

Robin the Lionheart



British Lion Robin McBryde. Picture courtesy 2000 Rugbyweb Ltd.

MANWEB depots in North Wales are still buzzing with the news that a former Llangefni linesman has been selected as a British Lion. One-time apprentice with the company Robin McBryde has been called up as a member of the 37-man squad currently touring Australia.

The news that 30-year-old Robin is now one of Rugby Union's elite has especially delighted those who remember him as a Manweb employee.

During his two years at Llangefni he played rugby for various sides in north Wales including Menai Bridge, Bangor and Mold. He also captained the North Wales Team on a number of occasions.

As a 20-year-old, the ace hooker took the major step of moving south to join Swansea before moving to Llanelli where he became club captain and to date he has won eight caps for

Former Manweb apprentice is called up for British Lions

Wales. Amazingly, Robin still works as a linesman with SWALEC, in contrast to other selected players who are full-time professionals.

A past winner of the Wales Strongest Man competition, he only recently made his Six Nations debut against England.

Robin has not forgotten his links with Menai Bridge Rugby Club, where he was a star

player, and he returned to open their new clubhouse in 1999.

Dylan Herbert, live line linesman at Manweb's Caernarfon depot who plays for Caernarfon Rugby Club and was recently a member of a party which supported Robin and the

Welsh team in Italy during the Six Nations tournament, said: "We are all extremely pleased for Robin. He's a hero round here, especially because he used to work for Manweb, and a number of staff at Llangefni remember him."

Cub pack poster contest success



THE 1st Frankby/Greasby cup pack is pictured receiving a shield for winning the annual West Wirral District Scout Council Cubs Safety Poster competition on the subject of "Danger in the Home".

Once again held at Hoylake House, the competition was part of a PowerLearning safety project aimed at encouraging young people to recognise the dangers in everyday life.

The poster assignment was completed by the cubs during the winter months after which they recently attended the final at Hoylake where the judges were the District Commissioner from the cubs, Anna Noble, Manweb's Customer Services Officer (pictured second from left)

and from ScottishPower in Scotland Bill Bennett, Senior Training Engineer in the new Learning Organisation (pictured right).

The winning poster was in the shape of a house with windows opening to reveal the dangers latent in each room of the house.

Arthur on song at Eisteddfod

ARTHUR Rowlands, Caernarfon Project Manager, is preparing with other members of the Cor y Traeth male voice choir to compete in the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh in August. The choir, based on Anglesey, of which he has been a member since 1984, is practising a required set piece and putting together its 15-minute programme of performance.

Malcolm scores in Euro hockey

HOCKEY player Malcolm Hughes' team Plas Coch of Wrexham hosted a European Shield Tournament involving eight teams. Malcolm, a trainer in Energy Supply, scored twice in the 3rd and 4th place pay-off, which resulted in Plas Coch coming third overall. Manweb provided T shirts for the ball boys in the competition.

