

Avid anglers net a massive haul

A PLUCKY team of 12 anglers, eight of them from Manweb, sailed 20 miles out of Aberystwyth to land a massive haul of tope, ray, dogfish, and black bream.

It was one of the most successful trips yet undertaken by the group, said ace angler Emrys Hughes, Network Operations Section Head based in Aberystwyth.

The fishermen hired a boat for the 12-hour trip and enjoyed fine weather as they headed out towards Ireland to practice their skills in game fishing.

"We caught 38-kilogram tope, and on the way back we landed 30 black bream which we took back for cooking," said Emrys. "They are excellent wrapped in foil and steamed in an oven."

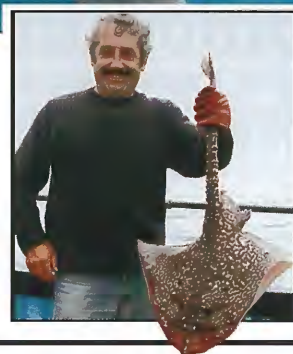
Shining

Most of the fish are thrown back, but the largest are weighed by the avid anglers. "It was one of our best trips," said Emrys. "Our previous one was cancelled because of the bad weather which is common on the sea in this area, but this time the sun was shining."

The party included members from across Manweb's Welsh depots.



Emrys Hughes pictured above with a Grey Tope and, inset, with a Faun-backed Ray. Good sport Emrys has agreed to this photograph being the subject of this issue's caption competition. Please send your fun entries to Contact Editor Anne Benson at Manweb House, Chester. Best caption wins a £20 retail voucher.



Captain's Day golf contest rained off

MANWEB North Wirral Golfing Society was forced to abandon its Captain's Day competition at Eastham Lodge Golf Club, Wirral because the course was flooded by heavy rain.

But the Annual General Meeting still went ahead in the clubhouse, and two presentations of trophies were made.

Ian Jones, engineer at New Connections at Pentre Bychan, was awarded the Chris Wharton Memorial Cup for amassing 437 points during a September competition.

Ian also received the Society Championship Cup for his performances during the year, presented for an average score over a minimum four games during the season.

Bike trek for Legion

RUSS Murray, a project manager at Pentre Bychan, recently completed the London to Paris Bike Ride and raised £275 (doubled by match funding) for the Royal British Legion.

He covered 440 kilometres in four days. Three members of the Caernarfon office raised a match-funded £497 for the Caergeilloog children's playgroup by cycling round Holy Island.

Bag pack nets cash

FAULTS Supervisor Steve Dobson led a sponsored bag pack at the Asda superstore in Warrington which raised £350 for the local Rope and Anchor under-13 football team. The cash, which will be used to buy new kit, was topped up with a £300 donation by Manweb.

Contact



Manweb
A ScottishPower Company

NEWSLETTER FOR MANWEB PEOPLE

October 2000

New store for the hearing and visually impaired

SENSORY SHOP IS EURO FIRST

POWERPARTNERS' most ambitious project so far will help people with sensory impairments from all over the Manweb region and beyond to improve their quality of life.

And it is hoped sensorysolutions@trafford - Europe's first "one stop shop" for those with hearing and visual impairments - will act as a model for the future.

The shop, which is being run by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, opened earlier this month with a big fanfare in the Trafford Shopping Centre near Manchester. The location is key as the centre provides a safe environment for people with hearing and visual disabilities to shop.

Paul Pagliari, Chairman of PowerPartners and ScottishPower Group HR Director, said: "We believe this is the first time a utility company has formed such a partnership with a group of charities and we are very proud to be part of this innovative initiative."

Nine out of 10 hearing or visually impaired people have trouble, specifically because of their disability, accessing the goods and services the rest of us take for granted.

Not only do many of them feel isolated, vulnerable and unwilling to ask for help when they are out shopping in public areas, but they may also face severe communication problems with retail staff when trying to buy everyday goods and services.

