

CONTACT

October 1975

Llanberis
Lunescape
(see page 242)

“Conservation Demands Correct Pricing”

—Chairman

“The Electricity supply industry cannot isolate itself from the economic problems of the nation. Higher electricity charges are a regrettable but essential step on the road back to sanity.” said our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, addressing the recent annual meeting in Chester of the Merseyside and North Wales Area of the Electrical Association for Women.

“The cost of power station coal and oil have escalated to nearly four times the previous level, and represent half the cost of every unit of electricity supplied,” continued Mr. Dodds.

“This must be faced, and is better than a world of delusion where an unduly low price creates an artificial demand for electricity, giving rise in its turn to uneconomic investment and increasing deficit.”

Correct pricing was an essential component of energy conservation, said the Chairman. The objectives of a realistic pricing policy had been clearly outlined by the former Energy Minister, Mr. Eric Varley, when he said:

“It is dangerous saving energy if the savings involve a greater expenditure of other resources. . . We are not seeking austerity for austerity's sake. There is no question of asking anyone to go without energy

if he is prepared to meet the full cost of his consumption.”

“The avoidance of waste is part of our gospel” continued Mr. Dodds. “This does not inhibit us from marketing electricity where it can be efficiently used and where the customer is prepared to pay the true cost in a competitive market. Increased use of electricity can, in many cases, play an important part in securing a better use of overall resources. The supply industry is the trustee of the biggest single capital investment of the nation. It is in the national interest that an effective use is made of these resources, once they have been brought to a level corresponding to real demand.”

“It is the value of money which has declined—not the value of electricity. For the cost of a half-pound box of chocolates, electricity can still cook the meals for a family of four for a week. ‘Which’ recently launched an attack on off-peak electricity heating, but devoted its analysis mainly to the running costs of alternative fuels. Little reference was made to alternative capital costs. In well-insulated premises it can take up to 15 years before the advantage of lower running costs of some alternative fuels can overcome the disadvantage of the higher capital costs of installing a non-electric system. All heating is expensive today but we are satisfied that off-peak electricity has an important competitive place in the heating market, when all costs are considered, and that it is in the national interest that this place should be maintained.”

MANWEB's New Savings Stamps

Electricity Savings Stamps worth 50p each went on sale at MANWEB shops and district offices from October 1st.

The new stamps, printed in

maroon and white, are being introduced to help the public to budget for the payment of their future electricity accounts.

Customers may purchase stamps whenever convenient during the quarter and attach them to specially prepared savings cards. These cards can then be used to pay the next electricity account, either at Board shops or offices, or by post to Head Office.

Commented our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds: “The stamps are being introduced to help those of our customers who find it preferable to make regular savings towards their electricity accounts. The savings stamps will ensure that money set aside will be available when the electricity account is delivered. The customer

may choose to use the stamps to save up to pay the whole of his electricity bill, or just part of it and use cash to pay the balance.”



Liverpool Electric Power
and Lighting Sports and
Social Club

PRESENT

THE NEW ELECTRON
PLAYERS

in

“I'LL GET MY MAN”

a farce by Philip King
in the Neptune Theatre,
Hanover Street, Liverpool
on Friday, December 5th
and Saturday, December 6th

Tickets from Vicki Roberts,
Work Control,
Liverpool District



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Editorial

Everyone's Concern

FROM THE day when Stone Age man first hit his thumb with his primitive axe, right through to the holocaust of Flixborough, injury or industrial disease have been part and parcel of the hazards of doing almost any job of work.

The coming of the Industrial Revolution, and the appalling working conditions in many of our early mines and mills, saw the first stirrings of social conscience about these hazards. Since then there has been an ever-growing line of Acts and Regulations designed to protect the health and safety of employees in their working environment, although for much of the time such legislation limped along in a laggardly way in the wake of technological progress and innovation.

Steadily this gap has closed—though it is likely that there will always be new developments calling for new safeguards. The latest Act (The Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974—referred to elsewhere in this number of *Contact*), provides an updated and comprehensive framework, laying statutory duties on employer and employed alike.

No legislation can cater for every aspect of human frailty—carelessness, forgetfulness, or simple laziness. Which of us has hands which have never been injured, even in some small way, because of one of these weaknesses?

The safety helmet hanging on the hook will not protect the head that should be wearing it. Goggles lying on the workbench will not save those delicate eyes from flying particles. Gloves in the pocket will not keep the skin on our fingers!

Eternal vigilance has been described as the price of liberty. The same quality is also the price of whole skins and sound limbs.

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Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.



Mr. Ron Morley (*District Engineer*), answers a point during the Open Forum discussion in the first session of North Wirral's "Safety Week."

SAFETY WEEK —

North Wirral shows the way

A major drive to make every MANWEB employee in North Wirral District more aware of the importance of safe working and accident prevention was undertaken by the District early this month.

During the course of "Safety Week" more than 300 MANWEB people—including all NJIC staff together with NJB and NJC staff directly concerned with their work—attended a series of ten half-day meetings at our depot at Seaview Road, Wallasey.

Mr. Vic Heard (*senior assistant engineer—Safety*), explains one of the exhibition stands, dealing with accidents affecting MANWEB employees.



The programme included a number of films dealing with the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, and other aspects of safe working, particularly those affecting our industry.

An *Open Forum* for questions, and a comprehensive exhibition dealing with all aspects of safety and accident prevention, completed the programme.

Opening "Safety Week," Mr. Sid Fairclough (*Group Manager*) told those present at the first session that the provisions of the new Act were aimed at people, rather than things. While faulty equipment did occasionally cause accidents, the main cause was human frailty—carelessness, ignorance, or laziness. The Act placed statutory responsibilities on all employers to take measures to ensure the health and safety of all staff at work.

Part of the exhibition consisted of six posters, designed by the District staff, dealing with accidents which had occurred in the District. Staff were invited to take part in a competition asking them to choose, in order of merit, the three posters they thought most valuable in the field of safety and accident prevention and also to write a tie-breaking slogan of not more than 12 words—which might be adopted as the District's "Safety Slogan."

It is thought that North Wirral's lead may be followed by other Districts. Idea of the "week" came from the safety sub-committee of No. 5 LAC.



"People Falling" is one of the major accident causes—and defective ladders make it certain that falls will occur. MANWEB's policy makes provisions for systematic inspection of ladders on a regular basis.

