



# CONTACT

October 1976

"WHO?"  
(see page 217)

# Water Wisdom — with Electricity

*After the great drought have come the great floods. The driest Summer on record has been followed by the wettest-ever September in many areas, and there are those who maintain that Britain's weather pattern is undergoing a substantial change. If those predictions are well founded we are going to have to develop a completely new attitude to our use of water, and it may well be that the information contained in this article may become very relevant in the summers to come.*

Parallels between electricity and the water supply have been drawn before, and many of the same rules apply when it comes to using either or both of them wisely in the home.

The wise use of water is of the utmost importance in drought conditions. The following tips will not only help to conserve water they will also help you get fullest value from your electrical appliances by using them wisely.

## Washing Machines

Use washing machines only when you have a full load of clothes for each programme. If essential, to make a complete load, wash items at a lower temperature rather than a higher one. The results may not be quite so good, but the garments will not suffer in any way. The recommended quantity of detergent should continue to be used.

Owners of non-automatic machines can often use the washing water more than once. When the machines are drained, both washing and rinsing water can be saved in buckets—to water essential vegetables in the garden or to clean windows or floors. (Even water from an automatic machine can be utilised this way if you can arrange to catch it from the drain-pipe).

Water from spin-dryers can also be used again for other purposes.

## Washing-up

Dishwashers are still comparatively rare in this country, but make sure you have a full load before using one.

Electric sink water-heaters can also save hot water. Where there are long pipe-runs from the tank, wastage occurs when cold water is drawn off before the hot arrives.

## Cooking

A lot of water is not necessary when cooking vegetables, and there is less danger of pans boiling dry on modern electric rings. A little water and a lid on the pan gives better results on all counts, including flavour and nutrition. For small quan-

ties, economies can be made with water (and electricity) by cooking two or three vegetables in the same pan—the flavour won't suffer. And remember that a pressure cooker always uses less liquid.

Keeping a plate of food hot over a steaming pan, wastes not only water but also electricity, and it fills the kitchen with steam.

## Kettles

Always boil *just* the amount of water you need in the electric kettle, provided you cover the element. Around two pints of water can be wasted if the kettle is completely filled when making tea for just one or two people—and you use more electricity too. An automatic electric kettle also cuts out when it reaches boiling point, so avoiding boiling the water away.

## Refrigerators and Freezers

Save all the defrost water so that it can be re-used.

Remember that coffee (for iced coffee), the extra juice from canned fruit, and even cold tea (for fruit or cola drinks), can all be frozen as ice-cubes to cool drinks, instead of using water from the tap. And keep a jug of water in the fridge for cold drinks. This saves running the cold tap to get rid of the tepid water in the pipe.

## SHOWER SALES BOOM

Thousands of families throughout MANWEB's area have helped to beat the drought by having showers installed in their homes. And they are guaranteeing themselves long-term fuel savings at the same time.

In April MANWEB launched a commercial campaign for over-the-bath shower installations, offering a package deal including instantaneous shower heater, shower head with chrome flexible hose, chrome wall rail, curtain rail and curtain, together with all necessary electrical and plumbing work. These high-quality British-made units are neat and efficient, providing instant showers at just the temperature required.

Up to date we have had orders for more than 3,200 installations, amounting to well over £300,000-worth of business, and orders continue to pour in.

The average bath takes about 25 gallons of water, while a quarter of that amount will give a full shower, with great savings of both water and fuel. If the plug is left in the bath the water can be salvaged and used again for other purposes. Showers therefore have the blessing of the water authorities as well as the Department of Energy.



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## *Editorial*

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## *Clearing the Fog*

SINCE the Age of Cheap Energy came to an abrupt end with massive increases in the price of coal and oil, pundits of every kind have been hard at work, gazing into their crystal balls in efforts to advise the public on the subject of home heating.

Under the influence of a complex web of social, political and economic forces, the prices of various fuels have spiralled and leap-frogged in a way which has left the mind of the average householder in a whirl.

With Winter's approach Mr. Average Customer (who is slowly realising that there is no such thing as cheap fuel any more) is once more applying his mind to the question of how to keep his family warm, clean and healthy in a cold wet world.

Despite the price increases of recent years, due largely to the rocketing cost of power station fuel, electricity remains very competitive in the home heating field—with all its traditional advantages of cleanliness, convenience, and low capital installation costs.

**Our commercial colleagues are working hard to put the message over. It is the job of every MANWEB employee to ensure that he or she really knows the facts, and uses that knowledge to dispel any false impressions which misleading propaganda may have created in the minds of friends and neighbours.**

The article on pages 222 to 224 of this number of *Contact* will help.

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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.

## OTHER PEOPLE'S HOBBIES

# Winemaking—the First Steps

**T**HERE IS just about enough time to make your own home made Hock or Moselle to drink with the Christmas turkey. Should you have a sweeter taste you could produce a Sauterne that may not deceive the connoisseur, but will certainly not disgrace the Yuletide menu.

The do-it-yourself craze as far as wines are concerned is proving a fast-growing hobby, and certainly amongst MANWEB employees winemaking is widespread.

Producing a palatable continental type of wine is now a very simple process for the amateur and—very important—a very cheap way of building up your own wine cellar. Starting now you could have a drinkable wine in about three months, which will have cost you around 25 to 35 pence a bottle.

Most home-brew and winemaking shops stock kits for specific wines. For, say, a home-made Beaujolais, there is a can of grape juice blended to simulate the distinctive Beaujolais flavour, together with the correct yeast and nutrients needed to ferment the juice into a bright red wine. This can of juice will produce a gallon, or six bottles, of wine, for less than the price of a "vin ordinaire" from a wineshop or little more than one bottle of supermarket "plonk."

*Anyone who may have had an unfortunate experience with granny's potent rhubarb wine (that knocks you over with one sip) can forget it and try making a wine from these kits which ensure a more reasonable alcohol level.*

One old hand at the winemaking game scoffed at the 'expensive' way of buying kits, preferring to find the basic ingredients in the garden or the countryside. It is true that almost anything that grows will ferment and can be used to make wine, and the garden is an abundant supplier.

The more obvious things like fruit and vegetables make excellent wines. So to do some flowers, and even if your garden is of the 'natural' type, covered in weeds, there is plenty of scope for the winemaker!

