

SUMMER ISSUE 1984



# Review



*A Super New Deal for all Motorists*

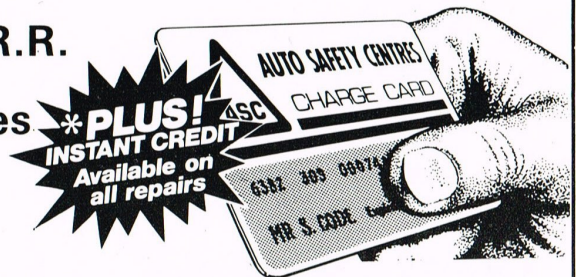
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# from the Editor's Desk . . .

Well 'Better late than Never' must be the thought that crossed your mind when you received this issue of the News Review and to all my retired readers who consider The Review as their lifeline to our Industry I apologise but perhaps I will be forgiven when you read our Bumper Edition.

1984 is well advanced and our Industry continues its metamorphosis.

Our new Managing Director is now fully established in his position and has shown himself to be a man who wants to be part of the team as well as The Coach.

Quite a few of our personnel have taken Voluntary

Severance and it has been necessary to streamline and reassess work loads so that unnecessary, out-of-date, methods can be abandoned.

Computerization is a reality and here to stay; It is The Future and accepting that is the only major hurdle we have to face.

The Evacuation of Sheepcote Street is about to commence and soon we will once again be one 'Body' able to more easily inter-communicate and therefore unquestionably become more efficient.

I hope that the News Review will continue as I feel it would be a great pity to lose this 'lifeline'.

Cecilia Turner.

## OUR FIRST MANAGING DIRECTOR'S RETIREMENT

On Friday the 18th May, Mr. W.A. Markham was 65 years of age and he also retired from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

By his side to receive the Silver Sugar Basin and Cream Jug, that were presented to him on behalf of the Personnel, was his wife Margaret.

Mrs. Markham has always endeavoured to meet as many employees as possible during the many Company functions she has attended and her friendly outgoing manner has endeared her to many of us.

The Silver Sugar Basin and Cream Jug compliment the Silver Coffee Jug presented to Mr. Markham by the Board of Directors.

During his service with the Company, Mr. Markham successively became Deputy Distribution Engineer, Distribution Engineer, Deputy Chief Engineer, General Manager and finally Managing Director, a position created in 1981.

His distinguished war service during which not only was he the youngest Battalion Commander in the British Army but he also attained the rank of Major in 1946, gives us an insight into the character of the man, who gained the respect of his colleagues for his gentlemanly consideration married with the firm authoritative control needed to keep the Company in its right course.

He leaves with the knowledge that under his guidance the Company has rapidly progressed and can now claim itself to be one of the leaders in New Technology within the Water Industry.

He and his wife have retired to a new home in Well, Lincolnshire and I know that their offer to welcome all visitors is a truly genuine one.

To wish him 'well in Well' may be comic pun on words but there is nothing comic in the genuine sincerity that goes with that statement.

We wish him long life and happiness in his retirement.

CELIA TURNER



Ron Perks & Alan Evers with Mr. & Mrs. Markham



Bill & Margaret Markham

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Margaret and I wish to thank you, particularly the Chairman and Committee of the Social Club, for the lovely silver cream jug and sugar basin given to us on my retirement on 18th May. They will often be in use and always cherished as a reminder of my working days with you.

Despite the difficult times we worked through I shall always look back with pleasure at the constructive and friendly help you all invariably gave me and at our joint achievements.

If any of you should be near our new home, please drop in for a cup of tea and a chat. We are daily becoming more civilised and our guests no longer have to sit on packing cases.

With grateful thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Bill and Margaret Markham

## THE CONSUMER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

The establishment of these Committees throughout the country came about under the 1983 Water Act. They are to meet four times a year and hopefully form a bridge between the Company and its Industrial and domestic consumers, advising on policies, expenditure proposals, standards of service, complaint patterns and levels of charges.

When we advertised in the local press Mr. Carter was delighted with both the volume and quality of response.

After the difficult task of selecting the required number from the applicants, two committees were formed to serve the North and South of our Distribution Area. Each committee has a total of 14 members representing Local Authorities, Industry, Commerce, farming and householders.

The first meetings of the two sections of the Company's Consumer Consultative Committee were held on 17 and 18 July in the Board Room at Head Office.

In both cases, the Company's nominee, Mr. A.N. Fenton, was elected as Chairman. Mr. Fenton was

born in Walsall and now lives in Condober, Shrewsbury; he has had substantial experience in a variety of functions with GKN, where he was also Chairman and Chief Executive of a number of associated companies. Mr. R.G. Gaunt was elected Deputy of the Staffordshire Section and Mrs. J. Merry of the West Midlands Section. Mr. Gaunt, who is the CBI East Midland Representative, is Group Manager of the CEGB Midlands Region and Mrs. Merry, who is a householder representative, is Secretary of the Aldridge/Brownhills Manufacturers' Association and a Local Magistrate.



