

# CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper for staff and their families.

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

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June 1990

Double award

MANWEB'S 1988/89 Annual Report and Accounts has won a top award. The Report took first place in its category in the British Association of Industrial Editors' Editing for Industry Awards. The judges said Manweb's document was "commendable".

The Award of Excellence was presented to Head of Public Relations Joy King during a special ceremony in Scarborough.

And Manweb has also won an award from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts for supporting a series of safety plays performed by Liverpool-based Premier Theatre Company.

The commemorative certificate will be presented by Arts Minister Richard Luce at a special ceremony in London on July 10.

## Manweb staff boost Telethon extravaganza

# CHARITY BONANZA



by Jackie Unsworth

MANWEB played a major role when ITV staged Britain's biggest ever charity fund-raising event last month. Charities benefited from a record windfall of more than £24 million raised nationwide during the 27-hour Telethon 90 extravaganza.

Aberystwyth District was the "backbone" for the Telethon event in Mid Wales, helping raise a total £45,000 towards the Appeal.

The District Office was one of three centres in Wales, where the public could pledge cash support by phoning special charity switchboards, and Manweb staff volunteered to help out.

Manweb Energy Marketing Assistant Tomos Davies, Chairman of the Aberystwyth and Mid Wales Telethon Committee, said: "Aberystwyth has never seen such a big crowd in 20 years. The promenade was choc-a-bloc with people. It was unbelievable, and an excellent total was raised."

The money-spinning stunts arranged at Aberystwyth included a Festival of Song, kidnapping of local businessmen, 27-hour aerobics, parascending, paragliding, raft races and displays of sea rescue. Among the whackier events was a turkey plucking competition and a smash the nut with a JCB contest! The grand finale was a fantastic firework display and flotilla of boats.

Staff gave up their time to man the Manweb caravan, which was sited on the promenade throughout the 27 hour event, attracting thousands of visitors.

Manweb also lent its support in the form of the Manweb helicopter, which was used to whisk a trio of celebrities - Hi-de-Hi star Ruth Madoc, singer Bonnie Tyler and Falklands hero Simon Weston - from Cardiff to Aberystwyth, then later on to Rhyl to join the fun and frolics and boost the Telethon appeal.

At Rhyl, Clwyd District Office Manager Phil Starkey had persuaded a local car hire firm to collect the stars from Cefndy Road and transport them to the Suncentre to meet the waiting locals and holidaymakers.

Dai Davies, of Bodelwydden-based Coronation Cars, whisked the three celebrities to their destination in style - in a luxurious Ford Landau extended limousine.

The Rhyl events included the world's biggest fun quiz, under-water sports, hockey, rugby and a host of other fund-raising activities.

Telethon picture special - page 5.



## Jeepers creepers

IT was enough to send the residents of Bootle screaming for cover when they were over-run by an army of 'creepy crawlies'. But it was all in good fun...

The invaders were staff from Manweb plc's North Mersey District Office who dressed up as centipedes and set off, armed with collecting tins, to raise funds for Liverpool's Marie Curie Sunnybank Hospice.

The sponsored "crawl" raised around £500...and the money is still pouring in.

Five teams of typists, customer accounts and engineering staff based at Bridle Road, Bootle, donned fancy dress for the charity event. Tied together with string, and rattling their collection tins, the centipede procession wove along a four mile course, calling in at local pubs along the way!

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Golden years

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Lift off

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Kidnapped

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Green light

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## Changing faces



## Flower power

**SAYING it with flowers...Oswestry Customer Accounts Manager Mike Beard presents a bouquet to Clerical Assistant Mair Davies, who has retired after 16 years' service.**

Mair joined Manweb in 1974, and worked on all aspects of customer accounting, ending up in the prepayments section. She previously worked as a midwife before starting her own family.

Music-lover Mair plans to start her retirement on a high note. She intends to devote much of her time on continuing her musical training.

## Rowland's 'Record' retirement

**HEAD Office Records Draughtsman Rowland George has retired after more than 40 years in the electricity supply industry.**

Rowland (59) joined the North Wales Power Company as a Drawing Office Junior in 1947. He joined Manweb on its creation.

From 1949 to 51 he did national service as a Radio Telephonist with the RAF. He returned to Manweb as a Drawing Office Assistant, becoming Records Draughtsman in 1955.

## New man joins UTT

**ANDREW Spiers (pictured) has joined the UTT Department at Head Office as an Environmental Engineer.**

Replacing 1st Engineer Keith Nord, who has moved to Mid Cheshire District, Andrew previously worked for Oldham Metro Borough Council as an Energy Conservation Officer.

Birmingham-born bachelor Andrew, 32, is a graduate of UMIST in Manchester, where he gained a 1st class honours degree in Building Technology and a Masters Degree in Management Science.



He said: "My new job is very interesting and entails heating and ventilation design work and systems for domestic, commercial and industrial premises."



## John calls it a day . . . after 45 years

**NEW Crane Street Foreman Electrician John Ashbrook has retired after 45 years in the electricity industry.**

Starting as an apprentice in Northwich in 1945, John joined Manweb on its creation in 1948. He worked on network changeover at Northwich, and came to New Crane Street as Foreman Electrician in the

early 1960s.

John and wife Doreen have one daughter and live in Cuddington near Northwich. He is a former Manweb Northwich cricketer, and still plays table tennis for Manweb

Northwich Sports and Social Club. His other interests include fishing and football.

New Crane Street colleagues bought John electric hedge clippers as a retirement gift, and also pre-

sented Doreen with a bouquet.

John (centre right) is pictured with Doreen as Dee Valley Mains Manager Arwel Lloyd and New Crane Street colleagues wish him a happy retirement.



Rowland lives in Rossett, and his main out of work interests are rambling and photography. He combines

these in slide presentations of his walks.

Rowland is pictured (centre left) being presented with a

retirement gift of a slide projector by Network Records Services Manager, Bob Blair while colleagues look on.

## Plain sailing

**HOPING his retirement will be "plain sailing" is Liverpool District 1st Engineer George Rive, who has called it a day after 40 years' service with Manweb.**

George, who worked in the Engineering Department at Lister Drive, will be able to devote more time to his three hobbies - sailing, bowling and amateur radio.

After attending Walton Technical College, George served as an apprentice electrician with Bibby's in Liverpool, and after carrying out his National Service in the Tank Corps spent two years with the GPO.

He became a trainee with Manweb in 1950, later being appointed Assistant Section Engineer at Southport. He then worked at Area 1 Office in Hatton Garden, Liverpool South District and Head Office, returning to Liverpool in 1973 to become a 1st Engineer.

## Ken had a flying start

**STAFF at North Wirral District gathered to wish 1st Engineer (Production) Ken Hardcastle good luck in his retirement.**

Ken, pictured (centre) shaking hands with Supplies Manager John Barker, and surrounded by colleagues, joined Manweb in 1949 as a Contracting Electrician at Seaview Road, Wallasey. He was previously an Airframe Fitter with the Royal Air Force.

In 1952 he became an Electrical Fitter and two years later went to work as a General Assistant Engineer at the CEBG's Bold Power Station. He was appointed Assistant Section Engineer with Manweb at North Wirral in 1958 and in 1966 was promoted to Section Engineer. Ken then became 2nd Assistant Engineer in 1971, before being promoted to 1st Engineer in 1974.

Also pictured is Ken's wife Sheila, who was presented with a bouquet.



## Neville leaves on a high note

**CENTRAL Field Unit Manager Brian Mather (2nd from left) presents a radio-cassette player to 2nd Engineer Neville Jones, who has retired from the 132kV Project Group after 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry.**

Neville started his career at Northwich Depot and after completing his training secured a permanent post in the old Head Office Engineering Drawing Office at Love Lane, Liverpool. During this period he recalls a young Engineer called Denis Farquhar coming to work in the Construction Department!

Neville moved to Chester in 1969 when Head Office was relocated. Eventually working on the 132kV system, he moved to the Central Field Unit at Prenton in 1989, helping to establish the 132kV Project Group.

Colleagues from Prenton and Chester got together at a retirement party for Neville at the Royal Oak, Chester.





## Ron clocks off

**CLOCKING off with a gold pocket watch is North Wirral Energy Marketing Manager Ron Jones, pictured (centre, left) receiving his retirement gift from District Manager Geoff Abel on behalf of colleagues.**

Ron joined Manweb as an Apprentice Electrician in Aberystwyth District in 1949, where he remained, after completing his National Service in Air Traffic Control in 1950 to 1952, as an Electrician until 1959, and then a Commercial Sales Assistant until 1961.

After two years in Technical Staff Training, Ron moved to Liverpool District as a 4th Assistant Commercial Engineer. In 1968 he transferred to North

Wirral, where he remained until retirement, as Assistant Commercial Engineer, later becoming 2nd Engineer, Commercial, 1st Engineer, Industrial Load Development, and then Senior Engineer, Energy Marketing.

Ron's outside interests include the Royal Naval Reserve, in which he serves as a Lieutenant Commander. He has also been the Commanding Officer of Hoylake Sea Cadet Unit since 1964, and has received

the MBE for his services. Under his command, the Hoylake Sea Cadets became one of the top units in the North West.