A day in the country can provide lots of goodies for the winemaker. In the hedgerows there are fruit and blossoms, and even the trees are a source of ingredients, the leaves and the sap of certain trees proving eminently suitable. In fact the sap of the birch tree makes a nice fresh wine similar to a Sauterne.

More exotic wines can be made from imported fruits such as peaches, oranges and bananas. One

man from MANWEB produces excellent fruit wines by buying the commercial fruit juices.

### The equipment

The beginner does not really need much equipment, and your first gallon of wine should more than compensate for the cash outlay.

The main item you need is a fermentation jar. There is a choice of the clear or coloured glass types. The latter is necessary for a red wine to prevent loss of colour if the wine is exposed to the sun. Alternatively one of those stone cider jars will do—the only disadvantage is you may not see at a glance the clarity of the wine, but using the grape juice kits this is not so important. A fermentation jar from a winemaking shop will cost about 50p.

You must have an airlock with a rubber or cork bung to ensure the wine is not exposed to the air during fermentation, as dreaded vinegar fly may strike! This is an airborne pest which turns the wine to a vinegary flavour. An airlock costs 17p and the bung 10p.

Six wine bottles and six corks for the finished wine. If the wine is a red one the bottles should be the coloured glass type to preserve the colour. Old wine bottles will do, but they must be well washed and sterilised, and always fitted with new corks. New bottles cost 6p and corks 20p per dozen.

*Below: The basic equipment for the beginner, a fermentation jar, airlock, bung, funnel, six bottles and six corks.*





*Above left: put the contents of the can of juice into the fermentation jar.*

*Above centre left: the fermentation jar, with the juice, seven pints of water and the yeast added, and the airlock in position.*

*Above centre right: the wine after fermentation, left to clear, still under the airlock.*

*Above extreme right: siphon the wine into clean wine bottles.*

*Bottom right: a quick thump with this simple corking machine and the wine is ready for your cellar. Try to leave it a few months before sampling!*



You need a funnel or a siphon to transfer the wine from the fermentation jar to the bottles. If you intend to take your winemaking a stage further you will need a hydrometer, which enables you to judge the alcoholic content and sweetness of the wine. A corking machine saves a lot of frustration in getting the cork into the finished wine. Then the equipment can build up—fruit presses, filter bags, yeast starter bottles, etc.

#### **Making the Wine**

From the kits nothing could be simpler. The instructions are on the tin but a few words describes the whole process. Make sure your fermentation bottle is clean and sterile. Pour in the contents of the can plus any nutrients provided. Some kits already have the sugar dissolved in the grape juice concentrate, but for unsweetened types about 2lb. of sugar is needed. This should be dissolved in water and poured into the jar. Top up the jar to within an inch or so of the neck. Then add the yeast, fit the fermentation lock, and place the jar in a room or cupboard where the temperature is at least 70 deg. F.

The mixture should then start to bubble away merrily for a couple of weeks or even longer. When fermentation has ceased, stand the jar in a cool place for a few weeks or so and it should clear. Then siphon it into bottles, being careful not to disturb any sediment in the jar. Cork the bottles and leave them for as long as you can before opening!

The wines from grape juice kits are ready to drink within a couple of months, although they do improve with age. Ideally they should be left for at least six months, to do justice to your table.

*Unsweetened kits plus yeast cost from £1.36 each and the sweetened type just under £2.00. So for less than £1 on equipment and £1.36 for the ingredients, plus 22p for sugar, a total outlay of £2.50, you can enjoy six bottles of excellent wine.*



# Talking Notes

## LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS

ABOUT eight years ago one of the children of a friend of Mrs. **Pat France**, of 18 Acacia Avenue, Liverpool, suffered a severe attack of hepatitis. For a time the kiddie's life hung in the balance, but thanks to the devoted efforts of the staff at **Alder Hey Children's Hospital**, Liverpool, the little patient pulled through.

A grateful mum wanted to make a donation to help research workers, but there was no suitable organisation to receive the cash, so Mrs. France and her husband **Bill** (who is our installation engineer at Liverpool District) became founder-members of a committee to raise funds for what became known as the Alder Hey Children's Kidney Fund.

Parents, relatives and friends of young kidney patients joined in, and since then more than £100,000 has been raised, giving massive financial back-up to those who are struggling to improve methods of diagnosis and treatment of renal disorders among children.

Projects into which the Fund's cash have been channelled include the salaries of researchers, the provision of specialised laboratory equipment, the purchasing of kidney machines and the modification of side wards in which they have been installed, and many other aspects of this vital work. Cash has flowed in from works and office social functions and raffles throughout Merseyside, and from donations from grateful relatives and friends of patients.

The latest helping hand came in the form of a cheque for £50 raised in a raffle held in our Liverpool District, and organised by **Mrs. Vicki Roberts**, our faithful *Contact* correspondent at Lister Drive.

Bill is Hon. Secretary of the

Fund Committee, and like so many other people who are deeply involved in worthwhile projects he finds that the satisfaction of a vital job well done is ample reward for the great deal of time and effort involved.

## Tykes Triumph

A team of 'Yorkshire Tykes' from the Y.E.B. Headquarters at Scarcroft, near Leeds, proved too good for a MANWEB team in an inter-Board cricket match on the ground of the Eaton Hall cricket club, near Chester.

The Yorkshire side cruised to a comfortable 68 against a MANWEB pace attack before the first wicket fell with the introduction of our spinners. From that point onwards **John Ellis** took control of the situation, taking nine of the ten Yorkshire wickets and disposing of the Yorkshiremen for a total of 135.

The damage was done, however, and the first five MAN-

Mr. France, left, receives the £50 cheque from Mr. Falcon.



WEB wickets fell for only 25 on the scoreboard, when a stand by **Stuart Roberts** and **Tom Dutton** raised the total to 51. **Amlyn ab Iorwerth** added a final wag to the MANWEB tail, but the final score of 65 all out left the visitors with a comfortable win.

### The Bare Facts

Recently, a member of our Mid-Cheshire meter reading team was called, by appointment, to take the annual reading at a local 'Sun and Air' colony.

So, on a beautiful day, with the temperature in the 80's, our man, fully clad—including his alpaca—was ushered in.

The members appeared oblivious of his presence so he was able to admire, at will, nature's beauty all around him... scenes which will remain for ever in his memory.

After completing the task he had gone there for in the first place, his guide, noticing his rather flushed appearance, invited him to join the residents at the pool for a cool dip.

