

CONTACT

September 1977



A shot in the arm for
the Board!
(See page 208)

Heavy Rain sets pole on fire



Up to their knees in barley, a team of overhead men from Clwyd District get to work on replacing the burnt pole. They are, from left to right: Messrs. Dave E. Williams (mate), Ken Povah (linesman), Ron Evans (mate) and Derek Blackledge (linesman).

Current leakage via a hairline insulator crack following heavy rain is believed to have been the cause of a fire which almost brought down one of the poles supporting a 33-kV line between Holywell and Hawarden grid substations recently.

After a call from the Fire Brigade the circuit was isolated at the Hawarden and Holywell ends respectively by Messrs. Ken Coupe, of Dee Valley District, and John Bowen, of Clwyd District. It was considered too dangerous to erect a replacement pole without some means of making the damaged structure safe, since the conductors could not be let out in the normal way as the circuit was in an extensive barley field.

A small single pole was erected close by to give temporary support, and the damaged A-pole was then replaced with an H-pole.

Expert Lighting Design for College

A Royal Institute of British Architects award for design was gained by the Great Hall complex of Aberystwyth University College of Wales.

Fittingly then, when it was decided to instal a spotlighting scheme in the art gallery the architects were adamant it should be a scheme of the highest design standards, and it had to be flexible.

Considerable expertise was required in designing and installing an appropriate system, which is where the men from MANWEB come into their own.

In consultation with the architect, David Bennion (installation engineer), and his assistant Roy Haley, from Aberystwyth District, produced a scheme utilising two rows of four circuit suspended lighting track, each circuit being controlled by a separate circuit breaker. The total length of track installed being 200 metres.

The difficulty with the installation was the way the existing ceiling was constructed. It was a sealed void above with no access. It was decided that the light track would be suspended through the ceiling on conduit and to give a pleasing aesthetic effect, purpose-made square-section anodised aluminium would be used to cover the conduit suspensions. The difficulty came when the suspensions had to be fitted through the false ceiling, the tiles of which are no longer manufactured. It was imperative, therefore, the tiles, although they had to be cut, were not broken as they could not be replaced. Eventually the task was carried out by MANWEB electricians, perfectly.

The spotlighting scheme so delighted the architect, he sent a glowing letter of thanks to our Aberystwyth District staff.



CONTACT

Vol. 29 No. 9

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Editorial

HEATING PLUS COMMONSENSE

THE EVENTS of recent years have made everyone—especially those who work in the electricity industry—conscious of the need to avoid waste and make the most efficient use of resources.

Rising fuel prices have brought the lesson home to the public, who have been reluctant, naturally enough, to see their standards of home comfort slip away. Many have tried to maintain those standards while using less fuel, and money spent on the prevention of heat-loss has become a worthwhile investment. Cavity wall insulation, loft lagging and double glazing have become growth areas, and our own industry has played a positive role in encouraging this kind of fuel-saving.

Conservation and waste-avoidance, however, are not maximised solely by reducing the amount of fuel used in the home. Electricity is the country's 'big spender' in terms of capital investment. High-efficiency generating sets of 500 and 660 Megawatts, installed in modern power stations, provide an ever-increasing proportion of our electricity, while the role of nuclear stations is growing in significance.

This modern machinery makes the most effective use of fuel and capital when running continuously for 24 hours a day, making available off-peak electricity which we sell at cheap rates for home heating purposes. One fifth of all domestic units are now taken "off-peak."

Electricity's "Heating Plus" promotion—outlined elsewhere in this number of *Contact*—offers economical comfort stemming from the most effective use of fuel and money. Launching the campaign our Chief Commercial Officer called for the total commitment of his department's staff, but that call is equally valid for every employee of the industry.

Off-peak electricity is with us for the foreseeable future. The drive to sell it for heating purposes is commercially sound and necessary for the economic running of the industry. It is also in the public interest because it helps to make the best possible use of the nation's resources.

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



“Heating Plus” —our Autumn campaign launched

C.C.O. Matt Cowan calls for whole-hearted commitment.



An energetic return to the battle for the home heating market is signalled by the launching of the electricity industry's Autumn drive to sell storage radiators using cheap off-peak electricity.

“Heating Plus” is the slogan of the campaign—and the “Plus” is energy-saving insulation. Low-cost package deals including storage radiators, all necessary wiring, and roof insulation are the backbone of the sales drive. Nine million homes still have no form of central heating, and MANWEB is offering a basic package of two radiators, fully installed, with fibreglass loft insulation for the average semi, at the rock-bottom price of £199. The package can be expanded by the addition of extra radiators or loft insulation for bigger homes, and we shall continue to offer cavity-wall insulation at very competitive rates.