Ron is also involved with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and is Captain of the West Kirby Sailing Club.

Geoff Abel said: "Ron is well known for his commitment to Manweb and the support he has provided to encourage major contracting work on the Wirral."



**DEE Valley Customer Accounts Manager Andy Pooley presents a watch to Haydn Hughes (centre, left) on behalf of colleagues. Haydn, a Principal Assistant in the Accounts Department at Rhostyllen, has taken early retirement due to ill health. He had clocked up 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry. Also pictured is Haydn's wife Jeanette, who was presented with a bouquet.**



## Calling time on his career

**CALLING time on his 45 year career in the electricity supply industry is Albert Horrabin, a Meter Reader/Collection Foreman at Mid Mersey District.**

Albert, pictured (front, centre) receiving his retirement gift - a rotary watch - from Mid Mersey District Manager Des Lock on behalf of colleagues, started work with Warrington Corporation Electricity Department.

All his working life was spent in the Meter Reading/Collectors' Department and he was promoted to Foreman in 1969.

He and wife Audrey are keen caravanners, and the couple plan to spend more time holidaying. Albert is also the

drummer in a four piece band, regularly playing at local functions.

Staff gathered at the District Office to wish Albert good luck in his retirement. Also pictured is Mrs Horrabin, who was presented with a bouquet.

## Goodbye and good luck

**STAFF at Dee Valley District have said goodbye and good luck to 13 colleagues who have recently retired.**

**Garfield Johnson, 63,** took early retirement on May 31 after 47 years' service. He joined the industry in 1943 as an Apprentice Fitter and finished as an Engineering Foreman at Legacy Depot.

**Fred Wightman, 60,** a 2nd Engineer in the Mains Section at Rhostyllen, took early retirement on May 31. He had clocked up 37 years' service.

**Frederick Charles Spratt** - known as Stan to his friends - has taken early retirement at the age of 61 after completing 37 years' service. He was a Driver at New Crane Street Depot.

**Glyn Davies, 62,** who joined Manweb in 1956, has taken early retirement. During his service he has held various positions, ranging from Labourer to Engineering Foreman at Legacy Depot.

**Wyn Evans, 62,** retired early on May 31 after completing 39 years' service. He was a Supervisor in Engineering Work Control at Rhostyllen, having previously worked at Legacy Depot and also in Area 4 Secretarial.

**Ronnie Hughes, 59,** has retired after completing 24 years' service. He was a Linesman until 1989, when he was appointed Engineering Foreman at Legacy Depot.

**Cecil Davies-Barrett, 61,** a Draughtsman at Rhostyllen, retired on May 23. He had worked for Manweb since 1955.

**John Whittaker, 58,** who had clocked up 38 years' service, retired on March 31. He was an Engineering Foreman at New Crane Street Depot.

**Ron Tyler, 61,** a 2nd Engineer at Rhostyllen, has taken early retirement after completing almost 32 years' service.

**Albert Roberts, 60,** joined the industry in 1946 with North Wales Power Company. A 2nd Engineer at Rhostyllen, he retired on May 13.

**Brenda Jones, 58,** a Clerical Assistant in Commercial Work Control, Rhostyllen, has retired after completing 21 years' service.

**Stanley Wright, 61,** retired on May 16 after clocking up 27 years' service. He was an Engineering Foreman at New Crane Street Depot.

**Eric Ellis, 59,** has taken early retirement after 41 years' service. He started out as an Apprentice Fitter in 1949, later becoming a fully-fledged Fitter, and in 1962 was appointed Chargehand Fitter. In 1965 he became Engineering Foreman.

Eric, who remained at Legacy Depot throughout his service, was actively involved in the Foremen's and Health and Safety Committees. He was also a member of the LJCC Committee for several years.



## Power deal gets the green light

**MANWEB plc has signed contracts for all the 'green' electricity output from National Power's North Wales hydro stations. The deal will help Manweb meet the region's peak demands.**

Under the agreement, which is for at least a year, Manweb will take up to 70 million units of electricity worth around £2 million per year, depending on the level of rainfall, from Dolgarrog and Cwm Dylli power stations in Gwynedd.

These stations use a renewable energy resource to produce an output of 37 megawatts.

Colin Leonard, Manweb's

Director, Power Marketing, is pictured (right) signing the contract at Dolgarrog Power Station, watched by Robert Robinson, National Power's Director of Sales and Marketing.

Mr Leonard said: "We are delighted to have signed this agreement with National Power, reaffirming our commitment to the environment."

## Mind your language

**USE less jargon when dealing with the public... That's the message to staff from Head of Income and Accounting Alan Wadcock, who is campaigning to outlaw gobbledegook from Manweb plc!**

Mr Wadcock, whose own department has already taken steps to improve the style and clarity of letters, leaflets and information on bills, collected an award on behalf of Manweb from the Plain English campaign at the end of last year and now wants other departments to follow his staff's example.

He said: "We should all be looking at the way we communicate with the public, whether it be letters, notices or advertising literature."

"In particular we should be paying attention to what we write. If a customer receives a letter and can't understand it,

the chances are that he or she will ignore it or throw it away.

"Everybody in Manweb should be more aware of what they are writing and never assume that the public will understand the jargon we use among ourselves. Always use plain English."

Mr Wadcock's Department has been working with the Plain English Campaign for the last three years to revamp around 400 standard letters. As a result, the quality, clarity and tone of these letters has greatly improved and they are now much more acceptable to customers.





## Boost for flood victims

VICTIMS of the recent flooding disaster in North Wales have been given a cash boost by Manweb plc.

Staff at the company's Clwyd District Office in Rhyl donated more than £700 to the local disaster appeals and Manweb decided to match their generosity £ for £.

Manweb's Clwyd District Manager Doug Willacy, who presented cheques totalling £1,000 to the Colwyn Bay appeal, £300 to the Rhuddlan fund and £150 to Delyn Borough

Council, said: "Our employees wanted to help the local flood victims and donated money from their salaries. We decided to match whatever they raised."

Mr Willacy is pictured (left) presenting the £1,000 cheque to the Mayor and Mayoress of Colwyn Borough, Councillor Maldwyn Jones and his wife Enid.

# Lift-off for helicopter power patrols

by Graeme Cooper



MANWEB plc took to the air on June 11, when the annual helicopter power line patrol got underway. It is a fast, effective way of detecting damage to lines and observing problems which can result from trees or new buildings too near lines.

With over 16,000 kilometres of overhead power line, some of it in inaccessible areas of North Wales, reaching lines can prove difficult.

A helicopter provides the solution, flying over rough terrain

and obstacles which would defeat the most rugged four-wheel-drive.

The alternative is to patrol on foot, which can be a time-consuming procedure. Foot patrols are carried out to back up the

helicopter checks, but whereas on foot Manweb's engineers might cover ten miles a day, the helicopter's average line patrol speed is 30 kilometres per hour.

The helicopter checks are essential to keeping power supplies flowing, but the patrols inevitably draw some criticism from those concerned about low-level flying near high voltage lines.

### Experts

The helicopter and pilot are from Speke-based Dollar helicopters, who are experts in helicopter line inspections and ensure that strict safety procedures are observed.

Farmers also sometimes express concern that livestock will be frightened by low-flying aircraft.

With many farmers as customers, Manweb heeds those concerns, avoiding line patrols at peak birth times and where possible, skirting around fields of livestock.

### Notified

In addition, National Farmers' Union branches and local Chief Constables are notified when line patrols are planned in their areas.

Manweb's 1990 inspection started in the Dee Valley area, covering Bala to Chester and Ellesmere Port and part of Cheshire.

The patrols run from June until early August, and will cover most of the Manweb area.



Manweb's Clwyd Installation Manager Roy Haley and Salesperson Janet Matthews are pictured presenting the special telephone to Miss Jones.

independence and enjoy the comforts of their own home, but living alone can be risky if they have an accident or are suddenly taken ill.

### Peace

"Miss Jones is a classic example. She wants to stay in her own home, but has had a number of break-ins. Having this telephone will enable her to retain her independence and will give her peace of mind because she knows she can

summon help at the press of a button."

The Community Care Telephone, which sells at £299 plus a maintenance and service charge of £1 per week, can be used like any normal telephone, but it also has a volume control and push-button dialling and is designed to work with a hearing aid. Further details about the system are available from Salesperson Janet Matthews on Rhyl (0745) 355144.

# Pensioner is thrown a lifeline

**A bumper discount deal**

CHESTER-based Grosvenor Mazda has come up with a bumper discount deal for Manweb staff and pensioners.

The company, in Sealand Road, will service your car for just £19.90 (plus parts, oil and VAT), and the offer also includes a 51-point safety check plus a free car clean and valet, worth £25.

Grosvenor Mazda normally charges £22 per hour for vehicle servicing. The offer applies to all makes and models, and the company will arrange free collection and delivery in the Chester District.

The 51-point safety check covers brakes, steering, suspension, fluid levels etc. and the free car clean and valet includes a body-work steam and jet wash, chamois leather dry, vacuum clean and brush up.

