

CONTACT

Manweb's monthly newspaper
for staff and their families.

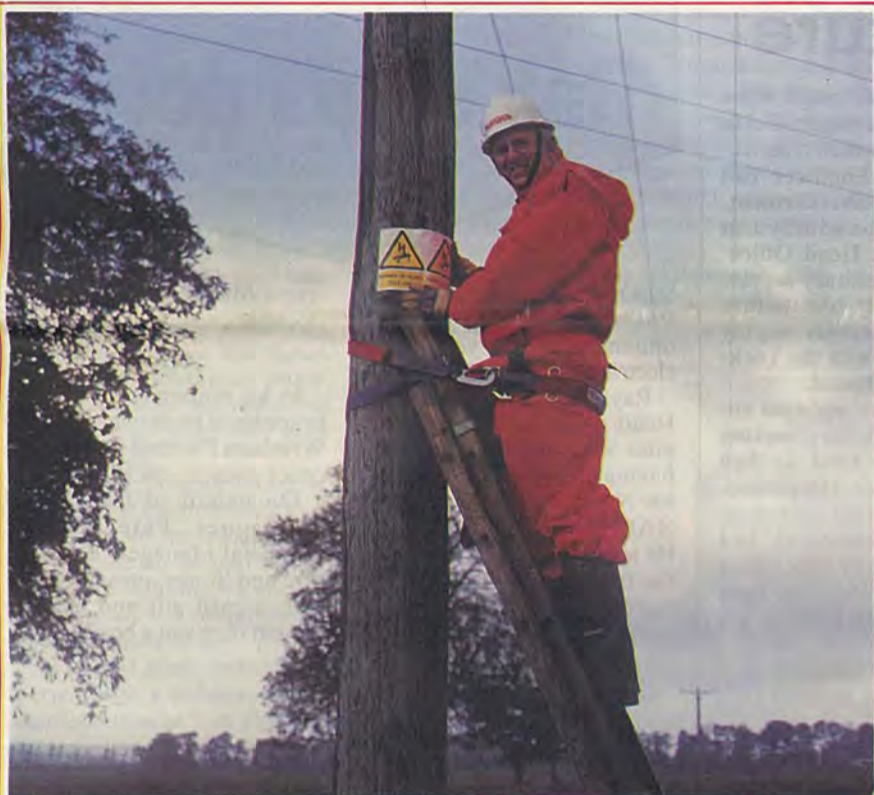
MID MERSEY
LIVERPOOL
NORTH MERSEY
DEE VALLEY
HEAD OFFICE
OSWESTRY
GWYNEDD
ABERYSTWYTH
NORTH WIRRAL
CLWYD
MID CHESHIRE

No. 4

OCTOBER 1988

Safety campaign is launched to reverse "alarming trend"

ACCIDENTS HIT A NEW PEAK



Sign of the times

MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston launches a safety drive by posting a new-style warning sign on a high voltage pole.

The distinctive black-on-yellow "Danger of Death—Keep Off" signs have been introduced under the new Electricity Supply Regulations. From this month all high voltage poles erected or refurbished will now carry the wrap-around signs, which have also been produced in Welsh.

Similar signs are also being placed on sub-stations which have electrical equipment outdoors to warn children of the perils of playing there.

Manweb's Safety Adviser Colin Herbert said: "Under the new Supply Regulations we are now required by law to put 'Danger of Death' notices on high voltage poles.

"We have also been placing them on outdoor sub-stations following the recommendations of the inquiry into the incident at Selston, Nottinghamshire, when two youngsters were killed playing with the switchgear in a small compound sub-station.

"We can't emphasise too strongly how dangerous it is to play near electrical equipment."

The first of the new signs was placed on a pole in Ferry Lane, Chester, and to highlight the need for greater safety amongst Manweb employees, Mr Weston dressed for the occasion in the correct gear—linesman's helmet, waterproof suit, wellington boots with steel toe caps, gloves and safety belt.

● Safety equipment warning—page 5.

AN alarming increase in the number of accidents at work has prompted Manweb to launch a safety campaign. In common with most other area Boards, our accident rate has rocketed over the past five years, and urgent action is now being taken in a bid to reverse the trend.

Among the steps which have already been taken is the setting up of a Safety Initiative Committee, Chaired by Clwyd District Manager Doug Willacy, who said: "Fast action is needed to cut the number of accidents which have been growing at an alarming rate amongst staff, with all the consequent suffering and hardship.

"Management are adopting this positive stance in a continuing move towards higher standards and greater concern for all staff. The aim is to establish an appropriate safety climate. We must accept that all accidents are avoidable."

In 1987/88 there were 171 reportable accidents (resulting in three or more days off). This was an increase of approximately 33 per cent over the previous year.

In addition there were many other less serious accidents, resulting in one or two days' absence, or where employees were involved in a "near miss".

"It is tempting to think we can achieve a high degree of safety with respect to major accidents while ignoring in a relative sense injuries which result from trips, falls, cuts and burns," said Mr Willacy.

"But there is a direct correlation between the more frequent minor accidents and the less frequent major accidents. The common denominator is people, their attitude to safety and their discipline.

"Inattention to hazards, short cuts and risk-taking are the result of misguided thinking, and result in both major and minor accidents."

The new Committee, which also includes Safety Adviser Colin Herbert, Gwynedd Mains Manager Ifor Nottingham, and Mid-Mersey Installation Manager Bill France, is now developing an action plan. Measures include:

- Ensuring all staff wear appropriate safety equipment (hard hats, goggles, gloves and proper footwear).

- Developing incentives to encourage staff to think carefully and positively about safe working.

- Drawing up a series of guidance notes for engineers, foremen, supervisors and others to be used in talks with staff about safe working. The first of these will deal with using such equipment as ladders and hydraulic platforms, site housekeeping and the need for tidiness.

- Targets will also be set for reducing the number of accidents which occur.

The initiative is being carried out in full consultation with the trade unions.

Mr Willacy said: "Our main aim is to raise everyone's perception of safety. We have a difficult task ahead of us and we will only be successful if we have the support and encouragement of all employees."



Energy
efficient

PAGE 6 & 7



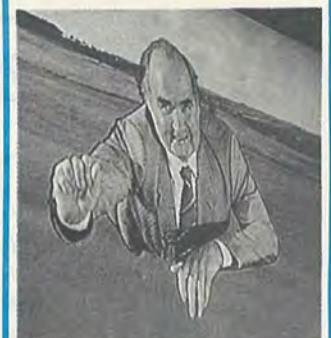
Fire
hero

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Vintage
stuff

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Superman!

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Changing faces

Dee Valley retirements

STAFF at Dee Valley District have said goodbye to five colleagues who have recently retired.

VERNON JONES, a Linesman's Mate at Legacy Depot, has taken early retirement due to ill health, after 42 years' service with the electricity supply industry.

DENNIS ONIONS, 63, a Driver at New Crane Street Depot, finished work on September 11 after completing 27 years' service.

FREDERICK CHARLES BAKER, 61, retired on October 7 after 40 years' service. He was employed as an Electrician at New Crane Street Depot.

RICHARD FREDERICK DOD has taken early retirement due to ill-health after 22 years' service. He worked as a Meter Reader at New Crane Street Depot.

ROBIN JONES, a Painter at New Crane Street, has also retired early because of ill-health. He completed 31 years' service with the industry.



Ken's farewell fling

FRIENDS and colleagues gathered at New Crane Street Depot to say a fond farewell to Dee Valley 2nd Engineer Ken Coupe, who has retired after 40 years' service with Manweb.

Ken, who has worked in

various locations including Legacy and Ellesmere Port, joined the industry after serving his apprenticeship with English Electric at Stafford. During the War he served with the Eighth Army in North Africa and Italy.

Born in Preston, Lancashire,

he was adopted into the Welsh community in 1928 when his father became Station Superintendent at the opening of Maentwrog Power Station.

In his spare time he is a keen amateur photographer and does some oil painting. He is also

planning to travel and see the world.

Ken is pictured shaking hands with Mains Manager Brian Doyle, surrounded by his colleagues. Also pictured is his wife Margaret, who was presented with a bouquet.



Bill put in the picture

IT was smiles all round when Operations Manager Colin Ridley (left) presented a caricature to Senior Engineer Bill Cubbins to mark his retirement.

Bill, 62, who is based in System Management at Head Office, completing his military service as a Signaller Driver before joining the electricity supply industry in 1953 with the Yorkshire Electricity Board.

He held various assistant engineering posts before moving to Manweb in 1964 as 2nd Assistant Engineer, Operations.

In 1971 Bill transferred to System Management as 2nd Assistant Engineer, becoming 1st Engineer in 1974 and then Senior Engineer in 1987.

Stores Inspector Ray steps down

STORES Inspector Ray Williams has taken ill-health retirement after 33 years in the electricity supply industry.

Ray, 55, who was based at Head Office, joined Manweb after working for British Rail, having previously completed his National Service with the RAF.

He spent his entire career with the Board, working within the stores organisation, and his stocktaking duties took him to

every Manweb store and shop location.

Active

In his retirement, Ray plans to continue his active interest in Wrexham Football Club and his other passion, cricket.

On behalf of friends and colleagues, Peter Falcon, Financial Manager, Expenditure and Stores, presented Ray with a cash gift and his wife Megan received a bouquet.



End of an era

PICTURED (right) during his retirement get-together at Head Office is Principal Assistant in Tariffs and Economics John Ashley.

John, 62, spent virtually all his working life with the electricity supply industry.

He started work as a Stores Clerk with the Mersey Power and Light Company, and after his National Service joined Manweb's Accounts Department. In 1956 he transferred to Commercial as a Clerical Assistant and six years later became Senior Clerical Assistant in Statistics. In 1970 he became an Admin Assistant in Economics, and was appointed Principal Assistant in 1980 with a further upgrading in 1986.

Contracts and Tariffs Adviser Terry Brookshaw, pictured shaking hands with John, made the presentation of a Black and Decker Workmate.





Meter man in blaze drama

A DEE Valley Meter Operative has been praised for his prompt actions after trying to save the life of a man who accidentally set himself on fire.

John Mason, who is based at New Crane Street, was on his rounds in Chester when he heard someone shouting inside a flat at Clover Place.

When he looked through the letter box, former soldier John was horrified to see a man standing in the hall, engulfed in flames.

Quick-thinking John, who has a 16-month-old baby son, kicked open the door and managed to douse the flames before summoning an ambulance. The man was rushed to hospital but, tragically, died later that day.

John said: "The man was able to talk when I went into the flat, and while we were waiting for the ambulance he told me he had been lighting his cooker when he suffered an epileptic fit and set himself on fire."

"I've had some first aid experience as a soldier, and I managed to relax him while we were waiting for the ambulance to come. I'm really sorry he didn't pull through."

Chester Police have been in touch with Dee Valley Customer Accounts Manager Andy Pooley to commend John's actions. Andy said: "The police told me that John dealt with the situation in a calm manner."

