPartners charity Age Concern Gwynedd a Mon. The event, which starts at 6.30 pm at Parc Glynllifon and will feature musical entertainment, is open to all.



Staff at Pentre Bychan at the American Independence Day charity fundraiser.

EXCITEMENT is mounting with the approach of the annual It's A Knockout tournament to be held this year at Widnes Cricket Club with proceeds going to the PowerPartners charity appeal. Contact turns the spotlight on three teams looking to be successful on Bank Holiday Monday August 27.



The "Warrington Wonders," training to face the perils of water. Mobeen Raza makes ready to hose down his team mates, left to right, Paul Rice, Dave Rowbotham and Kate Naylor, who all work at the Gas Customer Call Centre.



The 'Seiont Sensations' are pictured alongside Caernarfon's River Seiont from which they take their name. Left to right, Melanie Jones, Gruff Wyn, John Williams, Dawn Muckley, Kathleen Kelly, Sara Salisbury and Derfel Hughes.



The "Prenton Powerhouses" have been putting in some serious gym work in readiness for the big showdown. Derek Millard-Smith is pictured putting his colleague Rachel Shorney through her paces

# Cakes, legends and Britney are all part of preparation

SECRET weapons are being honed and special training techniques developed as teams in Manweb's regions prepare for the annual It's A Knockout competition.

The water-based games demand high levels of concentration and stamina and for this reason competitors are making sure that they fine-tune their tactics in advance.

None more so than the "Seiont Sensations" from Caernarfon who are holding clandestine training sessions in the dungeons of mighty Caernarfon Castle.

Fuelled on a diet of special Welsh cakes made containing water distilled from the River Seiont from which they take their name, the team members are straining every sinew to outdo their rivals in feats of athletic excellence.

With honed performers such as Gruff the Great, Glorious Gaynor

and Crazy Ceri in their side, this team needs little outside assistance, but just for good measure they have chosen Prince Llewellyn as their spiritual mentor and they plan to chant verses from the ancient book of legends The Mabinogion as a good luck charm just before the competition begins.

Prenton Power Systems team the "Powerhouses" boasts a devastating array of sporting high-achievers.

In January Derek Millard-Smith

won through divisional heats to compete against the best skiers in the army in a competition held on an Olympic ski run in France.

Derek, who is on a wayleaves easement project at Prenton, qualified for entry because he is in the Territorial Army. Having skied 14 years out of the last 17 since he was six, he is at peak fitness and should prove a formidable asset to the highly-fancied Prenton team.

Among Prenton's other com-

petitors Rachel Shorney is an ace horsewoman and walker, Helen Gaier swims and cycles and Carol Cotgrave is also a keen cyclist.

The Powerhouses aim to win "by fair means or foul" and for a psychological boost they are drawing inspiration from repeated viewings of The Wacky Races.

Warrington's crack team from the Gas Customer Call Centre, the "Warrington Wonders," is quietly confident because star performers

Paul Rice is very used to crossing large expanses of water.

As reported in the last issue of Contact, he flew 4,000 miles to attend a Britney Spears concert near New York. As Contact went to press Paul's team was hoping for a personal message from Britney to guarantee it success on the big day.

● If you think you can rise to the challenge of It's a Knockout in aid of PowerPartners, e-mail: jane.hall@manweb.co.uk

# Donation for vital RNID work

MONEY raised by staff for the PowerPartners Appeal is already making a difference in people's lives.

A donation of £20,000 has been made towards the work of a unique charity project.

Sound Advice run by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People on the Isle of Wight provides information about and demonstrations of daily living equipment to deaf and hard of hearing people.

The demonstrations of aids such as flashing-light doorbells, smoke alarms with vibrating loops under the pillow

and loop systems to amplify the sound of televisions are unique in Britain.

Trained volunteers give the demonstrations either in a special room in the Sound Advice centre in Newport, or in people's homes if they find it difficult to travel.

"We are able to assess people's needs and then fit the relevant equipment in their homes," said Joyce Love, Project Manager. "We are very proud of our service and we are most grateful to ScottishPower and Manweb for enabling this vital work to continue and improve the quality of deaf and hard of

hearing people's lives. Lack of hearing affects their quality of experience, and these pieces of kit can help greatly. Our service lets people try things out to see what would be of use to them.

"Deaf people can become very isolated and insular if normal day to day things are taken away from them. They become depressed and ill. The equipment makes it possible for them to retain their independence and stay in their own homes."

Sound Advice has had 3,000 referrals since it was set up, from throughout the Isle of Wight community.



Hilary Mannall of RNID demonstrates equipment to a customer at Sound Advice offices at Newport, Isle of Wight.