Further details from Simon or David at Grosvenor Mazda on 0244 390000. When calling, please indicate you are a Manweb employee or pensioner.

Pensioner Beatrice Jones has been cast a 'lifeline' by Manweb following a series of burglaries at her Prestatyn home.

After hearing of her plight, Manweb presented 90-year-old Miss Jones, of Glyn Avenue, with a Lifeline Community Care Telephone, which will enable her to quickly summon help in an emergency.

The telephone, which is currently being trialed by Clwyd District, provides a round-the-clock link with a national Control Centre, which is manned at all times.

### Panic

The system includes a 'panic' button, a tiny personal radio transmitter that can be worn like a brooch or pocket watch, and with just one press help is on its way.

The Control Centre, based near Wolverhampton, will immediately access its computer records and contact the caller's friends, relatives or neighbours, alert the police or summon medical help.

Built into the telephone is a sensitive microphone and powerful loudspeaker which enables the Control Centre to stay in touch with the caller until help arrives.

Manweb's Clwyd District Installation Manager Roy Haley, who is a member of Rhuddlan Crime Prevention Panel, said: "Many elderly or disabled people want to retain their

## Crossword No. 22

### ACROSS

- Travel on board when one has left the plane (4).
- Idle lunch organiser serving wine too warm? (9).
- Prosper like a national finalist in a good time (5).
- French or Italian associate of spirit (8).
- High when you seem to be getting somewhere fast (5).
- Guide to good form (5).
- Words used in the study of class at certain periods? (11).
- Open area once at No. 10 (5).
- Some sort of system for making the earth move (5).
- Knowledge of how to make money in fish (8).
- Yes to new way round islands (5).
- Money given to one before a garment is displayed (9).
- Sound artist otherwise making a comeback (4).

### DOWN

- Sailor with favourite animal about to be used in making gunpowder (9).
- Wasn't pleased to see the way the oak was treated? (5).
- Make a dash for it where there's a take-away (5).
- Top mark for mountainous laughter! (5).
- Understanding the MPs' get-together might be seen as difficult (6,5).
- One doesn't want fighting during the ceremonial hand-over (4).
- Finished at a speed you can make too much of (8).
- The people receiving a circular reporting divine study (8).
- He sees people get what's coming to them from the Government (9).



- Rosemary possibly spotted in Mother Brown's merry company (4).
- An apprentice sailor in church (5).
- Rough oyster month character in confusion (5).
- Show scorn for the Poles being always poetic (5).

Solution on page 11

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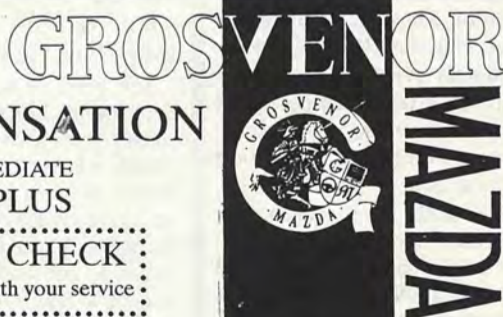
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## Fund-raisers' charity drive

THE ITV Telethon '90 appeal moved up a gear when visitors from London Electricity called in at Manweb's Head Office during a round-Britain fund-raising drive.

The intrepid team of four was taking part in a sponsored mile-a-thon, driving a Transit van from LEB's headquarters to the 11 other electricity companies in England and Wales, plus the two in Scotland.

Members of the team, who were collecting money along the route, raised hundreds of

pounds for Telethon '90.

Manweb's Managing Director Richard Gales is pictured (centre) signing the Mile-athon log book for (left to right) Clerical Assistant Suzanne Welch, Energy Adviser Lesley Kober and Engineers Peter Robinson and Garry Bowden.



Ruth Madoc (left), Simon Weston and Bonnie Tyler during their flying visit to Rhyl in the Manweb helicopter.



The 'New Pedes on the Block' team (left to right) Janet Ford, Hilary Bradshaw, Sue Williams and Debbie Stenton, who donned green plastic sacks, black tights and sunglasses for the occasion.

## Jeepers creepers

(continued from page 1)

The event, which ended with a disco at Bridle Road, was organised by Carol Fairway and Hilary Bradshaw, both Clerical Assistants in Customer Accounts. Hilary said: "Everyone had a brilliant time and the people we met along the route were very generous. We are really pleased with the amount we raised, and the money will go towards building a new wing at Sunnybank Hospice."

The course was completed in the fastest time by the 'New Pedes on the Block' team - Janet Ford, a Supervisor in Engineering, Sue Williams, a Clerical Assistant in Appliance Delivery, Hilary Bradshaw and her friend Debbie Stenton. They each won a tee-shirt.

Members of the typists team - Yvonne Lucy, Diane O'Meara, Norma Appleton, Sheila O'Connor and Mary Hadley - each won a bottle of wine donated by the Manweb Sports and Social Club for sporting the best costumes.

## Kidnapped!

DEE Valley Energy Sales Manager Keith Hibbert had a price on his head when masked raiders abducted him at gunpoint from the District's Rhostyllen office.

But the brave kidnap victim was returned smiling after staff agreed to stump up around £100 as a 'ransom' for ITV's 1990 Telethon appeal.

The kidnap was masterminded by Energy Marketing colleagues at Rhostyllen, the 'Godfather' being Agricultural Energy Marketing Adviser Chris Jones.

The masked raiders who bundled Keith off to a secret hideout were Catering Energy Marketing Adviser Andy Underhill, 2nd Engineer Ian Bidwell and Building Liaison Adviser Dave Roberts.

"My feet never touched the floor,

and if it had been for real I would have been very frightened," said Keith. "The comforting thought is that they managed to raise so much money for a good cause, so the District must think I'm worth something!"

Staff at Rhostyllen also organised other events, bringing their Telethon total up to £300 to date.

Chris Jones and Energy Marketing Clerk Amanda Dodd also helped the MFM radio station's Telethon effort by joining in a "skirmish" paintball combat game against Allied Dunbar. The game raised £942.



A blindfolded Keith Hibbert is abducted by 'persons unknown'.



The trio of celebrities visit the Telethon pledging centre at Aberystwyth District Office. From left to right: Ruth Madoc, District Manager Terry Keenan, Energy Sales Manager Allen Carr, Bonnie Tyler, Energy Marketing Assistant Tomos Davies, Gerard Foley of the NatWest Bank, Manager in charge of the pledging centre, and Simon Weston.

## A Telethon treat is served-up by shop staff

PRIZES galore were at stake when Manweb's Birkenhead shop opened up on Bank Holiday Monday (May 28) in aid of Telethon '90.

The shop was open all day and staff served up a host of money-spinning events to boost the marathon charity appeal. Their efforts resulted in more than £1,600 being donated to the Telethon.

Shop Manager Mark Astbury said: "We had a great day, although there weren't as many people out and about in the centre of Birkenhead as we had hoped. But it was all well worthwhile and we still managed to raise an excellent

amount for the Appeal."

Manufacturers donated electrical appliances worth hundreds of pounds - including a washing machine, fridge-freezer and microwave oven - to be raffled off during the day.

Customers were also invited to take part in a competition to guess the age of an old electric cooker - with a brand new one, donated by Belling, at stake.

Visitors were treated to free cheese and wine, and a sizzling barbecue was held throughout the day with a top local chef doing the honours.

In addition, Manweb also donated a smoke alarm to Age Concern with every major appliance, such as cookers, fridges and freezers, sold on Bank Holiday Monday at Birkenhead shop.

\*Meanwhile, staff at Runcorn Shopping City's Manweb branch

raised more than £500 for the Telethon Appeal.

The main attraction was a raffle with a tumble dryer as first prize, bringing Shopping City square to a virtual standstill as the draw took place. A stereo system was also given to the customer who guessed Manager Paul Hephall's correct age and weight!

'Chuck-it buckets' for people to throw money into were also strategically positioned and a tombola was held.

## Curtain raised on arts sponsorship

MANWEB has announced sponsorship for two prestigious arts companies in the region - the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra.

The company is sponsoring the RLPO's Proms '90 season, which opened with a Tchaikovsky Night, conducted by Carl Davies, on June 23, continuing with a presentation of the all-time classic film *Gone With the Wind* in its original 1939 version, shown on the Philharmonic Hall's unique 1930 screen, a Kids' Prom with Barry Wordsworth conducting and young violinist Tasmin Little as soloist, and, as a grand finale, *The Last Night*

of the Proms on July 7 with traditional music and trimmings.

Later this year Manweb continues its support for the arts in its region with a five concert tour of Wales by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra. Visiting Newtown, Aberystwyth, Llandudno, Bangor and Mold, the concerts, including works by Mozart, Strauss, Wagner and Beethoven, will be broadcast on BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio 3.



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## Wheels of fire

# On the Wire



**WHAT the blazes was a Welsh dragon doing loose in the Head Office Restaurant? Answer - helping Montgomeryshire Young Farmers Club raise cash for the NSPCC.**

The "fiery beast" was actually a giant three-seater tricycle which MYFC were riding from Montgomeryshire to the Isle of Man, stopping off en-route to take donations.