"It must have been an extremely unpleasant incident which, I'm sure, he'll have difficulty erasing from his memory."

"This sort of action reflects well on Manweb and I have thanked him for all that he did. It's sad that despite his efforts, the man died later that evening."

Whistle-stop tour planned

by Sam Doughty

CHAIRMAN Bryan Weston is planning a whirlwind tour of all districts and Head Office to tell staff as much as he can about how Manweb will look after privatisation. With the Bill to privatise electricity to go to Parliament for its first reading, much work has been done in planning and shaping the new industry. There is still quite a lot more to do before we become a private company.

Even as we go to press more pieces are being fitted into the giant jigsaw puzzle of the electricity supply industry flotation. The Chairman plans to see as many members of staff as he can in just six days. It is a hectic schedule but he will try to cope with any questions on privatisation.

With such a large majority, it was obvious the Government's wish to privatise the electricity industry would succeed despite any opposition. Mr Weston has worked long and hard to ensure the industry is privatised in the best interests of employees and customers.

His efforts, together with those of other Board Chairmen, have already paid dividends. Manweb and the other area boards will remain intact as private distribution companies—although this was the least popular option amongst the pundits prior to the White Paper in March this year.

Since then Mr Weston has worked tirelessly to ensure the industry has workable controls post-privatisation. He is the Chairman of the Regulatory Committee, which agrees with the Secretary of State the rules and regulations needed to ensure a viable industry which can operate securely with safeguards for the electricity customer.

Mr Weston believes the customers are the most important people and their interests must be served if the new Manweb is to succeed.

The Chairman has expressed optimism for the new Manweb, and sees new opportunities for expansion, exploiting more fully our areas of expertise. This bodes well for all employees.

Mr Weston's Roadshow will start at North Wirral and end at Head Office. The dates are as follows:—

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21: a.m. North Wirral, Hoyle Training Centre, p.m. Queensferry.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22: a.m. North Wirral, Dee Valley, p.m. Clwyd.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24: a.m. Liverpool, p.m. North Mersey.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25: a.m. Mid-Mersey, p.m. Mid-Cheshire.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29: a.m. Oswestry, p.m. Aberystwyth.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1: a.m. Gwynedd, p.m. Head Office



Super sales squad

MEET Manweb's super-salesmen . . . the regional winners in the Electricity Council-sponsored 1988 National Sales Awards.

Commercial Director Peter Hopkins is pictured (third from the left) presenting trophies to (L-R) Dee Valley's Doug Houl-

brook and Len Dorr, and Liverpool District's Roger Critch.

Commercial Development Engineer Doug won the Commercial Section of the contest, while Industrial Development Engineer Len was the Industrial Section winner. Roger, Domes-

tic and Commercial Development Engineer, earned his prize in the Domestic Section.

The trio were judged on their sales achievements during the year, and will now represent Manweb in the national finals at Leicester on November 30.

Liverpool: Teresa Kelly, ext 2117.
Mid-Mersey: Ena Harding, ext 2231.
Dee Valley: Steve Parry, ext 2112.
North Wirral: Mike Townson, ext 2202.
Mid-Cheshire: Pat O'Neill, ext 2111.
Clwyd: Rod Taylor, ext 2118.
Gwynedd: Malcolm Donaldson, ext 2250.
Oswestry: Sid Warburton, ext 2230.
Aberystwyth: Keith Jones, ext 2202.
Hoyle Training Centre: Pauline Lewis, ext 251.

WHAT'S new in your district or department? Is your sports section on a winning streak, have you or a member of your family an interesting hobby, have you a view you'd like to air, or an idea for a story? Then why not let Contact know?

Write, phone or come and talk to Contact Editor Jackie Unsworth in Room GE26, Head Office, ext 2090, or get in touch with one of the District Contact reps. They are as follows:—

North Mersey: Edna Courtney, ext 21677.



ICR Chairman Paul Davies is pictured (right) receiving his prize from Liverpool District Manager Gerry Haughan in the Trophy Room at Liverpool Football Club, during a recent Tariff and Lighting Seminar.

On the trail of new business

A SURVEY into the use of electricity in industry has turned up some useful market research for Manweb . . . and generated a large amount of potential business.

Companies throughout Merseyside and North Wales were asked to fill in a questionnaire which quizzed them about the types of fuels and processes used.

Industrial Energy Marketing Engineer Roger Glover, who together with 2nd Engineer Dave Hanson organised the *Electricity in Industry* survey, said: "The exercise was very useful, giving us some valuable market research about the various fuels being used by companies and how successful we are. It also generated a large number of enquiries for our Industrial Sales Engineers to follow up."

The survey has resulted in:—

- 58 requests for visits by Industrial Sales Engineers.
- 137 requests for additional information on the work carried out by the Industrial Sales Engineers.
- 55 requests for further information on specific aspects of electricity utilisation.
- 155 potential sales leads.
- 600 up-to-date names of contacts to be included on District mailing lists.

In addition the survey indicated key areas of the market which need to be developed by Manweb staff. In the process sector, these include drying (particularly paint, varnish and glue) and melting of non-metals. Office heating, water heating and catering are highlighted as action areas in the factory services sector.

• The 336 companies that took part in Manweb's survey were entered into a free draw for a Belling Triplette microwave cooker, worth £349.95. The winner was ICR Engineering Ltd., of King Lake Street, Liverpool.

Veterans' trip to the Netherlands

A WEEK-LONG visit to the Netherlands recently stirred up memories for members of the Wirral and Chester branch of the Normandy Veterans Association. The party of 42, including past and present Manweb staff, travelled to Holland by coach on September 15 to stay at the Park Hotel in Eindhoven.

The highlight of the visit was a marching parade and ceremony on September 18, to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the liberation of the City of Eindhoven by the Allies.

The parade covered one mile, ending at the Town Hall Square where a memorial flame was lit and the national anthems of the USA, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands were played by bands.

During the week the party also visited Nijmegen Town Hall, where they met the Burgermeister.

The trip to Nijmegen was part of a tour of the Arnhem area, and other parts of call were the Oosterbeek Airborne Cemetery, the Airborne Museum and the British War Cemeteries at Mierlo and Overloon.

Grottoes

The party also went to Valkenburg, with its many tunnels and grottoes, the seaside resort of Scheveningen, and Amsterdam, where they enjoyed a sightseeing boat journey along the canals and across the harbour.

Give us a call



MID-MERSEY District Manager Glyn Norbury (third from the left) hands over a £1,000 cheque to Bernard Burton, of Widnes-based Business Link Ltd.

Manweb has pledged to financially support the counselling organisation, which offers advice and assistance to small companies, over a three-year period, and this was the second of three £1,000 cheques to be presented. The money is being used to encourage new industry into the area.

Also pictured (left to right) are Helen Donachie, Elaine Freeman, Alan Griffiths, Ian Myatt and Sonya Clague, all from Business Link.

Planning your winter break?

HOTEL group Trusthouse Forte has come up with a super discount deal for Contact readers planning a winter break. During the months of December, January and February, special rates are being offered to Manweb employees and pensioners at the Wynnstay Hotel in the peaceful Welsh market town of Machynlleth.

Machynlleth is in the lovely valley of the River Dovey, and the hotel, which dates back to 1780, was formerly a Royal Mail staging post between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth.

The hotel has 26 spacious bedrooms, most of which have private bathrooms, and each has a colour television, radio, telephone and tea-making facilities. With cots, high chairs and a baby listening service available, the Wynnstay is ideal for a family holiday.

Its Welsh-style restaurant offers excellent fayre, with locally caught fish a speciality, and the friendly bar is a favourite with the local community.

Local sporting and leisure facilities are excellent, including fishing the River Dovey and golf on a challenging course just



half a mile away.

Staying at the Wynnstay normally costs £54 for a double room and £44 for a single booking (without breakfast). But during the three months, *Contact* readers will pay just £25 per person for bed, breakfast and evening meal. The offer applies

at any time of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays, subject to availability of rooms.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the discount deal should contact the Wynnstay on 0654 2941, and tell the receptionist it is a Manweb special offer booking.

Total heating launch in store

TOTAL Heating is the theme of a major Manweb winter sales promotion.

A multi-media advertising campaign has been launched, backed by in-store promotional displays and a range of point-of-sale material.

During October, Manweb's 58 shops have been fitted with new promotional displays, designed by the Wilmslow-based NDI visual merchandising agency.

The idea for Total Heating began to take shape 12 months ago when Manweb decided a strong in-store image was needed for Winter 1988.

NDI was commissioned to design and build a prototype model stand to house four electric heaters, and colourful graphics were used to show the effectiveness and versatility of electric heaters in all rooms of the home, together with an immersion cylinder at the heart of the model.

At the beginning of October, with modifications to the system, the new Total Heating stands were ready to be installed throughout the region.

NDI's team of merchandisers quickly moved into the shops to install and display selected fires from Manweb's extensive range. Within two weeks the in-store transformation was complete, and the impact has been immediate.

Manweb's Advertising and Publicity Manager Bill Gaywood said: "The eye-catching stands play an important part in the campaign, as customers are very well informed of all home heating methods by the time they choose a system."

Shop staff have noted the increased interest in the promotion. Tony Gaynor, Manager of the the Birkenhead shop, said: "It is a great success, creating a great deal of customer interest and awareness amongst staff."

Congratulations



Helen Bennett, age 25, who works in the Head Office Pensions Section, is pictured getting a good send-off from colleagues for her wedding to Chester Chronicle sub-editor Neil Avery.

Long servers

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Manweb employees who have completed 20, 30 or 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry during September.

40 YEARS: Head Office—Pat Kray (Principal Assistant, Cash Office); Mid-Cheshire—Kenneth Sandlands (Craft Operative) and Allan Worth (Engineering Foreman); Gwynedd—Dafydd Roberts (Engineering Foreman).

30 YEARS: Head Office—Peter Falcon (Financial Manager, Expenditure and Stores) and Bill Bartlett (Business Planning Manager); Liverpool—Michael Burke (Meter Operative) and William Scrutton (Foreman, Meter Reading); Mid-Mersey—Derek Goff (Craftsman Electrician); Dee Valley—Geoff Postle (Craftsman Electrician, New Crane Street), Keith Herniman (1st Engineer) and Dennis Lynch (Shift Electrician); North Wirral—Ken Mitchell (Installation and Service Engineer), Bill Dean (Joiner) and Sam Lightburn (Joiner's Mate); Mid-Cheshire—Mike Potts (Energy Marketing Engineer); Clwyd—Ann Jones (Prestatyn Shop Supervisor) and Roy Robinson (Craftsman Electrician); Oswestry—Geoff Purslow (2nd Engineer, Mains); Aberystwyth—Eric Roberts (Engineering Foreman); Hoyle Training Centre—Peter Smith (3rd Engineer).