While sensorysolutions@trafford offers



TV comedy star Ricky Tomlinson with Raza Al-Mustafa at the launch sensorysolutions@trafford. More photographs of the shop opening will appear in the next issue of Contact.

practical help with shopping, including provision of interpreters, it also features up-to-the-minute information on sensory impairment and relevant aid agencies, advice, support and counselling for families, friends and carers.

Benefit and employment advice surgeries are available, plus the loan of specialist equipment. There is also a team of

specialist advisers on hand for 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for the Environment, was joined at the launch by award-winning comedy actor Ricky Tomlinson (Jim in *The Royle Family*) and Tiffany Chapman (*Brookside's* Rachel Dixon) and there was all-day entertainment for children.

Cyclists are all powered up for charity fundraising ride

Have you got news for us?

IF you have a story for Contact please get in touch with editor Anne Benson on 800 2098 (internal) or 01244-652098, or Ron Quenby on 01244-678575 or fax 01244-678749.

A 14-strong team of cyclists from Manweb, organised by John Brown of the Network Planning Team on Merseyside, took part in the demanding Cheshire Bike Ride 2000 for charity.

The team known as "All Powered Up" consisted of members of System Design and Construction, Business Risk, Maintenance Business and Customer Services.

The riders used a wide variety of machines including road racers, tourers, mountain bikes and even a tandem.

With each team member bringing in sponsorship from ScottishPower staff, family, friends and external businesses, the total raised was an impressive £1,025 backed by the Manweb Charity Chest.

The route taken by the Manweb team covered 38 miles round country roads and B roads, from and back to Chester via Tattenhall and Tarporley. The ride was organised by the Co-op and Oxfam was the charity which benefited.

In all more than 1,000 cyclists took part in the event.

Manweb staff take to the land
Centre pages

Intrepid anglers net a huge haul
Page eight

Focus on ScottishPower Learning

James' bright idea wraps up top prize

Sixteen-year-old James Ruggeri from Ysgol Caereinion, Powys, has won this year's Wales Student Innovation Awards for designing and building a wrapped bale carrier.

A total of 97 students took part in eight finals before 32 were selected for the grand final which was held at The Orangery, Margam Park, South Wales.

James said: "The bale carrier fits onto the back of a tractor and carries bale without damaging the plastic wrap. Other carriers on the market don't tip the bales properly. My design does - which saves time and effort."

ScottishPower Learning is a co-sponsor of the event and also provided Key Skill workshops for the students during the eight regional finals.

Neil Hunter, Regional Manager for ScottishPower Learning, said: "The Awards have been created to recognise excellence for GCSE Design & Technology project work undertaken as part of the



Innovation Award winner James Ruggeri, left, with his wrapped bale carrier and John Getty, Managing Director of PDS Engineering, who presented the awards.

National Curriculum.

"The Awards are a positive contribution towards the objectives of linking Education and Industry and attracting young people into the design, engineering and manufacturing sectors of the economy."

He added: "All the finalists have demonstrated a huge amount of effort from the initial

concept, through the design stage, manufacture and marketing.

The awards not only provide a platform to show off the student's work, but also help develop confidence, presentation skills and encourage young people to take the initiative in forming their own destinies."



Passing with distinction

SCOTTISHPOWER Learning's Open Learning Co-ordinator Steve Gauller, pictured above, has practised what he preaches by studying for a Certificate in Management Studies.

Steve was sponsored by ScottishPower Learning and passed the course with distinction, coming top of his class. He said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the course which covered all aspects of management from finance to marketing."

Scheme helps communities

THE Prince's Trust is currently being delivered at four locations in north Wales. The scheme enables unemployed young people to develop their skills and qualifications while assisting local communities by completing community projects and work placement.

All four programmes have team leaders who are seconded from local companies to ScottishPower Learning as part of their personal development.

The Wrexham programme run by Denise Griffiths (Inland Revenue) has recently completed a project at Rhosymedre School, John Taylor (Benefit Agency) team at Deeside decided to complete two projects by working with Deeside Conservation group clearing a pond area and decorating the local Scout Hut.