Being extremely modest, our man from MANWEB declined muttering something about being late for lunch!

We hear that following our meter reader's retirement next Christmas, he intends applying for full-time membership of the Club. The only drawback, as far as we can see, is that his new life-style would not be compatible with his present hobby of fly-fishing!

Some final notes on this story. There are no vacancies for meter readers in Mid-Cheshire, and to those already doing the job, there is no truth in the rumour that we are to take monthly readings at the colony.

Next time there is a visit to read the meter, please inform the Editorial staff, before you

go... a picture would help the story along.

### Clwyd Pensioners

Our Clwyd District'. Retired Staff Association held their first Annual General Meeting at District Office, Rhyl, recently, when secretary **Mr. F. L. Evans** reported that membership had reached the 151 mark, including wives and husbands of retired employees. This was regarded as a very satisfactory situation at the end of the first year, while the treasurer's balance sheet also gave cause for satisfaction.

The Association's first Annual Dinner is planned for the Royal Lido, Prestatyn, on November 30th. Inquiries should go to Mr. Evans, at 'Richmond', Earl Road, Mold, (Mold 3241), who will also be pleased to hear from any potential new members—including ex-MANWEB people from other areas who may have retired to live in Clwyd District.

### Trip to Stoke

Lovely weather again favoured the **Mid-Mersey pensioners** group when a coachload of them enjoyed a day trip to the Spode china works at Stoke on Trent.

Pensioners from St. Helens, Runcorn, Frodsham and Warrington enjoyed a first-class lunch at District office canteen at Warrington before setting out for Stoke, where they were guided in groups through the factory.

They ended up in the "seconds" shop at the works to buy souvenirs before the run home—with a stop for a "cuppa" on the way. They ask us to pass on their thanks for that excellent lunch to the canteen staff at Warrington!

### Dangerous Flyers!

Despite public warnings and the distribution of educational

material to schools the increasing popularity of kite-flying continues to put the lives of children at risk—and causes a lot of inconvenience to people who lose their electricity supplies when kites foul overhead power lines.

During the summer holiday season there were dozens of cases of kites becoming entangled in MANWEB's high voltage lines, particularly in the Board's Clwyd and Gwynedd Districts. These include the main holiday areas of the North Wales coast, with many caravan and camping sites.

Kite-flying has grown in popularity recently with the design of new types, some of which will perform spectacular stunts. Some models have long 'tails,' and if the kites become entangled in overhead lines children will naturally try to free them by tugging on the control string, or on the 'tail' if it is hanging down.

### "Careless means Car-less!"

Ever had your car stolen? If not, then the odds are that sooner or later you will find yourself arriving at the spot where you left it, keys in hand, to find a blank space—that is, if you're not careful.

Alarmed by rising car-crime figures the Home Office is running an Autumn publicity campaign to hammer home the appalling facts, and a man from MANWEB who is involved at local level is **Mr. Tom Hamilton**, assistant secretary (admin) at Head Office, who represents us on the Chester Crime Prevention Panel.

National statistics show that thefts of cars increased from 167,000 in 1971 to 264,000 in 1975, while the theft of goods from vehicles rose almost as steeply. So serious has the situation become that one quarter of all "indictable offences"

in 1975 were car-crimes of one kind and another.

Research shows that most car thefts are the work of 'amateurs,' that teenagers are responsible for most detected thefts, and that three cars out of every four stolen are more than five years old, in the medium price range, and taken from residential streets. Most risky times are after 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and most of the cars stolen are not properly secured.

Four thefts out of five are 'opportunistic' and not carefully-planned by organised gangs of car thieves. The police stress that the figures could be cut sharply if motorists always remove the keys, lock the vehicles securely, and lock valuables out of sight in the boot.

While large numbers of stolen cars are recovered, only too often they have been stripped of valuables, abused in various ways, or damaged . . . which doesn't do the 'no claims' bonus any good!

### Re-elected

Recently elected—for the second year in succession—for Vice-Chairman of the Sefton Association of District Councils is **Mr. Billy Farrell**, a joiner with the debt control staff at Lister Drive, Liverpool.

Mr. Farrell has been associated with the Altcar Rate-payers' Committee for seven years, chairman of that body for five years, and a member of his local Parish Council for three years. During 1974/75 he was Vice-Chairman of the Council.

He is a Governor of Formby High School, and a committee member of the Merseyside Association of Local Councils. Mr. Farrell became a joiner on our Area 1 staff 15 years ago, later moving to the

accounts department at Derby House, and subsequently to Lister Drive.

### Swingaround

The re-alignment of an 80-foot terminal tower on a 132 kV line at Capenhurst provided an interesting engineering exercise likely to appeal to any small boy with a construction set.

The job was carried out without a hitch by removing one leg of the tower, changing it from a compression foundation to an uplift foundation, and unbolting the other three legs. The whole tower was then lifted by a gigantic crane, turned through a ninety-degree angle, and re-assembled. The conductors were then re-connected.

Not really a case of the metal thieves getting cheekier than ever (see story above). Looking on is Alan Jones, a CEBG Wirral District linesman, who was involved in the job.



### Trial Pending?

A customer walked into one of our shops and asked if the Board had any radios. The salesman pointed to a wide range displayed in the shop, and started to show the merits of the various sets.

The customer commented on the majority that they were no good because they were V.H.F.

Our man knew his stuff, pointing out the virtue of the V.H.F. sets, better reception, no interference, and so on, and said that everyone wanted V.H.F. sets nowadays.

The customer was not impressed and insisted on the medium/long wave set.

"You see," the customer explained, "they don't allow V.H.F. sets for people in prison!"

### Second Sight

We have it on a reliable authority that a member of the staff had a bereavement in his family. Naturally he wished to attend the funeral, which was arranged for the following day.

According to office procedure he hurriedly made out the appropriate slip for a days' leave. The following day his boss asked a colleague where our missing friend was. It was explained that he was attending a funeral and the appropriate leave slip had been placed on his desk.

The boss rummaged amongst the papers and found the slip. "It's not good enough," he grumbled, "He should give at least seven days notice of this sort of thing!"

### "What Are The Facts?"

The Electric Vehicle Association's new film with the above title was shown recently to a high level audience . . . no less than The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. Ten Peers



nine M.P.s and some thirty representatives of institutions and associations enjoyed the presentation. Questions were in a lively frame and covered the whole gamut of electric vehicle operation including matters relating to batteries, chargers and other ancillary equipment.