20 YEARS: Head Office—Tony Timmins (2nd Engineer, Technical), Dave Hanson (2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing), John Welsh (2nd Engineer, Plant and Construction), Terry Gopsill (1st Engineer, Technical), Bob Liversage (Admin Assistant, Income) and Rob Jones (Admin Assistant, Management Accounts); North Mersey—John MacDonald (Mains Manager); Dee Valley—Keith Shaw (2nd Engineer), David Bird (Electrician), Emyr Williams (Electrician) and Trevor Jones (Electrician); North Wirral—John Gibson (Electrician, Meter Security), Dave Makin (Supplies Engineer), Albert Butler (Planning Engineer), Peter Thomas (2nd Engineer, Transmission) and Robert Atkinson (Foreman, Transmission); Mid-Cheshire—John Mayes (2nd Engineer); Clwyd—Colin Blundell (2nd Engineer, Mains); Gwynedd—Emyr Hughes (Commercial Assistant).

EEIBA monthly draw winners

RETIRED member G. P. Griffiths was the £300 prizewinner in the EEIBA's September draw, with the lucky number 1556. The other winners were as follows:—

£200—P. H. Hughes, Dee Valley (1298); £150—M. L. Fountain, Clwyd (2581); £100—M. B. A. Evans, retired (1843); £75—M. Jones, Head Office Income (884); £75—A. J. Hark, retired (1349); £50—R. Hewitt, Head Office Commercial (553); £50—Des Lock, North Wirral District Manager (678); £50—I. De La Roche, retired (2381); £50—M. L. Macaulay, Plessey (262); £50—E. M. E. Olney, Head Office Income (426); £50—Bryan Weston, Chairman (1267); £50—Y. T. O'Donnell, Head Office Financial (476); £30—H. M. Craven, Head Office Computers (598).

Freezer teaser

MARK Bradley, of General Services, Mid-Mersey District, and Chris Jones, of Financial Accounts, Head Office, were the lucky winners of last month's "Freezer" word puzzle. Crisp £5 notes are now on their way.

Unfortunately, no one managed to correctly answer our "Sum This Up" mathematical teaser, so no prize will be awarded. The solution was 43,158.7.



Staff prepare for retirement

LONG-SERVING staff at or approaching the end of their careers with Manweb are pictured during a three-day Pre-Retirement Seminar at Head Office recently.

The group, flanked by Tutor Eric Richardson (left) and Welfare Services Manager Jim Wilcock, who was one of the speakers, consisted mainly of employees taking early retirement.

Pre-retirement courses are run twice every year for Manweb staff, covering such issues as pensions, money management,

security in the home, health and welfare.

Our picture shows (back row, l to r) Eric Richardson, Evelyn Hill, John Jones, Sheila Devonport, Gordon Hood and Joyce Garner, all from Head Office, John Seymour of Hoyle Training Centre, Veronica Rooney from Head Office, Mid-Cheshire's Norman Fell and Jim Wilcock.

On the front row (l to r) is Margaret Okaj, Pat Kay, Sylvia Howells, Elsie Vitalis and Olwyn Kulicke, all from Head Office.

A message from the Chairman

“Manweb’s safety record must be improved. Over the past five years there has been an unacceptable increase in the level of accidents.

We are now planning a Management initiative to counteract this rising trend, and your full support is vital to cut the number of injuries which are often the result of simple mistakes.

The number of serious accidents grew from 122 in 1983/84 to 189 in 1987/88, and in the past year there has been an even more dramatic increase. Serious accidents went up by 33 per cent—that’s 47 more than the previous year.

Clearly we all have a responsibility to take action to reduce the

hardship and suffering which accidents cause. We should all accept the need to think about working safely, to be aware that everything we do should be in a safe way, and that all accidents are avoidable.

I want you to ask yourself what you are doing to ensure your own and your colleagues’ safety. Do you think about the safety aspects of the work before you start? Do you wear the protective equipment which is available?

Your Manager will be talking to you about this initiative and will be taking action to ensure that everyone plays their part in making Manweb a safer place to work. Make today and every day an accident-free day. ”

Bob’s lucky horseshoe

ELECTRICAL Fitting Foreman Bob Atkinson narrowly escaped serious injury in a freak accident because he was wearing protective footwear.

Bob, who works in the Transmission Section at Prenton, would almost certainly have suffered a crushed bone in his toe had he not been wearing Toetector boots when his horse stepped on his foot.

He said: “My horse must weigh around three-quarters of a ton. She managed to bend the steel toe-cap in my shoe, but incredibly my foot was unhurt.

“I know this accident didn’t happen at work, but it shows how wearing the correct gear can prevent serious injury—or even save lives.

Pain

“Accidents do happen at work and I know that many could be avoided if people dressed properly. If I hadn’t been wearing my Toetectors, I would probably have been off work, and in a lot of pain, for at least six or seven weeks.” added 36-year-old Bob, a former Chairman of the local Safety Committee.



Correct clothing could save lives

DRESS safely . . . That’s the message to Manweb employees who may be risking their lives by not wearing the correct clothing at work. Many accidents could be avoided if staff were to take a few simple precautions and use the protective equipment available.

Manweb’s Safety Adviser Colin Herbert said: “We have a big problem with people not wearing their safety equipment. As a result there are a large number of accidents which could easily be prevented.

“These include injuries to feet. We often have cases of people who are not wearing the correct shoes or boots getting nails stuck in their feet. Because of this we have recently stopped stocking anything other than the type of wellington boots with steel reinforced toe caps and mid soles.

There are also many accidents where people cut their hands because they aren’t wearing gloves.

“Employees also risk very serious injury by not wearing helmets in situations where they could be hit by falling objects or where they could bang their

● A CEGB worker with the safety helmet that almost certainly saved his life when he was hit on the head by a falling chunk of metal.

heads against the ironwork at the top of poles.”

One of the commonest complaints from staff is that wearing safety gear for long periods can be uncomfortable. With this in mind, Manweb has been looking closely at the equipment provided.

Following recent trials, new-style linesmen’s helmets are soon to be introduced. First used by the CEGB, the helmets are peak-less, to give better visibility to the wearer, and the terylene harness is more comfortable than the previous nylon type. However, for those who prefer them, the peaked style will also be available.

A variety of different linesmen’s suits are also currently under trial. Colin Herbert said: “We have had complaints that the waterproof suits tend to leak after a while. New suits from a Wrexham manufacturer, which we have had a hand in designing, are now being issued and we are continuing to look for something that is completely waterproof and comfortable to wear.”

Win a Barbour waxed jacket

HOW would you like to win a Barbour cotton waxed jacket, the ultimate in weatherproof clothing? We’ve four super Solway-style jackets, each worth around £75, to give away in a series of competitions for safety-conscious Contact readers.

The competitions are aimed at increasing the safety awareness of children and adults alike.

COMPETITION NO. 1 is for children aged six and under. Simply study the drawing (right) and make a list of the deliberate errors, where safety standards around the home are not being observed. Most of the mistakes are of an electrical nature—but not all! Then colour in the picture. The youngster who spots the most errors will win the prize.

COMPETITION NO. 2 is a painting contest for children in two age groups—the seven to 11-year-olds and the 12 to 16-year-olds. All you have to do is paint a picture to sum up your ideas about safety at work in the electricity supply industry. Entries, which must not exceed 570 x 760 mm (20 x 30 in) in size, will be judged by a panel, and the winner in each age group will receive a prize.

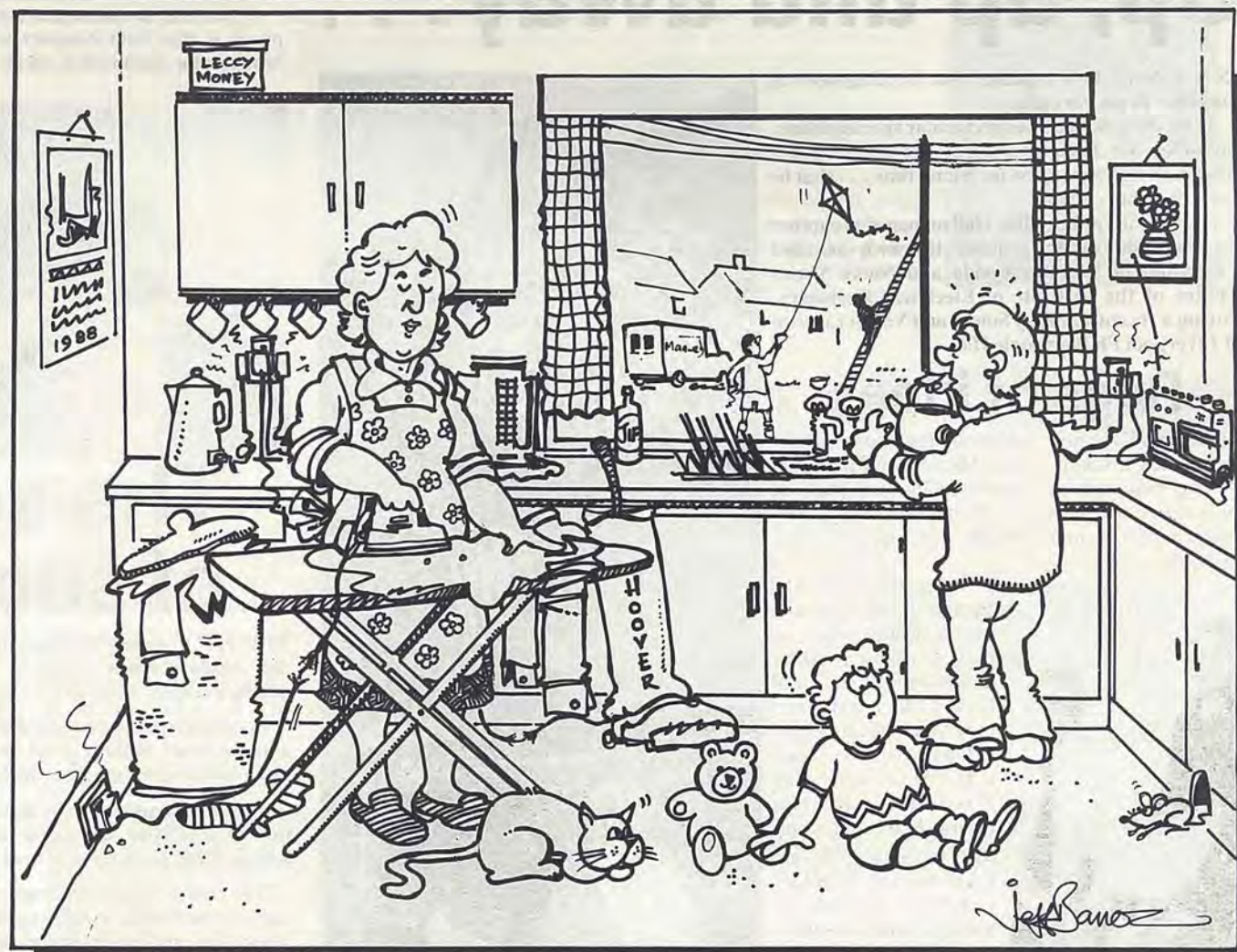
COMPETITION NO. 3 is a word teaser for those aged 16

and over (age unlimited). Still on the safety theme, all you have to do is to solve the cryptic clues below, write down the number of letters in the words, which are all connected in some way with safety or safe (e.g. Safety-catch would be 5 because “catch” has five letters). Add them up and send us the total. The same number can be used more than once.