Finally, Esther Hopkins (Welsh Assembly), Caernarfon team, and Fay Griffiths (Benefit Agency), Colwyn Bay, are considering project options. Esther said: "This secondment will give them the opportunity to develop various aspects of supervisory skills that will assist my future prospects within the Welsh Assembly."



Sixth form teacher Hazel Coyle (standing) with pupils at Elfed High School during the "egg rocket" competition at the problem-solving workshop

Team building workshop

A problem-solving and team building workshop was held for 64 pupils entering the sixth form at Elfed High School, Buckley, during a special day workshop session organised by ScottishPower Learning.

The aim was to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop personal skills that could support their studies and be carried through to the world of work.

The session included quick-fire tasks and a short lesson on the key stages of problem solving which was then put into practice as 10 teams battled it out in an "egg rocket" competition.

Head of Sixth Form David Kelly said: "Student feedback has been very positive. Those who took part found the exercise an enjoyable experience which contributed significantly to their understanding of the issues involved."



Left, Rachel Male, daughter of Nestmakers Training Manager Ann Male, is pictured high up in the rigging.

Above, The Sir Winston Churchill silhouetted at twilight.

Trip of lifetime for youngsters

TWO magnificent tall ships sailed into Mortar Mill Quay, Wallasey, marking the end of the trip of a lifetime for 78 Wirral youngsters. The Sir Winston Churchill and the Stavros, chartered by Wirral Police for its "Chance of a Lifetime" initiative, were sponsored by Manweb.

The young people, aged 16 to 24, were chosen to take part in the voyage for having given their time to benefit the community or, despite growing up in difficult circum-

stances, for having maintained a good level of citizenship.

Manweb Mersey Network Manager Phil Currie was on board the Sir Winston Churchill with Chief Constable Norman Bettison to welcome home the youngsters, and a Manweb caravan was stationed on the quayside to provide hospitality.

"Young people sometimes get a bad press, so we really welcome the opportunity to support this initiative which

Young sailors wearing Manweb T-shirts pictured at the end of their voyage with members of the crews and representatives from Manweb.

rewards real achievement," said Phil Currie.

The voyage began in the last week of August, with one ship setting sail from Hull and the other from Amsterdam, for a meeting in Portsmouth. They then sailed to St Malo

and Cork before returning home to Birkenhead.

While on board they learned how to work as a team, learn the techniques of sailing a tall ship and develop their self-esteem and sense of responsibility.

Renewable energy link for council

A PIONEERING green energy initiative from ScottishPower has enabled Chester City Council to consolidate its commitment to the environment. More than 215 public buildings owned by the Council now have their electricity supply matched to small-scale hydro and on-shore wind sources of generation operated by the company.

It is ScottishPower's first renewable energy contract for electricity supplies to the public sector in England.

Stewart Saunders, Managing Director of Manweb, said: "ScottishPower is leading the way in the race for greater environmental responsibility and is developing solutions to help businesses and consumers play their part in increasing generation from renewable energy sources."

Chris Hardy, Executive Director of Chester City Council, said: "Our decision to purchase renewable energy has been influenced in part by the impending Climate Change Programme.



Stewart Saunders and Roy Mulliner, Chester City Council Purchasing and Energy Management Officer, display the green energy certificate at Manweb House.

"We believe local government has an important role to play in making renewable energy supplies a viable option for the UK."

● A similar initiative with Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council is in the pipelines.

Top award recognises standards of security

HOYLAKE House won the latest "Site of the Quarter" award presented jointly by Manweb and Initial Security to recognise high standards of security. Initial Security's area manager Gordon Brady presented the award to the three security officers on site, Bob Hutchinson, Steve Lunt and Frank Walker. They received the accolade for the excellent service which they provide in doing many duties above and beyond the usual requirements.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE. Manweb staff's spirit of generosity as expressed 10 months ago at Christmas 1999 is still warming the hearts of countless deserving members of the community.



Karen Bloor (left) and Don McRae (right) present the cheque to Hope House.