This 20 minute, 16 mm colour film is available on free loan from The Electricity Council Film Library, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD or by application to the Secretary, Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain Ltd., at the same address.

### Active Retirement

The secret of a long and happy retirement would appear to be keeping active and alert. Many of our retired colleagues have proved this, and another following in their footsteps is a former Clwyd District lines-

man, **Mr. E. Emlyn James**, who retired in 1974.

He is a member of the General Council Wales T.U.C., and has recently been appointed chairman of the Health, Welfare, Social and Civil Services Committee. This is only

one aspect of the wide range of public and union activities in which he is involved. Before the resignation of Sir Harold Wilson as Prime Minister, Emlyn James was one of the representatives of the Wales T.U.C. which met him to discuss unemployment.

Mr. Charles William Davies, a chargehand labourer with Liverpool District, who was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil) in this year's Birthday Honours, visited Head Office recently for formal recognition by the Board of the many years of public service which led to the honour.

Our picture shows Board Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds presenting an inscribed salver to Mr. Davies, who was accompanied by his wife, Lillian.



## "THE GIRL FROM MANWEB 1977"

This month's cover poses the big question for all our attractive young ladies—who will be our next "Girl from MANWEB"—the personality girl who is different?

Again there will be a prize of £100 for the charming and lovely winner of this year's competition. 2nd prize—£50. 3rd prize—£25, with £10 consolation prizes to the unplaced finalists.

Entry forms from: The Editor, 'Contact',  
MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR  
Closing date — 15th November

### John's Progress

All those who helped to raise the money to send little **John Nolan**, baby son of **Mr. Jim Nolan**, a jointer at our Liverpool District, to the Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential in the USA, will be heartened by the latest encouraging report.

Despite problems resulting from various illnesses, electro-encytograph tests show a "great improvement," with the start of a good brain pattern—results which are regarded as exceptional.

### For Sale

"Challen" baby grand piano. Polished mahogany. Beautiful condition and tone. £595 o.n.o. Mrs. G. Jones (Tel. 051-228 7136)

Shih Tzu puppy ('Dougal' dog) for sale. International championship pedigree. K.C. registered. Tel. Pontyodkin 568.



## ***The Re-birth of Mid-Wales***

### **OSWESTRY EMPLOYEES' CONFERENCE**

The 1976 series of employees' meetings organised by our Local Advisory Committees got under way on September 17th when the Victoria Rooms, Oswestry, was the venue for Oswestry District's conference, under the auspices of No. 9 LAC.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. D. P. Garbett-Edwards, chief executive of the Mid-Wales





Development Corporation—a body which is vigorously engaged in combating the problem of rural depopulation by encouraging the setting up of new industries, especially in the Newtown area.

Guest speakers can be a mixed lot, but Mr. Garbett-Edwards' sincere dedication to his cause and an easy, entertaining, style—obviously born from years of crusading effort—held the attention of his 100-strong audience from beginning to end.

Naturally enough his subject was of considerable interest to a MANWEB audience, for the efforts of our Oswestry District colleagues over the years have seen the completion of a massive programme of rural electrification and the construction of a distribution network which has made the expansion of industry possible.

The pattern of settlement in rural Mid-Wales, said Mr. Garbett-Edwards, had grown up on the base of a number of market towns, such as Welshpool and Newtown, ringed by smaller villages about seven miles away—or a half-day's journey by horse and cart from the market town.

#### **Bright Lights Pull**

This pattern was based on an 18th-century agricultural economy, but the young people of today wanted the amenities and attractions of modern life, and there had been a long-term drift of population away from the area, with the 'best and brightest' tending to leave.

Ten years ago the Government gave Mid-Wales "Development Area Status," with financial incentives to firms to set up shop within it. These steps, together with the consistent efforts of the Development Corporation, had brought about 120 new firms into Mid-Wales, employing on average about 50 people, and creating about 4,000 new jobs. New enterprises had come to Welshpool, Aberystwyth, Rhayader, Llandrindod Wells, Bala, and other towns, but it was at Newtown, during the past six years, that progress had been made on the biggest scale.

The population had risen from 5,000 to 8,000,

and most important of all for the future, nearly 40% of the new population was under the age of 15. Nearly £10 million of Government money had so far been put into Newtown.

The speaker concluded by saying that none of this development could have come about without the prior provision of essential services, and a great deal of credit in this direction went to MANWEB.

The conference was presided over by Mr. J. A. Winchester (Group Manager), who welcomed the assembly, including a good number of retired colleagues.

#### **District Reports**

District officers' reports were given by Mr. Stan Roberts (District Engineer), who paid particular tribute to all who had responded so well to the widespread problems caused by January's gales; Mr. Lyn Price (DCE), who said the District had emerged 'a little thinner but a lot fitter' from one of the most difficult years since nationalisation, and Mr. Sid Warburton (LAC secretary) on behalf of the D.A.O.

Mr. Warburton also presented the LAC's report on the year's work, which covered a great deal of interesting ground, including the fact that 2,279 of the District's 7,000 prepayment meter customers opted to change over to the Thrift Meter, while another 314 moved over to credit metering.



# RETIREMENTS



Mr. Peter Falcon (DAO) presents Mr. Bingham (wearing specs) with his power drill among a big gathering of well-wishers at Lister Drive.

## Mr. BILLY BINGHAM

And before any Liverpool F.C. fans mutter "about time too!" let us make it quite clear that the gentleman of whom we write is MANWEB's own Billy Bingham, telephone supervisor at Liverpool District's Lister Drive office, who said farewell recently to a host of friends made over 45 years' service to our industry in Liverpool.

Way back in 1931 young Billy joined the former Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department as a "wiremen's boy" (the old hands tell us that electricians were called 'wiremen' in those days!) in the contracting department at Pumpfields.

The following year he went into substation maintenance, became a substation attendant in 1933 and joining the telephone operators at Hatton Garden

in 1946. On reorganisation he moved to Lister Drive, and was promoted telephone supervisor in 1974. He served in the Home Guard throughout the war.

A big gathering of friends assembled to see Mr. Peter Falcon (D.A.O.) present Billy with a set of woodworking tools and a power drill on their behalf, and to wish a long and happy retirement to Billy and also his wife Nell, who retired from her work with United Biscuits, Liverpool, on the same day. Billy gave an insight into the pressures under which our telephone operators work when he mentioned the 2,000 calls a day received at Lister Drive.