CLUES

1. Nip back for something useful to hold the nappy in place.
2. The SAS is deployed round the dwelling (two words—total number of letters needed).
3. Watch the man who works on the train.
4. Preserving and retaining possession.
5. Coy? Scattered round the dust it could mean imprisonment.
6. Show the orchestra what to do and collect the fares.

All entries should be sent to Safety Competition (No. 1, 2 or



3—please indicate which in the top left hand corner of your envelope), Contact, Room GE26, Manweb, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR, to arrive

no later than Friday, November 25, 1988.

Children should give their ages when submitting their entries. All pictures will become

the property and copyright of Manweb and cannot be returned under any circumstances. The decision of the judges is final.

Please note—Barbour jackets

will be awarded subject to availability of sizes. Manweb reserves the right to award an alternative prize, of equal value, if necessary.



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Planning your winter break?

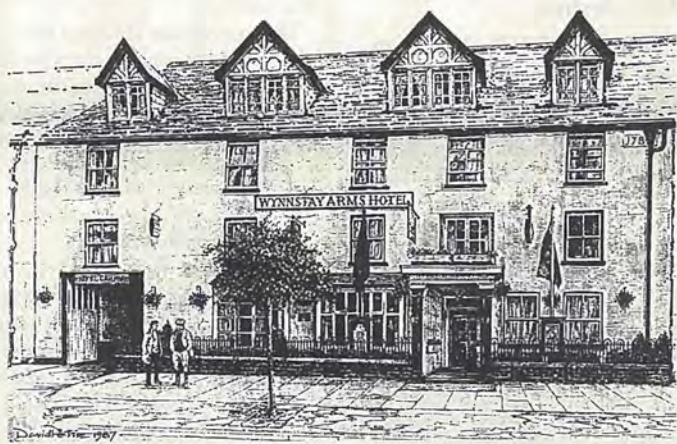
HOTEL group Trusthouse Forte has come up with a super discount deal for Contact readers planning a winter break. During the months of December, January and February, special rates are being offered to Manweb employees and pensioners at the Wynnstay Hotel in the peaceful Welsh market town of Machynlleth.

Machynlleth is in the lovely valley of the River Dovey, and the hotel, which dates back to 1780, was formerly a Royal Mail staging post between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth.

The hotel has 26 spacious bedrooms, most of which have private bathrooms, and each has a colour television, radio, telephone and tea-making facilities. With cots, high chairs and a baby listening service available, the Wynnstay is ideal for a family holiday.

Its Welsh-style restaurant offers excellent fayre, with locally caught fish a speciality, and the friendly bar is a favourite with the local community.

Local sporting and leisure facilities are excellent, including fishing the River Dovey and golf on a challenging course just



half a mile away.

Staying at the Wynnstay normally costs £54 for a double room and £44 for a single booking (without breakfast). But during the three months, Contact readers will pay just £25 per person for bed, breakfast and evening meal. The offer applies

at any time of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays, subject to availability of rooms.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the discount deal should contact the Wynnstay on 0654 2941, and tell the receptionist it is a Manweb special offer booking.



Staff prepare for retirement

LONG-SERVING staff at or approaching the end of their careers with Manweb are pictured during a three-day Pre-Retirement Seminar at Head Office recently.

The group, flanked by Tutor Eric Richardson (left) and Welfare Services Manager Jim Wilcock, who was one of the speakers, consisted mainly of employees taking early retirement.

Pre-retirement courses are run twice every year for Manweb staff, covering such issues as pensions, money management,

security in the home, health and welfare.

Our picture shows (back row, l to r) Eric Richardson, Evelyn Hill, John Jones, Sheila Devonport, Gordon Hood and Joyce Garner, all from Head Office, John Seymour of Hoylelake Training Centre, Veronica Rooney from Head Office, Mid-Cheshire's Norman Fell and Jim Wilcock.

On the front row (l to r) is Margaret Okaj, Pat Kay, Sylvia Howells, Elsie Vitalis and Olwyn Kulicke, all from Head Office.

Total heating launch in store

TOTAL Heating is the theme of a major Manweb winter sales promotion.

A multi-media advertising campaign has been launched, backed by in-store promotional displays and a range of point-of-sale material.

During October, Manweb's 58 shops have been fitted with new promotional displays, designed by the Wilmslow-based NDI visual merchandising agency.

The idea for Total Heating began to take shape 12 months ago when Manweb decided a strong in-store image was needed for Winter 1988.

NDI was commissioned to design and build a prototype model stand to house four electric heaters, and colourful graphics were used to show the effectiveness and versatility of electric heaters in all rooms of the home, together with an immersion cylinder at the heart of the model.

At the beginning of October, with modifications to the system, the new Total Heating stands were ready to be installed throughout the region.

NDI's team of merchandisers quickly moved into the shops to install and display selected fires from Manweb's extensive range. Within two weeks the in-store transformation was complete, and the impact has been immediate.

Manweb's Advertising and Publicity Manager Bill Gaywood said: "The eye-catching stands play an important part in the campaign, as customers are very well informed of all home heating methods by the time they choose a system."

Shop staff have noted the increased interest in the promotion. Tony Gaynor, Manager of the the Birkenhead shop, said: "It is a great success, creating a great deal of customer interest and awareness amongst staff."

Congratulations



Helen Bennett, age 25, who works in the Head Office Pensions Section, is pictured getting a good send-off from colleagues for her wedding to Chester Chronicle sub-editor Neil Avery.

Long servers

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Manweb employees who have completed 20, 30 or 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry during September.

40 YEARS: Head Office—Pat Kray (Principal Assistant, Cash Office); Mid-Cheshire—Kenneth Sandlands (Craft Operative) and Allan Worth (Engineering Foreman); Gwynedd—Dafydd Roberts (Engineering Foreman).

30 YEARS: Head Office—Peter Falcon (Financial Manager, Expenditure and Stores) and Bill Bartlett (Business Planning Manager); Liverpool—Michael Burke (Meter Operative) and William Scrutton (Foreman, Meter Reading); Mid-Mersey—Derek Goff (Craftsman Electrician); Dee Valley—Geoff Postle (Craftsman Electrician, New Crane Street), Keith Herniman (1st Engineer) and Dennis Lynch (Shift Electrician); North Wirral—Ken Mitchell (Installation and Service Engineer), Bill Dean (Jointer) and Sam Lightburn (Jointer's Mate); Mid-Cheshire—Mike Potts (Energy Marketing Engineer); Clwyd—Ann Jones (Prestatyn Shop Supervisor) and Roy Robinson (Craftsman Electrician); Oswestry—Geoff Purslow (2nd Engineer, Mains); Aberystwyth—Eric Roberts (Engineering Foreman); Hoylelake Training Centre—Peter Smith (3rd Engineer).

20 YEARS: Head Office—Tony Timmins (2nd Engineer, Technical), Dave Hanson (2nd Engineer, Energy Marketing), John Welsh (2nd Engineer, Plant and Construction), Terry Gopsill (1st Engineer, Technical), Bob Liversage (Admin Assistant, Income) and Rob Jones (Admin Assistant, Management Accounts); North Mersey—John MacDonald (Mains Manager); Dee Valley—Keith Shaw (2nd Engineer), David Bird (Electrician), Emyr Williams (Electrician) and Trevor Jones (Electrician); North Wirral—John Gibson (Electrician, Meter Security), Dave Makin (Supplies Engineer), Albert Butler (Planning Engineer), Peter Thomas (2nd Engineer, Transmission) and Robert Atkinson (Foreman, Transmission); Mid-Cheshire—John Mayes (2nd Engineer); Clwyd—Colin Blundell (2nd Engineer, Mains); Gwynedd—Emyr Hughes (Commercial Assistant).

EEIBA monthly draw winners

RETIRED member G. P. Griffiths was the £300 prizewinner in the EEIBA's September draw, with the lucky number 1556. The other winners were as follows:—

£200—P. H. Hughes, Dee Valley (1298); £150—M. L. Fountain, Clwyd (2581); £100—M. B. A. Evans, retired (1843); £75—M. Jones, Head Office Income (884); £75—A. J. Hark, retired (1349); £50—R. Hewitt, Head Office Commercial (553); £50—Des Lock, North Wirral District Manager (678); £50—I. De La Roche, retired (2381); £50—M. L. Macaulay, Plessey (262); £50—E. M. E. Olney, Head Office Income (426); £50—Bryan Weston, Chairman (1267); £50—Y. T. O'Donnell, Head Office Financial (476); £30—H. M. Craven, Head Office Computers (598).

Freezer teaser

MARK Bradley, of General Services, Mid-Mersey District, and Chris Jones, of Financial Accounts, Head Office, were the lucky winners of last month's "Freezer" word puzzle. Crisp £5 notes are now on their way.

Unfortunately, no one managed to correctly answer our "Sum This Up" mathematical teaser, so no prize will be awarded. The solution was 43.158.7.

On the Wire



Soy sauce!

I SOY! What's this motley crew of managers from Mid-Mersey District up to?

Glyn Norbury and his gang obviously decided to make a meal of it when they discovered the name of the Chinese Restaurant recently opened in Lymm, near Warrington.

Or could it be they were merely trying to curry favour with Public Relations Manager Joy King?

Poetic praise

STAFF at Manweb's Prescott shop are well-versed in keeping their customers happy. The following poem was handed in by a Mr Robert Irving, who was obviously delighted with the service he received.

A Poetic Compliment

They work so hard most every day, and they find no time for rest or play. But you'll always find them with a smile, that makes your shopping so worthwhile. Now who could ask for anything more, from the wonderful staff at the Manweb store?

So if ever you're down and you're feeling blue, and problems pile high on top of you, then venture along, you'll find them there, to soothe your troubles away with care. With the greatest of pleasure, you can be sure, from the wonderful staff at the Manweb store.

You may come from near, you may come from far, you may travel by bus or in a private car, to form a queue outside the store, to collect your bargains by the score. But most of all, you must surely agree, that the Manweb staff are a pleasure to see.

Up, up and away . . .

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Engineering Director Denis Farquhar . . .

With the help of some spectacular special effects, high-flier Mr Farquhar (right) set out to prove what we've all suspected for a long time . . . that he really is a super man!