Don McRae (second right) with Manweb regional staff and recipients of the donations outside Pentre Bychan office.

Lunch fundraiser for hospice

TICKET sales from Wales Region's Christmas lunch last year have benefited Hope House hospice in Wrexham.

Put together with money raised by safe working under the SuperSafe initiative, and match-funded by Manweb, the cash formed part of a total donation of £1,250 to the

charity. Don McRae and Karen Bloor made a special visit to present the cheque.

A host of other charities including Nightingale House and The Samaritans received £450 each from the total pool raised from Christmas donations and SuperSafe.



Garry Grice of Manweb (far right) presents the cheque to Liverpool Carers Forum.

Cash boost for carers forum

THE Liverpool Carers Forum, which offers practical and emotional support to carers, was awarded a cheque for more than £500 from money raised by the safety team at Lister Drive.

Their Christmas Challenge last year was to raise enough money to provide 12 luxury

Christmas hampers – in fact they raised enough for 25. The team, Chris Parker, Nicky Moses, Garry Grice and Gary Williams, made cakes at home and sold them to their colleagues for three weeks on the run. They also made festive cakes, held a raffle and sold letters from Father Christmas.

MANWEB VOLUNTEERS HELP PARK RANGERS IMPROVEMENT RURAL ENVIRONMENT



Despite torrential rain Manweb volunteers got on with job at Marbury Park. About to begin felling and pruning trees are, left to right, Mike Jones, Jimmy Locker, Graham Arthurs, Stan Pickle, Peter Marchbank and Dave Pearson.



A volunteer shaves bark off a tree which will be woven into a hedge.



Laying hedges at Marbury Park are, left to right, Graham Arthur, Jimmy Locker, Pam Dorcey, Denise Edmonds and Jane Hall.

Staff spend a day on land to improve countryside

SIXTEEN Manweb staff donned wellington boots and waterproofs to carry out a series of countryside tasks to improve the environment at a country park near Northwich.

They were fighting their way through reed beds braving persistent rain during the Mersey Basin Business Foundation Day at Marbury Country Park to help the local park rangers maintain and improve their sites.

Manweb is a regular supporter of the Mersey Basin Campaign, launched in 1985 to clean up the rivers of the Mersey Basin which stretches across five counties as far North as Lancashire, into Cheshire and east into Derbyshire where the rivers Goyt and Etherow are tributaries.

The idea is to reintroduce fish into all the rivers by the year 2010,

and the Mersey Basin Trust was set up as a voluntary arm to work with industry and local organisations towards that aim.

At this year's Business Foundation Volunteers Activity Day, 100 volunteers in 10 teams including Manweb's took part, performing tasks that the rangers would not otherwise have managed due to their workload.

The Manweb volunteers concentrated on hedge laying and general work trimming, lopping and

cutting down trees, to assist the work of the park rangers. They put in magnificent efforts despite drenching rain which lasted throughout the day.

"The Manweb participants worked really hard and added value to the country park," said Nick Fraser, Weekend Co-ordinator of the Mersey Basin Trust.

Wildlife

"It is hard work laying hedges and clearing scrub, and their efforts were really appreciated by the rangers. They are also raising awareness of what we do – without them we would be the poorer."

In appreciation of the volunteers' efforts, the organisers laid on "time out" activities between events for those who needed to take a breather.

A nature "walk and talk" with a local wildlife expert gave them the chance to learn about the rare flora and fauna in the 400 acres of the parks.

They were informed about damselfly and dragonfly habitats, about the 20 different species of butterflies and about birds which can be spotted including the greenshank.

The volunteers took an educational riverboat cruise on the River



Right tools for the jobs – the Manweb workers were well equipped for their work on the land at Marbury Park.

Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal. "This was our way of saying thank you and allowing people to recharge their batteries in between the conservation activities," said Nick.

As well as a rudimentary insight into the skills of habitat management, the special day also gave business people and community members the chance to forge new friendships and understanding.