After a gruelling morning "drag-on" up to Chester, the bikers dropped in at Head Office where willing Manweb staff helped boost the collection. Altogether the ride raised about £8,000.

The three wheeler may not have made it to the three-legged isle but for some help from one of Manweb's own "knights in shining armour".

When a pedal came off, New Crane Street Chargehand, Mike Troughton put the fire back in the dragon by welding it back on for them!

After that the MYFC team were set to burn up the miles and gobble up the cash all the way to the Isle of Man!



## One man went to mow . . .

MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston is a man who doesn't like to let the grass grow under his feet . . . as the picture (left) proves.

The photo of Mr Weston mowing the massive lawn at his Cheshire home accompanied a recent feature about him in the Liverpool Daily Post, and it sparked off some real "grassroots" opinion.

E. Roberts, a Driver at Queensferry Stores, felt compelled to write to Contact. He said: "Would you please include this enclosed photograph in your next edition and find out why the Chairman doesn't use an ELECTRIC lawnmower".

I'm sure he would, Mr Roberts, if he could get one with a long enough flex!

# Teamwork is the key for success

TRADING Division's annual conference was held at Chester Race Course, with Director Peter Hopkins and his colleagues taking "teamwork" as their theme for success.

After an introduction and welcome from Peter Hopkins, Advertising and Promotions Manager Bill Gaywood turned the spotlight on Trading's promotional programme.

He stressed that competition in the marketplace would continue to be tough, and outlined Trading's own tactics to beat the competition.

National support which came from the now departed Electricity Council was not to be continued by its successor, the Electricity Associ-

ation, and any flotation advertising could obviously not be relied upon as long-term support. While Manweb's own Energy Marketing advertising would support Manweb's corporate objectives, it would naturally reflect the Power Marketing Division's need.

The Northern Consortium too had been disbanded, but Mr Gaywood pointed to a joint Northern Distribution scheme to promote joint marketing interests.

This year, the Northern Companies will invest over three million advertising, appointing highly respected Bowden, Dyble and Hay to handle the campaign.

This will target the traditional market and also younger, more affluent sectors.

### Informed

Media, said Mr Gaywood, will include radio, press and television. He illustrated the campaign with rough cuts of the television ads.

As well as the Northern initiative, Manweb will continue to advertise jointly with Norweb and will continue its own advertising, through the Brunning Agency currently used.

Pointing to developments on the horizon, Mr Gaywood mentioned new leaflets, account staffs and sales promotion initiatives, which he said he would endeavour to keep staff informed of.

In finishing, he turned to the Teamwork theme, paying tribute to the members of the Trading team who have retired in the last year.

But, he said, the new line-up of youth and experience now had the tactics to make the Trading Division First Division, and leave the opposition trailing way behind.

Next came Contracting and Servicing Manager, Allan Littler, who chaired a "question time" style session.



Projecting the right image . . . Advertising Officers Christine Pighills (left) and Helen Danson who looked after slide presentation at the conference.

# High-flying sales and land awards

REGION II shops' Extension scheme has got off to a flying start with winners in Birkenhead and

Pictured (left) at Birkenhead are (l-r) winners Margaret Wales and Richard Richards receiving their certificates from Shop Manager Mark Astbury. Also a certificate winner but not pictured is Stephney Johnson.

At Widnes Shop (right) winners (l-r) Gill Williams, Margaret Jacks and Lawrie Fairhurst are shown receiving their certificates from Shop Manager Mark Hoggett - himself a certificate winner!

Widnes winners not pictured are Jean Batty, Barbara Hanrahan, Lynne Wynn, Rob Smith, Irene Davies and Shirley Laverick.



## Ex-airmen called up

Dear Editor,

Could you please help me. I am trying to locate former airmen with a view to a reunion. I think one or two former airmen might be working for the industry in some capacity. Therefore could I place a reunion notice in your staff newspaper?

# Post Bag



### NOTICE

Were you at Royal Air Force Swindon in July/August 1969, serving as an instructor or airman/recruit with Eleven Flight/Two Squadron? Would you be interested in a reunion? If so, contact me.

Terry Jones  
30 Dentith Drive,  
Chester CH1 5HD  
Telephone 0244 376856



# neme ccess

sion with panel members from his team: Projects Manager John Cheers, who spoke on Quality; Contracting Manager Guy Wilcox, speaking on Contracting; Appliance Servicing Manager, Harry Jones, who addressed Service, and Appliance Servicing Engineer George Roberts, who spoke on Delivery.

A brief introduction on each topic was followed by a ten-minute open forum session.

Introducing Contracting and Appliance Retail Support Services, Mr Littler pointed to Contracting and Servicing's future as a fully integrated part of the Trading Division under direct central management.

"As you are no doubt aware, we are in the process of restructure. This organisation is only the start of our focus into the discreet business of regional contracting and appliance retail support services."

"From here on, change is essential for the survival of contracting and servicing. There is a need to break the mould of how we organise, administer and do things."

Following the question and answer session, Mr Littler rounded off by pointing out that joint success would come from the involvement and commitment of all concerned.

Shop Operations Manager, Paul Sharkey chaired a session on Retail Activities, starting by outlining some of the developments taking place in Shop Operations. These included staff bonus schemes, Surecare, the Chester Superstore and training programmes.

## Important

Other speakers were Senior Buyer, Andy Critchley, who dealt with brown goods; Region IV Shops Manager, John Bell who spoke on Quality Service and guest speaker, Chris Jenks of Cornhill Insurance.



**Trading Division Management (left to right):** *Back:* Senior Buyer, Andy Critchley; Region IV Shops Manager, John Bell; Advertising and Promotions Manager, Bill Gaywood. *Centre:* Contracting Manager, Guy Wilcox; Marketing Services and Development Manager, Keith Sowden; Appliance Servicing Engineer, George Roberts; Contracting and Servicing Manager, Allan Littler. *Front:* Director, Trading, Peter Hopkins; Appliance Servicing Manager, Harry Jones; Projects Manager, John Cheers; Birkenhead Shop Manager, Mark Astbury; Shop Operations Manager, Paul Sharkey.

Assisted by Birkenhead Shop Manager, Mark Astbury, Mr Jenks dealt with Surecare.

Following lunch, the conference resumed with Marketing Service and Development Manager Keith Sowden, who made a brief presentation on MERAS. Mr Sowden was then joined by Marketing Support Officer John Bostock and Marketing Information and Development Officer, Jim Kehoe, for an open question and answer session on MERAS.

Paul Sharkey again took the stage following the MERAS 'forum', this time dealing with Manweb's "out of town" development at Chester

Greyhound Park. This, he said, will mark an important step into the future for Manweb's retailing activities.

It was back to audience participation in a Business Question Competition. The audience divided into four teams to come up with ideas to help Trading's business and customer service.

The conference was rounded off with prizes of Fuji Compact Cameras going to the team who came up with the best suggestions, with presentations and congratulations from Bill Gaywood, Allan Littler and Paul Sharkey.

# quad

and Guarantee Sales Award start with the first certificate in shops.

Awards have also gone to staff at the following Region II shops.

Warrington: Lynne Hart, Barbara Barlow, Dawn Golden, Lorraine Dench.

Ellesmere Port: Marilyn Bates, Barbara Sexton, Melanie Collings, Joan Hill and Dorothy Smith.

West Kirby: Angie Smith.

Northwich: Joy Bell and Wendy Hatton.

Wallasey: Blanche Barrow, Kath Physick, Rosemary Haggerty, Val Eastwood, Jean Stove and Val Ward.

In operation since the start of March, the scheme is run by Regional Shops Manager Julian Jenkins.



He said: "The scheme's got off to a great start and the enthusiasm of everyone in the shops is fantastic. It's really encouraged them to sell Surecare, and the certificates look very impressive displayed in the shops!"

Three certificates are available under the scheme. For 40 per cent conversion of possible Surecare leads to

actual sales over four consecutive weeks a red certificate is awarded; for 50 per cent conversion over eight weeks there is a silver certificate, while gold is for 60 per cent over 12 consecutive weeks.

The awards must be won in turn, so the successful sales teams are now working on their silver certificates.



The Mid-Mersey Garage team: (left to right) Fitters, Kevin Horne and John Woolorton; Chargehand, Ian White and District Transport Supervisor, Don Carter.

# District transport moves into top gear

MID-MERSEY drivers will be travelling in style thanks to the district's new garage.

Built as part of Mid-Mersey's on-going development programme the garage points to a bright future for district transport, with some £12,000 invested in equipment alone.

The garage's facilities includes two hydraulic ramps (the largest of which can lift an

by Graeme Cooper

eight ton vehicle), welding gear, an engine lift and wheel tracking and alignment facilities. As in Mid-Mersey's old garage, engine fumes are eliminated through an extractor unit which connects straight to the vehicle exhaust.

In charge of the garage is District Transport Supervisor, Don Carter.

"We aim to be able to take care of anything from an eight ton wagon to a meter reader's bike!" says Don, and the garage's extensive stores include bicycle wheels as well as spare parts for some 150 petrol and diesel vehicles based at Mid-Mersey.