THE NEW ACT

The Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974—the latest of a long line of legislation enacted since the industrial revolution to protect workpeople—requires all employers to publish to their staff a Policy Statement on this very important subject.

MANWEB's Policy Statement has been published, and is to be found on notice boards.

The Board's policy provides for a comprehensive programme of measures calculated to protect and preserve the health and safety of every employee.

In the words of the Policy Statement: "As a good employer it is the aim of the Board to give the utmost priority to achieving the health and safety of its workpeople."

While accepting the far-ranging responsibilities placed upon it, the Board also:

"requires that all employees, while at work, fulfill the statutory obligations imposed by the Act by following agreed rules, working procedures and codes of practice and take reasonable care for the health and safety of himself and other persons who may be affected by his actions. It further requires that all employees co-operate fully with management in the implementation of health and safety measures."

Examples of ways in which employees can co-operate are as follows:

- * Report all potential hazards to your supervisor.
- * Learn and observe all relevant safety rules, procedures or codes of practice.
- * Ensure that tools and equipment used are in good and safe condition.
- * Always use protective clothing or equipment required for the job.



Some of the visitors to the exhibition examine the wide range of protective clothing, including gloves, helmets, goggles and protective footwear.

Looking down on Llanberis across Llyn Peris with the small town of contractors' buildings on its shores. In the left foreground is part of the road which winds its way up the slate mountain while on the right is one of our poles carrying the 11kV line.



Rough Going at Dinorwic

THROUGH A WILD and shattered landscape, which seems to have more in common with the surface of the moon than the green hills of North Wales, construction engineers from Head Office are directing the erection of the overhead lines which will supply the vital power for work on the CEBG's new pumped storage scheme at Dinorwic, near Llanberis.

The first 11 kV line was completed recently, and rises over 2,000 feet in the space of a mile, through a wilderness of unstable tips of slate spoil and massive caverns quarried into the mountainside. Surely the most difficult line ever to have been constructed in the Board's history!

The site of this exacting work is, of course, the huge Dinorwic slate quarry. Now fallen into disuse, the quarry was for many years the scene of enormous activity and the main workplace for the men of the surrounding villages. In its heyday during the last Century upwards of 3,000 men toiled under exacting conditions, starting work at 6 a.m. on the job—half-way up the mountain!

OUR COVER PICTURE

illustrates the rugged terrain through which our overhead lines at Dinorwic are being engineered.

Now, once more, Dinorwic quarry is humming with life, as work goes ahead on the early stages of what must surely be one of the most exciting and imaginative engineering schemes ever undertaken in this country. When all is done our biggest pumped storage scheme, driving turbines hidden deep inside the solid rock of the mountain, will be capable of churning out nearly 2,000 megawatts of power at a few seconds' notice. The ruins of the 19th Century will have given birth to the benefits of the 21st!

To make it possible for the various aspects of the engineering work to go forward one of the first essentials was an adequate electricity supply at a number of key points, and a half-million pound

Engineer Ken Jones stands by one of the pole holes hacked out of the slate waste with pick and shovel. Head Office engineering staff need not worry about their future for despite the fact that Ken has a spade in his hands—he didn't dig the hole!



contract landed MANWEB with some of our biggest ever headaches in the field of overhead line construction.

The first 11 kV lines—to the “surge shaft” position—created tremendous handling and access problems at many points where vehicular approach was impossible. Pole holes had to be hacked with pick and shovel, usually out of the piles of slate waste, and tractors were known to have somehow defied the laws of gravity in getting into positions where they could winch materials up the mountainside.

A further 11 kV line has also been erected across the bleak upper slopes of the mountain to the Marchlyn dam, constructed to increase the capacity of the scheme's upper reservoir, based on the original natural lake of Marchlyn Mawr. This line attains a height of 2,600 feet at its highest point.

Difficulties have not, however, been confined to overhead line work. The laying of main site cables down the mountainside from a new 33 kV substation through tunnels to the main site involved the construction of a “concrete channel roadway,” dropping some 200 feet in 300 yards and nicknamed the “ski run.”

Work on the contract will continue for about two years more, and will include more unusual cable



Halogen lamps light up one of the tunnels through the mountain in which our cables are laid in channels on either side. Some 24 hours after this picture was taken thousands of tons of slate roared down the mountain-side blocking off one end of the tunnel.

work extending over 800 metres into the mountain through tunnels which are now being driven to facilitate the construction of the main power station complex in the heart of the mountain.

The MANWEB team is under the direction of Mr. Jack Critchley (*1st engineer, Construction*), and our ‘men on the spot’ are led by Messrs. Ken Jones and Jim Murray, who spent much of last winter scrambling around the mountain in their “wellies” surveying the route for the first line. (*After several painful bumps Ken has now abandoned “wellies” in favour of a pair of climbing boots!*)

Right: Peter Oram, MANWEB's site engineer parks his land rover at the bottom of the ‘ski run’ bringing the main site cables down the mountain-side.

Below: We see the protective covers laid over the cables in the channels.





Left: Apprentice electrician Ilor Jones (Gwynedd) has difficulty in identifying the Jackson twins, Philip, left, and Malcolm, right . . . or is it Malcolm, left, and Philip, right? Anyway, they are both from our Mid-Cheshire District.

Centre: Following in father's footsteps are apprentice electricians Robert Edwards, (Oswestry), left, and Nigel France (Liverpool), seen here talking to Mr. John Seymour (senior electrical instructor).

Learning a Trade at Hoylake



TOP MAN at our apprentice training school at Hoylake, Mr. Ron Slack, has a phenomenal memory for the names and faces of the 1,348 young men who have passed through the school during the past 20 years.

In getting to know the 44 names and faces of this year's apprentices, Ron was suddenly stopped dead in his tracks—though only for a moment!

First came number 153422, Jackson, Malcolm. Face . . . name . . . fine. Then came number 153433, Jackson, Philip . . . an identical twin!

Ron was soon able to tell one from the other when he discovered that one twin was left-handed and the other right-handed, *and he knows which is which!*

Two other young men at the school are following in father's footsteps. They are Robert Morgan Edwards, son of Reg Edwards our Oswestry District installation engineer, and Nigel Robert France, son of Bill France, Liverpool District's installation engineer.