The gifts were presented to enable him to pursue his main hobby—woodwork. No doubt he will also continue to be a keen fan of Everton F.C. (Who else?)

## Mr. LL. ELLIS



After 22 years' service with MANWEB as a meter reader Mr. Llewellyn Ellis retired recently from our Oswestry District staff. On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with the proceeds of a collection.

On behalf of his colleagues Mr. W. J. Thompson (D.A.O.) wished Mr. Ellis a long and happy retirement. Mr. Ellis is a keen sportsman, with interests including singing, pigeons, football, cricket and rugby (he has been linesman with Shrewsbury Rugby Club for 21 years). He is also a member of Weston Rhyn Church Choir.

Mr. Bill Thompson (DAO) wishes a happy retirement to Mr. Ellis.



A farewell handshake for Mr. Marsden (centre) from Dr. Cowan with best wishes for the future from a happy crowd of Head Office colleagues.

#### Mr. J. MARSDEN

Mr. John Marsden recently retired from MANWEB after 49 years service in the electricity industry. He joined the Liverpool Corporation in 1927 as an apprentice electrician and after many years experience as an electrician was made a general assistant engineer in 1949, shortly after the nationalisation of the industry.

Until re-organisation in 1970 he was employed in the former Sub-Area and Area 1. In fact since that day he has continued to work in Liverpool, although he was on the staff of the Head Office Technical section. At his retirement presentation Dr. J. M. Cowan, Assistant Chief Engineer, commented that as John was at Chester for the presen-

tation, the Board's re-organisation could be said to be complete.

To be correct John, whose vitality and ready wit meant that his work was done quickly and cheerfully, worked in most Districts of the Board, although much of his time was concentrated on the Liverpool, North Mersey and North Wirral Districts.

As a member of the Head Office Technical team he was mainly responsible for commissioning and maintenance of the protection equipment on 33/11 kV plant. Outside the office he was keenly interested in photography.

#### Mr. J. J. SEDDON

After 25 years' service with the Board Mr. Joe Seddon, a clerk in the Mid-Mersey District consumer accounts section, has retired early on health grounds.

Mr. Seddon began as a stock checker on the staff of the former No. 2 Sub-area, followed by work in the supply and consumer accounts sections at Eversley before being transferred to Warrington depot in 1961. Before joining MANWEB he was a RAF regular, and saw aircrew service in several theatres of war. His stock of humorous stories about

service life always found ready listeners among his MANWEB colleagues after he had finally taken off the blue uniform!

On behalf of his many MANWEB friends he was presented with car tools, a pressure cooker and a kettle, together with their good wishes for a long and happy retirement for himself and his wife, Dorothy.

They hope he will continue to find much pleasure in his hobbies of serious reading, woodworking, and enjoying a swim.

#### CONFERENCE VENUE

Gwynedd District's LAC Conference will be held at the Royal Hotel, Caernarfon, on Friday, 26th November. Retired employees are invited. They should write to Mr. Richard Wyn Parry at District Office, St. Helen's Road, Caernarfon, for details and arrangements for transport, if required.

#### THE E.E.I.B.A. ANNUAL BALL

Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool  
Friday, 25th March, 1977

# "HEAT ELECTRIC"—our Autumn campaign

**M**ANWEB, the Electricity Council and the electrical appliance manufacturers are all mounting press and TV advertising campaigns to correct the distortions publicised about electricity costs and to sell electric heating. This should counteract some of the nonsense which has been written and spoken over the last twelve months or so.

We in MANWEB are fortunate in having some of the best sales staff in the country, whose knowledge of and confidence in the appliances they are selling exceeds that of our electrical competitors. They know the value of electricity, they know the appliances they sell have been tested and that they have a first class back-up service of properly trained service electricians.

## Misunderstandings

One of the major misunderstandings in the minds of many of our customers is about off-peak tariffs. **Off-peak tariffs are here to stay. They are, and will continue to be, considerably cheaper than the standard rate for electricity.** There has never been any intention to abolish them.

Off-peak electricity makes electric central heating a very attractive economic proposition. The major competitor in the central heating market is the Gas Board, whose October tariff increases will add about an extra 15% to their domestic central heating users' costs.

What many people do not recognise when they are buying a central heating system are the hidden extras. **The electric storage radiator, which is in the forefront of the electricity industry's campaign to keep Britain warm, needs no service agreement—unlike its competitors from other fuels.** Gas can cost about 31p per week in service agreement costs.

The standing charge for fuel is that which is made by the supplier to cover the standing costs of bringing the fuel to the consumer. Electricity's standing charge is 20p per week on the standard domestic tariff, or a total of 26p per week when combined with off-peak electricity, a difference of only 6p for central heating, with the added bonus of cheap hot water using off-peak electricity.

But the Gas Board standard charge is 42p per week in Wales and 23p on the North West Gas Area. So the user of gas central heating pays two standing charges, one for the gas and one for his electricity supply. Just look around your home and count the number of electrical appliances there are. It makes sense to consider electricity for central heating, and pay only one standing charge.

Electricity is the low-cost central heating system,

starting for as little as £130 for two radiators, to which you can add extra radiators as your pocket allows. On credit-sale terms it costs about £1.00 per week for the MANWEB customer to buy the storage radiators needed to heat the main rooms of the ground floor in the normal semi-detached three-bedroomed house. To do the same job the Gas Board system would be about 50p per week more. **Before you switch on your newly-bought electric central heating system in an all-electric house, you could have saved £1 a week!** Just one more thing on costs. Storage radiators do not add to the rateable value of the property which could mean another 40p per week.

As the pendulum of cost swings even more in the favour of electricity it must prove a winner when you add to it the traditional advantages of electricity such as cleanliness, ease of installation, radiators situated where you want them, a gentle, even, 24-hour heat, a choice of heater, no special flues or chimneys. Or, as our commercial colleagues put it—*No Fuss, No Fumes, No Mess!*

## Ducted Air

The more sophisticated *Electrique* system is also capturing larger markets. Ideally suited for the new home, but also available for installation in existing property, this electrically-heated ducted warm air system stores heat overnight on low-cost night rate electricity in one large central unit. Filtered air is blown through the heater, warmed and carried through ducts to the unobtrusive outlets in the rooms where it is required. A boost switch enables the house to be heated quickly.