Jane Hall, PowerSystems Community Relations Co-ordinator,

emphasised the value of this aspect of the exercise. The Mersey Basin Trust day is a great opportunity for team building," she said. "It is not something our staff would normally do, and they were as keen as ever to represent us in our fourth year of attendance."

The Manweb volunteers wore Your Champions sweat shirts to publicise the forthcoming awards scheme which is run with Chronicle Newspapers and North Wales Independent Press.



Taking time out for a team photograph before starting work at Marbury Park are the Manweb volunteers.

New work out book launched to help primary schoolchildren

Wolfie teams up with Electro-Jet

WARRINGTON Wolves' mascot, Wolfie, has teamed up with Manweb's super hero Electro-Jet to launch a new learning book for school children.

The book, called *Wolfie's Work Out Book*, contains numerous cross-curricular activities and exercises and is packed full of quizzes, art sections, story spots, player interviews, competitions and word searches.

The workbook will be the dynamic starting point for learning through the project "Wilderschool," where schools

visit the "Wolf Den Classroom" at the Wilderspool stadium of the rugby club.

Wilderschool, which is now part of Primary Link, has been running for five years and is a vehicle that the Wolves use to deliver elements of Key Stage 1 & 2 of the National Curriculum.

During each visit, youngsters and teachers enjoy a full day at the stadium, which involves project work, structured lessons, practical work on the pitch, a coaching session and meeting Wolves players.

Pupils will also now receive Wolfie's Workbook to keep. Their imagination will be fired by the cult status of Wolfie, and by his winning partnership with his Manweb counterpart.

Electro-Jet gives valuable advice and safety tips throughout the workbook on how to stay safe at home and at play.



Warrington Wolves mascot Wolfie visits children at the Thelwall Infants School in Warrington.



Liz Foulkes, Manweb Gas Call Centre Manager at Warrington, left, and Pat Lewis, ScottishPower Learning Vocational Learning Co-ordinator, right, with Wolfie, Warrington players and youngsters from Thelwall Infants at the launch of the new learning book.



Lord Hodge, Warrington Wolves Chairman, and Helen Southworth, MP for Warrington South, read the 'Work Out' book with a young pupil.



Above, a "Live Music Now!" musician plays to pupils and staff at Ysgol Powys.

Right, a youngster is given an impromptu music lesson.



Exciting sounds fill the school

MUSICIANS from Live Music Now!, sponsored by Manweb, brought an exciting world of sound to youngsters at Ysgol Powys in Wrexham.

The pupils, aged between four and 18, who have a range of learning difficulties, were thrilled by the experience, said Richard Williams, headmaster of the special school.

He said: "It was a highly valuable experience and the entire group of musicians was superb, establishing an instant rapport and demonstrating impressive energy. I can't overstate the way the pupils benefited, and all the staff said how

good the session had been."

Live Music Now!, founded in England by Yehudi Menuhin in 1977, aims to bring music to those who would not otherwise hear it and give young professional musicians a chance to perform. Live Music Now! Wales is funded by the Arts Council of Wales, local authorities, various trusts and corporate sponsors including Manweb.

Graffiti Classics, a string group under the Live Music Now! umbrella, has recently been performing a series of concerts in North Wales, again with Manweb backing.



Unexpected bonus

THE petrol crisis has presented the members of the North Wirral retirees association with an unexpected bonus – a trip to Blackpool. The famous resort is extending the period of the illuminations to make up for lost business during the shortages, and organiser Lil Martland has booked a group in to a hotel for four days to take advantage of the chance to travel through the lights by coach.

Heading for Highlands

AFTER the excitement of watching the Sydney Olympics it's fitting that the Clwyd retirees association are heading for a holiday to the location of another famous games. They will be staying for five days at Braemar in Scotland, and as well as visiting the arena where the Highland Games take place, they will take time to sample the historic delights of Royal Deeside and Aberdeen.