Contact

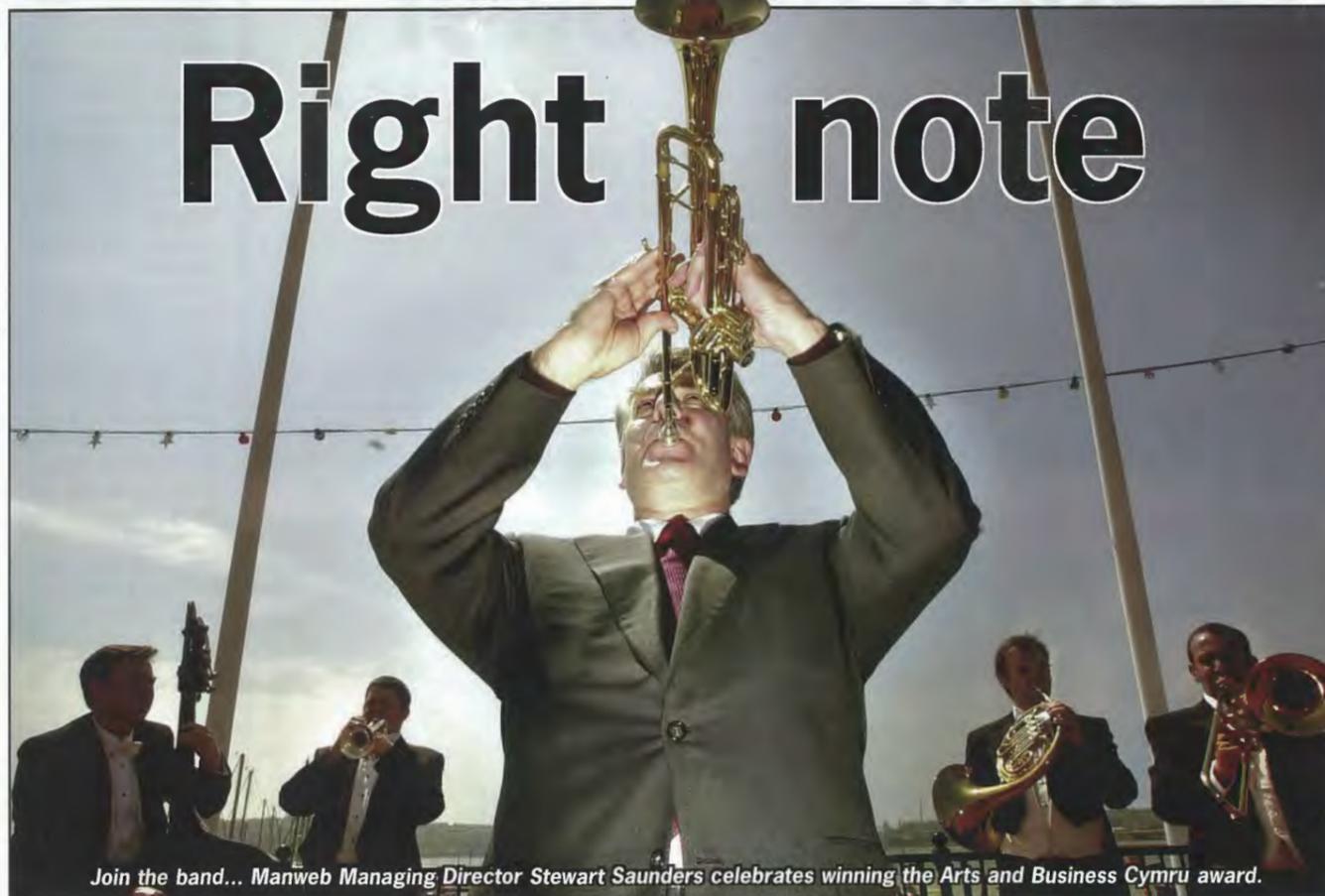


Manweb
A ScottishPower Company

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

June 2001

Right note



Join the band... Manweb Managing Director Stewart Saunders celebrates winning the Arts and Business Cymru award.

Manweb scoops arts accolade

SPONSORSHIP by Manweb of the prestigious Welsh National Opera has been recognised with an accolade from Arts and Business Cymru.

Managing Director Stewart Saunders and WNO Chairman Geraint Talfan Davies accepted the award for Best Sponsorship Developing Audiences at a ceremony held at St David's Hall in Cardiff.

The award recognises projects which bring in new audiences to artforms and is an acknowledgement of Manweb's continuing partnership with the WNO which includes sponsorship of the Manweb North Wales Season.

The Season, which has been running for four years, has ensured the annual return of the opera company to Llandudno following a nine-year absence - a fact highlighted by the judges.

Manweb's sponsorship also facilitates a variety of community and educational activities which reach not just regular opera goers but also schoolchildren, older people and even passers-by

at local shopping centres. More than 50,000 people have been reached in this way.

During last year's Season the Community and Education Department of WNO worked in special needs and mainstream schools, held an evening workshop for local choral societies and gave five concert parties for older people.