## James gets three offers

**JAMES Phillips, pictured, a Craft Skillseeker, has been so successful he has been offered three apprenticeships. He praises his time at Manweb as the key to his success in being given the chance to join three major companies in the region.**

James, aged 17, who followed in his sister Emma's footsteps by joining the two-year craft programme at Hoylake, has chosen Vauxhall as the company where he will begin his working career.

James said: "My time with Manweb, and the skills I accumulated while working at Hoylake, are undoubtedly the reasons for my success in being offered three different apprenticeship options."

Neil Hunter, ScottishPower Learning Regional Manager, said: "James has done really well to be given three offers - he's had to make a difficult choice."

"ScottishPower Learning will now offer him every support in helping his career move forward."

# Four ace learners in contest final

**FOUR** ace learners have been named as the Manweb finalists in the ScottishPower Learning "Learner of the Year" competition.

Reinforcing the messages of the nationwide Adult Learners Week, the competition is run by the company to promote its commitment to lifelong learning for staff, their families and more recently members of the community.

Nominations were invited from colleagues, team leaders, managers, family members or on behalf of an individual within the community or a school pupil. An overall Learner of the Year will be selected from the sectional winners in Manweb, Scotland and Southern Water.

Manweb's winners were recognised at a presentation attended by Managing Director Stewart Saunders.

Lynn Hart, winner in the Open Learning category, has completed an HNC and is now on a degree course. Originally in an administration role, she is now seconded to a position in Human Resources. She continues to take the opportunity to enhance her skills.



**At the presentation to the Manweb sectional winners in the Learner of the Year competition, left to right: Manweb Managing Director Stewart Saunders; Learner of the Year finalists Antonia Carmichael, Paul Ryan, Lynn Hart and Claire Anderson; and Steve Gaulter, ScottishPower Learning Open Learning Co-ordinator.**

Antonia Carmichael, winner in the School/Community category, is at Rhyl High School and experiences the learning difficulty dyslexia. She follows a specially-designed course which adopts a multi-sensory approach to improving reading, spelling and writing.

Claire Anderson, winner in the Business Category, is working towards an MBA. She has shown special determination in completing her college

work and has recently taken on a new role in the Distribution Business reorganisation.

Paul Ryan, winner in the Family Member category, is the son of Geoff Ryan, Operational Training Engineer at Hoylake. During work experience at Manweb Paul made the most of the learning opportunities through the Open Learning Centre, showing great commitment and completing a number of IT courses.

## Craft Skillseekers on outward bound course

SCOTTISHPOWER Learning's Merseyside and Cheshire Craft Skillseekers recently attended a residential development course with the Outward Bound Trust.

The programme focused on problem solving, communication, working with others and improving learning performance. Accompanied by Jeff Ainslie, the electrical instructor from the programme,

the Skillseekers enjoyed rock climbing, raft-ing, hill walking and canoeing.

They are now on work experience at Liverpool and Prenton and will start their Electrical NVQ in September.

## Efficiency accolade

CLWYD West MP Gareth Thomas presented Manweb with a national energy efficiency award at a primary school in Llysfaen. The ScottishPower group was declared the winner of the energy efficiency industry's coveted "Henry Award" by the National Energy Foundation.

The award was for the highly innovative Schools Energy Project, which delivered energy efficiency lessons to 650 primary

schools throughout the Manweb area, with Ysgol Cynfran being one of those schools.

Pictured is Manweb Energy Efficiency Manager Malcolm Bebbington, second left, receiving the award from MP Gareth Thomas, centre. Looking on are Alison Weiner, left, of the Energy Savings Trust, Ysgol Cynfran Deputy Head Jean Pritchard, right, and pupils Charlotte Edmonson and Kyle Jones.



**A NEW HOLIDAY** unit being set up by the West Wirral branch of Arthritis Care will benefit from the donation of a portable television by Manweb. The set will be installed in the specially-adapted unit for which money is currently being raised to replace the charity's present mobile home in Prestatyn.

A DONATION of £200 from Manweb has helped the Friends Disabled Group (Liverpool and Knowsley) to give 25 disabled people a day by the sea. The Group, which meets every two weeks at its club in Kirkby so that members can socialise enjoyed the day out at Llandudno.

A PORTABLE colour television was donated by Manweb as the first prize in the annual fund raising raffle held by Delyn and Deeside Sports Club for the Disabled. The proceeds of the raffle will go towards the £7,000 currently needed each year by the club to keep going. The TV was the main item to be raffled during the Club's Annual Games at Deeside Leisure Centre.

A REGULAR TRIP to the seaside for children with learning disabilities has been supported by Manweb. The popular outing to Southport known as the "Orford Jaunt" is organised by the Warrington branch of Mencap. A television was donated for the raffle held to boost cash available for the trip.