## Insulation

Insulation in the home is an important factor in the economic operation of any central heating system. It makes sense to try and retain the heat for which you have paid. You get the maximum possible savings when you instal an electric central heating system and insulation at the same time. Insulation allows you to have a smaller system installed for the same comfort conditions.

To insulate your loft with 3 inches of glass fibre means you can cut heat losses through the roof, and as that is where 25% of your heat goes, it is worth it. The saving in energy cost will mean you will have paid for the materials in a little over twelve months.

Around 35% of the heat you pay for goes out through the walls. Cavity wall insulation fills the gap between the inner and outer walls of the home with a dampproof, fire-proof foam, cutting heat

*(continued on Page 224)*

# No fuss. No fumes. No mess.

## Start electric central heating from around £130

Electric central heating isn't just the easiest system to install—it's the quickest and the cheapest!

Two storage radiators, fully installed, cost around £130 and you can have them safely fitted and working often in a single day, with minimum disruption or disturbance to your home.

All storage radiators in Manweb's range operate on lower-priced, off-peak electricity—so the choice is yours! No fuss. No fumes. No mess. Heat electric. Heat Manweb.



Simple wiring job



Smart, clean, silent



Wood finish...or white panels

### Manweb's VALUE check

Who else gives you so much? Check it!

- All top quality products
- All major appliances delivered free
- Expert advice to trust

- Attractive credit terms with your quarterly Electricity Account
- All types of appliances independently tested by Manweb

**HEAT  
ELECTRIC**

# Manweb

**DOES SO MUCH FOR YOU**

losses. In three to four years the energy saving will compensate for your initial cash outlay—that is, at today's energy prices. **MANWEB sell roof and cavity wall insulation at competitive prices, as these offer the best return on capital outlay.**

There are other precautions you can take yourself to prevent further heat losses. Double glazing is one, which will take about 15 years to recoup the outlay from saved energy. Another is draught-proofing of windows and doors. This is fine for the electric home, but with combustible fuels care must be taken not to block off the ventilation from naked flames.

Some press stories have given credence to the myth that electricity is expensive. Some of these tales have originated from well-meaning, but frequently misguided individuals, and some from those with doubtful motives. The average MANWEB consumer could pay for his daily electricity consumption for the price of a pint of beer or slightly more than ten cigar-

ettes—that is how cheap electricity is in real terms.

Anyone who cannot afford electric central heating cannot afford central heating. Should you have a friend or neighbour considering installing central heating, you will be doing them a favour if you suggest they check with MANWEB and find out the true facts. This applies more so if you know somebody who may be panicked by gossip into changing from their electric central heating to another fuel unless you stop them. They may spend several hundreds of pounds to find they are no better off in pocket or comfort.

As nuclear power gradually takes over as the major source of the nation's energy, so electricity will become recognised as the only logical answer to the domestic energy needs, and the all-electric home will be in the majority in the next 20 years or so. Each year will see the advantage leaning more and more to the electric way of life, so if you are planning for the future—plan electric!

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## Christmas is coming . . .

Here is a recipe for a classical Christmas Cake from Anne Rency-Smith (*demonstrator, Head Office*) which will do justice to the festive table of any home on Christmas Day.

### Ingredients

12 oz moist brown sugar  
10 oz butter  
2 oz lard  
12 oz plain flour  
1 level teasp baking powder  
6 eggs  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teasp ginger  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teasp cinnamon  
1 teasp mixed spice  
pinch of salt  
2 oz ground almonds  
1 oz chopped almonds  
12 oz sultanas  
12 oz raisins  
6 oz currants  
2 oz valencia raisins  
2 oz candied peel  
4 oz glacé cherries (chopped)  
1 tablespoon orange marmalade

### Method

Cream fats and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well. If you are not using a food mixer it will be necessary to add a teasp of flour to prevent the mixture 'curdling.' Seive the

dry ingredients and add gradually with the mixed fruits and nuts. Finally add the marmalade.

Bake in a lined 9 inch tin at approx. 150 deg. C—300 deg. F for 4—4 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours (if using a fan assisted oven 3—3 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours should be sufficient time), ideally between 11.00 p.m.—7.00 a.m. using the white meter tariff.

Leave the cake in the tin to cool for a while before turning it out, when cold prick the base of the cake and pour brandy or rum into the holes.

Wrap the cake in greaseproof paper and place in air-tight tin. The tin may be sealed with adhesive tape and keep for three weeks before icing.

### ALMOND PASTE

1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb ground almonds    1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb icing sugar  
juice of small lemon    3—4 egg yolks

Seive icing sugar, mix with almonds and bind together with beaten egg yolks (reserve the whites for royal icing) and lemon juice.

Brush the Christmas cake with warm seived jam. Roll out just under half the almond paste on a sugared surface to the same size as the top of the cake.

Roll out rest of paste into a strip the same depth as the cake and long enough to go round it. Roll cake along the strip and continue rolling until the sides are straight and smoothly covered with smooth sharp top edges; or roll a milk bottle dusted with icing sugar around the sides of the cake to achieve a flat smooth side. Leave the almond pasted cake to dry for a few days (making sure the base of the cake is kept sealed on greaseproof paper) before applying the royal icing. (see next month)



## Linesmen clear the way for Super Load

From time to time, the firm Air Products Ltd. have to move heavy and bulky loads from their factory at Acrefair near Wrexham.

Recently, they had an extra large load—212 tons of it—to be transported by road to the docks at Birkenhead for shipping on to Canada.

Mounted on a special vehicle, the load measured 100 feet long, 16 feet wide and 20 feet 8 inches high.

It was this last dimension which was to cause the biggest problem as our overhead lines have a minimum statutory clearance of

19 feet across roadways.

Teams of linesmen from Oswestry and Dee Valley Districts came to the rescue by travelling slightly ahead of the load and 'lifting' the overhead lines to allow the load carrying vehicle to pass safely underneath. In some cases our lines had to be disconnected and dropped.

Our men were in constant contact with their respective control centres throughout the 65 mile journey from Acrefair to the docks at Birkenhead at fortnightly intervals.

Later this year, there will be another seven separate loads—this time each one being 21 feet high—taking the same long, slow journey from Acrefair to the docks at Birkenhead at fortnightly intervals.