"We are delighted to receive this award," said Stewart Saunders. "The Manweb North Wales Season allows us to help make arts events accessible especially to those with special needs, schoolchildren and older people, something which is at the heart of our social action programme."

WNO's Chairman Geraint Talfan Davies said: "It is wonderful that Manweb's sponsorship has been recognised in this way. The partnership is a blueprint for the way we want to work with businesses throughout Wales."

● For details of this year's WNO community events, and a WNO Manweb North Wales Season ticket offer, see page six.

Contact lands top business publication award

Contact has received an accolade in the North-West section of the Communicators in Business awards, Europe's biggest corporate communications competition.

The publication, edited by Anne Benson of Manweb's Corporate Communications, was commended for achieving third place in the Newsletter category and was described by the judges as "a newsletter to be proud of."

POWERPartners

Charity day shifts balance of power

JUNE 28 is PowerPartners Day across the ScottishPower group and staff will be taking part in a range of wacky fundraising activities.

The theme "Shifting the Balance of Power" was given to the day and team leaders have the chance to do tasks for their staff, and offering staff the opportunity to simultaneously "get their own back" on the team leader or manager. Naturally employees will have to 'pay' their managers for the privilege.

In the Manweb area managers have taken the task that one step further and are heading out to do their bit by helping out the partner charities, so they can raise the profile of the work they are doing.

Wales Regional Manager Don McRae will spend some time working in the RNIB shop in Wrexham and

is looking for donations of books, clothes etc to take along with him.

There are also plans to get people to help at the RNIB transcription centre in Tarporley, join in with line dancing at the Active Age Centre in Liverpool, teach some older people how to "surf the net" and deliver Meals on Wheels.

Watch out for a special round up of the days' activities in the next edition of Contact, the bumper Summer Special.

● ScottishPower's PowerPartners initiative was again shortlisted for an NCH Award for Staff Fundraising, after winning the accolade last year. So far staff efforts throughout the company have helped to raise £750,000 for the charitable initiative.

Charity ball sparks happy memories

FUNDS for PowerPartners were raised at a dinner dance held at the prestigious De Vere St David's Park Hotel at Ewloe in North Wales.

Organised by the Chester Sports and Social Club, the event gave more than 200 members and non-members the chance to bring back the days of the memorable balls which used to be held in the old Manweb building on Sealand Road.

A four-course meal was followed by dancing, and the evening provided an opportunity for friends to meet up and former colleagues to catch up on the news.

The raffle at the dance raised



£317 which was matched by Manweb. A cheque for £634 was donated to the Lache Family Centre in Chester.

● Pictured above enjoying festivities at the St David's Park Hotel dinner dance are, left to right, Barry Judd, Mike Cahill, Jan Cahill and Alison Donnolly, and, pictured right, raffle prize winners Chris Byrne and Pat Byrne.