On this year's course we have the largest group of "G" stars ever, with 21 young men with their feet firmly planted on the first rung of the ladder which could lead them to becoming electrical engineers.

We wish all 44 lucky lads every success in their chosen careers.



Young men starting their careers. From left to right: Mark Thomason (Mid-Mersey), Mark Ready (Liverpool), Martyn Young (Oswestry), David McCann (Liverpool), Simon Ulyat (North Wirral) and Stephen Sweeney (Mid-Mersey).

More Apprentices . . .

Telecommunications apprentices Gareth Boyes, *left*, and Christopher Pace, *right*, on Head Office staff, with apprentice electricians, *from left to right*: Philip Roskell (Liverpool), Andrew Palin (North Mersey), Raymond Roberts (North Wirral) and Graham Woodward (Mid-Mersey).



Mr. Stanley Evans (assistant mechanical instructor) demonstrates hacksaw techniques to apprentice electricians, *from left to right*: Stephen Gibson (Liverpool), Kevin Cordwell (Mid-Mersey), Dewi Davies and Carl Griffiths (Dee Valley), Stephen Dobson (Mid-Mersey), Stephen Gierke (Clwyd) and Martin Cowley (Mid-Mersey).



. . . and the ladies who feed 'em

Our ladies of the canteen who are kept very busy preparing and serving meals for the Training Centre staff, craft apprentices and the staff who attend the various courses in the jointing and linesmen's school and the advanced electrical section. Seen here, *from left to right*, are Mrs. P. Wootton, Mrs. D. Clarke, Mrs. B. Ross, Mrs. D. Yoxall and Mrs. D. Cooper.





Deep concentration from this section of the audience at the Mid-Mersey District Employees' Conference.

MID-MERSEY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Serious note struck at Runcorn

The 1975 series of employees' conferences—organised by Local Advisory Committees through-out MANWEB—got off to a flying start on September 26th when more than 200 staff and pensioners gathered at a Runcorn hotel for the Mid-Mersey District meeting.

In the chair for the occasion was Group Manager Mr. R. J. Barraclough, who struck a serious note when reporting to the District employees in his capacity as Chairman of No. 3 L.A.C.

"If the price of a product keeps on going up the time comes when the customer decides not to buy so much of it, and we are probably approaching that state of affairs in the electricity industry" said Mr. Barraclough.

He added that we were in a 'no growth' situation, and this meant a diminished need for capital works. An increasing number of people might have difficulty in paying their accounts—including both genuine hardship cases and those he described as "the feckless and reckless." To help counter this situation the Board had introduced the new Savings Stamps and the Thrift Meter scheme, while people could budget for their bills also by monthly banker's order.

"Let us not forget that electricity is still good value for money. The average customer spends only a small proportion of his income on electricity" added the Group Manager.

Dealing with the question of employment, Mr. Barraclough warned that the industry could not isolate itself from the national economy."

"Most of us can be said to be fortunate, working in an essential public service which is not so adversely affected as other sectors of the economy," he said, "but we must appreciate our good fortune and carry out our work as responsibly and considerately as possible."

"We have a monopoly, and if we treat our customers in an offhand or careless manner they are going to kick up a row" he added.

"If we do our work conscientiously I think we can weather the economic depression and come out of it in good shape to meet the renewed development we all hope won't be too long coming" concluded Mr. Barraclough.

Board Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds said there was an international industrial depression, touched off mainly by the colossal increase in oil prices. Our industry could not 'opt out' of the national and international winds of change, now blowing at gale force. This was a sombre situation, but relatively speaking we were better off than most industries.

L.A.C. secretary Mr. J. Sherwen, outlined the work carried out by the Committee during the year, and a lively Open Forum session was followed by an enjoyable social evening, with dinner and dancing.



Talking Notes

BIG MANWEB GOLF ENTRY

SEVENTY enthusiastic golfers, drawn from every MANWEB district except one, and also from Head Office, gathered at Oswestry Golf Club recently for the last and most important event in the annual calendar of the MANWEB (Chester) Golfing Society.

Main prize of the day was the Bernie Green Memorial Trophy and Captain's Prize—with a nine-hole competition in the morning to get the players warmed up!

Winner of the big event,

Master golfer, Martin Lloyd.



inevitably it seems, was MANWEB's "Golfer of the Year" **Martin Lloyd**, of Liverpool District. Martin, who has already been first in three of the six monthly competitions this year, showed a clean pair of heels to the field in returning a gross score of 71 (net—65!). He also won the Gravett Cup earlier in the season.

Runners-up to Martin in this final competition in 1975 were **Elfyn Griffiths** (*Wayleaves*) and **Graham Davies** (*Gwynedd District*) with net 67's, followed by **Bill Thompson** (*Oswestry District*) and **Don Plant** (*Associate*) on net 68 and **Colin Reid** (*North Mersey District*) with a net 69.

In the nine-hole competition, top man was Don Plant with 22 points colselly followed by Elfyn Griffiths on 21 points.

At the end of the day's play the prizes were presented by the Club Captain, **Mr. G. G. Barnes** (*Assistant Chief Accountant—Revenue*).

Busy Girl

Our current "Girl from MANWEB," **Miss Lynette Kemp**, from the Clwyd District, has a full calendar until her year of office comes to an end on December 31st. What with her

daily work as a demonstrator temporarily attached to the North Wirral District, she also has engagements, as our "Girl from MANWEB" at a number of Employees' Conferences and at the Board's special heating presentations.

Next year won't start off too quietly either for on January 19th, Lynette will be marrying Mr. Keith Gibson, a native of Levan in Fife, and at present working as a personnel officer with the Fibreglass Company in Wrexham.

Naturally, the wedding reception will be held at her Dad's place, The Point Hotel in Rhyl!

A Future Celebrity

A great future as a singer lies ahead of a young man with a fine base baritone voice, 23-year-old **Robert Wyn Roberts** who, at present, works as a clerk in our Gwynedd District Office at St. Helens Road, Caernarfon.

Following his success in winning the baritone solo prize in this year's National Eisteddfod held at Criccieth, Robert has now carried off two more first prizes—the Challenge solo and the Welsh solo—at the recent annual Eisteddfod held at Butlin's Pwllheli Holiday camp.