The new campaign got off the ground on August 25th when Board Head Office was the meeting place for senior commercial staff from all Districts and from Head Office.

Welcoming the delegates Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Matt Cowan called for the whole-hearted commitment of the entire commercial staff for the campaign.

He said that rising fuel costs meant that many people were now using central heating systems burning gas and oil in the same way as electric fires—by switching them on and off instead of using them as full central heating systems. "We are offering 'Affordable 24-hour Comfort'" said the C.C.O. "We are selling something, in a simple package, that no other fuel can match."

Various aspects of the Heating Plus drive were explained by Mr. Roy Stewart (Assistant C.C.O.—energy sales); Brian Ogden (principal engineer,

energy sales); Brian Spring (advertising officer) and Warwick Saunders (Assistant C.C.O.—appliance marketing).

"Heating Plus" will be backed by a massive advertising campaign, spearheaded by TV commercials on a national scale during September/October and November/December, and a MANWEB/Norweb advertisement sandwiched between the national publicity from mid-October to mid-November.

All will lay heavy emphasis on the benefits of combining electric storage heating with energy-saving insulation. Extra punch will be given to the publicity drive with commercials on Liverpool's commercial radio station Radio City, with press advertising in national Sunday newspapers, magazines, TV and Radio Times, and a wide range of local newspapers throughout the MANWEB area. High-street posters, leaflets sent out with domestic accounts, and MANWEB shop-window displays will all help to drive the message home.



PULLING TOGETHER

Joint Consultation at Mid-Cheshire

THE successful running of any industry is very much of a team job, demanding the goodwill and co-operation of employees at all levels if the best results are to be achieved.

This has long been recognised in electricity supply, and our joint consultation machinery is recognised as setting an example which is the envy of many other sections of British industry.

Matters affecting safety, health, welfare and efficiency all come under the microscope at regular local meetings between representatives of the Board

and of the various departments, where informality and a real will to get things done are the hallmarks of the proceedings.

This 'Contact' feature serves to highlight the people who give so freely of their time and effort in keeping things running smoothly in our Mid-Cheshire District. In future numbers of our magazine we hope to introduce the men and women who carry out this essential work on behalf of their colleagues in other parts of the MANWEB organisation.

Chairman of the Local Advisory Committees, is **Mr. Joe Winchester**, Group Manager for Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire and Oswestry Districts. He joined the industry as an apprentice in London in 1931, coming to MANWEB in 1954. He was successively District Manager at Conway Valley and Crewe, moving to Dee Valley as DCE on re-organisation and being appointed Group Manager, based at Head Office, last year.



Mr. Winchester

He has served on LAC, Works and other Local Committees for about 28 years—and says he is still enjoying his apprenticeship!

Mr. Norman Walsh is another one-time apprentice who has worked his way up the ladder. He began with Bolton Corporation,

later becoming a contracting electrician, service electrician and installation inspector, before becoming a service engineer, still at Bolton. He has served on LAC and Works Committees for the past 18 years and more recently on the sub-committee of the Manual Workers Benevolent Society. Norman is Senior Vice-Chairman of the North Staffs Sub-Centre of the I.E.E.



Mr. Walsh

After a spell with the South of Scotland Board he became District Commercial Engineer at Crewe in 1957. He has been President of the Crewe Sports and Social Club since 1970.

District Engineer **Mr. Graham Zeiher** came to MANWEB in 1963 as a senior assistant (techni-



Mr. Zeiher

cal) with the former Area 4. In 1970 he was appointed District Engineer at Crewe. Formerly he has held engineering posts with the South Eastern and Southern Boards.

Since being appointed District Engineer he has served on No. 6 Local Advisory and Works Committees, and the local sub-committee of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society. He is also Chairman of the Efficiency and Safety sub-committee of No. 6 LAC.

A man-of-many-talents is **Mr. John Roberts**, District Administrative Officer, who joined MANWEB in 1967 after graduating from Liverpool University with a degree in electrical engineering.

His first job was with the Commercial department at Head Office in Liverpool, followed by spells with the installation and service section at Sealand Road, and also at Dee Valley District. He then moved to Corporate Development before transferring to the Financial Department.



Mr. Roberts

Since becoming DAO at Crewe last year he has served on the LAC and Works Committees and Group 'B' Administrative and Clerical Staff Committee. He is also Chairman of the local sub-committee of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society and of the Employees Suggestion Scheme sub-committee.

Mr. Bob Waddilove came to the Board in 1950, and after a number of years as an electrician transferred to the engineering

staff as a linesman. He has served on No. 9 District Joint Advisory Council, and is at present a member of the District's Works and Local Advisory committees, representing the NJIC staff based at Crewe depot.