Celebrating early

CHRISTMAS is coming early for the members of the North Mersey retirees association. They have booked for a "Turkey and Tinsel" break over four days at Nydd Hall, a Warner Hotel where they will enjoy a mock Christmas Day and Boxing Day with all the trimmings.

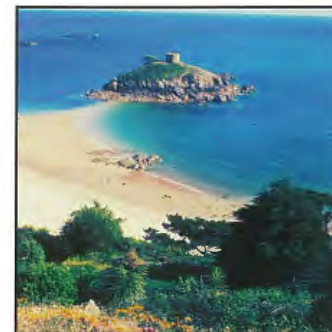
Offer for festive break in Jersey

A superb "Turkey and Tinsel" offer for *Contact* readers will give an early taste of the festive season – and also the chance to shop for presents at VAT-free prices on the beautiful island of Jersey in November or early December.

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a visit from Santa Claus are highlights of the four-night break organised by Channel Islands specialists Travelsmith.

The offer includes a full entertainment and half board package at a 2-sun hotel in Jersey's capital, St Helier, with an indoor pool, and costs from £239.

The fun starts after you fly in



Jersey's idyllic Portelet Bay.

on a Monday from Manchester, arriving at the hotel to find it is Christmas Eve with a special dinner and entertainment to get you into the Yuletide spirit.

Tuesday is Christmas Day, Wednesday is Boxing Day and New Year's Eve arrives early on

Thursday – all three are celebrated in style with traditional festivities.

The price includes the flight from Manchester, an ensuite bedroom (based on two sharing,) breakfast and evening meals. Turkey and Tinsel costs £239 at the De Normandie hotel on November 27 and December 4 and £259 at the Mayfair on November 6, 13, 20 and 27 and December 4.

To book your break phone the Travelsmith reservations line on 01621-784666 and quote reference C115MW to qualify for the special rates.

This holiday is arranged by Travelsmith Limited (ABTA V1290/ATOL 1917).

Two retired employees have chance reunion at Cathedral

OLD habits die hard – and two former Manweb employees were able to joke about the truth of the proverb in a chance reunion meeting at Chester Cathedral.

John Shallcross, and Sybil Timmins, who retired during the eighties after knowing each other through voluntary first aid work at Manweb for almost 30 years, met up again at Chester Cathedral during the recent Pilgrim Days.

John, aged 70, who was a second engineer in the drawing office at Sealand Road, and Sybil, aged 80, who worked in the superannuation department at the same site, were both acting as volunteers at the event which features workshops for schoolchildren and members of youth clubs.

A retired warden at Holy Trinity Castle church, Northwich, John dressed up in Abbot's robes to lead a re-enactment of a medieval meal as it would have been when the Cathedral was a Benedictine monastery.

Sybil, who is still actively involved in volunteer work at the Cathedral, was a helper in the tapestry section of the workshops. "It was amazing to meet up again and find we are still volunteers, although in a different capacity," said John. "I suppose we are volunteers by nature – our generation was brought up to be public spirited."

He added: "It was lovely to be able to reminisce about Manweb, and remember the often humorous times we had as First Aiders."

Staff Ticket Offer

Welsh National Opera

Liverpool Autumn 2000

£28.00 tickets at half price for the first 10 callers at the following performances:

Carmen: Tuesday Oct. 31
Queen of Spades: Wednesday Nov.1
Carmen: Thursday Nov. 2
Orpheus and Eurydice: Friday Nov. 3
Carmen: Saturday Nov. 4

Callers must quote "The Manweb Staff Ticket Offer" at the time of booking.

Plus £5 off tickets priced at £11, £14.50, £17.50 and £19.50 for any of the performances.

The performances are:

HOW TO BOOK.
By Phone: 0870 606 3536 (£1.50 handling fee per booking)
By Post: No fee, but send an SAE for despatch of tickets to:
 Empire Theatre, Lime Street, Liverpool L1 1JE.
 Cheques payable to Apollo Leisure UK Ltd.
 Party bookings: 0151 708 3232
 In person: no fee.

For further information contact Jan Cahill on 800 2091 or 01244 652091.