THE DONATION of a new television to be auctioned or raffled has helped to boost the funds of the Bebington Hard of Hearing Club. The club meets twice a week to give people with hearing difficulties the chance to meet each other and enjoy a variety of social activities.

FIVE NEW WHEELCHAIRS have been provided for the British Red Cross on Merseyside due to a £1,000 donation from Manweb. The wheelchairs, which will be based at the charity's new Bootle offices, will join others which are loaned out to people in the area who have an injury like a broken leg or who are on the waiting list for a permanent wheelchair.

A SCHOOL minibus described as a lifesaver will get a new lease of life - thanks to Manweb's contribution to a sponsored walk. Paul Kirkham from Mold depot, his wife Jane and her father John Kirk, all completed the seven-mile walk at Loggerheads near Mold in aid of the Friends of Bistre Belmont Infants School, a special needs school at Buckley. Manweb matched the money they raised to a total of £434, to be spent maintaining the school minibus.



DISABLED groups and a variety of other organisations will benefit from a new community bus in Liverpool which Manweb has helped to buy.

Moira Renwick, Manweb Community Liaison Officer, handed over the keys of the bus to police officer Dave Robbins (based at Toxteth

## Cheers for wheels

police station) who helps run it, with a group of beavers attached to the 13th Allerton Scout Group in attendance.

The Scouts have replaced their original bus, which

they funded some years ago to benefit children in Merseyside.

● Pictured above is Moira presenting Dave with the keys to the bus, cheered by the beaver scouts.

# This Mike Tyson boxes clever...

**M**ENTION the word "box" to Mike Tyson and you don't get the response you would expect. Far from launching into a frenzied discussion of fisticuffs, the Manweb security officer who bears the same moniker as the most feared man in the ring will most likely ask what kind of birds you have in your garden.

Mike Tyson, of the Manweb variety, makes bird boxes for his hobby - and he custom-builds them to suit whatever kind of bird is to be encouraged to visit.

"I started making them after seeing an article in a woodworking magazine," said Mike, aged 54, who calls himself "Mike Tyson Senior" to distinguish himself from the boxer and who joined Manweb after previous careers in the army and with Shell.

### Pattern

"I have reinvented my hobby of years ago - I wanted to be a joiner on leaving school but the right kind of apprenticeship was not available."

So far Mike has made 24 tables with a bird house on "just as a hobby," using the pattern supplied by the magazine, but if any Contact readers would like to obtain one of his creations he is willing to make more on request.

As well as bird house-type constructions,



**Manweb security officer Mike Tyson with some of the custom-made bird boxes he creates.**

he makes nest boxes, bird boxes with sloping roofs and bird feeder tables for placing on posts. Prices range from £5 to £12.50.

Mike can be contacted at home on 01244-544518. He works on the reception desk at Manweb House in Chester.

# Annual hunt in Chester

**T**WENTY-THREE teams took part in the annual Manweb treasure hunt around the highways and byways of Chester.

Following a set of obscure directions and faced with a series of esoteric questions, the teams brainwaved their way through conundrums like What Happened in Chester in AD 907? (of course you knew – the Saxons reformed the city.)

Along the route, from Castle

Car Park to the Custom House pub, the participants had to find clever ways of collecting “treasure” including a black swan (a spent match,) a picture of cricket (on the back of a £10 note,) a set of teeth (a comb) and a map of the world (hologram on the back of a credit card.)

Winners were two teams from Queensferry IS, in first place the curiously named “Where’s Bob A?” and in second “To Insanity and Beyond.”



Sarah on her visit to the Hawarden network improvement project. In the party is her father Andy Stubbs, second left, and MP Barry Jones, second right.

## Insight on work for Sarah

SARAH Stubbs, daughter of Manweb Asset Manager Andy Stubbs, has completed a week’s work experience in the Corporate Communications department.

Sarah, aged 15, applied for the placement through her school, Ysgol Maes Garmon in Mold.

Her tasks included compiling press cuttings and helping to write a press release – both useful preparation for a career in journalism which she may pursue on leaving school (her other ambition is work in meteorology.)

Her most action-packed day was the Friday, when she met Barry Jones, MP, on a tour of the network improvements at Hawarden, and also attended a photocall where Manweb Managing Director Stewart Saunders met McGregor the pony (see article on this page.)

“I really enjoyed my week at Manweb,” said Sarah. “It gave me a good impression of what I need to become successful in the world of work.”

## MP visits improvement project

ALYN and Deeside MP Barry Jones visited the Bennetts Lane site in Hawarden to witness the final stages in the £100,000 project to improve the town’s network.

Mr Jones watched the removal of overhead line electricity poles. Manweb has almost completed work to install underground power lines and remove the old overhead cables.