For Don and his team - Chargehand Fitter Ian White and Fitters Kevin Horne, John Gill and John Woolorton - the garage is a great improvement.

## Shield

Heating for the development is provided by a clever electric air system. This actually creates a shield of warm air across the front of the garage, reducing heat loss when the doors are opened.

The garage can accommodate about seven vehicles, depending on size, and as well as service and maintenance some repairs are carried out on Mid-Mersey's hard working fleet. And to make sure the job is finished properly, there's also a brand new car wash!

## Excellent

Other refinements include new storage tanks for new and old engine oil, improved stock control and storage facilities and built in lighting underneath the vehicle ramps.

District Manager Des Lock has good reason to be pleased with the latest phase of Mid-Mersey's development. He said: "The service has always been good, but with these new facilities it's excellent!"



Mid-Mersey's new garage.



# Quality improvement

## A starting point

QUALITY improvement is a commitment to service excellence which needs to exist at all levels of the company.

This means identifying, understanding and reacting to the needs and expectations of our customers not just externally to Manweb - those who buy our services or products - but also internally. Every one of us in the company, including the Chairman, is both a customer and a supplier.

Ask yourself: "Would you be satisfied to be the customer of the work or service you have carried out this week?" If not, how can you expect other people to be satisfied?

It is easy to provide the service or product right first time as it is to get it right the second time, and this undoubtedly

gives more satisfaction to our customers.

Re-work not only creates dissatisfaction but also adds directly to costs. Such Quality Costs are often quoted as more than 10 per cent of turnover, which for Manweb is a lot of money being thrown away.

\*Dennis Fricker will be targeting various aspects of quality improvement with departments and functions and will be commenting in future editions of Contact.

by Dennis Fricker

## Manager appointed

THE need for quality improvement at Manweb has been recognised by the appointment of Dennis Fricker as Quality Manager for the Network Services Division.

In addition, Brian Doyle, Dee Valley Mains Manager, has accepted an appointment to promote and monitor operational safety and to initiate engineering auditing.

Dennis Fricker (pictured), after a technical apprenticeship with English Electric and National Service as a pilot, has followed a career in quality management in 12 different English Electric and GEC companies, covering businesses such as switchgear, turbines, control gear, components, white goods, electronics, plastics and, latterly, as Company Quality Manager with GEC Meters.

During the past two years he has also acted as Quality Consultant to the Electricity Council in assisting all the Area Boards, including Manweb at Lister Drive, Liverpool, to introduce quality systems in their Meter Test Stations as they gain quality approval to "Self Certify" meters.

A Chartered Engineer, Dennis is a Registered Lead Auditor and a Fellow of the Institute of Quality Assurance (a council member). He is also Chairman of the Manchester branch of the Institute of Quality Assurance and a lecturer on quality matters at a number of colleges. During recent years Dennis has served on a number of national and international committees



responsible for drafting engineering and quality standards.

Dennis and wife Margaret have three sons and two grandchildren. He originates from the Isle of Wight but has spent most of his working life in the Midlands and North West. His hobbies include acting as Treasurer for the local scout group at Sandbach, near Crewe.

Mr Denis Farquhar, Director, Network Services, said: "With price, safety and quality as the corner stones of my policy, I am pleased to announce Dennis Fricker's appointment."

"In addition, Brian Doyle has been on secondment to Head Office and has developed cost-saving ideas for 33kV substation construction. He will continue to be involved in the work but now that planning permission has been received for the first of his designs, he will begin to devote more time to his new job."

Brian Doyle is to be succeeded at Dee Valley by John MacDonald, who moves on secondment from North Mersey District, where he is Mains Manager.

## Obituary

IT is with sadness that Contact reports the sudden death of an Oswestry employee. William Edward George - known as Eddie - was taken ill and died at his home on May 24, leaving a widow Ruth and two children, Sharron, 20, and 17-year-old Lee.

Eddie, a Craftsman Electrician, had been employed by Manweb for almost 34 years. He started out as an Apprentice Electrician in 1952, and remained with Manweb as an Electrician until 1968, when he left to work in his own business. Eddie, who completed his National Service between 1958 and 1960, rejoined Manweb as an Electrician in 1972.

We are also sorry to report the deaths of the following retired employees:

Hector Samuel Fuller Fitzpatrick, 84, who was a Senior Assistant, Area 1 until his retirement in 1966, died on May 21.

Douglas Massey Lloyd died on May 23 aged 88. He was an Assistant Section Engineer, Area 2/3, before retiring in 1966.

Eric Humphreys, 71, who was a 2nd Assistant Engineer at Dee Valley until retiring in 1978, died on May 24.

Harold Stubbs, a Chargehand Storekeeper at Mid Mersey before retiring in 1978, died on May 25 aged 74.

James Edward Tierney, 67, who was a Craftsman, Electrical Fitting, at Liverpool until his retirement in 1987, died on June 5.

# STAFF SALE

OF CLOSING LINES AND SHOP SOILED APPLIANCES  
(Restricted to staff and pensioners only)

SUNDAY 19th AUGUST 9.30am to 2.00pm

## QUEENSFERRY WAREHOUSE

All items below normal staff prices - some as low as half staff price

## FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED

Wide choice of products

small appliances ★ audio ★ TV ★ microwaves ★ cookers ★  
floorcare ★ personal care ★ food processors ★ irons ★ kettles  
★ coffee percolators

All these appliances are in full working order

CASH \* CREDIT SALE \* ACCESS & BARCLAYCARD



**SPECIAL OFFER TO STAFF (until August 31, 1990)**

Bauknecht offer £40 cash back to all staff purchasing any Bauknecht product stocked by Manweb.

For example:  
Bauknecht 2140W Dishwasher.

Price	£379.95
Staff price	£303.95
	£ 40.00 cash back
	£263.95 final price

## Pension scheme trustees elected

THE Electricity Supply Pension Scheme now makes provision for the election and appointment of Group Trustees at each of the newly-formed plcs in the industry in addition to "national" trustees.

Each body of Group Trustees will be responsible for administering the rules of the Scheme in respect of the members employed (or formerly employed) by the relevant plc and for making decisions where the Scheme gives the Group Trustees discretionary powers. At each plc there are to be nine Group Trustees, six of whom are elected by the members and three who are appointed by the plc.

Elections have recently taken place at Manweb for the first elected Group Trustees and the following persons have been elected:

### Industrial Staff Election

Mr E. Roberts, employee member of Gwynedd District.

Mr R. Fallows, pensioner member formerly of North Mersey District.

(Mr. R. Sands, of Meter Test, Liverpool, is deemed to be elected by reason of being an existing "national" trustee).

### Non-Industrial Election

Mr J.C. MacDonald, employee member of Dee Valley District.

Mr A.J. Wilcock, employee member of Head Office.

Mr P. Falcon, pensioner member formerly of Head Office.

The following people are to be the Appointed Group Trustees:

Mr R.T. Gales, Managing Director.

Mr J.E. Roberts, Finance Director.

Mr D.N. Williams, Company Secretary.

## Retirement round-up

### Golden years

CELEBRATING their golden wedding anniversary on May 11 were Tom and Elsie Challinor, pictured drinking a toast at their Frodsham home with son Glyn (centre) and grandchildren Matthew and Tamsin.

Tom, who retired as a Principal Assistant in Rechargeable Costs at Head Office in 1979, and former Civil Servant Elsie were married in 1940 at the Church of St Lawrence, Frodsham.



They met on a blind date on October 9, 1936 - the year King Edward VIII abdicated - when they went with friends to a dance in Helsby.

### NORTH WIRRAL (ELECTRICITY) RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

All members please note that annual subscriptions are now due.

The following day trips have been arranged:

June 28, 1990 - Kirby Lonsdale. Tickets £6.50 (including meal) on sale at June 6 meeting. September 20, 1990 - Severn Valley/Ross on Wye. Tickets £3 (no meal) on sale at September 5 meeting.

Talks arranged for the following months: June 6 - 'Spinning a Yarn', July 4 - 'Artistic Floral Design', August 1 - 'Cheshire Woman of the Year', September 5 - 'It All Began With Snowdon', October 3 - 'Amateur Film Making'.

If you are retired and live in the North Wirral area, please come and join us - you will be most welcome. Just come along at 2.30pm on the first Wednesday in each month.

## Luck of the draw

THE lucky number 2212 earned retired employee M. Mantle the top prize of £300 in the EEIBA's April Draw. The other winners were as follows:

£200 - L. Blakemore, North Wirral (1993); £150 - S. Bown, retired (2170); £100 - P.B. Spilsbury, Dee Valley (1149); £75 - L. Ridgway, Dee Valley (530) and A. Bower, Head Office (687); £50 - K.D. Pinches, retired (2149) and W.H. Davies, retired (1753); £30 - A. Gleave, retired (1495) and J.M. Whalley, Head Office (2627); £25 - D.B. Dreyfus, Head Office (899), J. Frith, retired (1423), A. Robinson, retired (1785), M.D. Carroll (2051), R.A. Walmesley, Head Office (450), D.P. Carter, North Wirral (2414), G.H. Currie, retired (1616), C.A. Moorhouse, Head Office (781), T.H. Owen, retired (110) and M. Muir, retired (2016).