Support for youth culture event

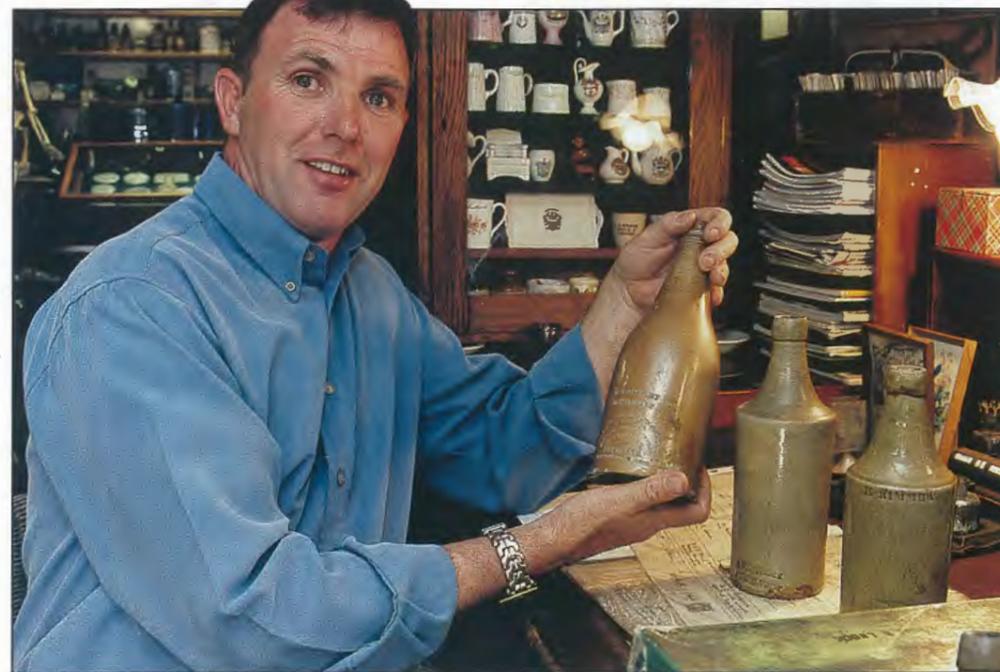
MORE than 150 young people from Merseyside schools took part in a Celebration of Youth Culture for which ScottishPower Learning supplied the First Prize.

The pupils, from 16 schools, attended an exciting personal development day at St Georges Hall in Liverpool, accompanied by learning mentors and teachers. Each team moved through four themed zones amassing points at the event which was organised by Weston Spirit, named after Falklands hero Simon Weston.

The first prize, a Personal Computer, went to Calderstones High School. ScottishPower Learning also recently sponsored a GCSE Revision Week which was organised by Education and Learning Wales (ELWA).

The project worked with schools to identify pupils unlikely to achieve Grade C or above, identifying the barriers to learning and helping the youngsters to achieve higher grades.

Collector Stuart swoops on historic cellar-hoard



Stuart Livingstone with some of the recently-acquired porter bottles at his Southport home.

Hobby with alotta bottle

HOURS of painstaking detective work have led a Manweb employee to make one of the best "finds" in his 25 years of collecting antique bottles, pottery figurines and clay pipes.

When Stuart Livingstone heard that a hoard of 1,000 porter bottles had been unearthed in a cellar in Nottingham, he went on to the Internet for a preview before they went on sale in an auction at the British Bottle Museum.

By studying the names on the early nineteenth century bottles, and matching them to his knowledge of the history of bottles in his native Southport, Stuart was able to swoop at the

auction for 23 lots - priceless to him - which went for a total of £200. It is the latest highpoint in a rich and varied collecting career for 46-year-old Stuart, team leader in refurbishment at Lister Drive, Liverpool, who describes himself as "a bit of a magpie."

He has turned a garage at his home into a "mini-museum" to display more than 2,000 bottles which he has amassed through digging on Edwardian tips - including one by Southport beach - going round antique fairs and visiting auctions.

Earlier in his career Stuart was a joiner, digging trenches for a living. "Many is the time I would go back at lunchtime to a hole which we had dug on the job, to expand it in the search for bottles and pot lids," said Stuart, who stopped digging two years ago because of pressures of time.

His most treasured find was two rare ginger beer bottles which he unearthed while digging with his son Andrew on Scarisbrick New Road, Southport. The bottles, which carry the name of Geo. Cannack of Ormskirk, are worth £500 and bear an advertising badge in monochrome print of a tower and spire.

Stuart, who is fascinated by local history, said: "The hunt is everything in collecting. It's a real pleasure to find something that no-one else has appreciated, and to be able to place the object in its historical context."



Packed with bottles - Stuart Livingstone's unique garage at his home.

Two great reader offers for musical nights out

■ CRUISING down a river in early evening with music floating on the air... it's everyone's idea of a pastoral idyll.