Also representing NJIC staff based at Crewe is **Mr. Howard Snape**, who joined the Board in 1958 and is at present employed as an electrician. He has served on the District's Works and Local Advisory committees for several years, and is Joint Secretary of the Works Committee.

Mr. Albert Watts joined MANWEB in 1959 as a labourer, and after several years he transferred to the stores as an assistant storekeeper. In 1969 he moved up to storekeeper, but he is a relative newcomer to the committee world, having joined the LAC and Works committees at the beginning of this year as representative for Crewe-based NJIC staff.

Mr. Bob Scott, who joined the Board in 1949, is at present a chargehand mechanical fitter at Northwich garage. He has about ten years' service as a representative on Works and Local Advisory committees, representing the NJIC staff at Northwich, and is also an elected member to the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society sub-committee, where he does sterling work both for present

and retired colleagues.

At present a chargehand meter reader at Northwich, **Mr. Derick Senior**, who joined the Board in 1955, has spent ten years as a member of LAC and Works committees. He currently represents the Northwich NJIC staff on both the Works and Local Advisory committees.

Mr. Arthur Kettle, a service electrician who joined the industry as an apprentice thirty years ago, is the most recent recruit to the Local Advisory and Works



Mr. Kettle

Committees, having replaced Mr. John Evans, who retired recently.

Although a newcomer to MANWEB's consultative machinery, Arthur has varied experience of committee work outside the Board.

Left to right: Messrs. Watts, Waddilove, Snape, Senior and Scott.





Mr. Worrall

Mr. Eddie Worrall joined the Board in 1949 in the meter reading department at Crewe, and spent some time on both the Works and Local Advisory committees before resigning following his promotion to foreman meter reader last December. He remains a representative on the local sub-committee of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society, continuing to serve present and retired members.

Another serving member of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society sub-committee is **Mr. Frank Baldwin**, who also formerly served on the Works and Local

Mr. Baldwin



Advisory committees. **Frank**, who joined MANWEB in 1958, also did invaluable work as a works observer when P. and P. schemes were introduced in the Mid-Cheshire District.

After first joining MANWEB as an apprentice electrician in 1949 **Mr. Walter Walker** served a two-year stretch as a National Serviceman and spent a short time in the service of British Rail



Mr. Walker

before coming back to the Board in 1959.

Walter is currently shop supervisor at Crewe, and has been an LAC representative and staff committee representative for a number of years.



Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Brenda Smith, who represents the District NJC staff of the LAC, joined us in November 1971. She is the latest recruit to the ranks of the Committee, taking up her duties for the first time on April 1st of this year.

Mr. Harry Hargrove has a long record of service to the electricity industry, going back to the days of the former Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department. He moved to Crewe District in 1946, and at present is 1st engineer in the systems department. He has served for many years on the LAC (between breaks) and at present represents the NJB engineering staff on the Committee.

Mr. Dave Fisher joined MANWEB at Liverpool in 1962, moving to the old Crewe Dis-

Messrs. Hargrove and Fisher



Unofficial Action in Power Stations

TWO DAYS unofficial action by workers at some power stations in England and Wales on September 6th and 7th brought with it the possibility that electricity supplies might be disrupted. As it turned out the consequences were not particularly serious, but electricity supply and demand were finely balanced at times and on two occasions there were small reductions in voltage.

Commenting on the situation our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, said;

"Whenever it seems possible that the output of the power stations may not be able to meet the demand for electricity Area Electricity Boards must be prepared to do everything possible to minimise the effects of such situations.

"The precautions which have to be taken, inevitably impose extra stress on employees who must deal with the anxieties and problems of the public and on the engineering staff who must stand prepared to operate disconnection rotas if necessary.

"On this occasion, as in the past, MANWEB employees showed their readiness to respond to a potential crisis, and to accept personal inconvenience and extra work in the public interest. May I take this opportunity to express the Board's appreciation of the way in which our people once more showed their readiness to put service before self."

PULLING TOGETHER—continued

trict in 1969 as assistant consumers engineer. He is currently employed in Mid-Cheshire's energy sales section, and represents the NJB commercial staff on the Local Advisory Committee. He has several years' service on the LAC, and to the Sport and Social Club (where he was at one time secretary) behind him.

The key man in the administration of the District's advisory machinery is Mr. Harold Allman, secretary of the Local Advisory and Works committees and of the



Mr. Allman

Manual Workers' Benevolent Society sub-committee for nearly ten years.

Harold joined the industry as a clerk way back in 1941, working for the North Wales Power Company at Nantwich. He has worked for spells at Nantwich, Sandbach and Whitchurch, and moved to the present District Office at Crewe in 1967. He has seen service in all clerical fields, and was formerly a material controller prior to being appointed principal assistant in 1971.