## Long service

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Manweb employees who have clocked up 20, 30 or 40 years' service during May.

40 years: Mid Mersey - George Duffy, Joiner's Mate; Dee Valley - Gwyn Williams, Linesman, and Gwilym Williams, Switchboard Attendant; Mid Cheshire - Thomas Aspinall, Craftsman Electrician; Clwyd - Reg Williams, Shift Electrician, and Ivor Roberts, Foreman Mains.

30 years: North Mersey - John Roberts, Craft Attendant, and Harry Shiels, Foreman, Engineering; Liverpool - Alf Clark, Craft Attendant, Meter Modernisation, and Joseph Cotter, Meter Operative; Dee Valley - Geoffrey Richard Crank, Linesman, Bob Davies, Linesman, and Margaret Hatfield, Clerical Assistant, Network Services; Mid Cheshire - Eric Shaw, Shop Supervisor.

20 years: North Mersey - Lily Neill, Clerical Supervisor, Customer Accounts; Liverpool - Patricia Woodward, Clerk, Personnel; North Wirral - Rita Richards, Sales Assistant, Birkenhead Shop; Mid Cheshire - Bill Senior, Meter Operative; Head Office - Doreen Ryder, Clerical Assistant, Technical.

## Sowing the seeds of friendship

EVERYTHING's coming up roses at Aberystwyth District thanks to a friendship which has blossomed between staff and the people next door.

Occupying the same estate as the District Office at Plas Lluest is a privately-run residential home for mental handicapped teenagers and adults, and gardening forms part of their therapy.

Impressed by the home's well-kept and colourful gardens and keen to develop closer links with the residents, District Manager Terry Keenan sowed the seeds of an idea.

As a result, the home now has a contract to keep the District's gardens in order, sending round a supervised working party several times a week.

"We have a lot of grassy areas and trees around the office which have to be kept tidy. It seemed a good idea to invite the home to do the work for us on a contract basis, paying them the going rate. They thought it was a great idea," said Mr Keenan.

While working at the District Office, the green-fingered visitors join Manweb staff for lunch in the canteen.

An open day was also held recently for the home's residents, who were invited in to look around the District Office and watch a video on safety. Staff then threw a party for them.

Mr Keenan, who, as Assistant Manager, was instrumental in introducing a sheltered placement scheme for disabled people at North Mersey District, said: "The close links we are developing with our

neighbours is benefiting everybody.

"It is excellent therapy for those taking part, and it is also changing our own staff's perceptions of mentally handicapped people."



## Radio roadshow

THE power radio station MFM has hit the road with a new roadshow vehicle sponsored by Manweb.

In the two year deal, the mobile unit will broadcast live from various outside locations on its two wavelengths - 103.4 for North Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire, and 97.1 for Wirral and Runcorn.

Ken Dodd and Jean Boht - Nellie Boswell of 'Bread' fame - were on the roadshow in Birkenhead's Hamilton Square to launch Wirral's own radio station on 97.1 FM.

Jean, a native of the peninsula, and Dobby, from 'over the water' in Knotty Ash, were definitely tickled pink to be taking part.

The first outing for the roadshow broadcast from Wrexham was on the 1st birthday of MFM which coincided with Vesting Day for Manweb.

### Promotional

The Trading Division, Power Marketing and Public Relations joined forces to sponsor MFM and will be able to use the caravan for promotional purposes.

DJs Phil Roberts and Mark Thorburn are pictured during the roadshow's visit to Wrexham.

## ACT NOW! GROSVENOR MAZDA

Back by popular demand

Special Finance 0% OVER 12 MTHS 0% APR 6% OVER 3 YRS 11.8% APR

This is your chance to buy The Fabulous Mazda 626 • The Executive Motorcar • Executive Engineering • Executive Features • Executive Performance • Executive Comfort • Executive Styling From as little as £11,074 on the road

PLUS GROSVENOR MAZDAS 626 GUARANTEED BUY-BACK "For a limited period, I will give you a written guarantee to buy back your new 626 in 2 years time, for the same price you paid in June 1990, against the equivalent model in 1992. I am effectively offering you virtually 2 years FREE motoring. Obviously there are conditions, but NO CATCHES!"

George Masters Sales Manager

GROSVENOR MAZDA  
SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER - TEL : 0244 390000



mazda  
Building Excitement





# Taste of success at cookery demo

THE Manweb/Sainsbury cookery demonstration held recently (see picture story - right) turned out to be a very successful event, and was enjoyed by all who attended. Here's a taste of some of the mouthwatering dishes cooked on the night.

**Asparagus with Dill Sauce**  
(from Sainsbury's "Delicious Vegetables" by Lyn Rutherford).  
Serves four.

12 asparagus spears, total weight approximately 1lb (500g), 4 tbsp mayonnaise, 1 1/2 oz (40g) butter, 1/2 tsp finely grated lemon rind, 1 tsp chopped dill, pepper to taste, dill sprigs (optional).

Break off and discard the woody ends of the asparagus spears. Using a potato peeler, thinly peel the stems. Steam over boiling water for five to seven minutes until just tender. Cook in microwave with a little water for 5 minutes on high (650 watt oven).

Meanwhile, to prepare the sauce gently warm the mayonnaise in a small saucepan. Remove from the heat and add the butter, lemon rind and chopped dill. Stir well until the butter has melted, season with pepper and keep just warm.

Drain the asparagus and serve immediately, with the sauce poured over. Garnish with dill sprigs if you wish.

**Lamb with Watercress in Filo**  
Serves four.

2 1/2 oz (65g) butter, 1 small onion, chopped, 1 clove garlic, crushed, 1 bunch watercress, chopped, 2 tsp wine, 2lb (1kg) boned leg of lamb, 1 tsp oil, 1 tsp chopped rosemary leaves,

2oz (50g) Feta cheese sliced thinly (optional), 4 sheets filo pastry, salt and pepper to taste, rosemary sprigs to garnish.

Melt a third of the butter in a pan, add the onion and garlic and saute for three minutes. Add the watercress and wine, cover and simmer for three minutes. Puree in a blender or food processor and leave to cool.

Trim the lamb of all fat and sinews, then cut into four long fillets. Heat the oil in a pan, add the lamb, rosemary, salt and pepper and fry for three minutes on each side. Drain on kitchen paper and leave to cool.

Slash the fillets in four places, almost through. Fill each slash with cheese, if using, and watercress puree. Spread the remaining puree on top and season with salt and pepper.

Melt the remaining butter and use half to brush the filo sheets. Fold in half, place a fillet on each and wrap up like an envelope. Glaze with the remaining butter.

Place on a baking sheet and bake in a preheated oven, 190C, 375F, mark 5, for 25 minutes. Serve hot with a green salad and cherry tomatoes. Garnish with rosemary.

**Marinated Mushroom and Orange Salad**  
(from Sainsbury's "Seasonal Salads" by Carol Bowen).  
Serves six.

2 tbsps vegetable oil, 1/2 pint (150ml) dry white wine, 2 bay leaves, 8 coriander seeds, 1 large orange, 1 1/2 lb (750g)

button mushrooms, salt and pepper, sprigs of dill and bay leaves to garnish.

Place the oil, 2 bay leaves, coriander seeds and grated rind from the orange (reserving the flesh) in a large pan. Bring to the boil, add the mushrooms and cook gently for about five minutes until tender. Remove the mushrooms from their juices with a slotted spoon and place on individual plates.

Strain the cooking juices, season to taste and pour over the mushrooms. Remove the pith from the orange and cut the flesh into thin slices. Arrange on individual plates beside the mushrooms. Cover and cool, then chill for six hours or overnight. Serve garnished with dill and bay leaves.

**Chocolate Raspberry Ripple**  
(from Sainsbury's "Chocolate Cooking" by Rhona Newman).  
Serves four.

8oz (250g) raspberries, 3oz (75g) plain chocolate, melted, 8oz (250g) natural fromage frais, 2 1/2 fl oz (65ml) whipping cream, whipped, mint leaves to decorate.

Set aside a few raspberries for decoration. Cook the rest over a low heat until soft. Mix with the chocolate and allow to cool.

In a mixing bowl, beat the fromage frais with the cream until thoroughly blended. Add the chocolate and rasp-

berry mixture and stir lightly to create a marbled effect. Spoon into four dishes and chill. Decorate with raspberries and mint leaves.

**Brandy Snap Basket Gateau**

(from Sainsbury's "Favourite Cakes" by Jane Sutherland).  
Serves 12.

1oz (25g) butter, 1oz (25g) caster sugar, 1oz (25g) golden syrup, 1oz (25g) plain flour, 1/2 tsp ground ginger, 3 large pieces preserved stem ginger, 1 x 8 in (20cm) sponge cakes, flavoured with 2 teaspoons ground ginger (add with flour), 10fl oz (284ml) carton double cream, lightly whipped.

Line two baking sheets with baking parchment. Place the butter, sugar and syrup in a pan and heat gently until the butter has melted. Sift the flour and ginger and mix well.