■ Contact readers' chance to turn the dream into reality comes courtesy of the Chester Sports and Social Club which has organised a Riverboat Cruise/Disco on September 7. The Mark Twain showboat has a licensed bar and the three-hour cruise down to the iron bridge and back on the River Dee from The Groves in Chester sails at 7.30 pm (please arrive by 7.15 pm).

■ There are 75 places up for grabs on a first come, first served basis - preference will be given to Sports and Social Club members. The subsidised prices are £3 to members, £5 to non-members.

■ There are still some cut-price tickets available for the Last Night of the Proms, part of the Chester Summer Music Festival on Friday July 20. The event begins at 7.30 pm, with people encouraged to bring their own picnic and drink, in the Grosvenor Park.

■ The first half is entitled 2001, A Space Spectacular, with music including the Star Wars and 2001: A Space Odyssey themes, while Part Two is a traditional Last Night of the Proms closing with a fabulous fireworks display.

■ Bargain tickets are available on a first come, first served basis through the Sports and Social Club and are £8 to members and £12 to non-members (the full price is £17.00).

■ For both offers contact Sue Cookson on 0151-609 2062 or internal 805 2062.

Readers' offer: gas or electric heating systems for less

DID you know, as a Contact reader, that you are entitled to ten per cent discount off the normal ScottishPower retail price, when you buy a new or upgrade your heating system?

Would you like a warmer, more comfortable home? Would you like to lower your heating bills?

If you have been thinking of upgrading your heating - or your insulation - now is the ideal time. If it's gas you need, there

is a wide variety of modern and efficient boilers available, including a choice of radiator styles to suit your home. Our electric heating systems can provide 24-hour affordable and controllable warmth, giving you the flexibility to add heaters as and when it suits you.

Install a new or upgrade your Gas or Electric Heating system with Manweb ScottishPower and you'll have nothing to pay for 6 months* - you won't even have

to pay a deposit.

Simply call 0800 88 9900 to arrange a home survey from one of our Heating Advisors, quoting Contact to qualify for the discounted prices.

● Buy Now Pay 6 Months Later is available subject to status. No deposit is required. To qualify for Buy Now Pay 6 Months Later, minimum purchase price is £250. A written quotation is available upon request.

THIS year's PowerPartners It's A Knockout promises to be bigger and brighter than ever. At the new venue – Warrington Wolves rugby ground on Wilderspool Causeway – superb facilities and car parking will be guaranteed. *Contact* spotlights three of the teams gearing up for the fun event.



Manweb's head office team in tactics huddle are, left to right, Stephen Bray, Melanie Jones, Gareth Prytherch, Sue Anderson and Jason Procter.



Pushing hard for victory... Chester depot team members, left to right, Graeme Stewart, Neil Mason and Dave Shepherd.

IT'S a Knockout entrants are raring to go and flexing their muscles in preparation for the competition which takes place at the Warrington Wolves rugby ground on Saturday July 14.

Teams throughout the group are psyching themselves up to unleash the sporting prowess of their members.

The Chester Depot team, the "Sovereigns," will be especially well prepared for the water-based games – captain Neil Mason and colleague Dave Shepherd, both overhead linesmen, have experience of white water rafting in wildest Scotland.

"We took part along with a team from Prenton in a five-mile charity raft race after which we did the white water challenge," said Neil. "It should stand us in good stead for It's A Knockout."

Neil says he will be psyching his team up in motivational sessions (in the pub) and preparing them to unlock their competitive potential.

"It's all a question of the team pulling together, and team spirit," he

Teams ready to bite at home of Wolves

said. "This year we are aiming to do better than last. At the Widnes It's A Knockout we won our heat, with everyone putting in a brilliant performance. This year we know what we have to do."

Neil's fighting talk is matched by the determination – and sporting credentials – of the customer sales and service team, "CSS Enterprise,"

which is led by Melanie Jones, Wales and Mid Cheshire SuperCentre Manager and which includes John Kennedy, Manweb's Customer Relations Manager.