The overhead line from Kearsley Avenue to High Park substation, via Hawarden Golf Club has been converted to a modern covered conductor.

“I have been an avid supporter of this scheme for some time,” said Mr Jones. “I was delighted when Manweb invited me to see the poles being cut down.”



## MD’s special link with McGregor the pony

WHEN staff at Manweb decided to sponsor a pony at a special riding centre little did they know they would end up with one from Managing Director Stewart Saunders’ home kingdom.

McGregor, a silver dun highland pony, was born in 1992 in Fife and moved to the Clwyd Special Riding Centre at Llanfynydd earlier this year. He was a natural choice for the £600 sponsorship because his Scottish name reflects the ScottishPower connection – but the extra link with Stewart’s birthplace came as a complete surprise!

● Stewart is pictured with McGregor.

## Supporting voluntary sector

THE publication costs of a vital information directory listing voluntary groups have been paid for by Manweb. The Directory for Voluntary Organisations/Groups on Deeside was printed by the company’s contractors Astron and launched at the Deeside Voluntary Organisation Network (DVON) Annual General Meeting.

Dave Grady, who is currently on secondment to the Rural Care team and who organised the sponsorship, said: “Our relationship with DVON goes back some years and we were glad to support the publication of this worthwhile directory which is especially useful for newcomers to the area in search of information.”

## Ramblers walk out to ‘elusive’ island

A PLUCKY party of ramblers from the North Wirral Retirees Association made a successful crossing to one of the Britain’s most “elusive” islands.

Permission has to be gained from the Thurston Rangers to cross over from West Kirby to Hilbre Island, because tide patterns allow access only at certain times.

The intrepid ramblers, led by ace Rambler Eric Coley, threaded their way over waterlogged sand, setting out at 9.45 am and observing the strict return time of 2.30 pm.

According to Lil Martland, the Secretary of the group, the excursion was a “magnificent experience.”

She enthused: “It was a real adventure to cross to this mysterious and fascinating island.

“We all wore wellies and we made sure we stuck to the times – the tide comes in very quickly and the water produces a quicksand effect.

### Footprint

“Once on the island we saw rare birds and hundreds of seals basking on a sand bank.

“We also listened in to a guide who explained about the former lighthouse and monastery on the island.

“There was even an alleged dinosaur’s footprint discovered among the sandstone rocks some time ago.”

Eric Coley said: “We all had to go well prepared for the expedition because the tides sweep in very quickly round the island.

“Wildlife on the island is excellent and we spent much time watching the seals.”



## Les hits jackpot for the first time

**A**FTER a lifetime of winning nothing on the pools and failing to hit the jackpot at bingo Les Adams has finally struck lucky at the age of 70.

The former linesman with Manweb “nearly fell off his chair” when he learned he had become the first winner of the company’s new lottery for staff and retired employees.

Les, of Dolgarrog near Conwy in North Wales, scooped £2,166 in the staff lottery which supports the PowerPartners fund raising initiative.

Les buys five tickets every quarter in the lottery, and says he received a “lovely letter” from ScottishPower offering congratulations on being the first winner.

“I’ve never had anything on the football pools and never won anything big on the bingo,” he said. “I found out about the new staff lottery from information that was sent with my pension slip. I obviously think it’s a very good idea – if I can win anyone can.”

Les was given a special treat at the Lister Drive office to celebrate his win. He was chauffeur-driven from his home in Wales, and after being photographed with staff in PowerPartners T-shirts was invited for a meal



A special celebration photograph taken at Lister Drive to mark Les Adams’, centre, stunning win on the staff lottery.

in the staff restaurant. Looking back on his 38 years’ service, Les recalled his “happy days” working as a linesman in his patch around the Conwy Valley.

One incident that has stayed in his mind is the occasion when he and his mate disturbed a snake in ferns around Llyn Geirionydd.

## Dolls house raffle

IFOR Roberts from the Clwyd Retirees Association has made a new dolls house and is raffling it off to raise money for a children’s hospice.

Ifor has designed several houses in the past which have stirred enormous interest among doll lovers. Now he is hoping that the Hope House charity in Wrexham will make a large sum of money from his latest creation.

## Trip to Ireland

**UP to 30 members of the North Mersey Retirees Association are set for a four-day trip to Ireland in September. The holiday, organised by Irish Ferries, will start on September 19th and will take in various parts of the country – including a trip to the historic Kilkenny Castle.**

## Sunny Cumbria

THE Mid Cheshire Retirees Association have just enjoyed their first day trip of the year.

A group of 40 members spent a sun-drenched day at Leighton Hall in Cumbria where they were able to take a look at the beautifully restored house and grounds. Now the Association has started the ball rolling they have several more events planned for later in the year.