Spoon 3 three-quarter teaspoons of the mixture onto each baking sheet, spacing them well apart. Bake one sheet at a time in a preheated oven, 180C, 350F, mark 4, for about four minutes until golden.

Leave to cool slightly, then press each brandy snap into a miniature muffin tin or shape over an inverted egg cup - about 1 1/2 ins (4cms) diameter - and leave until cold and brittle. Repeat the process to

MANWEB plc joined forces with Sainsbury to cook up a fund-raising boost for St John's Hospice, Wirral.

A charity all-electric cookery demonstration at the Lobol Sports Club, Birkenhead, attracted around 250 visitors and raised a total £832 for the Hospice.

Manweb's North Wirral District Energy Marketing Assistant Marj Scregg (left) and Sainsbury Home Economist Jill Joynson are pictured preparing a delicious lamb dish.

make another six baskets. Spoon the remaining mixture onto a baking sheet and bake for five or six minutes until golden. Leave until cold, then crush roughly. Cut one piece of ginger into 12 pieces and finely chop the other two pieces.

Split the sponge cake in half horizontally. cover one half with about a quarter of the cream and sprinkle with the chopped ginger. Sandwich the two halves of cake together and place on a flat plate. Cover the top and side with about two thirds of the remaining cream. Press the brandy snap crumbs onto the side to coat evenly.

Place the remaining cream in a piping bag fitted with a star nozzle. Arrange the 12 brandy snap baskets around the top edge of the cake. Pipe a whirl of cream into each and top with a piece of stem ginger.

**Sponge Cake (for Brandy Snap Gateau)**

3 eggs, 1 tsp grated lemon rind (optional), 1 tsp hot water, 3oz (75g) caster sugar, 2 1/2 oz (60g) plain flour, 1/2 oz (15g) cornflour, 1oz (25g) butter, melted.

Grease a base-line in an 8 in (20cm) round cake tin. Sprinkle the side with caster sugar, then shake out excess.

Place the eggs, lemon rind (if using), hot water and sugar in a large bowl over a pan of simmering water. Using a hand-held electric mixer, whisk for five to 10 minutes until very thick and pale and the whisk leaves a trail through the mixture. Remove from heat.

Sift the flour and cornflour together, then fold into the mixture. Fold in the melted butter.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared tin, bake in a preheated oven, 190C, 375F, mark 5, for 20 to 25 minutes, until risen and just firm to the touch. Cool on a wire rack.



## Nine-nine-nine

HAVING a maths teacher for a father was a real setback for Johnny because his pocket money was stored in boxes in a square (as in the diagram right) with all the columns adding up to £9.

However, the youngster was also good at figures and was able to take £4, rearranging the remaining cash so that the columns still totalled £9. The following week he was able to take a further £4, again juggling the money to make the columns still add up to £9, across and down.

How did he do it?

Send your answer to: Fred's Puzzle Corner, Contact, Manweb plc, Room 5E1, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR. The sender of the first correct entry drawn will receive a £5 prize.

\* The winner of last month's trio of puzzles was Mrs M.

£2	£5	£2
£5		£5
£2	£5	£2

Wheatley, of North Mersey District, who will receive a £5 prize. She gave the following correct answers:

Exchange Letters: CLOWN.  
Sounds Familiar: Made/

maid, ball/bawl, band/banned, rite/right, pact/packed, maze/maize.

History Lesson: 1. 1605, 2. 1066, 3. 1564, 4. 1969, 5. 1789, 6. 1963, 7. 1815, 8. 1926.



# Free Ads

## 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 bedrooms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978 362615/352653.

**Costa Del Sol** - Benalmadena studio apartment, suitable for two or three people. Excellent pool and facilities. Shops and bars with entertainment nearby. 10 minutes walk to beach. As advertised in Global and Sol holiday brochures. Telephone Joe Flanagan, H.O. int. ext. 2957 or 0244 41097 evenings.

**Criccieth** - North Wales House overlooking village green, Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 0766 522 614 (Ann Tudor).

**France** - B&B, H/B, Caravans and camping. Tarn et Garrone Region. Close to junction 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).

**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 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.

**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 George Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 872234.

**Algarve** - Privately-owned villa set in large gardens in the Monchique Hills. Spilt level/dining room, good kitchen facilities, utility room, two-good sized bedrooms, terraces with garden furniture. Panoramic views of the West Coast, 24 kms away, Swimming pool. Maid service. Food hamper provided. Flights arranged. Tel: 0352 55090 or 074570 474.

**Anglesey** - Self catering and coarse fishing holidays. Two lakes on 15-acre site overlooking Snowdonia. Touring caravans and tents welcome. Brochure available. Tel: 0248 713410.

**Weston-sup'r-Mare** - Static caravan on farm. Six berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All season price £70 per week. Tel: 0934 750 292.

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

**Spain** - Luxury villa, three dbl bedrooms and two two bathrooms. Private swimming pool. Quiet area "Calpe" Costa Blanca. Walled gdns, terraces ect. Five minutes from uncrowded beaches. Available from £150 per week. Telephone 0736 664177.

**Dolgellau** - Traditional farmhouse cottage set in a seven-acre smallholding in Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps seven plus cot. Tastefully modernised. Fully-fitted kitchen, inc dishwasher and microwave. Storage heaters and large inglenook fireplace. Ample parking and grounds. Kennel for pet by arrangmt. Easy access to mountains and sea Beautiful scenery and lovely walks. Prices from £100 to £220 per week. Tel: 0341 423912.

**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. Guest house, sea views, two minutes from beaches. Quiet area close to town, good food, comfort, prkng. BB/EM £65 - £80 per week. ESI staff. Tel: 063787 4291 (Mr Pleasants).

**Anglesey** - Tal-y-Bont Cottages, Dwyran. Luxury cottages set in a 17-acre smallholding, 11/2 miles from shingle beach of Menai Straits and four miles from sandy beaches of Llanddwyn. Nature reserve, bird sanctuary, sea zoo, shops and restaurant nearby. Weekly prices - July/August £220, September 1 to 15 £180, September 16 to 30 £160, October £130. Telephone Deeside 819768.

**Llandudno** - Rosaire Private Hotel. Family run and situated in lovely garden area of town, yet close to all entertainment and shops with no hills to climb. Free car park. Tea/coffee facilities. Some en suite rooms available. Excellent home cooking, served at separate tables. Telephone 0492 77677 or write for brochure to Mr and Mrs W.G. Evans, 2 St Seiriols Road, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2YY.

**Anglesey** - Bed and Breakfast/self catering summer let. Secluded farmhouse with panoramic views of the Snowdonia range. Within 10 minutes of the main town Llangefni and sandy beaches. Idyllic for bird watchers, Tel: Bodorgan (0407) 840038.

**Presthaven Sands** - North Wales. Caravan to let. Colour TV. Shower. Fully fitted. Good site facilities. Tel: 061 366 8789.

**City of Chester** - Self catering flat. Centrally heated. TV, fridge, linen provided. Parking, all inclusive. Tel: 0244 42538.

**Luxury Caravans** - Eight berth. Llanrhystyd, West Wales (on the Cardigan coastline). Pleasant site (no club) nine miles from Aberystwyth and 11 miles from Newquay. Near to beach with beautiful scenic views. Families only. Sorry, no pets. Contact K. A. Cull on 0939 33005.

**Near Snowdon** - Quiet valley. Modern flat, all facilities. Sleeps four. Beautiful views, free fishing. Contact Mrs A Bohannon, 0286 85537.

**South of France** - Six-berth caravan to let on site with all amenities. Easy reach of Monaco, Monte Carlo, St Tropez etc. Some dates July and August. Telephone 0544 267579 after 6pm. ESI staff only.

**Costa del Sol** - Puerto Cabopino, situated between Marbella and Fuengirola. Superior 2-bedroom apartment, plus settee in lounge converts to 2 single beds. Superb views over yacht marina and sea, lovely

beach and swimming pool. Ideal for family or golfing holiday. Supermarket, video bar, restaurants etc on site. Fully equipped for self catering. Available for 2 weeks, Saturday October 13 to Saturday October 27. Rental includes electricity, linen, towels and weekly maid service. Contact J. Bird, Southport (0704) 38645.

**Caravan** - 6-berth to let. Fully equipped with electricity, cooker, fridge, inside flush toilet. Beautiful and peaceful countryside. £8 per day. Contact Mrs. R. Evans on 049084 208.

**Snowdonia National Park** - Comfortable modern flat, all facilities. Sleeps 4. Beautiful quiet valley, 6 miles from Caernarfon. Close to shop and pub. Free fishing. Tel 0286 85537.

**Caravan** - New 31', 6.7 berth. All maons services. Gas, electricity and colour TV included. Sited on Haven's Ty Mawr Holiday Park near Abergele (Dragon Award). Free entertainments, heated indoor swimming pool, family club, disco, children's Tiger Club etc. Near all major resorts. Telephone Chester 372860 for details. Families only (sorry, no pets). Discount for Manweb employees and families.