Melanie has experience in discus throwing (from school) while Sue Anderson, Southport Customer Service Centre Representative, used to work in a gym in Maghull, Liverpool. "When I was at school I was in the netball team, and I currently go jogging at least once a week," said Sue. "My five-year-old daughter Kayley

also keeps me fit – she'll be coming along to support us.

"We're going to be highly competitive in It's A Knockout and we are all psyched up. We're taking inspiration from Melanie – she cycles eight miles once a week to the pub."

The team from Warrington, which is sticking with its "Meat and Two Veg" moniker, is another of last year's heat winners.

Captain John McWilliams, team leader in Operations, said: "We have the same team with two substitutions, and we regard ourselves as defending champions. Last year we trounced Mike Cahill and

his management team, and this time round we are equally confident."

Four of the team are used to water because they are dedicated sea fishermen – John himself, Jeff Dobson, team leader in Operations, Mickey Stanley, jointer's mate, and Mike Fletcher, jointer. Their 12-hour bi-monthly fishing trips off the coast of Anglesey will stand them in good stead if they are deluged with water during the competition.

Of the other team members, Rachel Shorney is an ace horsewoman and walker. Chris Archer, in the Operations Clerical Department, has been dieting in preparation for the contest and by doing so has raised £123 with match funding from Manweb in aid of the children's charity Dr Barnardo's. Gordon Park, linesman's mate, is a keen golfer and overhead linesman Gordon Maxton goes fell walking.

"We are all superfit and raring to go," said John.

* The usual games will be followed by a disco and a buffet in the evening. Wolfie, the Warrington Wolves team mascot, will be in attendance and youngsters will be entertained during the community event.

● Anyone interested in entering contact Jane Hall tel. 805 2036 or on jane.hall@manweb.co.uk



Above in fighting mood are members of the Warrington team, left to right back row, Gordon Park, John McWilliams, Gordon Maxton, Jeff Dobson, and front row, Andy Knox, Chris Archer and Mickey Stanley. Pictured right, Andy Knox puts Jeff Dobson through his paces.



Famous venue for great event

THE venue for the PowerPartners It's A Knockout 2001 event is the Warrington Wolves rugby ground on Fletcher Road, off Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington. pictured above.

The 9,600-capacity stadium has been on the site – adjacent to Manweb's Warrington office – for 103 years out of the 120 years that the famous club has been in existence. The club boasts numerous hospitality suites including a Sponsorship Lounge seating 80, a Vice Presidents Lounge seating 80 and a Platinum Lounge seating 120.

Bar facilities are available in the Touchdown Club under the Brian

Bevan Stand which can accommodate 700 guests.

The club mascot Wolfie recently won a *Manchester Evening News* accolade and he is currently also representing Lancashire. He usually arrives at matches on a scooter or bike but plans are afoot to parachute him in at the start of a game with the help of local commandos.

Manweb has formed a partnership with the Super League club and is sponsoring a development programme based around the Primary Link initiative under which top Wolves players such as Allan Langer and Tawera Nikau go into schools to give talks and provide coaching.

Win tickets for the National Eisteddfod

THE National Eisteddfod of Wales is in North Wales this year – and *Contact* readers have the chance of obtaining free tickets.

There are three pairs of tickets to give away for each night's concert during the festival at Denbigh from August 3-11.

Manweb is sponsoring the community drama events which are associated with the Eisteddfod, such as drama groups for

children in the theatre on the field and workshops at High Schools in the area.

"This is part of our ongoing commitment to sponsoring the event, which takes place every other year in North Wales," said Alun Jones, Manweb's Welsh Affairs Officer.

"Our support is in line with our commitment to the Welsh language and community, and it is a way of helping local

arts perform."

To obtain a pair of tickets, simply answer this question:

Where was the National Eisteddfod last held in North Wales?

Answers to Alun Jones, Manweb Corporate Communications, Manweb House, Chester Business Park, Wrexham Road, Chester CH4 9RF.