In addressing the 2,000 strong music lovers in the audience, one of the distinguished adjudicators, Dr. David Clover heaped praise on Robert's voice



Singer of note, Robert Wyn Roberts.

when he said, "The performance given by this young singer this evening is worthy of many a professional singer—one day this young man will return to this stage as a celebrity."

As the director of the British Youth Choir, Dr. Clover has offered Robert the opportunity of joining the choir and taking a lead part in two special performances of *The Messiah* to be given next year at the cathedrals in Liverpool and Manchester.

Six years ago, while still at the Sir Hugh Owen School in Caernarfon, Robert began to seriously use his fine voice. He sang 'pop' to his own guitar accompaniment, but soon felt that the Welsh 'pop' scene was declining so he turned to the classics.

Since then he has sung at most of the local Eisteddfods and has competed in a number of festivals. He also sings at many concerts for charitable organisations.

Coming from a family of singers with his grandfather

and uncle both excellent tenors—in fact most of his male relations are tenors—they cannot understand where Robert's base baritone comes from!

Another great opportunity has just been presented to Robert, this time from Mr. Brian Hughes of Manchester University, who, in encouraging Robert to take up a full-time singing career, has offered him free tuition.

With all these reports and recommends from the experts, we too think that Robert should 'take the plunge' while still young enough to do so.

On the Move Again!

After working in the Liverpool District as a design engineer on the Commercial staff, then moving, to the same job, in North Wirral District just over 18 months ago, **Philip Burrows** has recently moved again, this time to Mid-Cheshire District where he is now with the Engineering Department working as a 2nd engineer (Systems) based at Northwich.

Phil joined MANWEB as an apprentice in 1965 becoming a qualified electrician at St. Helens in 1970. Twelve months

later he took a course as a trainee electrical engineer under the manual workers' training scheme before taking up a post in Liverpool.

At the moment he is travelling from his home in Ellesmere Port every day, but wants to move nearer Northwich as soon as possible. So, his house is up for sale. If you are interested you will find details in our 'For Sale' column on page 260.

Haymakers' Contest

The brick store at our Queensferry Depot looked more like a farmer's barn recently, when the judging of the MANWEB Area section of the National Farm-Electric Hay Drying Championship 1975, took place.

Twelve farmers from MANWEB's area submitted bales of hay to be judged for its quality. The judges were Mr. Robin Crawshaw, the man from the Ministry (of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) who is a nutritional chemist and Mr. G. Pritchard from the N.F.U. Chairing the proceedings was MANWEB Agricultural Advisor, **Ron Andrews**.

Winners of the MANWEB

Judging the quality of hay submitted by MANWEB area farmers are, from left to right: Messrs. Robin Crawshaw, Ron Andrews and G. Pritchard.



heat were Messrs. E. Royles and Sons of Mobberly in Cheshire. Placed second was Mr. E. D. Hughes of Pwhelli, last year's MANWEB winner and National second prizewinner, and Mr. E. S. Proffitt of Barnston in Wirral was third.

The prizes for this round were £25, £15 and £10. The top prize for the final is £100, which this year's MANWEB winner has a chance to make his own.

Wedding

We offer our belated congratulations to **Miss Carol Austin**, a clerk in our North Mersey District's Work Control section on her marriage to Mr. Neil Birch, a production supervisor for Bowyers.

The ceremony took place a few weeks ago at the Emmanuel



Mr. and Mrs. Birch.

Methodist Church in Ormskirk. The happy couple honeymooned in the Lake District.

"Interbake '75"

The electricity supply industry is showing equipment for master bakers and in-store bakeries at Interbake '75, (Olympia, London, October 21-26, 1975).

A compact multi-deck electric oven can operate with each



Our guests from Gambia with instructors at the Hoylake Jointing School. From left to right: Messrs. Roy Holden (assistant instructor), Tom Adefowls, Geoff Parry (senior instructor) and Tom Richards.

deck at a different temperature so that different products can be baked at the same time. It can also be located in the position that best suits the bakery layout—because no combustion flues are required.

Refrigeration, both for dough retarding and deep freezing, is also shown. This enables work to continue through otherwise slack periods, the products being held under cool or cold conditions until they are required.

Guests from Gambia

Later this month our staff at the Hoylake Jointing School will be saying their reluctant goodbyes to a couple of cheerful jointers from the Gambian Utilities Corporation.

Their two good friends **Messrs. Tom Adefowls and Tom Richards**, arrived at Hoylake some four months ago to learn MANWEB techniques in cable jointing up to an including 33 kV.

Tom Adefowls became a jointer four years ago and back home he also owns a bar—run by his sister and cousin—called the "Tobacco Road 'Joint' Bar."

He is quite a capable welter-weight amateur boxer too. As a 15-year-old in 1953, in his first big contest, he won the "Coronation Cup." Since then, as the Gambian welter-weight champion, he has fought and beaten many other champions from the neighbouring countries.

He continues his gym training at the Wallasey Boxing Club and enjoys playing table tennis and snooker.

His friend and colleague on this trip, Tom Richards, has quite a reputation as a ladies man. He also enjoys swimming and one day, after he gets back home to Banjul, he would like to open a training school—for jointers!

MANWEB on Show

This year's Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales was held in the small seaside town of Criccieth in our Gwynedd District.

As well as being a mecca for lovers of the arts, the Eisteddfod is also a window display on life in the region.

MANWEB can justifiably claim to have contributed a

great deal to the betterment of this life, particularly with our rural electrification programme.

The Board's exhibition stand on the showground this year promoted our latest addition to the North Wales housewife's dream—the fitted all-electric kitchen. Other displays presented economy package deals and recommendations for higher standards of insulation in the home.

With a total ground attendance over the week of some 180,000 people, our energy sales team of **Norman Jones** and **Eirlys Hughes**, assisted by their colleague from Marketing, **Arthur Jones**, were all kept very busy explaining how "Gwna trydan gymaint i chwi" ("Electricity does so much for you").

Events of this nature demand a temporary and reliable supply and on this occasion our engineers provided a 400 kVA capacity for the main pavilion and stands with a further 120 kVA for the BBC and 100 kVA for HTV daily transmissions.



Driving or putting, Andrew Critchley is tops.

Golf Champion

Winner of this year's Nalgo MANWEB Golf Championship is 19-year-old **Andrew Critchley**, a trainee record's draughts man at Head Office.