In the meantime, the overhead lines along the route are being permanently lifted to allow clear passage for the future loads.



From our Chester depot, Geoff Crank, left, and Mike Williams.

### THE MEN WHO CLEARED THE WAY

From Oswestry District: Messrs. Martin Benson (3rd engineer—System), Dennis Day and Terry Edge (linesmen), Les Purcell (jointer) and Ted Beech (jointer's mate).

From Dee Valley District: Mr. Brian Doyle (System Engineer), Legacy depot: Messrs. Dennis Phillips (foreman), Arthur Lovell (linesman) and Jim Parry (linesman's mate). Chester depot: Messrs. Mike Williams (chargehand linesman), Dennis Randles and Doug Cross (linesmen), Geoff Crank and Peter Johnson (linesman's mates).

In charge of the operation was Mr. Colin Herbert (2nd engineer—System Management) at Head Office.

Negotiating a tricky corner at Handley village on the Whitchurch to Birkenhead road with the men from MAN-WEB clearing the way ahead as they lift the overhead lines from either side of the road. Our man on the left is hidden by the trees.





Left to right: Mr. Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Denis Dodds (Chairman, MANWEB), Councillor David Schwarz (Chairman of the County Council), Councillor Edward Davies (Vice-Chairman of the Council), Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary, MANWEB), and Mr. T. M. Haydn Rees (Chief Executive of the Council).

## “NO HELP FOR DODGERS” — Board view

The MANWEB Board, at their September meeting discussed the Government's proposed 'Code of Conduct' covering such matters as disconnections and security deposits in relation to the gas and electricity industries and their customers.

The Board reaffirmed their view that any Code should restrict benefits to those genuinely in need, and that it should contain no loopholes to assist bill-dodgers and the like, to whom the sanction of disconnection should still apply.

It was also agreed to meet a Government request to reduce estimated capital expenditure during 1977/78 by 10%. This reduction will not affect MANWEB's capability to meet all demands for

new or improved supplies, but will result in the deferment of work without endangering security of supplies.

The September meeting was held at Mold, by invitation of the Clwyd County Council, and after the meeting Board members met leading Councillors and officials, headed by Councillor David Schwarz (Chairman of the Council), and Mr. T. M. Haydn Rees (Chief Executive).

Our own Chairman (Mr. Denis Dodds) told the Council leaders that the opportunity to meet representatives of local authorities in an informal way was welcomed. Such meetings did much to strengthen links between MANWEB and the many local authorities within our large area of supply.

### UNIVERSITY AWARDS IN ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS OR PHYSICAL SCIENCES FOR GIRLS

The Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust (Electrical Section) offers a number of scholarships of £185 p.a. to girls who are expecting to follow a university course in 1977 in Engineering, Mathematics or Physical Sciences. (£185 is the maximum that a student may receive without adversely affecting her Local Education Authority Grant).

Candidates for these awards must fulfil the following requirements:—

- (a) have been offered a place or have applied for entrance at one or more of the universities in the United Kingdom;
  - (b) be prepared to read for an honours degree in engineering, mathematics or physical sciences
- It is hoped that on the successful completion of

their courses scholarship holders will take up employment in the electrical industry for a reasonable time.

#### How to apply

Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust (Electrical Section), 25 Foubert's Place, London W1V 2AL, and should be returned on or before **31st January 1977**.

Candidates should have obtained and returned entry forms to the universities to which they are applying before sending in their applications for the scholarship. Interviews will be held in April/May 1977.

## PRIZE CROSSWORD

It is some time since we carried a crossword so here is another to sharpen the wits of our puzzle enthusiasts. Once more we are indebted to the fertile imagination of Mr. Cam Shimmin, North Mersey District's system engineer.

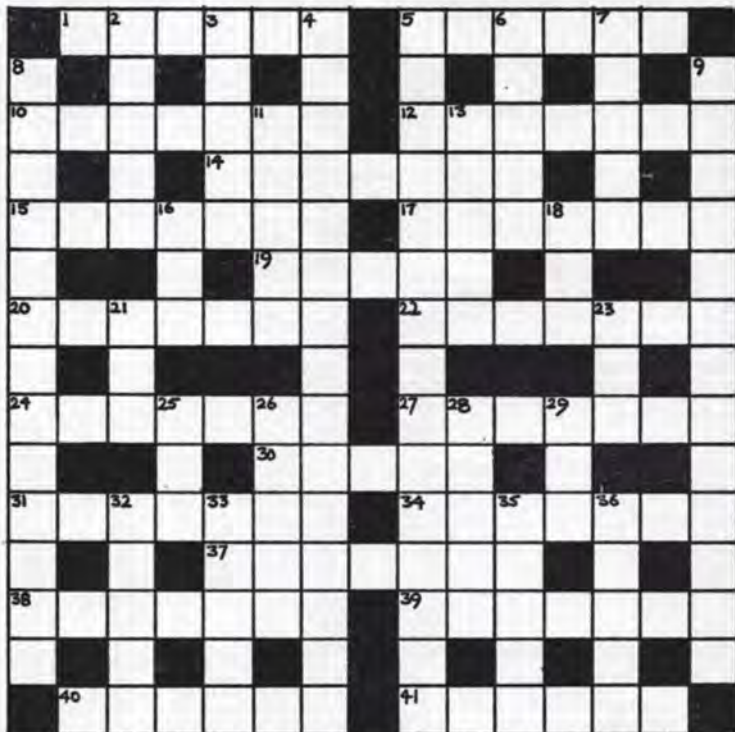
Prizes of £2 each will be awarded to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on November 1st.

Entries, on plain paper if you wish, are eligible from all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families—but only one entry per person is allowed.