Our photographer Mike Hall managed to capture this action shot of Mr Farquhar, the newly-installed Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Centre of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, during a recent Faraday Sound and Vision Lecture at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

Bags of ideas

FOLLOWING my revelations last month about how quick-thinking North Mersey staff managed to help visitors to the Southport Flower Show out of a sticky situation, I've managed to "bag" this picture of the man behind this unique rescue operation.



Torrential rain had turned the showground into a swamp, and visitors were up to their ankles in mud . . . until Dave O'Meara stepped in with a brilliant idea.

Dave, at that time a Commercial Sales Assistant with the Energy Marketing team, but who is now an Engineering Trainee with Oswestry District, handed out Manweb poly-bags to passers-by to cover their shoes.

He is pictured at the Manweb stand fitting another satisfied customer with a free pair of "shoe protectors".



Racecourse hosts energy efficiency awards

The PEP and Beta stakes

FOUR companies in Merseyside and North Wales have each won £1,000 and the electricity industry's prestigious energy efficiency award for industry and commerce. The PEP and Beta Awards were presented by Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston at a ceremony at Chester Racecourse.

Broadcaster and journalist Richard Kershaw compèred the event, which had Express Foods of Oswestry and Forestart of Wem, Shropshire, as the winners of the two first prizes in the industrial PEP (Power for Efficiency and Productivity) categories.

Roundout Limited's Wharf Restaurant at Albert Dock, Liverpool, and Aston Methodist Church, near Nantwich, Cheshire, were the two category winners in the Beta Awards for energy efficient buildings.

Congratulating all the entrants, Mr Weston said: "The 18 PEP entries represent a major investment to increase productivity and improve the environment of Merseyside and North Wales—another sign of the resurgence of industry and a commitment to our region.

"There are 20 commercial enterprises in the Beta category who have really exploited a range of

innovations to cut their energy costs, improve services for their customers and create better working conditions for staff.

"Although there are only four first prizes, I believe every one of our entrants is a winner."

Eight other entrants received commendation certificates. They were:

INDUSTRY—PEP AWARDS

Merseyside Castings and Engineering Company, Kirkby
Invogue Design, Birkenhead
Brymbo Steelworks, Wrexham
British Coal, St Helens

A special commendation went to Wern Farm, Gwynedd.

Special report by Sam Doughty

COMMERCIAL BUILDING —BETA AWARDS

Rhuddlan Borough Council
Hwylfa Ddafydd Holiday Centre, Llysfaen, Colwyn E
Tirley Garth Trust, Tarpoley, Cheshire.

The judges for the PEP categories were Eric Jackson, of Brit Telecom, Tom Booth, from Refit Assurance, Mike Hancock, of British Power Station, and Robin Gardner from the Department of Energy Efficiency Office.

Robin Gardner was also on the judging panel for the Beta Awards with Eric Curd, of Liverpool Polytechnic, Derek Braham, the Electricity Council's Environment Specialist, and architect Peter Gaskin, of Gaskin and Partners



The seeds of success

THE PEP Category 1 winner for companies with less than 200 employees was Forestart of Wem, Shropshire, who produce conifer seeds on a commercial basis.

Cones have to be dried so that the seeds can be extracted, and Forestart initially tried two methods for this process using liquid petroleum gas, which proved costly and inefficient.

The solution proved to be an electric one, with the installation of a unique kiln using an electric heat pump as a dehumidifier and source of heat.

The results have been dramatic. The company no longer has to import seeds to make up for the shortfall caused by the old system, and export orders have been won.

Energy costs are down 80 per cent, and unit costs have fallen by 70 per cent. Throughput has greatly increased and standards of quality have remained constant.

Our picture shows the conifer seed extraction process, and (inset) Forestart's Dr Andrew Gordon with his PEP Award.

Warm welcome for church

ASTON Methodist Church near Nantwich the Beta Category 1 winner for buildings over 1000 square metres.

The church has been transformed into a warm environment thanks to a combination of electric storage heating—a sophisticated 24 hour heating throughout the cold months at half the running cost of the old oil-fired boiler.

A complete building refurbishment carried out at the red-bricked Wesleyan church architectural re-design moved the main meeting room above the body of the building.

The heating installation consists of electric storage fan heaters in different rooms, with statically controlled output and a warm air entrance door to welcome visitors.

Heating costs have been reduced from £2000 per annum for fuel and from £200 to £120 per annum for maintenance and storage.

The church's warm and welcoming atmosphere is shown in the inset photo of Fred Wright with his Beta Award.





First past the post . . . The PEP and Beta award winners are pictured with Chairman Bryan Weston and Broadcaster Richard Kershaw (centre) who compered the ceremony at Chester Racecourse.

And the runners-up . . .

EIGHT other entrants for the PEP and Beta Awards were highly commended by the judges. These were:

PEP CATEGORY 1

Merseyside Castings and Engineering Co., Kirkby

The company replaced two tilting crucible oil-fired furnaces with two electric induction furnaces, resulting in reduced energy costs, increased melting capacity, and improved metal quality. There is now a safer, better working environment, and the investment will be recouped in two years.

Invogue Design Ltd., Birkenhead

A drying chamber and dehumidifier was installed, complemented by electric heaters to dry plaster mouldings, such as ceiling roses and coverings, without cracking. Rejects were reduced by three per cent and there were savings in energy costs, combined to make a payback period of just five months.

PEP CATEGORY 2

Brymbo Steelworks, Wrexham

The world's first DC ladle furnace was modified by Manweb and the electricity industry's research centre at Capenhurst, and installed at Brymbo Steelworks. The ladle is used in the secondary processing of high grade steel, and has enabled the company to produce a better quality metal, with energy savings of 26 per cent, 19 per cent reduction in graphite consumption and a reduction in damage to the ladle slack of 60 per cent. These combine to give an annual saving of £330,000, with a payback of nine months.

British Coal, Sutton Manor Colliery, St Helens

A saving of £500,000 per annum was achieved in operating and maintenance costs when two steam driven winding motors were replaced by new automatic winding gear. The Thyristor controlled 1,650kW electric motor has reduced winding costs from 34p to 6p per ton of coal produced.

SPECIALLY COMMENDED

Wern Farm, Gwynedd

The installation of a 4.5kW heat pump has helped the farm to produce a greater yield and better quality of seed potatoes. The pump can raise or lower the temperature as necessary, giving the owner closer control over physiological ageing of his crop. The potatoes can now be planted three weeks later than previously and still achieve the same projected harvest date.

BETA CATEGORY 1

Rhuddlan Borough Council

The Barbican Restaurant/Cafeteria at the Wales National Crown Green Bowling Complex in Rhyl has been fitted with a sophisticated heat pump installation which provides the flexibility to cope with the constantly changing temperatures and humidity. Other energy efficient measures include point-of-use water heaters, warm air hand

dryers, plus kitchen and bar water storage cylinders to make the most of cheap, night rate electricity.

Hwylfa Ddafydd Holiday Centre, Colwyn Bay

Barns and outbuildings were turned into modern chalets and a restaurant with facilities for the disabled. Electric storage and panel heaters in the chalets and a heat pump in the restaurant ensure comfort for visitors at all times, while the all-electric kitchen helps staff maintain high culinary standards.

BETA CATEGORY 2

Tirley Garth Trust, Tarporely

The Trust's residential conference centre benefited from electric heating and installation. Storage heating in rooms and storage fan heaters in the Great Hall quickly boost the heating when needed. The system replaced an inadequate oil-fired system.

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Business boom for food firm

EXPRESS Foods of Oswestry was the PEP Category 2 winner for companies with 200 or more employees.

A ten-year sales forecast was achieved in one year thanks to the relocation of the company into a purpose-built, highly energy efficient, well-insulated building.

The new building has replaced a number of older premises on three separate sites, where there was no room for expansion. The company also had the problem of having to use storage facilities outside its control.

A cheese pre-packing and bulk store facility is included in the new premises. The building utilises heat recovered from the refrigeration plant, air compressors and plant room to provide for all space and water heating needs.

Air conditioning provides the production areas with a controlled environment to "clean room" conditions.

Lower energy and transport costs, high hygiene standards and working conditions, plus better quality products are just some of the benefits gained by the company.

● Business is booming at Express Foods, and (inset) Mr Brian Suckley with his PEP award.



All-electric restaurant

THE Beta Category 2 winner for a building over 1,000 square metres was The Wharf Restaurant, at Albert Dock, Liverpool.

A unit of the former warehouse on Liverpool's waterfront was taken by the Roundout Company, who used three of the six floors for a public house and prestige restaurant.

The conversion of part of the largest Grade 1 Listed buildings in the UK was undertaken with painstaking, meticulous care, and electricity played a large part.

Storage fan heaters and a warm air curtain heat the ground floor bar area, skirting panel heaters warm the first floor restaurant and the gallery openness of the layout required special ventilation to avoid heat drift at peak periods.

Catering is all-electric too. The chef and his staff provide up to 500 meals a day in a clean, efficient, maintenance-free workplace which has predictable running costs. Management and staff are delighted with the ease of operation, cleanliness and reliability of the system.

● Catering is all-electric at the Wharf Restaurant. Inset is Roundout's Mike Hoban.



Post Bag



Thanks from Down Under

Dear Editor,

As a former employee of Manweb, I have intended for some time to send an expression of thanks concerning the staff newspaper, *Contact*. I find it of great interest and look forward to its arrival.

Although I am now in my late 60s, I still recognise in your pages names and faces of members of staff I used to know while employed as a 2nd Assistant Engineer in the Commercial Department some 20 years ago.

Since my retirement I appreciate the fact that Manweb is taking the trouble to regularly mail each issue of the newspaper to me here in Australia, where I can assure you it is well received.

I thank you again and send best wishes to anyone who may remember me.

Harry Morgan
95 Madison Drive
Adamstown Heights
Newcastle
NSW 2289
Australia

Christmas card sale

A LIMITED number of Christmas cards are available for sale to staff and retired employees in aid of local charities supported by Manweb.

The cards, depicting one of the winning entries in this year's Electricity Council National Painting Competition, have been printed by the Head Office printing section.

The artist is 13-year-old Mathew Rutherford, of Sir Hugh Owen (Upper) School, Bethel Road, Caernarfon, who has called the painting (right) *Electricity At Work In The Town*.

English and bilingual cards are available in packs of ten, price 60p, from Debbie Parry, Public Relations, Head Office, GE26, ext. 2091, on a first come, first served basis.



Just the tonic!

SMILES all round as Electrician Frank Duff (left) and Jointsman Danny Burton present a £300 cheque to Sister Jenny Cottrell of Alder Hey Children's Hospital in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Appeal.

The money was donated by Liverpool District staff following a fund-raising venture at the Electric Supply Club recently. (Picture by Terry Churchill).

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The PEP and Beta stakes

OUR companies in Merseyside and North Wales have won £1,000 and the electricity industry's prestigious energy efficiency award for industry and commerce. The PEP and Beta Awards were presented by Manweb Chairman Bryan Weston at a ceremony at Chester Racecourse.