Playing in driving rain and gusting high winds on the Rhyl golf course, Andrew had a

round of 72—taking into account his 15 handicap—just two under par for the course.

On the same day with similar conditions on a Yorkshire course, many of the world's best golfers found great difficulty in getting anywhere near par in the final round of the Dunlop Masters event.

Andrew has been playing golf for the past four years and is now a member of the Upton Club. He is also a member of the MANWEB (Chester) Golfing Society and came third in their match played at Llan-gollen earlier this year.

He has worked for the Board since he left the Chester College of Further Education three years ago.

Dad, **Mr. Jack Critchley** (1st engineer, Construction) with a handicap of 24 is keeping an eye on his lad—hoping to learn a swing or two!

University Scholarships

The electricity supply industry is again offering this year a number of university scholar-

Energy sales demonstrator Eirlys Hughes, right, chats with a visitor to our stand on the Criccieth showground at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales.



ships to selected school-leavers who wish to read for a full-time honours degree in electrical or mechanical engineering.

The scholarships—which are in addition to the industry's sandwich degree course professional traineeships—are awarded to help ensure that the industry maintains its share of the country's best electrical and mechanical engineers, and thus its position in the forefront of technological progress.

Scholarships in both mechanical and electrical engineering are offered by the C.E.G.B., while Area Electricity Boards offer scholarships in electrical engineering only.

Boys and girls aged between 16 and 21, with at least three 'A' level passes, including mathematics and physics, are eligible to apply for one of the scholarships.

The awards provide for the payment of a maintenance grant of £900 p.a.—or £970 p.a. in London—and of all approved fees. No reduction is made to the maintenance grant on account of parents' income.

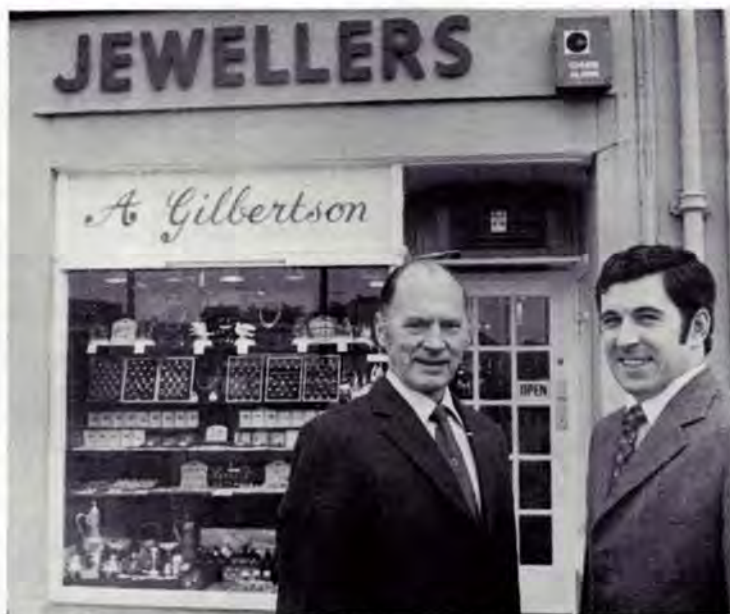
Bootle Badminton

A knock-out handicap tournament, organised recently by the Badminton section of the North Mersey District sports and social club, was well supported, and the successful players were **Miss Maria McDaid**, of Material Control, and **Mr. Jed Edwards**, of Zone 4, who beat **Miss Irene Bond** (telephonist) and **Mr. Les Owens** (Zone 3) in the final.

Gift vouchers were presented to the four finalists.

Oswestry Couple Wed

Our best wishes for a happy future go to **Mr. Bill Dixon**, an administrative trainee, and **Miss Glenda Lloyd**, a typist, who were recently married at the St. John the Baptist Church, Pontfadog.



Mr. Gilbertson, right, chats with our Mr. Barrie outside his air-conditioned shop in Norris Green, Liverpool.

Both of these young people, Bill is 21 and Glenda 20, work at our Oswestry District Office in Maesbury Road. Bill has been with us for the past four years and Glenda joined us two years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon.



Ice Cold on Broadway

One of our commercial customers, a tiny jewellers in the busy Broadway shopping centre of Norris Green in Liverpool is to be featured in an Electricity Council national advertising campaign for air conditioning.

The shop, owned by Mr. A. Gilbertson hit a little labour trouble when members of the staff complained of the excessive heat in the shop which at times was overpowering and tended to give them headaches.

Our North Mersey District energy sales team led by **Denis St.C. Barrie**, had already completed a lighting scheme for the shop and they were called in again after suggesting that a through-the-wall air conditioning unit be fitted above the shop door.

Thanks to the suggestion and the subsequent installation of the unit conditions are very much improved with staff and customers doing business in a very pleasant environment.

Heart Fund Swimmers

A "sponsored swim" in aid of the Liverpool committee of the British Heart Foundation saw five members of our Head Office staff, joined by four friends or relatives of MANWEB people, took to the water at Liverpool University's swimming pool recently.

"In the swim," at so many pence a length, were **Carol Swinton** (legal assistant), **Anne Dudley** and **Michelle Barwick** (private secretaries), **Jane Wills** (plant and equipment) and **Harry Shone** (drawing office). With them were **Alison Pugh**, **Penny Roddan**, **Julie Winspear** and **Pam Holland**, all friends or relatives of Head Office colleagues.

The Heart Foundation has already made grants and awards totalling £3,500,000 to support research into heart diseases, including £50,000 for research and equipment in Liverpool.

This was the Liverpool com-

mittee's second sponsored swim, and while detailed receipts are not yet available it is hoped that last year's figure of more than £2,000 will be beaten.

Accident

While carrying out some routine switching operations recently at a substation in Chester Road, Huntington, an accident occurred which resulted in **Mr. James Atkin** (2nd engineer, *Dee Valley District*) receiving severe burns to his hands.

He was immediately cared for by local postmistress Mrs. Marilyn Gregson while Mrs. Hilda Watler, who worked with her, looked after Jimmy's companion, **Mr. Alvin Rawlinson**, an industrial trainee.

The ambulance transported the injured man to the specialists at the burns unit in Whiston hospital. Alvin, although very shaken for a while, was

allowed to go home.

Jimmy regularly visited this particular substation and was well known in the locality. Following his accident, people living and working in the area quickly got together and jointly sent him a get well card.