News from Aberystwyth

from our 'Contact' correspondent

Maldwyn Evans

FUND RAISING WALK

A RECENT Sunday afternoon saw a small party of Sports and Social Club members and guests (including two guests from Germany) leaving their mini-bus parked at Nant-y-Moch to walk across the hills to Machynlleth, in the good cause of raising cash for charity.

Soon after leaving the bus the party encountered a herd of Welsh Black cattle, complete with bull, but a slight tendency to quicken the pace was the only sign that the party were not used to meeting the natives in their own pastures! As a matter of interest cattle are a new experience on these hills, which hitherto have been the exclusive domain of the upland sheep.

The route of the walk lay across the battlefield of Hyddgen, where

back in 1401 the last of the Welsh Princes, Owain Glyndwr, routed the forces of Henry IV. The scene is now peaceful enough, but a little imagination peoples the slumbering hillside with the warriors of long ago. A plaque commemorating the battle was recently unveiled by the Rt. Hon. Gwynfor Evans, M.P., at one end of the Nant-y-Moch dam.

Another eight miles of hillside, forest and scree lay before the party, but everyone pushed resolu-

tely on in glorious sunshine to pick up the bus at Forge village and ride in comfort via Machynlleth home to Aberystwyth.

The ten-mile walk raised a total of £83-odd, which went to Dyfed County Council's Adult Training Centre amenity fund. Special mention goes to Brian Wilkins, young brother of Glenda Jones, a typist at District office, who collected a magnificent £30.

Sports and Social Club secretary Mr. G. K. Jones received a warm letter of thanks from Mr. D. W. Perry, manager of the Training Centre, describing the outcome as a "marvellous effort," and explaining that the Amenity Fund was used to buy equipment and provide outings for the trainees, affording them a fuller and richer life.

The Sports and Social Club aims to be very much a part of the community, and hopes to help other local organisations as much as possible.

Enjoying welcome refreshments during their fund-raising ten-mile walk across the hills to Machynlleth are some members, and guests, of the Aberystwyth Sports and Social Club. From left to right, we see, Sue and Leslie Holmes, two guests from Germany, Hywell Evans, Jackie Lewis, Gordon Smith, Brian Wilkins (guest), Glenda Jones, Mark Tracey and Eleanor Evans (guest).



COLLEAGUE RETIRES

After more than 20 years working in our Aberystwyth District, Mr. Henry Williams, a clerical 3 assistant in General Services, retired recently.

For the first 22 years of his adult life, Henry served with the Royal Corps of Signals rising to the rank of Warrant Officer. On leaving the Army he worked for a few years in private industry.

In retirement he will be spending more time on car maintenance, gardening and the odd hour or two with his grandchildren. Daughter Ceinwen also worked for the Board from 1964 to 1971.

At a very informal 'send-off'—at Henry's request—his many friends and colleagues subscribed to present him with a cheque as a farewell token of their appreciation of his work and companionship.



Some of the Aberystwyth treasure hunters, from left to right: Glyn Thomas, Linda Evans (guest), Mark Tracey, Jennifer Galbraith, Jackie Lewis, Keith Jones, Ann Jones (guest) and Jack Colley.

Treasure Hunt — on foot!

Motorised treasure hunts have been a feature of the Club's programme for some time now, but this year, for a change, it was decided to organise a treasure hunt on foot.

This proved to be a very popular innovation, 17 couples setting off on a two-mile course with 45 clues. Winners were Mr. and Mrs. K. Jones, with a total of 43 correct answers, gathered in a

fast time. The booby prize of corn plasters and foot powder went to Mark Tracy and Linda Evans (a guest).

Jackie Lewis, Jennie Galbraith and Jack Colley were the chief organisers, while Glyn Thomas assisted with the adjudication. General opinion was that the function was a great success—and much cheaper than the usual motorised event.

A Day Out at Butlin's

The Club were once again lucky with the weather when a coachload of 50 members and guests paid a day visit to Butlin's Holiday Camp at Pwllheli. Despite the fact that some members of the

party said that things had changed since last they visited the holiday camp everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day out in North Wales, making full use of the camp's recreational facilities.

The coach party who made the trip to Pwllheli.



Talking Notes...

ANOTHER FIFTY-PINT MAN!

IT WAS setting an example that led **Mr. Bill Yarwood**, a joiner's mate in Mid-Cheshire for the past twenty years, to form a habit which has been with him since 1949.

At that time Bill was a lance-corporal in the REME, stationed at Arborfield in Berkshire, and when the call went out to the troops for blood donors the lads in his barrack hut—naturally enough—said, "We will if you will, Corp!"