Left - Mr. A.N. Fenton, Chairman (WMC Staffordshire Sections). Centre - Mrs. J. Merry Household, Deputy Chairman (West Midlands Section). Right - Mr. R. Gaunt, Industry - Confederation of British Industry (East Midlands Region), Deputy Chairman - Staffordshire Section.

## IN SEARCH OF A SAINT

Our 'In Search of a Saint' article in our Winter Issue produced its quota of interest in The Water Industry and The 'Water Bulletin' published the reply article shown.

### Water company's saintly search

South Staffordshire Waterworks Company is having a little difficulty finding a name for its new headquarters and decided to turn to religion for inspiration.

It was decided to find out whether there was a patron saint of waterworkers, writes Mrs. C. Hodgson, personal assistant to the managing director, in the latest issue of the company's magazine *Review*. The company approached a variety of information sources before being told by the Birmingham

Council of Churches that 'three saints might be suitable', and suggested one in particular: St. Winefred of Holywell in north Wales.

Westminster Cathedral, however, told *Water Bulletin* that there was a known patron saint for waterworkers, and he is St. Alexis, the son of a fifth century Roman patrician who spent 17 years as a beggar before returning home, unrecognised, to spend another 17 years as a beggar in his father's house enduring great austerity, begging for his bread and being ill-treated by his father's servants.

His saint's day is 17 July.

Not to be outdone the 'PRIVATE EYE' on 29 June 1984 also had in its 'TRUE STORIES' page another little comment.

### Christopher Loque's True Stories

"When the time arrived to name our new headquarters," said Miss Jennifer Tappet of the South Staffordshire Water Company. "We decided to find out who was the patron saint of waterworkers. After some false starts, the saint expert at Westminster Abbey said that St. Alexis, the son of a Roman millionaire, was the one we wanted. Alexis left his family

when young and spent seventeen years begging before he decided to return home. Unfortunately, he was not recognized by anyone and spent a further seventeen years being maltreated by the servants. I am not sure how this will go down with our staff, but July the 17th is Alexis' Day."

### A SNIPPET FROM NORAH (JONES) Payroll Section H/Q

I read Mrs. Carol Hodgson's article 'In Search of a Saint' (Page 4, Winter Issue) and, with her permission having been given, would like to add a postscript for the next edition.

"Saint Winefred was the 7th Century Saint of Virgins - a Welsh maiden, who, importuned by Prince Caradoc, treated him with scorn and he had her beheaded!"

**DID YOU KNOW** that the River Severn has a Goddess?? Her name is Sabrina, and she does - or **did**, stand near the River in the vicinity of Bridgnorth.

# Profile

Jim Carter, an only child was born in Blackpool in 1931. He is extremely proud of being a LANCASTRIAN and that his great-grandfather was one of the original instigators of erecting the Blackpool Tower.

To grow up in Blackpool must be the dream of many a child for it must surely be like living in a giant playground, even though the locals consider it not quite 'done' to be seen on the promenade in the holiday season preferring to repossess the front out-of-season.

On completion of his Education at a local Grammar School in 1947, he found a position with the LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL and continued his studies to qualify as an Accountant.

During these early years, at seventeen he met his wife, Kathleen, and their friendship blossomed over the years and eventually after completing his National Service they were married in 1955 at Blackpool.

In 1959 Jim Carter joined the North Western Electricity Board (BOLTON) and still determined to develop his education further he combined a day release with evening studies and was successful over the following three years in obtaining a degree in Economics. A difficult task to accomplish when one is maintaining fulltime employment and takes a great deal of dedication and a very understanding wife.

It was during these years he first became interested in the then new technology of Computers and this helped him acquire his next post with the EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD (IPSWICH) – in 1961. His new Employers were formulating a large Centralisation Program and Jim Carter was employed as Chief Systems Analyst, being Head of Customer Accounting and DATA Processing.

He became in the early 70's a Fellow of the British Computer Society and also a member of the EAST ANGLIAN branch of this Society.

During his years in Ipswich, his son PAUL was born in 1963 followed by his daughter JUDITH in 1967 and with his family now complete, he looked to the future.

In 1975 he decided to make the move from Electricity to Water and was offered the position of Asst. Director of Finance with the SEVERN TRENT WATER AUTHORITY.

This necessitated a move to Leamington Spa and raised a problem, his young daughter did not want to move. It needed more than a little diplomacy on the part of Jim and Kathleen Carter to deal with this situation and an offer of a new pet proved to be the acceptable persuader. Although the original request for a LASSIE dog (she was keen on Lassie films) was toned down

somewhat to a Shelti named KIRSTI, Jim Carter reckons that the power of 'prayer' must have produced the largest Shelti dog he has ever seen.

The belief that he had moved from a High Technology Utility to a lesser demanding Utility was quickly dispersed and he was amazed to find that there seemed more highly qualified persons in the Water Industry than in his previous employment.

His task at Severn Trent was to introduce and put into operation the Direct Billing Program which he successfully achieved and became Divisional Manager of the Soar Division of Severn Trent.