We too, throughout the Board, wish Jimmy a speedy recovery.

Nice Letter . . .

. . . from a customer at Pant, near Oswestry:

"I have recently had work carried out, inside and outside my house, by members of the staff of Oswestry MANWEB. This work was excellent, efficient and neat, and all the men concerned were first class tradesmen and most courteous. I cannot comment too highly on the way this work was done, and I assure you that any future work I require will certainly be done by MANWEB as I do appreciate good workmanship."

HOYLAKE DEMONSTRATION

Jointers and foremen from Districts 4, 5 and 6 attending a one-week course at our Hoylake Training Centre on the new aluminium-sheathed cables which are now being introduced on the Board's network.

They watch as Messrs. Barry Harrison (2nd engineer), left, and Geoff Parry (senior instructor), second left, demonstrate a modified cable-spiking gun. Man in overall charge is Mr. Tom Garmory (Principal Engineer—Mains), right foreground.



POWER UNDER THE DEE

Submarine cable operation



Twin PVC tubes lowered on to the water ready for drawing across.

ANOTHER underwater cable-laying operation was carried out under the supervision of our Head Office Construction Department engineers recently when an 11,000-volt cable was laid in a PVC tube beneath the bed of a 50-metre-wide stretch of the River Dee at Poulton, near Chester.

The job was in response to a request from the Central Flintshire Water Authority for a supply to their Poulton Intake works involving two circuits—one by overhead line and the other by submarine cable.

It was essential that the cable should be laid at least a metre below the bed of the river, and it was decided to excavate a single trench wide enough to take two eight-inch diameter tubes—one to carry the cable and one as a spare with an eye on future demand. The bed of the river was surveyed for a suitable spot with only a small covering of silt, and the Saltney firm of Terraqua Ltd.—specialists in underwater work—were called in to prepare a six-foot-deep trench through the

river bed. This was achieved with a crane-operated dragline.

PVC tubes—chosen for their light weight and flexibility, which would enable them to bend to follow the trench profile—were assembled on the river bank, and the ends sealed. They were then lowered into position above the trench, stabilised by a number of concrete-filled sacks. When they had been manoeuvred into the right position the ends were un-

Concrete-filled sacks being laid on the tubes to stabilise them above the previously prepared trench in the river bed.



Here we see the tubes safely straddling the river.

sealed and water was pumped into the tubes, causing them to sink slowly into their intended resting places.

Another 700 concrete-filled sacks were then placed on top of the tubes to protect them and hold them in position, and after an inspection of the job by a diver the river was left to fill in the remainder of the trench by the natural deposit of waterborne materials.

The approach trenches on the river banks were made good and re-seeded. Later the cable was drawn through the tube by means of a rope which had been left in position inside. The second tube, not being needed for immediate use, was sealed off.



Above left, left to right, the netball team, standing, Sybil Atkinson, Cora Roberts, Marjory Evans and Carol Swinton, kneeling, Linda Littler, Jean Whittle, Jane Wills and Pat Roberts. Above: After weight training, a practice match and, left, Cora Roberts on the leg-press machine.



In Training – Head Office ***Netball and Football Teams***

After hours at Head Office the lads and lasses of the football and netball teams get down to some serious training. Using light weights the girls exercise their muscles and build up their stamina under the watchful eye of keepfit fanatic Hugh Farrow. Meanwhile on a nearby sports field the lads of both the football teams undergo a gruelling session with squad coach Peter Jones.

Below left: Physical jerks (the activity not the lads), right, team coach Peter Jones explains his next piece of torture, and the squad pose for our camaraman, bottom.



Our Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. M. R. Cowan, left, presents a "Commended" award to the manager of the Atlantic Tower Hotel, Mr. Angelo Stephanakis. Completing the picture are, from left to right, Messrs. D. Batts and H. Fitzsimmons, representatives of the Thistle Hotels Group, and R. I. Jowett (District Commercial Engineer, Liverpool).

TWO ENTRIES for this year's Outdoor Lighting Awards, representing the old and the new in MANWEB's area, received commendations for their imaginative lighting schemes.

Highly Commended was Whittington Castle near Oswestry with just two floodlighting positions making a striking and dramatic impact in illuminating the solid stonework of its walls.

At night-time this castle, built in the reign of Henry III, attracts the attention of travellers on the nearby A5 road.

By contrast is the ultra-modern Atlantic Tower Hotel, opened just over two years ago, and situated near the Pier Head in Liverpool. Here, the clever and skillfull use of 35 floodlights helped it gain a *Commended Award*.

Lit up against the dark background of the night, this unusually-shaped subtly-curved triangular structure is clearly visible from across the Mersey.

The National winner of the competition in the category in which these entries competed was Salisbury Cathedral. With its magnificent architecture, this building must have had a head start on all the others especially in this European Architectural Year.

A "Highly Commended" award for the Whittington Castle floodlighting scheme is presented by Mr. Cowan to Councillor Mrs. M. A. Edwards, Mayor of the Council of the Borough of Oswestry. Between them are Council Officers, Messrs. J. W. Phillips, left, and D. T. Davies with Mr. R. A. Williams (District Commercial Engineer, Oswestry), right.



1975 Outdoor Lighting Awards





Above: The impressive flood-lighting at Whittington Castle.

Below: Inspecting the lights in their vandal-proof shelter are, from left to right, Messrs. Don Wade (energy sales engineer), Ron Williams (District Commercial Engineer) and Gwyn Davies.

Lighting up a Legend in Shropshire

Story by

Mike James
of
"Circuit News"



WHITTINGTON CASTLE, with a historic and almost-legendary past, today slumbers peacefully in the Shropshire hills, three miles from Oswestry.

A swan-populated 'moat'—now three large ponds—spills around the face of the buttresses while white swamp flowers, which once abounded in the marshy ground to lend the village of Whittington its early name of Dref Wen (Welsh for White Town), still blossom on the tree-shaded banks to give the castle an aura of tranquility belying its exciting past.

Whittington Castle, originally a late Norman fortress, was the head of a 'Lordship' (one of a series of six buffer states on the

Welsh border), and was constantly being seized and held by either the Prince of Wales, the King of England or some local baron.