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Roundout Limited's Wharf Restaurant at Albert Dock, Liverpool, and Aston Methodist Church, Nantwich, Cheshire, were the category winners in the Beta Awards for energy efficient buildings.

In congratulating all the entrants, Chairman Bryan Weston said: "The 18 PEP awards represent a major investment to increase productivity and improve the environment of Merseyside and North Wales—another sign of the resurgence of industry and commerce in our region."

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Special report by Sam Doughty

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Warm welcome for churchgoers

ASTON Methodist Church near Nantwich, Cheshire, was the Beta Category 1 winner for buildings up to 1,000 square metres.

The church has been transformed into a welcoming, warm environment thanks to a combination of high insulation and electric storage heating—a sophisticated system providing 24 hour heating throughout the cold months for less than half the running cost of the old oil-fired boiler it replaced.

A complete building refurbishment programme was carried out at the red-bricked Wesleyan church. An ingenious architectural re-design moved the main door and built a meeting room above the body of the building.

The heating installation consists of seven Creda 4.5kw storage fan heaters in different rooms, which give a thermostatically controlled output and a warm air curtain over the entrance door to welcome visitors.

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● The church's warm and welcoming interior, and (inset) Fred Wright with his Beta Award.



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Lower energy and transport costs, high hygiene standards and working conditions, plus better quality products are just some of the benefits gained by the company.

● Business is booming at Express Foods, and (inset) Mr Brian Suckley with his PEP award.

All-electric restaurant

THE Beta Category 2 winner square metres was The Wharf Liverpool.

A unit of the former warehouse was taken by the Roundout Co. the six floors for a public house.

The conversion of part of buildings in the UK was undertaken with meticulous care, and electricity

Storage fan heaters and a warm floor bar area, skirting panel restaurant and the gallery open special ventilation to avoid heat

Catering is all-electric too. The up to 500 meals a day in a clean, workplace which has predictable and staff are delighted with the ease and reliability of the system.

● Catering is all-electric at The Wharf is Roundout's Mike Hoban.



The seeds of success

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Our picture shows the conifer seed extraction process, (inset) Forestart's Dr Andrew Gordon with his PEP award.



Prizes galore for savers

by Gaynor Kenyon

MORE than ten per cent of Manweb employees have taken advantage of the high-interest savings scheme specially negotiated with the National and Provincial Building Society to help them buy shares when the Board is privatised.

Now they and anyone who joins the scheme before December 9, 1988, will be eligible for a Christmas draw with four great prizes. First prize is a Christmas drinks hamper, with a digital clock/radio cassette player, telephone and his and hers quartz watches for the runners-up.

The interest rate has also increased since the scheme's launch in August to 6.4 per cent (gross equivalent 8.67 per cent).

And the 40 per cent bonus, paid when the share offer is announced, will be calculated on interest earned at whatever rates apply—so the increased rate means an increased bonus.

Anyone wanting to join the scheme and qualify for the Christmas draw can get a leaflet and application form from Public Relations, Head Office, GE26, ext. 2091.

The following questions are the most popular asked about the scheme and if anyone has any questions they would like answered send them to Contact for inclusion in a future edition.

Q. There seems to be a delay between the money being deducted and the amount being credited to my savings.

A. The credit appears in your account as soon as it is received by the building society. Should you wish, you can have your passbook updated at any branch of the Society as the months go by, or

leave it until you wish to make a withdrawal.

Q. Can you explain in more detail how the 40 per cent bonus works?

A. When the privatisation date is known, and you need to withdraw your savings to buy shares, the amount of interest earned since you joined the scheme will be calculated and a bonus of 40 per cent of that interest will be added to your account. To qualify for the bonus, you will need to have limited your withdrawals from the account to one per calendar year. In addition, you will need to have been saving by deduction from pay during that period.

Q. Can I add additional amounts to my account on top of my monthly contribution?

A. Yes, you may pay into your account either at a branch or by post.

Q. Can I increase or decrease my contributions and still earn the 40 per cent bonus?

A. Yes, provided you limit your withdrawals and maintain a monthly contribution to the account the bonus will be paid.



Young scientists go to work on an egg

FIVE young Gwynedd scientists made an eggstraordinary good start to their careers by winning an engineering problem set by Manweb. They were amongst 170 Gwynedd sixth formers taking part in a Great Egg Race—boil an egg and toast a finger of bread using a silica tube, piece of wire and beaker of water—devised by Manweb engineer Andy Jones.

The winning team, pictured with Andy Jones (left) and Ken Appleton (right) of Manweb's Utilisation and Technology Transfer Unit, are (l to r) John Hopkin, Ysgol Bodedern; Matthew Swann, David Hughes School, Menai Bridge; Simon Robinson, Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, Llanwrst; Yvonne Davies, Ysgol Bodedern and Hayley Williams, Ysgol Aberconwy.

The competition was the highlight of two day long engineering conferences at Bangor University for the Gwynedd sixth formers and at the

North East Wales Institute, Deeside, for Clwyd students.

They were organised by the Engineering Council Regional Organisation to show the attraction of engineering as a career.

"Everyone involved thought the conferences went very well and the competition, particularly, aroused a great deal of interest. It meant a lot of work but the results have been worthwhile," said Andy.

Salute disabled ex-Servicemen by putting them on your pay parade



Here's your chance to help five charities each providing residential care for disabled ex-servicemen and women. Your employer can arrange a weekly (or monthly) tax free deduction from your pay to benefit all of them.

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See your pay or personnel office today. Ask for a payroll giving form. Every penny you give will be divided between these five charities.

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CHASELEY TRUST · ERSKINE HOSPITAL
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QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL HOME
THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME

Enquiries to: Ex-Service Disabled Homes, P.O. Box 23, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RP

Discount doubled

MANWEB has doubled the amount of discount available to staff for contracting work. The good news means that employees are now entitled to 20 per cent off any domestic fixed wiring or appliance repairs, including security alarms, security lighting, rewiring, shower wiring and storage heater wiring.

Anyone interested in taking up the offer should complete the coupon and return it to Head Office Contracting.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel (home)

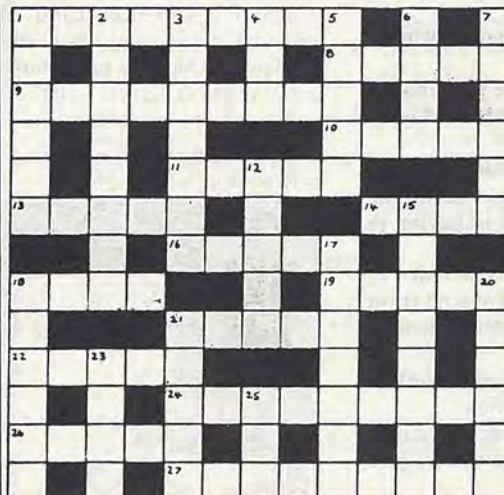
(internal)

Work required

.....

.....

Crossword No. 4



Across

1 Prudence at the front presents a spectacle (9). 8 Expression of primitive instincts when one is given an honour (5). 9 Do another job if it's not too dark (9). 10 Animal student presented to distinguished Tibetan (5). 11 Dodge a girl with no record of being profound (5). 13 Polish female getting a printer's measure (5). 14 Mark taking nothing from a man (4). 16 Bucking up with the gin (5). 18 Sculptor's work strong or taken back to be thrown away (4). 19 Make a collection to provide a service (5). 21 Range of ways of seeing the world (5). 22 Volume of Lamb's letters going round the university (5). 24 Certain it might get to be complicated (9). 26 Go over to suggest a kiss (5). 27 The next is prepared for the middle of October (9).

Down

1 Everyone knows of a sum having been fiddled (6). 2 Rambling Rose lost without ties (8). 3 Standing out as a foreigner in the street (7). 4 Group booking of carriage (3). 5 Let out about it giving one superior status (5). 6 Someone in opera knocked off the end of the bed (4). 7 Harm the one representative you expose (6). 12 Cancel a letter taken from a book (5). 15 Man with a bent nail providing service maybe (8). 17 One gets all-round protection in Spain (7). 18 Go off leaving the trunk (6). 20 The power of it provides communication (6). 21 Something wrong with a young lady (5). 23 Engage for literary work (4). 25 Duty kiss bestowed with reserve (3).

Solutions on Page 11

Jackie Unsworth continues the monthly series focusing on the Districts

District No. 3

MANWEB'S Mid-Mersey District is one of the most heavily industrialised areas within the Board. Criss-crossed by a busy motorway network, the District is an ideal location for industry and commerce, who continue to build new factories, shops and offices—all needing supplies of electricity.

Mid-Mersey is the home of Manweb's largest industrial customer—ICI Castner Kellner—which accounts for 22 per cent of the Board's industrial sales. That's enough electricity to power a city the size of Liverpool!

The list of large chemical customers includes Laporte and Hays Chemicals, British Oxygen, Schering Agrochemical and Crosfield Chemicals, who together account for 37 per cent of Manweb's industrial sales.

Other major industries include glass-making, with Pilkingtons, Ravenhead and United Glass at St Helens among the big-name customers, and brewing, with Greenall Whitley, Bass and Tetley Walker based in Warrington.

Business is very buoyant, according to District Manager Glyn Norbury. "We are

kept very busy indeed with all the new factories, shops and offices being built, and all needing electricity. We are stretched—but we haven't let anyone down yet!"

The last 20 years has seen the New Towns of Warrington and Runcorn expanding rapidly.

Mr Norbury praises the Development Corporation for the massive advertising campaign which has made the area so attractive to businesses.

"There's no doubt that we are a growth area, and one of the main attractions is the motorway network which provides such easy accessibility. And this will improve even further when the M62 link with St Helens town centre is built," he said.

On the shops front, Mid-Mersey's turnover ranks high, even though there are only five stores. Sales staff are very competitive, and to encourage them the District runs an annual Top Shop competition.

Shortage of selling-space is a problem, and the District is currently looking for new premises to replace the cramped shops in Warrington and Runcorn. Widnes and Frodsham shops have recently been revamped, and improvements are in the pipeline at St Helens, which is to be refurb-

ished and extended.

The District, which has its base in Warrington, pioneered the telephone enquiry unit which is now starting to gather pace elsewhere in the Board, and Mid-Mersey also came top of the league for the Heatcare scheme. Of the Board's 304 current Heatcare schemes, 129 are in Mid-Mersey.

Mid-Mersey has also had its share of success in the PEP awards, and in the past has had two national winners—United Glass at St Helens and Tennants Ceramic Elements, of Warrington.

The District boasts an impressive record on the Ambassador Club scene, having contributed £117,000 worth of business.

Mr Norbury said: "One of the things we're particularly proud of here is labour relations.

"Our office staff have had to put up with pretty awful conditions in the District Office, a building which dates back more than 100 years and which, at one time, was a factory. The rooms are too hot in summer and too cold in winter.