Thus blackmailed, Lance-corporal Yarwood rolled up his sleeve and gave his first pint. Recently, at the age of 48, Bill made it 51 pints—most of them donated at sessions held at Northwich Memorial Hall, three times a year.

Bill, who enjoys reading and gardening as well as giving blood, summed up his attitude by saying "It does me no harm, and it helps others at their time of greatest need. No-one knows when they will need blood which has been given by complete strangers, and everyone who is fit enough should be ready to give some of their own."

To mark his "half-century" Bill has received a gold lapel badge, tie and certificate.

Head Office Cricket

The Head Office cricket team has completed another season in the Chester and District mid-week league, having mixed fortunes in winning six matches and losing seven.

This gave the team a respectable 5th place in the second of the League's four divisions — a good performance considering the inexperience of many players.

The side was ably led by **Bev Johns**, who was also the stalwart of the bowling depart-

ment, taking 29 wickets at a cost of less than eight runs each. He was ably supported by enthusiastic fielding and by the team's other bowlers, **John Gorman**, **Geoff Green** and **Amyln ab Iorwerth**, who took 33 wickets between them.

Unfortunately the batsmen were often unable to score enough runs for the bowlers to attack, although there were exceptions to this trend with **Mike Boxall** and **John Gorman** leading the run-getting attempts. It might have served the side better had **Bev Johns** not put the rest of the team in before himself, as from his two knocks he scored an excellent average of 35. Highest score was credited to **John Gorman**, with 57 at Capenhurst.

One of the team's main assets was its spirit, exemplified when **Don Roxburgh**, a regular player, took over behind the stumps for one match and put up a gallant performance after taking a nasty knock in the first over.

All the players would like to thank their Captain, and also in particular team secretary **Cliff Houlbrook** for all the hours he put in on behalf of the team, and his son **Richard** who was the regular scorer.

New Chairman

The newly-elected Chairman of the North West Divisional Council of the National Society for Clean Air is **Mr. Bill Shires**, our Deputy Chief Commercial Officer. He will serve for two years.

Mr. Shires, who has represented the Board on the Society's Council for the past 12 years, succeeds **Mr. C. D. Darley**, Director of Housing and Environmental Health for the Borough of Wirral.

Commenting on the Society's work, which now includes the reduction of noise as well as

OUR COVER PICTURE shows members of the Board being needled (*in the literal sense only*) by **Nurse Dorothy Davis**, prior to the September Board meeting.

The magic potion in the syringe is the new improved "flu" vaccine," being offered this year to all MANWEB employees at the heavily-subsidised price of 40p a "shot." The new vaccine offers protection against influenza outbreaks for up to ten months, compared with the six months or so covered by previous vaccination programmes. **Nurse Davis** is visiting MANWEB Districts, and it is hoped that a high

proportion of MANWEB employees will take advantage of the new "jab" to protect themselves during the cold wet months to come.

Our picture shows, from left to right: **Mr. Tom Jones** and **Mr. Owen Edwards** (Board Members); **Nurse Davis**, **Mr. M. J. Moore** (Consultative Council Chairman and Board Member); Board Chairman **Mr. Denis Dodds** (grinning and bearing it); **Mr. P. B. Henderson** (Board Secretary) and **Mr. J. G. Parkes** (Board Member). The happy smiles on the faces of the last two seem to indicate that they had already had theirs!

air pollution, Mr. Shires said:

"Over the years much progress has been made, and the environment in which we live—especially in industrial towns—has been greatly improved by Smoke Control Orders and similar measures. In the present economic climate the amount of money which can be spent on work of this kind is severely restricted, and until the economy improves our main job is to see that the improvements already made are maintained until better times arrive."

EEIBA Golf

A few weeks ago when 73 competitors took part in this year's EEIBA Area Golf Championship at the Prenton golf course, our ten MANWEB representatives did very well for themselves.

In the Singles Medal competition during the morning period, **Alan Kidd** (Secretarial) won with the lowest nett score in the over 15 handicap class while **Kevin Gee** (Revenue) had the lowest scratch score.

After lunch, **Warwick Saunders** (Commercial), partnered by John Yates (Belling Company) won the Greensomes Medal competition.

Derek Jones (Commercial), who had the 4th best scratch score, now goes forward to the National Finals at Edgbaston where he will be joined by Alan, Kevin and Brian Ostle (CEGB Prenton) who is a member of the MANWEB Golf Society.