It has all the scenic features of a Hans Andersen castle and has been associated by tourist guide literature with two well-known legends. From the embattled gatehouse it is said that Dick Whittington and his cat began their journey to London, and many still tell the story of the Babes in the Wood who perhaps did give their names to nearby Babbinswood—but alas probably both are without foundation.

What is true is that the restored castle, first built in the reign of Henry III, still houses the original wooden gatehouse door—just one of the many handsome features which our Oswestry District was asked to floodlight some months ago.

Until last Christmas the castle was lit purely by two 150 watt spotlights which had the effect of throwing light on to the gatehouse door, but leaving the rest of the castle in darkness.

Harold Evans the District's commercial supply engineer, designed a scheme in conjunction with Philips to install high pressure sodium vapour lamps.

The Council for the Borough of Oswestry was particularly concerned that the floodlights should be masked or camouflaged so that the lamps and mountings should 'blend' into the castle.

Two vandal-proof covers with caged mouths were constructed, one housing two 400 watt and the other, one 400 watt SON/T Philips floodlight.

The result is that now the entire face of the castle is lit, which has delighted the Council's deputy technical officer, Mr. Gwyn Davies, who was particularly pleased with the economical running costs.

"The work has been carried out expertly and the Council, and Whittington Parish Council, have had no complaints at all."



Night Light in Liverpool

Winning a 'Commended' award in this year's Outdoor Lighting Awards Scheme was the flagship of the Thistle Hotels Group, the £2.8 million luxurious Atlantic Tower Hotel in Liverpool, pictured above in all its glory.

Launched in June 1973 and looking uncannily like the bow of a ship in its waterfront situation opposite the Pierhead, the hotel has been designed with the executive businessman, particularly from Europe, in mind.

There are 162 single rooms, 36 twin-bedded and 18 double-bedded rooms, ten penthouse suites—six double and four single—in the hotel which was designed as an 11-storey tower block on a two-storey podium.

All the bedrooms have private bath and shower, four channel radio, television (colour in the suites), direct dial telephone (with an extension in the bathroom), electric alarm clock and individually-controlled air conditioning and heating units.

The hotel has its own computer which can prepare the guest's bill in 25 seconds!

RETIREMENTS

Mr. S. ROBERTS

Friends and colleagues of Mr. Sam Roberts, a labourer in the Mid-Mersey engineering department at St. Helens, subscribed to present him with a farewell gift on the occasion of his recent retirement.

Sam, a very quiet man, had been with the Board for the past 22 years. He is a very keen supporter of the St. Helens Rugby Football Club.

Mr. A. S. MEERES

After more than 40 years' service to the industry Mr. A. S. ("Bert") Meeres, assistant engineer in the Mid-Cheshire District's production engineer's department, has retired.

Friends and colleagues, past and present, gathered at the District office a few weeks ago to give Bert a cordial send-off, and to see him receive their farewell gift—a portable typewriter—from District Engineer Mr. G. Zeiher.

Mr. Meeres began his working life as an apprentice with the McIntosh Cable Co. at Derby in 1928, later taking up an engineering post with that company until 1935.

He then joined the North Wales Power Company as an assistant engineer at Nantwich, moving to Whitchurch in 1942 as District mains engineer. In 1955 he became section engineer for MANWEB at Sandbach, and when the former Crewe District was centralised at Macon Way, Crewe, in 1967, he moved in along with many of his colleagues.



Mr. Zeiher, left, bids farewell to Mr. Meeres as he hands over the staff's parting gift.

With the formation of the Mid-Cheshire District in 1971 he took up the post he held until his retirement.

Tributes to Bert's long service and good fellowship were paid by a number of speakers—with many a humorous 'dig' over events long gone by.

His colleagues wish him a long and happy retirement, with plenty of health and time to enjoy his hobbies, which include gardening, photography, classical music, bridge and the theatre (with regular annual visits to Stratford-on-Avon).

Report from Liverpool Retired Employees' Group

THE VERY active and helpful secretary to the Liverpool Retired Employees' Group, Mr. Harry Robertson, writes to tell us that their trip to Conwy, via Rhyl, during the summer months was an outstanding success.

They were very pleased at the reception they received and for the meal provided at our Clwyd District Offices.

Before leaving, Harry spoke with Mr. George Cooksley (*District Administrative Officer*) and learned that Clwyd District had their own Retired Members' Group. He is now busily making arrangements for the Clwyd Group to visit Thingwall Road where they can meet and mix with more retired colleagues in Liverpool.

Continuing their journey to Conwy, they stopped off at Bonladev Gardens where they were welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Aberconwy, Councillor and Mrs. Ken Lee, who invited the visitors to take tea with them. Incidentally, Councillor Lee is a former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply man who now works for the CEGB.

The Group's exhausting but most memorable day ended as the party arrived back in Scouse-land around 9 p.m.

In his letter, Harry goes on to inform us that they are making plans for another trip to visit retired colleagues in the Midlands Electric Board at Birmingham. The date fixed is December 16th.

Before this however, Harry and the Committee will be finalising arrangements for the Group's Christmas Dinner to be held at Thingwall Road on December 2nd.

Obituary

Mr. E. MOLYNEAUX

We regret to report the death of Mr. E. Molyneaux, aged 60, a chargehand labourer at St. Helens prior to his retirement on health grounds in December 1972.

Mrs. ETHEL PARR

Mrs. Ethel Parr, senior clerical assistant at Mid-Mersey District office, Warrington, retired at the end of September after working for the electricity supply industry—on and off—since 1932. But for Mrs. Parr retirement doesn't mean losing interest in the outside world, for she is busily studying social science at the Open University, and has spent a week at Keele University.

From 1932 to 1944 Mrs. Parr worked as machine operator, copy typist and clerk for the Mersey Power and Light Company, leaving for family reasons. Nine years later, however, she rejoined the industry as a temporary clerk at our former Sub-Area office at Eversley, later taking up work once more as a machine operator.

From 1963 she worked at Roche House, Runcorn, in the inspection, contracting and consumer records sections, transferring to District Office at Warrington in 1971 as a clerk in the meter reading section and being promoted senior clerical assistant in 1973.

On behalf of her many friends she was presented with the proceeds of a collection, which she intends to use to buy books about the Lake District.

Ethel's husband Arthur, a meter reader/collector based at Runcorn, has himself been with the industry for 37 years. Their 35th wedding anniversary is coming up soon.