"But work is almost complete on the new District Office, and we're all looking forward to moving in early next year."

Mid-Mersey



District Manager Glyn Norbury



Office Manager Keith Beech



Installation Manager Bill France



Energy Sales Manager John Ellis



Supplies Manager John Lee



Mains Manager Barry Judd



Customer Accounts Manager Bob Vernon



Regional Shops Manager Julian Jenkins

District No. 4

TO say business is booming in Dee Valley is almost an understatement. A week never goes by without another new factory development or expansion plan being announced.

Covering 713 square miles with 170,000 customers, the District stretches from south of Bala to Connahs Quay, over to Neston on the Wirral, Ellesmere Port, down to Helsby, a large part of Cheshire as far as Tarporley, and across to Wrexham.

The District's administrative base is in Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, and there are depots at Legacy, Corwen and New Crane Street, with a total 585 staff.

Dee Valley District is the home of Manweb's second and third biggest industrial customers—Shotton Paper, who are currently building a £140 million extension to their existing factory (taking an additional 60 megawatts of load from the Board), and Associated Octel, in Ellesmere Port, who make chemicals.

Other major customers include Shell, who have just completed a £300 million contract for a new cracker plant, and British Aerospace, Chester's largest employer. Kelloggs have just spent £55 million on a new process plant at Wrexham Industrial Estate, and British Steel at Shotton, which closed down eight years ago but later re-opened, and is now one of the most profitable steelworks in the world. New investment of £50 million is currently being spent there, resulting in an additional 22 megawatts of load.

The list of companies in Dee Valley seems endless. District Manager Bob Hodson said: "We have a real diversity of operations in our patch, ranging from heavy engineering, chemicals and paper to the most advanced hi-tech factories in the world, courtesy of such Japanese firms as Brother, Sharp, Hoya and Tsuda, who are sited in and around Wrexham."

One of the biggest boom areas is Wrexham, thanks to the efforts of the Welsh Development Agency and the local authority, the improved road network and the excellent workforce.

"People here have proved themselves to be productive and suitable in terms of industrial relations. Dee Valley District is proud to have a share of this workforce," said Mr Hodson.

Chester is also prospering, with countless schemes for hotels, offices, factories and shops. The dramatic growth of load in the town centre has led to Manweb spending £3 million on refurbishing the high voltage network from 6,600 volts to 11,000 volts.

"A number of the hotels in Chester are all-electric, and that's through the efforts of the energy marketing team," said Mr Hodson.

The decision by Marks and Spencer to set up their charge card operation on the Chester Business Park, followed by Shell Chemicals moving their UK headquarters there, set off a chain of events which has led to more businesses wanting to set up in the area and a rapid escalation of house prices and demand for housing.

"Up to three years ago, Chester was fairly stagnant industrially, but the City is really booming now," Mr Hodson said.

In the last three years the District has embarked on a programme of shop refurbishment, and the stores at Ellesmere Port and Neston have doubled in size. This, coupled with the growth in the local economy, has resulted in appliance sales rising by more than 50 per cent.

The District runs the biggest electrical contracting operation in the Board and it is expected that this year sales will exceed £2.5 million. Dee Valley has also pioneered various techniques such as aerial bundle conductors to minimise faults on low voltage overhead networks.

Dee Valley



District Manager Bob Hodson



Office Manager Keith Griffiths



Energy Sales Manager Keith Hibbert



Supplies Manager Phil Hughes



Customer Accounts Manager Andy Pooley



Installation Manager Arwel Lloyd



Mains Manager Brian Doyle



Regional Shops Manager Andrew Critchley

Next month . . . Spotlight on North Wirral and Mid-Cheshire

CONTACT Sport



Kick-off for an annual clash

AN early goal by Paul Boardman in the first half set North Mersey District's 'A' team on the scent of victory in the final of the Inter District Six-a-Side Soccer Competition against the Head Office 'A' squad.

It was a closely matched and hard-fought game for the two teams, which ended in a two-nil win for North Mersey after Frank King followed through with the final goal in the second half.

The contest was the first of what will hopefully become an annual event. Head Office, Liverpool, North Wirral and North Mersey Districts each fielded two teams who gathered at The Oval, Townfield Lane, Bebington, to battle it out for a place in the finals.

The success of the contest was

largely due to the hard work of North Wirral's Steve Holmes, who arranged the venue, referees and even the St John Ambulance Brigade, whose services, fortunately, were not required.

A shield and trophies were presented to the winning team, and medals were awarded to the runners-up. Commemorative trophies were also presented to the two referees in recognition of their services.

The night was then rounded off with a buffet and bar at the North Wirral offices, again arranged by Steve Holmes.



MID-MERSEY District Manager Glyn Norbury proudly shows off the Duart Trophy which he and a top golfing team from Manweb managed to retain in their annual match against BICC.

Captained by Commercial Director Peter Hopkins, the Manweb team, which also included District Managers Jim McLennan (North Mersey) and Des Lock (North Wirral), thrashed their opponents in a match at Wallasey Golf Club on October 12.

Golfing year ends on a high note

YET another successful year came to a climax for North Wirral Golfing Society at the beginning of October with the Captain's Prize Competition. Held at Hoylake, the competition was won by Peter Clarke, and the runner-up was Brian Warburton. Both men received their prizes from Captain Alan Fox.

Earlier in the season "Away Day" events took place at Oswestry and Abergele, the latter being the venue for the 1988 Society Championship, which was won by retired member John Foster. Runner-up was Keith Scregg.

An additional event this year was an invitation from Wirral Borough Council to play a match at Wallasey, which the local authority won. It is now hoped this will become an annual competition.

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held during November, when retiring Captain Alan Fox will formally introduce next year's Captain, Jean Olivares, a founder member and the first lady to head the Society.

Obituary

IT is with sadness that *Contact* reports the death of three former Manweb employees.

Mr Hyman Jones, 63, an ex-Clerk in General Services at Dee Valley, retired in 1975 due to ill health. Having survived horrific injuries during his War Service in Burma, he joined the electricity supply industry in 1951.

Another former Dee Valley employee, 78-year-old Mr Leslie Sefton, died on October 5. He joined the industry in 1926 and before his retirement in 1975 worked as a Jointing Foreman at New Crane Street.

Mr Ron Williams, 75, was a former Storekeeper at Runcorn Depot, Mid-Mersey District. He joined the industry in 1955 as a Labourer, and became a Storekeeper with Manweb in 1966, retiring nearly ten years ago.

An open invitation

THE Head Office LJCC Open Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 24, at 5 pm. Anyone wishing to attend but who hasn't yet received an invitation should contact Bob Singfield on ext. 2068.

Team nets 12th place

A TEAM of Manweb fishermen failed to land a top place in the 13th annual Electricity Supply Industry National Angling Championships, held on the River Trent at Nottingham recently.

The 15-strong squad, representing Head Office, Mid-

Mersey and Mid-Cheshire Districts, and Captained by John Tyreman of Internal Audit, took 12th place in the competition, which was won by the CEGB North Eastern Area, with East Midlands Electricity coming second.

But all was not completely

lost for Manweb thanks to Mid-Mersey's Roy Briscoe, who managed to win one of the competition sections.

Other team members were: D. Garrat, C. Simm and S. Ward (Head Office); N. Rawsthorne, D. Rawsthorne and D. Gorton (Mid-Mersey), and S.

Cronin, D. Poley, G. Beswick, P. Smart, R. Simpson, R. Vickers and A. Beswick (Mid-Cheshire).

Anyone interested in helping take the Manweb team to victory next year should contact John Tyreman on Head Office ext. 3245.

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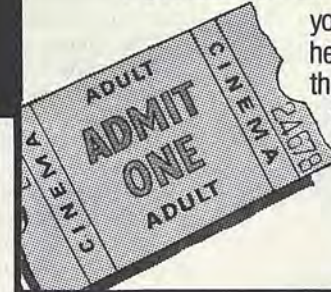
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If you're an employee, you can give up to £20 per month of your earnings to charity, tax free, so long as you make your donation at source. For example, for every £1 you give, you pay only 75p, the tax man contributes the remainder and BLINDCARE receives the full value of your donation - at no extra cost to yourself. The table gives you some examples of the breakdown of the savings.

To help you make your donation benefit the world-wide scope of work for the blind, the major Charities in the field have come together under the name BLINDCARE.

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£10/month	£7.50/month	£2.50/month	£10/month
£20/month	£15/month	£5/month	£20/month

Thanks to the work of pioneering organisations like the International Glaucoma Association and the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, restoring

the gift of sight is an everyday occurrence in developing Countries.

Whilst here in Britain, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Royal National College for the Blind, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Fight for Sight, the London Association for the Blind, the Royal London and the Midland Societies provide so many lifelines like education, counselling, rehabilitation, mobility, social clubs, accommodation and research.

Surely £1 per week is not much to set aside for so much vital work. Especially now your contribution goes so much further. And if you're an employer who hasn't adopted the scheme, contact us today for details.

See your way to help - please



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P.O. Box 1000, Haywards Heath, W.Sussex RH16 3XZ
Tel: 0444 412424 (ext.129 & 136)



Trainees go shopping

ON a fact-finding visit to Manweb's Chester shop are some of this year's YTS trainees.

The trainees were taken to the shop as part of their recent week-long induction course at the Head Office Training Centre.

Pictured (left to right) are

Joanne Muldoon (clerical, Liverpool), Sandra Brown (retail, North Mersey), Jean Jones (clerical, Oswestry), Stephen Keenan (clerical, North Wirral), Nicholas Lowe (retail, North Wirral), Stephen McEllenborough (clerical, North Mer-

sey), David Aitchison (clerical, Mid-Cheshire), Michael Leather (retail, Mid-Cheshire), Paula Kelly (retail, Liverpool), Jacqueline Wilkinson (clerical, Head Office), Course Tutor Jill Bradford and Ann Waite, of Chester shop.

Crossword Solution

Crossword No. 4

Across: 1 Foresight, 8 Idiom, 9 Moonlight, 10 Llama, 11 Evade, 13 Sheen, 14 Scar, 16 Tonic, 18 Bust, 19 Amass, 21 Atlas, 22 Album, 24 Intricate, 26 Cross, 27 Sixteenth.

Down: 1 Famous, 2 Rootless, 3 Salient, 4 Gig, 5 Title, 6 Diva, 7 Impair, 12 Annul, 15 Chaplain, 17 Castile, 18 Branch, 20 Speech, 21 Amass, 23 Book, 25 Tax.

High fliers are wanted

CALLING all high-flying members of the Head Office Sports and Social Club...

If you would like to launch yourself into a new hobby, Chester Flying Club wants to hear from you. Anyone interested in joining the Broughton-based Club should contact Mr Garston on Chester 880308 or at British Aerospace. Chester 535333.