Pensioners' Outing

Boots' pharmaceuticals factory at Nottingham was the target for the latest day-trip organised by Mid-Mersey Pensioners' Association. After picking up members at St. Helens, Warrington, Runcorn and Frodsham, the coach went on to the Head Office of the East Midlands Electricity Board, near Notting-

Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association

SUPPER on FRIDAY, 21st October, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

DANCE in the MANWEB Head Office Restaurant

Lounge Suits Tickets £2.50 each Buffet Supper

Tickets and table reservations from Gren Roberts (Welfare)

Book early All proceeds to the EEIBA

ham, where the pensioners enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch.

During the afternoon they toured the factory, and before leaving they were entertained to afternoon tea and each member was presented with a small parcel of Boots' products.

Sting in the tail: After lunch at Arnold (EMEB Headquarters) a conflict of accents resulted in the following conversational gem: *Mid-Mersey pensioner, to East Midlands staff man:* "What's Test Score?" *Reply:* "We haven't one in Arnold—there is one in Nottingham."

For the benefit of those who "don't get it," the Nottingham

man thought that he was being asked the whereabouts of the nearest branch of a well-known grocery supermarket!

For Sale

At Llandegla (9 miles from Wrexham and Mold, 17 miles Chester), a 1921-built house with one acre of land. Three bedrooms, two living rooms, large dining-kitchen, bathroom with shower, oil-fired central heatings. Brick workshop, wooden garage, greenhouse. Rates payable 1977—£70. Price £15,570. Contact B. W. Burnett, Min-y-Grug, Llandegla, Clwyd, LL11 3AA. Tel. Llandegla 601.

JUBILEE PARTY

A Silver Jubilee celebration party—an idea instigated by the Amendments section in our North Wirral District—proved most entertaining and colourful when the girls from Liaison section—who provided the buffet—all dressed in red, white and blue for the occasion. We regret that we can only reproduce the picture in black and white, but at least we can show the girls who are, from left to right: Gwen, Judith, Sue, Chris and Ruth. A terrific effort by one and all!





Prior to a recent Mid-Cheshire District LAC meeting, Mr. Joe Winchester (Group Manager) presented First Aid Certificates to members of the District staff, pictured above, from left to right: Kevin Owen, Christine Forster, Gerald Clarke, Joe Winchester, Dave Fisher, Helen Haycocks and Peter Roche.

FIRST-AIDERS at CREWE AND WREXHAM

Our pictures show groups of first aiders from two of the Board's Districts. Their success in the examinations brings the numbers of currently-qualified first aiders in MANWEB to 276. This represents an increase of 112 in the last six years.

In 1970 there were only 164 members of the Board

Caught 'on course' at Dee Valley District are members of a class who all successfully passed their examinations in first-aid a couple of weeks ago. They are, from left to right, seated: Gaynor Hine, Elaine Kilfoyle, Anne Griffiths and Pat Twigg. Standing: Stephen Parry, Keith Herniman, Alf Edwards, Phil Keddie and John Griffith.



UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

An article—
with drawings

by

Shirley
Robinson
(sales assistant)

New Ferry shop

IT IS only the fortunate few who earn an education at the world renowned Oxford University. Now, even I can claim to have studied at one of its oldest colleges, Merton. Albeit only for a week—but *I was there!*

For this, I am most grateful to the North Wirral District Local Advisory Committee for giving me the opportunity of attending a Summer School a short time ago.

I must confess that after my initial elation at the prospect of a week at the University, I became more than a little apprehensive as the time drew near for me to pack my bags. I wondered what I had let myself in for.

On arrival at Oxford, my doubts and fears were quickly dispelled by the charm and friendliness of the Electricity Council staff who greeted us. Everything was organised to the 'n'th' degree. Coaches to meet us at the station, neat welcoming rooms waiting for us at the College—with our names on the door—and the great British stand-by . . . a cup of tea!

After an excellent dinner that evening, our own Board Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, officially welcomed us all as he opened the Summer School. He later joined us for an informal chat in the Common Room.

Days fell quickly into a pattern of lectures and discussion groups. I was fascinated listening to

so many distinguished people from the electricity supply industry. I also enjoyed their many anecdotes.

Subjects ranged from nuclear power to meter reading and after each lecture we were given the opportunity to ask questions. One or two of the speakers even met us later in the 'local' for further interrogation!

But do not let me give you the idea that my week at Oxford was just listening to lectures and asking questions. Part of the attraction of this Summer School was getting to know colleagues from other sections of our industry. The CEGB staff might not



be able to manage a punt very well, but I found them a great crowd to be with. Almost as interesting as the Area Boards' staff. *I'm only joking!*

It was a perfect sunny day when we were taken on a tour of the colleges. All the buildings, in golden Cotswold stone, set in beautiful gardens, are a delight to behold and the chapels and cloisters are most certainly works of art.