**Toomargoed, Rhyl** - Take that break you've been promising yourself. Relax in a family hotel and enjoy good home cooking and fully licensed bar. Weekly rates for B & B and evening meal from £50, weekend or mid-week breaks from £30 per person. Ring Len or Sandy on 0745 334103 or 678 3003.

**Sailing Holidays** - Artemis. Comet's 850 (28ft) Bareboat Charter. Moody 37, Bareboat or skippered charter. Corfu based. Tuition available. Full inventory. Contact H. J. Hargrove on 0270 67556.

**Newquay, Cornwall** - Retired Members Group tour on September 22 to 29. Transport by luxury coach to and from Liverpool. En-suite accommodation with television, radio, tea and coffee-making facilities. In-house entertainment every night except Sunday. Two full and two half-day tours. Courier service. VAT and insurance, total inclusive cost £170. Contact Mrs. A. McDonnell, Assistant Secretary, Retired Members Group, Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club, Thingwall Road, Liverpool L15, tel. 051-489 4880.

**Florida** - Luxury apartment one mile from Disney World, 15 miles Orlando Airport. Available due to cancellation two weeks 1-9-90 to 15.9.90. £500 for two weeks. Sleeps six. Complex consists 14 tennis courts, four swimming pools, fitness centre, etc. Contact Carole Davies at Aberystwyth shop, tel: 0970 615061.

**Caravan** - Six berth to let. Fully equipped. Peaceful countryside. £8 per day. Contact Mrs. R. Evans on 049084 208.

## DRIVING TUITION

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For details telephone 0836 259896 (daytime) or 051 339 8135 (evenings).

## FOR SALE

**Day Boat** - Mayland GRP 14ft, cabin, 6HP Evinrude engine, complete with road trailer, £950 ono. Contact W. D. Higgs on 0686 688725.

**Cruiser** - Norman GRP 18ft with trailer, 10HP Honda O/B engine. Fully fitted for canal cruising, £2,500. Contact T. D. Ellis on 0691 652979.

## WANTED

**By Collector** - Early electric smoothing irons or any old or unusual irons (but not flat irons). Contact Gwyn Williams on 0490 2706.

**Old Motorcycles** - Prefer complete. Anything considered. Phone Alan Crutchley on 0270 62701 after 6 p.m.

## PROPERTY

**Detached** - Modern 2-bedroom bungalow in pleasant open countryside at Hankelow, near Audlem. Gardens approx 1/4 acre with open views from house over fields. Large double garage. Contact B. M. Coulthard on 0270 582250.

## TUITION

**Driving Lessons** - Arnold Hughes, D.O.T. A.D.I., School of Motoring. Expert Tuition. Door to Door service. Refresher and motorway lessons if requested. Discount for Manweb employees. Telephone Warrington 50178 or 39421.

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## HAMBONE by Mike Flanagan



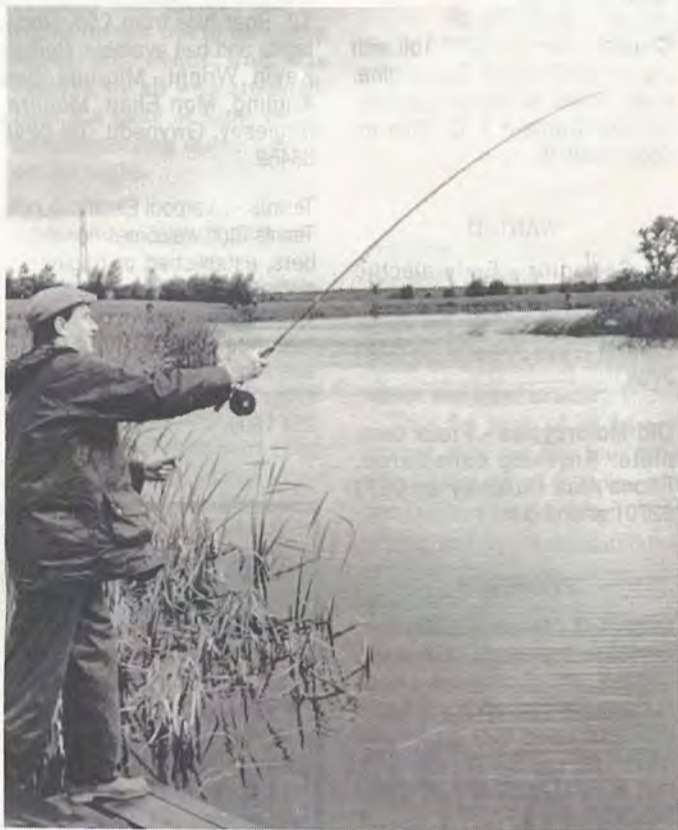
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# Contact Sport



## Manweb's anglers reel in the top prize



Head Office Photographic Assistant John Mason makes a cast.

MANWEB fly fishers' annual angling contest against Capenhurst resulted in a win for Manweb.

The two 12-strong teams battled it out during a full day's fishing at Meadow Fisheries near Mickle Trafford.

Manweb's side landed the greatest weight of fish to retake the fly fishing challenge trophy from last year's winners, Capenhurst.

"It was a difficult day's fishing but everyone enjoyed it," said 1st Engineer, Cables, Barry Harrison. "We're always keen to have new anglers so any Head Office Sports and Social Club members who want to join us can call me on Head Office 2162," he added.

In previous years the trophy has been presented by retired Manweb Engineering Director Mr Jim Fisher at a fly fishers' social evening at Capenhurst's social club. Manweb will officially receive the trophy at the February 1991 evening.



The massed rods of Manweb.



Cecil Davies Barrett (Dee Valley retired) with the one that didn't get away!

## Fishing trip is planned

FOLLOWING the success of Manweb (Chester) Deep Sea Fishing Group's trip on May 18, another expedition has been arranged for Monday, July 2, 1990.

Once again the trip will be out of Holyhead, aboard Miranda, and the intention is to fish an offshore bank for tope, bass and rays. Although licensed for 12 anglers, the boat seemed a bit crowded on the last outing with 10 aboard, so this time the trip will be limited to eight people.

The cost is expected to be around £10 per head, which includes bait, and bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Anyone interested should call Rob Hallows on Head Office ext. 2951.

## Budding business tycoons

FOR the third year running Manweb played host to young entrepreneurs from throughout Cheshire who congregated in its Head Office restaurant to compete for nine prestigious Young Enterprise awards.

Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston escorted guest of honour, the Duchess of Westminster, around the company displays before settling down to the difficult task of helping judge the business presentations performed on the night.

He said the standards were incredibly high and hoped the fact that three Manweb employees: Bob Campbell, of Architectural and Building Section; Chris Cubbin, of Business Accounting and Financial Planning, and Doug Gregg, of UTT, who all acted as independent advisers to the firms, contributed to their success.

Also continuing Manweb's



connection with Young Enterprise is Dee Valley District Manager Jim McLennan who is helping set up a Wrexham area board to spread the competition into North Wales.

The scheme aims to introduce sixth formers to the idea and reality of running a business through guidance and practical experience. Advisers work with the Young Enterprise companies established at most local

schools and guide the students through this challenge.

This year 14 companies competed in the Chester area board competition but the scheme looks set to increase to at least 20 schools in the 1990/91 session. More advisers will be needed and if anyone, particularly retired employees, would like to offer their services as an adviser to any of the Young Enterprise area boards they

should contact Nigel Cadwalader on 0244 812345 or Jim Dunne on 051 339 4101 ext 2572.

Winners of the Best Overall Company Award are pictured with Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston and the Duchess of Westminster. They are Kirsten Milne and Graham Rena, of Alpha Enterprises, based at Queens Park High School.

## Super deal for drivers

SUPERDRIVE Motoring Centres are offering Manweb staff and pensioners their new Vantage Card, which gives up to 10 per cent off the already discounted prices.

The Surrey-based Superdrive Group has centres throughout the country, including 10 in Manweb's area, carrying out service and maintenance work.

To receive your special Manweb Vantage Card, all you need to do is call in at one of Superdrive's Centres (listed below) and show any form of Manweb identification or your copy of Contact.

At the Chester centre, your card can be issued there and then, subject to availability. At other locations you simply fill in a form and arrange to pick up your card later. But you must have a card to qualify for the discount.

Superdrive also run a discount scheme for NALGO members, with up to 15 per cent discount - ask at a Superdrive centre for details.

All Superdrive Group Motoring Centres stock and fit tyres, exhausts, batteries and shock absorbers. Other services, including brakes, servicing, tuning, and MOTs are available at certain centres. Air Miles are also given.

The Superdrive Centres in the Manweb area are at:

- \* Birkenhead (Auto Safety Centre), Argyle Street South, Borough Road.
- \* Chester, Union Street.
- \* Ellesmere Port, 510 Chester Road, Little Sutton.

\* Ellesmere Port (Auto Safety Centre), Rossmore Road West.

\* Liverpool (Auto Safety Centre), 77-78 Duke Street.

\* Oswestry (Auto Safety Centre), Whittington Road.

\* Rhyl (Auto Safety Centre), Elwy Street.

\* St Helens (Auto Safety Centre), Atlas Street.

\* Wirral (Auto Safety Centre), 223 Church Road, Tranmere.

\* Winsford.

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