HOLIDAYS

Aberystwyth—Six-berth caravans to let from £35 a week (less ten per cent discount for electricity supply staff and their families). Mains electricity, cooker, fridge and private toilet. Site facilities inc. clubhouse, shop/restaurant and children's play area. Within easy walking distance of beach and town centre. Tel: 0970 3596 after 5.00 pm (Tomos Davies).

Brittany/SW France—Caravans and mobile homes. Self-drive pack. Tel: Crewe internal 178 or 0270 766675 (Ian Linford).

Caravan—Towyn, Near Rhyl. Six-berth, two bedrms, shower, fridge, fully fitted. From £75 per week. Tel: 0978-362615/352653 (Mrs Jones).

Cardigan—12 miles. Lux. six-berth static caravan, near beaches. Families only. Tel: 0492 68253 (evenings).

Carmel—Caernarfon. 19th Century stone cottage in own grounds. Excellent views. Three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge and parlour. Large kitchen with cooker, fridge and freezer. Tel: 0286 880 749. Alwyn Pritchard, 16 Maes Hyfryd, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

Criccieth—North Wales. House overlooking village green. Sleeps six. CTV. Beach and shops two mins. Tel: 076671 2614 (Ann Tudor).

France—B & B, H/B, caravans and camping. Tarn et Garrone Region. Close to Junctions 8 and 9 on Autoroute between Bordeaux and Toulouse. Excellent catering, including French, Indian and vegetarian cooking. Much to see and do, or just relax in sunshine. Ex-SEB employee. Tel: David Boniface, 010-33 (63-95-95-20).

French Riviera—Six-berth caravan, all amenities on site, within easy reach of Monaco, St Tropez, etc. Golf, riding close by. SAE to M. Williams, The Lodge, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, or tel. 0544 267579.

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

Newquay—Cornwall. Family-run guest house with good home cooking. Family rooms. Friendly atmosphere, Sea views. 200 yards from town centre. Dinner, bed and breakfast from £70 per week. Former Merseyside family will make you welcome. Disc. for Manweb empls. Apply Avondale, 28 Georges Road, Newquay, Cornwall. Tel: 0637 872234.

Free Ads

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

Pony-Trekking—And farm holidays. Accompanied one-hour to full-day treks for novices or experienced riders. Holiday cottages available. Self-ctng. or bed and breakfast, full or half-board. Lic. restaurant open to non-residents. Lunch, afternoon tea, dinner. Private parties catered for. Further details: Hwylfa Ddafydd Country Farm Holidays. Tel: Colwyn Bay 516965.

Port Grimaud—Six miles St Tropez. Four/six-bth. caravans, with electricity, h. and c. water, shower. On three-star hotel site. Luxury coach travel from most areas. Tel: 0670 712399.

Porthmadog—Holiday bungalow, sleeps six. Black Rock Sands five minutes' drive. Convenient Ffestiniog Railway, Snowdonia National Park. For infmtn.: C. Jones, 2 Meadow Drive, Porthmadog. Tel: 0766 2519.

Tenerife—Get away to the sun. From £30 per week. Aprtmts. in Los Christianos. Access to two large pools, tennis crts., two restaurants, maid service. Only 50 yards from a golden beach. Flights arranged. Tel: 061-483 8314.

Weston-sup'r-Mare—Static caravan on farm. Six-berth, sep. dbl. bedroom, shower, toilet, TV, etc. All-season price £70 per week. Tel: 093472 292 (Mrs Huett).

Llandudno—April Court. Small family-run private hotel (Welsh Tourist Board—two crown). Close to local amenities, beaches, town centre, theatres, golf courses, etc. New Alpine Ski Complex in beautiful natural setting. Ideal base for exploring beauty-spots of Snowdonia. Good home cooking and comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Children welc. Tea-making facilities. Car park. Bed and breakfast, with or without evening meal. Enquiries to April Court, St David's Place, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2UG. Tel: 0492 77898. Disc. for Elec. Board employees and families (both past and present).

CARS FOR SALE

Volkswgn Golf GTI—E reg. (1987). Metallic grey. BBS alloy wheels, plus original steel wheels. 9,000 miles. Immaculate condition. 12

months' tax. £9,250 o.n.o. Contact HO, ext. 2090 or Wigan (0942) 43840 after 6.30 p.m.

Land Rover—White LWB. 2,286 c.c. petrol engine. Q reg. (1979). Overdrive, free-wheeling hubs, one-piece tinted windscreen, steps to each door. Interior fitted with head and door linings, interior lights. Refurbished by John Craddock of Cannock in 1986. No offers. Ring 051-630 1197 after 6 p.m.

PETS' CORNER

Alsations—Pedigree puppies, KC registered. Black and tan. £100 each. Contact David Williams, Transport Department, Aberystwyth, or telephone 0970 617524 any time.

FOR SALE

Static Caravan—Bluebird Caribbean, 30 ft. x 9 ft., with hot and cold water, flush toilet, new Calor gas water heater and gas fire. Excellent condition. £500. Contact Jean Letman at Gwynedd, ext. 3302, or after 5 p.m. on Caernarfon 2134.

Caravan—Cotswold 11/2 Tourer. Illness forces reluctant sale. 12 months old with all usual accessories, including awning. Purchase price was £6,310, but will consider offers around £4,600. Contact Mr J. Moses, 051-648 3370.

Small Trailer—5½ ft. x 3 ft. Full electrics with cover and sides. £90. Contact F. T. Edwards, int. Dee Valley 2255 or Wrexham 354255.

Tractor—Ferguson, grey. Complete with tool carrier. Ideal for smallholder/market gardener. £450. Contact G. Williams, HO ext. 2540.

VC Recorder—Philips 1700 System video cassette recorder. Immaculate condition, complete with five tapes. £60. Contact Emyln Evans Hughes on 0248 712686 after 6 p.m.

Oil Paintings—From photographs, by professional artists. Portraits, pets, houses, boats, landscapes, etc. Commission your own original painting at reasonable rates. For more details contact Ray Ball on 0492 517972.

Car Port—Galvanised, 3½ years old. Excellent condition. £45 o.n.o. Ring Mrs Roberts, Mold 55650.

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Council wins Civic Awards

WREXHAM Maelor Borough Council has picked up four prestigious Manweb awards for providing tenants with energy efficient, cost-effective housing.

Councillor Noel Wright, Housing and Health Committee Chairman, received the awards from Bob Hodson, Dee Valley District Manager, at The Shippon Restaurant, Marchwiel, to mark the upgrading of 46 council properties to Manweb's Civic Shield specifications.

The properties—Gwynant at Plas Medoc, Royal Court, Gwersyllt, The Orchard and Darland View, Rossett, and Caer Llew, Holt—now have full comfort conditions, low running costs and clean reliable electric heating with minimal maintenance.

Advantage

Their modernisation to Civic Shield Award standards has included the installation of electric space and water heating systems designed to take advantage of Economy 7 cheap night rate electricity and the highest standards of insulation.

These latest Civic Shield awards bring Wrexham Maelor's total to 22 since the scheme was introduced in 1979.

Paying made easier

MANWEB'S Welshpool customers now have better facilities for paying their bills and buying electricity savings stamps.

N. J. Evans and Son at 1 Jehu Road, Welshpool, are now collecting accounts on Manweb's behalf and the former mobile caravan arrangement will end.

The changes mean customers will be able to settle accounts at the shop 5½ days a week instead of only on Mondays under the mobile caravan arrangement.

Legal eagles chosen

CECIL Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, has appointed Davis Polk and Wardell as US legal advisers to the Energy Department for the flotation of the distribution companies as part of the electricity privatisation programme. The UK legal advisers are Slaughter and May.

A vintage day out for treasure trail winners

TEN lucky Manweb Ambassador Club members celebrated their success in vintage style, when they recently spent a day at historic Catton Hall in Staffordshire. The group, representing eight of the Districts, won the all-expenses paid trip to take part in a vintage car treasure hunt after striking gold in a recent Ambassador Club campaign.



Above: Off to a bubbly start. The teams celebrate with a glass of champagne outside the Tillington Hall Hotel before setting off on the Treasure Trail.

Below: During a pit stop at 200-year-old Catton Hall.



Each had qualified for the fantastic day out by submitting valid leads to the Ambassador Club for storage heating, Economy 7 conversions and insulation during August.

And it was certainly a memorable occasion for super-sleuths Leo Moylan and Alec Lloyd, from North Mersey, who managed to crack the most clues and win a super prize of a crystal decanter and matching set of glasses each.

The Treasure Trail trip got off to a bubbly start when the group arrived by coach at Tillington Hall Hotel, near Stafford, for a champagne reception.

Shiny

Also waiting to meet them was a shiny fleet of chauffeur-driven vintage cars, and after pairing off, the five teams roared off into the Staffordshire countryside to follow a trail of clues which would lead them to Catton Hall, where they would have lunch before setting off on



Treasure Trail winners Leo Moylan (left) and Alec Lloyd (right) are pictured in the open-top Riley with Energy Marketing Engineer Terry Dunne and "chauffeur" Geoff Barwick (standing).

Story: Jackie Unsworth
Photos: Adrian Chesworth

the second part of the treasure hunt.

In less than an hour the first pair had managed to find their way to the 200-year-old stately home. At this stage in the game, Clwyd's John Stevens, and Harry Wilson from Mid-Cheshire, who were travelling in style in a 1944 Alvis, had solved all but two of the clues.

Tense

Minutes behind them were Leo and Alec in a 1933 open-top Riley 9 Lynx, with Phil Keddie, from Dee Valley, and Gwynedd's Joyce Morris hard on their heels in an immaculate 1929 Austin 12/4 Burnham, followed by Stephanie Scully and Mark Bradley, from Mid-Mersey, in a 1926 Clyno.

There were some tense moments when, three-quarters of an hour after the first car had sped up Catton Hall's long and winding driveway, there was still no sign of the fifth team—Kim Timlin from Liverpool and Neil Jones from North Wirral.

Search

Then, just as a small search party was setting out, their 1928 Lea Francis car was spotted in the distance. Kim later explained: "We reached the 20th clue but then got hopelessly lost

trying to find a T-junction. We ended up travelling 46 miles when we should only have gone 26!"

After a lavish lunch at Catton Hall, which was hosted by the owners, the Neilson family, the treasure hunters set off again in their vintage vehicles to follow another series of clues.

This time there were no problems and the cars returned within minutes of each other, enabling Energy Marketing Engineer Terry Dunne, of the Head Office Domestic Commercial Section, to quickly check their clue sheets and announce the winners.

Alec Lloyd, a 35-year-old Meter Fixer, and his partner Leo Moylan, 30, an Accounts Investigator, had managed to score 28 out of a possible 34.

Brilliant

After receiving his prize, a beaming Alec said: "It's been an absolutely brilliant day out. I've enjoyed every minute, particularly being allowed to come into a beautiful house like Catton Hall and travel around the countryside in a vintage car. It's not something you get the chance to do every day."

And Leo said: "I've had a fantastic time. I loved the car, the champagne, the meal—everything!"