As a complete contrast, tours of some local industry were organised. Our visit to a paper mill at Wycombe was particularly fascinating. I never realised how many intricate processes are involved in making paper.

Our escorts were extremely courteous and anxious for us to grasp an understanding of the various processes. Thanks to them, we all learned a little more and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

Almost before we realised it, our last day at Merton

had arrived. The Electricity Council staff, helpful as ever, had arranged for us to use the Common Room for a last night get-together.

On the following morning—*not too early*—we all went our different ways with mixed feelings. Glad to be going home to our families, but sorry to lose our new-found friends so soon. We were unanimous in agreeing that our particular Summer School had been most enjoyable, educationally and socially, and was therefore a great success.

The thing which surprised me most however was the small percentage of females on the course. I know, from personal experience, that many working women are also heavily committed at home, but I am sure that most of them could make arrangements to have a 'week off' to spend at one of the Summer Schools.

It is so worth while.



Our contributor - Shirley Robinson

Our contributor, Shirley Robinson, a part-time saleswoman at New Ferry shop, is a lady of wide interests and many talents—the most outstanding, probably being her ability as an artist. Examples of her gifts in this direction are reproduced on these pages.

Shirley, who is married with two children, serves on North Wirral's Local Advisory Committee and on a number of its sub-committees. She is also active in NALGO's

affairs.

In addition to her other interests she also finds time for some serious studying—last year she took 'O' level French and this year is immersed in an 'O' level English course.

For relaxation (!) she enjoys sailing on Bala Lake, is learning to play golf, and would like to form a Women's Section of the MAN-WEB Golfing Society (Has anyone seen my spoon? . . . Ed!)

A working holiday for Pat and Company

FOR the second year in succession, Pat Dando of our Revenue Section at Head Office has spent her holiday with the United Beach Mission. Everyone who has been to the seaside must have seen these groups of dedicated people keeping hundreds of children entertained with games, competitions and other activities designed to stimulate their interests and possibly tire them out, so giving their parents a welcome break.

This year, Pat spent a couple of weeks at New Quay, Dyfed, where she had a great time on her hard-working holiday. She told us that she first came across beach missions when she was about twelve years of age and enjoyed spending some time—every day—with a group.

Throughout her teens she pushed the experience to the back of her mind. Then, about five years ago, after a broken marriage, she became a committed Christian and found a good friend in the church who was an avid beach missionary. Soon Pat too caught the bug, and the following year she spent two weeks at different centres—Leysdown-on-Sea (better known as Leysdown-on-Mud) and at New Quay.

Then, after a short break, she returned to beach mission work when she went back to New Quay.

There are about 30 seaside resorts in Britain and in France operating the Beach Mission programme. The volunteer—and carefully selected—teams usually

stay in church halls, with one member of the group cooking for the rest.

They rise at seven in the morning for half-an-hour's personal bible study before breakfast. Then they don their red-and-white uniforms and set off for the beach, to lead the hordes of waiting children in chorus singing and games, and the telling of serial stories. Pat, who has a reasonable singing voice and can strum a guitar, usually leads the gospel singing session. Among the favou-

rite competitions organised for the youngsters is "The Happiest Smile on the Beach."

In the evenings, with the children resting and getting ready for the next day's activities, the beach missionaries run open-air meetings for the adults. These are often backed up with film shows, beach barbecues, family 'knock-outs' and picnic parties for the teenagers.

After supper the hard working members of the groups fall exhausted into their sleeping bags, only to find that campbeds have been rigged to collapse or airbed plugs have been greased so that the beds gradually deflate.

The main reason for the beach missions is to preach the gospel in a different way and in changed surroundings. Since her last spell on the mission, Pat has learned to play the accordion—incidentally we hear that her neighbours emigrated to Australia. However, this year Pat made full use of this added talent.

Keeping the youngsters happy and occupied on the beach is Pat, standing centre, with two of her good companions.



PLEASE HURRY
with your entry for the
'CONTACT' 1977
PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION

Copies of the Rules from
The Editor, 'Contact',
Head Office, Chester

Closing Date
3rd October 1977



Miss Roberts deals with one of her last customers.

(Picture: Border Counties Advertiser)

Miss RHIANNON ROBERTS

After 37 years' service to the industry Miss Rhiannon Roberts, a lady known to thousands of our consumers in the Oswestry area, retired recently.

Miss Roberts was appointed cashier and shorthand typist at Salop Road when it was first

opened by Oswestry Corporation. The building was then shared with the Medical Officer of Health and the Borough Sanitary Engineer. Through the years since then Miss Roberts was the general public's direct contact, first with the Corporation's electricity department and later with MANWEB, handling thousands of bills and sorting out countless queries and problems.