Mr. G. E. DAVIES

A man who could fairly be described as "Mr. Electricity" as far as the Oswestry area is concerned has retired after a career spanning 46 years in the electricity supply industry.

Mr. George Eric Davies, our Oswestry District

Engineer, began his lifelong association with electricity as an apprentice electrician with the Oswestry Electric Light and Power Company. He was 19—and was paid the princely sum of 7s 6d a week!

The company supplied power to Oswestry, Gobowen and Whittington, and after a short time was taken over by Oswestry Corporation electricity department, located in Salop Road—headquarters of Oswestry's electricity until the recent move to the new District office. During the second world war Mr. Davies and another engineer were left to look after a fast-growing District, and in particular he remembers the winter of 1940 when heavy snow brought down many overhead lines.

Commented Mr. Davies: "Our customers accepted power cuts in those days. It took some time to restore all the lines, and most of them lay on the ground for a week!"

To mark the departure of a man who has played such a vital role over nearly half a century, Oswestry staff, past and present, together with guests from Head Office, gathered at a local hotel to give Mr. Davies a "send-off" in style.

Main theme of the occasion was a "This is Your Life" presentation—with "The Book" in the hands of Mr. Ron ('Eammon') Williams, D.C.E.

To mark the occasion Mr. Henry Blackwell (mains foreman) showed his talents as a rhymist by composing a 35-verse poem in the epic style, describing in amusing detail some of the more unusual events of Mr. Davies' working life.

On behalf of his many friends Mr. Davies was presented with a bureau and a clock—and sincerely-felt good wishes to he and his wife for a long and happy retirement.

Right: 'Eammon' Williams, left, holds the microphone for Mr. John Sampson, right, (former chargehand electrician), as the 'victim,' Mr. Eric Davies (in glasses) and Mr. Dick Hughes (former consumers' engineer) enjoy the joke.

Below: Mr. and Mrs. Davies toast each other.



FOR SALE

Guest House in Douglas, Isle-of-Man. Please get in touch with Mr. Edward P. Littlewood, 'New Haven,' 16 Mount Have-lock, Douglas, Isle-of-Man, 'Phone 0624 3374.

"Belmar" 10ft. 6in. fibre glass dinghy with 'Snipe' trailer—as new. £140 o.n.o. 'Phone Whittington Castle 396.

Swallow Twin pram/push-chair. Good condition. Turquoise colour. Complete with storm cover, hood and sun canopy. £12. 'Phone Prestatyn 5303.

Three-bedroom semi-detached house in Ellesmere Port. Lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, bath, w.c., central heating, detached garage, gardens front and rear, open aspect. 'Phone: St. Helens 27111.

Polaroid 340 Auto folding camera with portrait attachment. Mint condition £30. Instruction book. Mrs. S. Thomason, 179 Marion Road, Prestatyn, Clwyd LL19 7DG.

CROSSWORD

Winners and Solution

Last month's puzzle proved a bit of a teaser judging by the low number of entries received.

However, we did manage to draw three lucky £2 prizewinners:

Mr. Les Hartley, Stores Accounts, Head Office.

Mr. R. J. Furlong, retired from North Wirral District.

Mr. Cyril Chapman, Engineering Drawing Office, H.O.

The solution was as follows:

Across: 7 Circuit Breakers. 9 A Storm Racked Sky. 10 Staging. 12 Retorts. 13 Sonar. 15 Heled. 18 Canopus. 19 Deadpan. 21 Stamp Collectors. 22 Roast Pork Dinner.

Down: 1 Dissatisfaction. 2 Scrooge. 3 Pitmans. 4 Heckler. 5 Sky Drop. 6 Broke The Barrier. 8 Bray (Vicar of). 11 Gores. 12 Rated. 14 Topmost. 15 Hubcaps. 16 Depends. 17 Editing. 20 Slur.

News from ABERYSTWYTH

By MALDWYN EVANS

A party of some 42 Sports and Social Club members, spouses and friends, left Aberystwyth bright and early on Saturday, October 4th and headed for the lights of Blackpool. The party should have numbered 43 but bed must have called too strongly for one unfortunate member and the coach had to leave after a twenty minute wait.

A smooth and comfortable ride over the twisting roads of mid-Wales eventually brought the party to the 'Olde Smithy' cafe at Chirk where coffee and homemade scones were enjoyed.

Back on the road again, the coach passed through Chester when a certain building was pointed out to the wives and children as being the starting point of all pay-cheques!

A quick run up the motorway ensured an early arrival at the Blackpool hotel where accommodation had been reserved.

After such a fine summer it was rather unfortunate that this special weekend should start off wet and blustery. But everyone was in fine spirits and the evening coach trip along the promenade to see 'The Lights' was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

The weather improved somewhat on the Sunday morning enabling all members of the party to get their share of Blackpool's bracing sea air.

After an excellent lunch it was time to put the Tower behind them as they headed for the hills of Wales.

This highly successful weekend was the result of lots of hard work put in by the organisers, **Maldwyn Evans, Jennifer Galbraith and Jackie Lewis.**

The oldest member of the party 77-year-old **Arthur Miller** re-

called adventurous trips to Blackpool made by members of the former Aberystwyth Electricity Sports and Social Club in days long gone by.

Stork Visit

A typist at Mill Street, **Mrs. Anne Tongue**, was safely delivered of a 5lb. daughter on September 23rd at Bronllais Hospital.

Anne and her husband, a joiner with a local firm, are naturally very pleased with their first child especially after suffering a previous disappointment.

Her many friends with the Board wish her 'quiet nights' and hope to see her back at the office in due course.

Engaged

A District link-up came about with the recent engagement of **Mr. Geoff Thomson**, an assistant installation engineer at Aberystwyth and **Miss Marion Hughes** of the Commercial work control section in the Clwyd District.

Geoff and Marion first met two years ago at Abbey House, Rhuddlan when Geoff worked in the District's installation section. He later moved to Head Office as a general assistant engineer and from there he went to Oswestry District. He obtained his permanent post at Aberystwyth in June this year.

Marion has just completed an Outward Bound course at Rhowniar which she enjoyed very much. She took part in lots of hill walking, rock climbing, canoeing and among the really strenuous activities, she tackled a few assault courses!

Their many friends offer their sincere congratulations on their engagement coupled with best wishes for a very happy future.