Opera for the people

ONCE again Manweb joined with Welsh National Opera to bring a series of education and community events to North Wales in parallel with the Manweb Summer Season at the North Wales Theatre in Llandudno, sponsored by the company.

The events, which take place between July 3-6, include concert parties at homes and venues for older people in

association with Age Concern and RNIB.

The first of these is on July 4 with a concert at Bangor Cathedral, featuring members of WNO's renowned chorus including Bangor-born Phillip Lloyd-Evans.

Young people are not forgotten during the Season with a project based on Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* planned for St David's High School, Wrexham. A two-day workshop will give pupils an introduction to opera and the opportunity to work with a professional team from WNO.

The St David's pupils will attend the evening performance of *Katya Kabanova* on July 5 during their project.

WNO's Brass Consort, together with soprano Helen Knight, will give a public concert at the Ucheldre Centre, Holyhead on July 4. As with all activities taking place during the



week, the event is free.

● *Contact* readers wishing to sample the delights of opera are being offered cut-price tickets for Welsh National Opera's residency at the North Wales Theatre in Llandudno.

A £5 reduction on all tickets for all performances at the Llandudno 2001 concerts can be obtained by simply phoning the box office and quoting "Manweb Staff Ticket Offer". The number at the North Wales Theatre is 01492-872000.

The Operas being performed are *Magic Flute* by Mozart on July 3 and 6, *Tosca* by Puccini on July 4 and 7 and *Katya Kabanova* by Janacek on July 5. Bookings can also be made via the website on:

www.nwtheatre.co.uk

In tune with the community – WNO musicians pictured on the promenade at Llandudno.

Cycle ride for charity

NEIL Powell, Service Co-ordinator at Lister Drive, Liverpool, raised more than £200 for leukemia research in a sponsored cycle ride from Arrows Park Hospital.

Neil – who cycles an average of 30 miles a day on his mountain bike – easily completed the 26 miles round Wirral on the charity fun day.

The electric detective

THE safety video entitled *The Electric Detective*, produced by the Under-standing Energy educational service with help from Manweb's Moira Renwick, won the Prix EURELECTRIC at the European Energy Film Festival in Lausanne.



Surf the net and ramble

THE internet was the solution for members of the North Wirral retirees association when they were planning their next ramble.

Organiser Lil Martland went on the web to find which footpaths were closed due to foot and mouth in the vicinity of Beeston Castle, so that she and a colleague could "recce" a suitable route.

"We have avoided areas around Nantwich and we have devised a good route which features the Shady Oak pub," said Lil.

Left with inky fingers

IT was "back to school" for members of the Mid Cheshire retirees association when they visited a Victorian school museum in South Wales. Two older members of the group were especially intrigued by the strict attitude of the resident "schoolmarm" and the use of pen nibs. "Everybody ended up with ink on their fingers," said Walter Walker, treasurer of the association.

MEB visit

A GROUP of MEB retirees from Birmingham visited their Manweb retiree counterparts in Liverpool for a tour round Lister Drive and a buffet and dancing in the Thingwall Sports and Social Club. Shirley Roberts, Liverpool retirees association secretary, is helping to organise a return visit for later in the year.

Have you got new 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.

Hero Ivor tackles a Cornish nasty

Retiree faces intruder at holiday hotel... and the band played on!

HAVE-a-go hero Ivor Nethercott is back in St Asaph taking it easy after his action-packed holiday in Cornwall with the Clwyd retirees association.