These should be sent to, *The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*

### Clues Across

- 1 Abstemious persons gets into mischief and a fight results (6)
- 5 Sounds as if the bill has been rendered, perhaps a Scotsman will have it! (6)
- 10 Garb got disordered; what a bugbear! (7)
- 12 Not buxom but the Frenchman is in favour (7)
- 14 The box has nothing in it but it provides amusement (7)
- 15 Spoken request to a hen? It's kid's stuff (7)
- 17 You'll never be 12 if you this (7)
- 19 A dime is all you require for this ammonia compound (5)
- 20 Earthy mistake in a numbered bearing (7)
- 22 For instance, down below it's torn apart (7)
- 24 It's a crime in America (7)
- 27 Ted hesitates on the moorland (7)
- 30 As they say in Sri Lanka, or perhaps in Pondicherry (5)
- 31 Repositories for the morning mail (Or for the Chairman's tea and biscuits!) (2.5)

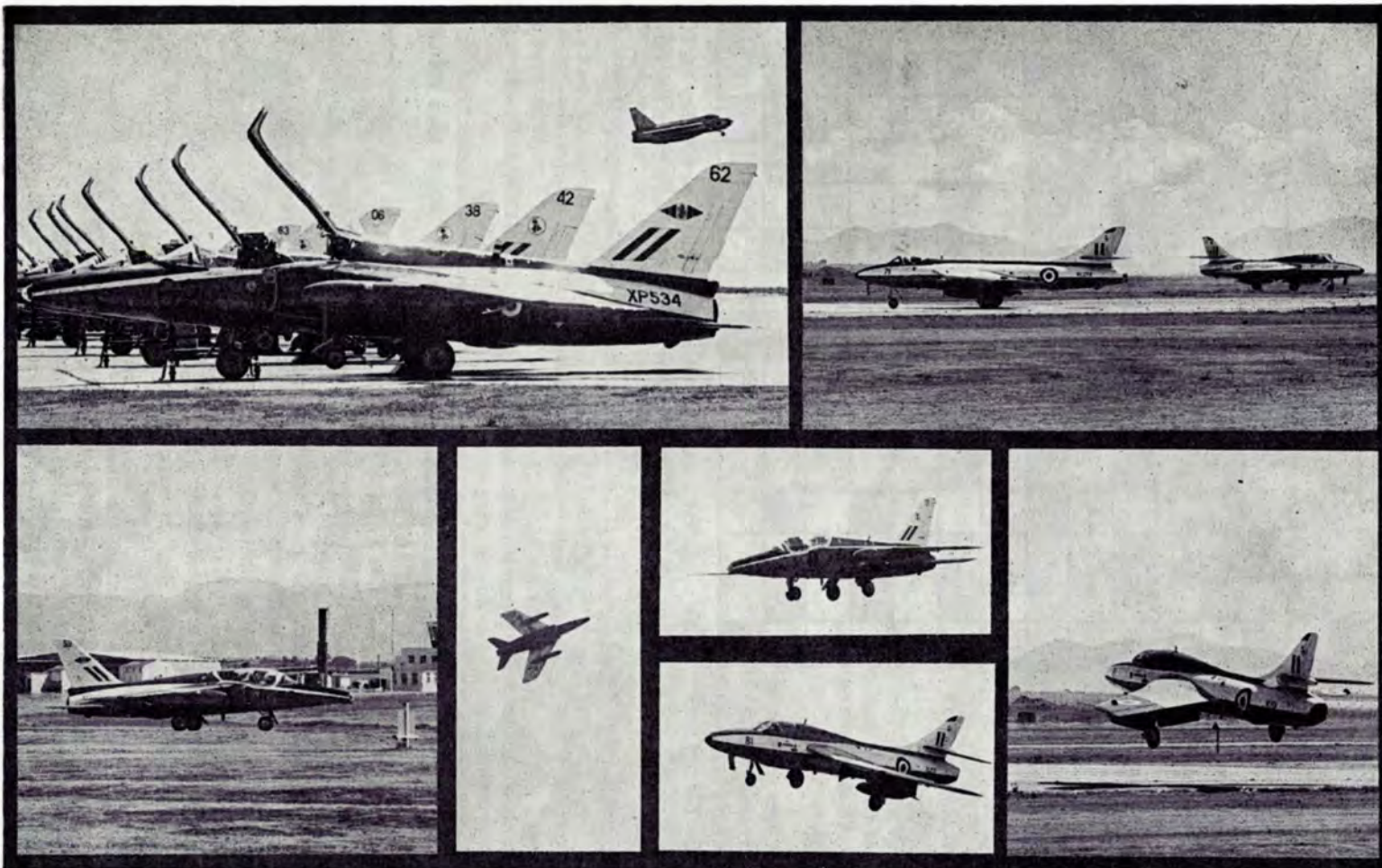


- 34 An orchestral work reputedly has this effect on a barbarous forefront (7)
- 37 Did Perrault's villain have this kind of toupee? (4.3)
- 38 Mix with paint and lose weight (7)
- 39 When put into circulation it is no use being confused (2.5)
- 40 There's trouble prior to the engineer's honours (6)
- 41 A lot study the direction but one doesn't find it pleasant (6)

### Clues Down

- 2 It was once fashionable for young men to be this (5)
- 3 Area treatise (5)
- 4 Very long tapes only used in an emergency (7.8)
- 5 Just like he says, you can depend on him (2.4.2.3.4)
- 6 Right in the midst of the bamboo the bird appears (5)
- 7 With natural or unaffected simplicity I stand in part of the church (5)

- 8 "Away with it!" they say (13)
- 9 Printing equipment line drives (6.7)
- 11 Hastened round at a palm tree (5)
- 13 If you change the bowler's work, he'll make furrows (5)
- 16 Hesitate? Right! But you're wrong! (3)
- 18 Might be a ladder (3)
- 21 Briefly allude to a curtailed judge (3)
- 23 Bring the bricklayer's carrier back and make a note! (3)
- 25 Listen, give this to an obsolete plough (3)
- 26 Characteristic engraving tool (5)
- 28 There's nothing in the backwater to take away (5)
- 29 Add a little rum (3)
- 32 In a brief traditional way, I produce a chord (5)
- 33 This Hebrew general didn't use a broken bren! (5)
- 35 Ask for a pointed window (5)
- 36 Put socks on 500 and get cleaned out (5)



## WITHIN OUR BOUNDARIES

A montage of aircraft photographed by Mike Hall, of the Head Office Photographic Section, at RAF Valley, Anglesey. He used Kodak Tri-X film in his Asahi Pentax camera. The setting was 1:1000th of a second at f.11. The pictures show, *top left*: Gnats raise their canopies in salute of a Lightning flying past. *Top right*: Back to back, a Hunter single seater and, *left*, a Hunter dualseat trainer. *Bottom row from the left*: a Gnat taxis, a Gnat banks, *above*, a Gnat comes in to land, *below it* a Hunter takes off and *extreme right* the same Hunter comes in for a landing.