During her years of services she saw the building of our offices in Salop Road during 1959/60 and the opening of the electricity shop which at first sold only cookers and later developed into a modern MANWEB shop selling a wide range of appliances. She was closely involved with the Sports and Social Club, serving as treasurer for 25 years.

On behalf of her many friends, who wish her a long and happy retirement, she was presented with a cheque, a shooting stick, and a signed scroll.

Mrs. KAY KEHOE

A very popular member of the cheerful team of ladies who keep our North Mersey District office at Bridle Road, Bootle, spick and span, Mrs. Kay Kehoe, retired recently after 18 years' service.

Kay received many parting gifts, including a gold locket and ear-rings, and a dressing-gown from her friends and colleagues. Everyone at Bridle Road wishes her good health and a long and happy retirement.

Mr. JACK BURGESS

After nearly 43 years' service to the electricity supply industry—plus seven years as an apprentice with a private contractor, bringing the grand total up to the half-century mark—Mr. Jack Burgess has retired from the staff of our Mid-Cheshire District.

Jack began as an apprentice electrician in 1927, joining Crewe Corporation as a fully-fledged

RETIREMENTS

A cheerful and happy group of ladies—and friends—who make up our North Mersey District cleaning team, pictured on the occasion of the retirement of their colleague, Kay Kehoe. We see, from left to right: Joan, Madge (rear), Marg, Billy Gibbs, Kay, Pat, Nellie and Mary.



'spark' seven years later. He was quickly upgraded to installation inspector, later transferring to the job of meter reader/electrician. By the end of 1945 he had risen to chargehand, and in 1963 transferred to the clerical side, holding a senior clerical post on retirement.

During his life Jack has been untiring in his efforts for the welfare of his colleagues. He was a shop steward for 20 years, a member of the Works and Local Advisory Committees for 15, and a representative on the District Joint Advisory Council for two years. He was a founder member of the Sports and Social Club, having served as treasurer, a National Savings Club collector and treasurer for 25 years, and actively involved for 20 years in

the affairs of the hospital contributory scheme and the Manual Workers' Benevolent Fund.

The many friends he has made throughout this long and active working life wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

Mr. FRANK WARD

After half a century's work in the legal profession, beginning as an office boy in a Sheffield solicitor's practice, then moving into local government, and finishing up with 27 years' service at MANWEB Head Office, Mr. Frank Ward (*Assistant Secretary, legal, estates and wayleaves*) retired recently.

Before coming to MANWEB in 1950 Mr. Ward worked in local government at Sheffield and Ipswich. Three years after coming to the Board's former Head Office in Liverpool he took over responsibility for the newly-formed legal section, and was appointed Assistant Secretary in 1970. Throughout his working life Mr. Ward has been mainly concerned with the legal aspects of property and its management.

During the war he served in the Middle East with the RAF's Transport Command during the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. The many friends he has made during his long service with MANWEB wish Frank a long and happy retirement.



Above: Messrs. Joe Winchester (*Group Manager*), centre, and John Roberts (*District Administrative Officer*), left, wish Mr. Jack Burgess health and happiness in retirement.

Below: On retirement, Mr. Frank Ward, centre, receives farewell gifts from his friends, handed over by Mr. Denis Dodds (*Chairman*). Also in the picture is Mr. Peter Henderson (*Secretary*).



Obituary

We regret to record the deaths of the following colleagues and pensioners, with sincere sympathies to their families:

Mr. Arthur Wainwright Gregson, a pensioner who retired in 1951, died while visiting his daughter in Norfolk recently, at the grand old age of 91.

Arthur, popularly known as "Chummy," joined the staff of Wallasey Corporation way back in 1903 in the gas and water department, later transferring to the electricity department which

he saw grow from small beginnings to the large undertaking which became part of MANWEB on nationalisation. He was mainly engaged in meter fitting, reading, and inspection duties.

For many years he led the Arthur Gregson Dance Band, which played at many of Wallasey's major functions until the outbreak of the second world

war. He was also a keen sportsman.

An avid reader of *Contact*—which he absorbed from cover to cover.

Mr. Frank Thompson, aged 71, who retired ten years ago from the sales and service department at Liverpool.

Mr. Alexander Christie Young, aged 62, an assistant storekeeper at Warrington, died recently. He had been in the industry for 30 years.



This unusual view of Caernarfon Castle was taken a short time ago by Mike Hall of our Head Office photographic department. He was positioned on a tower wagon adjacent to the Board's shop in Pool Street.

On a cloudy day, Mike used his favourite Nikkormat camera with the shutter speed set at $1/250$ th of a second at F8. Tri-X film was processed in ID11 developer.