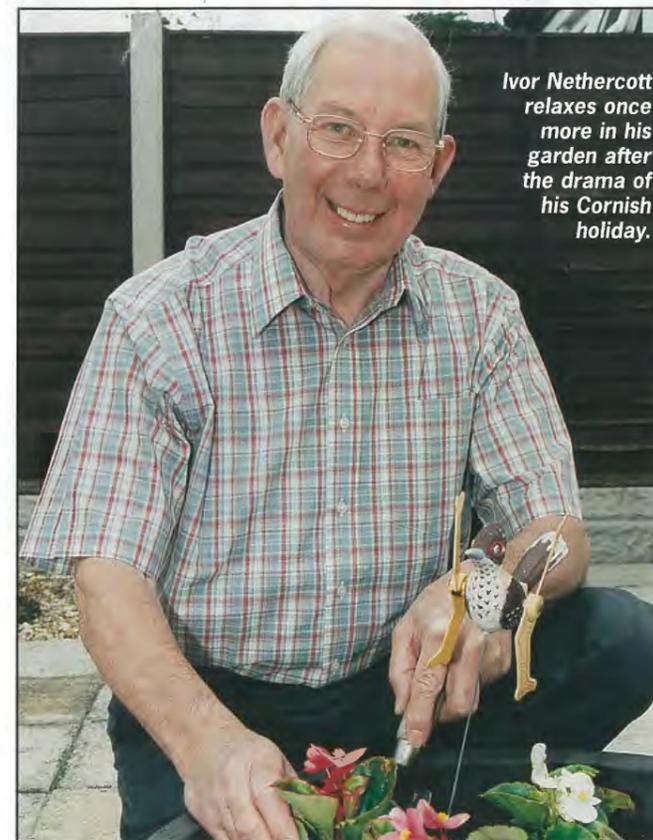
Ivor, aged 71, intervened to help the manager of the Trebarwith Hotel in Newquay after he received a stab wound in an incident involving an intruder.

Along with fellow association member Brynley Thomas, Ivor dashed to the foyer to help from the lounge area where he and his colleagues were enjoying an evening drink.

"We heard the commotion and could see that something was happening," he said. "I managed to kick away a knife."

He was also able to use his First Aid knowledge, applying a clean handkerchief to the manager's wound.

"It wasn't long before the paramedics and the police arrived," said Ivor, who was a Commercial Foreman with Manweb. "I just acted instinc-



Ivor Nethercott relaxes once more in his garden after the drama of his Cornish holiday.

tively – it was quite an event to happen on holiday, and it was a talking point throughout the rest of our stay."

The hotel manager has since expressed his gratitude to Ivor, who gave a six-page statement to the police afterwards.

Brynley, aged 72, formerly an electrician with Manweb based

at Llandudno Junction, also helped bravely in the incident. He said: "It was a natural thing to help and I did so without thinking."

"There was one amusing aspect to the whole thing - the band on the dance floor played on throughout, just as they did on the Titanic."

EEIBA top cash prize increases

THE top prize offered by EEIBA (the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association) has been increased. In a change to the prize structure the top prize rises £50 to £350 with the second to fifth prizes £250, £125, £100 and £75.

There are still some £50, £30 and £25 prizes and the total number of prizes is still 20. The monthly prize allocation has been increased from £1,230 to £1,440 as a result of the successful Draw promotion last year which culminated in the top prize of a car won by Dave Dreyfus.

Chris Shepherd, regional branch treasurer of EEIBA, said: "The success of the promotion also means that we are able to donate another £2,500 to the EEIBA towards the work of the charity."

"We are always looking for new members and if anybody would like to join and win a valuable prize through payroll giving, could they please contact me for an application form on 01925-756050."

EEIBA Prize Draw Winners April 2001.

£350 J.McInerney ret'd; £250 M.Coburn, Boulting Group; £125 D.M.Hart, ret'd; £100 R.M.Tucker, Porthmadoc; £75 J.Skillen, ret'd; £50 A.N.Button, ret'd, R.Murray, ret'd, J.S.Rimmer, ret'd, T.Topping, ret'd, H.Thomas, ret'd, D.Burke, ret'd; £30 A.G.Keevan, Aberystwyth, B.Williams, ret'd, B.B.Davies, ret'd; £25 E.A.Evans, ret'd, T.W.Walton, ret'd, J.G.Grant, ret'd, J.E.Thomas, ret'd, M.Farragher, ret'd, A.L.Carman, ret'd.