He acquired a reputation during this time, that proceeded him to South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, of being a keen publicity man. He used whatever media possible to make the public aware of the working success of the Company or Authority he worked for and believes strongly that good consumer relations can only be achieved by good and efficient publicity. He believes even more that good internal communications are essential as nothing is more annoying to personnel than to be left in the 'dark'.

In his first month he insisted on spending one day working in the Open Plan Office at Walsall and prefers to get out to meet personnel rather than have them come to him in his office, where he feels he could easily become cut-off from the reality of the Industry. Arranged Seminars to introduce himself to personnel took place in early August, he encouraged questions from those who attended. He hoped he would always be approachable and assured us that he could take criticism as much as he could give it. He confesses to having been re-educated in his outlook of the Water Companies, believing prior to his arrival that they were somewhat less modern in their outlook, being bathed in traditions, than the Authorities, but he is aware that he has his predecessor Bill Markham to thank for preparing the basic groundwork of New Technology in our Industry.

It is now necessary that each reorganized area of the Company become part of the whole and that the various anomalies be sorted out. This is the major task in hand.

The move to Walsall will help to eliminate the segregation of Departments but naturally there will be certain disadvantages in not being in close contact with the various Legal and Business contacts within the City.

Living in Leamington Spa it is quite a journey each day to Walsall but at present he does not intend to move, especially as his son Paul now works for the Severn Trent Avon Division and Judith is awaiting hopefully acceptance into Edinburgh University. He is also a keen member of the South Warwickshire Speakers Club, which he and two others created in 1976. It has grown from strength to strength and in fact has had two National Speaker Champions. A member of the congregation of the Leamington Spa Baptist Church he also is actively involved in helping the Church Youth Group but even so has chance to enjoy the occasional game of tennis and badminton.

Overwhelmed by the warmth, friendship and genuine helpfulness of the many people he has already met, he looks forward to being part of the Water Company 'Family' supported by a large number of talented and enthusiastic staff and together he believes we can continue to develop and grow into a Water company that we can carry on being justly proud of.

CELIA TURNER  
EDITOR SSWW REVIEW



# Water Aid

## JOGGING FOR FITNESS, FUN AND WATER AID

### REFLECTIONS ON THE LICHFIELD HALF-MARATHON – As seen by Alan Lander

My lasting memory of this event is of the biting, crippling cold. Before the start, I was chatting to John Lindley, whose hairy torso was bulging out of a flimsy running vest and skimpy shorts. I haven't yet decided whether he's macho, or masochistic or maniacal. In a more predictable and cowardly fashion, members of higher management, Andrew Scudamore, Alan Evers and David Penna were all muffled up in track suits, balaclavas and fingerless woollen gloves.

The first part of the race was into the wind, and after the first six miles, I had sufficiently lost the feeling in my extremities to have a definite empathy with the proverbial brass monkey. It was no great consolation to see an open-necked Alan Jones sitting in a warm Company van, waiting to pick up frost-bite victims, and giving a toot and a smile to the suffering participants. Further on there was some satisfaction from seeing Barry Hopkins imperiously marshalling traffic and runners. The cold was obviously affecting him; he called me 'Bill'. His wife was handing out drinks a little further on, she didn't recognise me either.

It was a great relief to get to the end and see the welcoming face of Pat Rea and her little band of enthusiastic supporters. Sorry if I didn't respond Pat, by that time even my thinking mechanism had frozen up.



Andrew in action  
I've heard of running one's legs off but not one's hands off!!

### – As seen by Andrew Scudamore

It was extremely cold, not auspicious weather for my first half-marathon. Old stagers like David Penna, Alan Lander (sorry about the "old" Alan), and John Lindley looked disgustingly fit; David had assured me that there would be a wide range of runners taking part. To me the wide range appeared to range from good to excellent, as nearly everyone overtook me in the first 3 miles.

During the run we passed Alan (the van) Jones whose encouragement ran to asking if we were alright. I was slow enough for Barrie Hopkins, who was marshalling at the 9-mile mark, to have run as far as the rest of us just by stamping his feet for 2 hours to keep out the cold. No wonder he called the Nun who was running with me "Father".

With the end in sight, three of us (including the Nun) put in a staggered finish, too late unfortunately for Pat Rea and her little band of enthusiastic supporters to see (they'd gone home). Sorry about that Pat, but I said I'd finish eventually.

Alan (the dog) Evers, Sandra Adams (Management Accounts) and John Wilson successfully completed the 6-mile Fun Run. Why didn't I do that one instead.

### – and a more serious note from David Penna'

As a race, I'd rather forget it – too long and too slow. But as an event, it was memorable, I'd like to record my thanks to the many people who helped to make it so: –

- The Company/Water Aid Committee for publicity and support, especially Mr. Markham, Alan Jones and Angie Robson.
- Lichfield District Round Table for their slick organisation.
- The Company runners, A. Evers, A. Scudamore, J. Wilson, J. Lindley, A. Lander, S. Adams, for their willpower.
- James Evers (7 years old) and dog for mentioning Water Aid to the newspaper reporter.
- And to all of you who sponsored the weary few and helped us to raise £170 for Water Aid and £40 for the Round Table charities.



Andrew Scudamore with two other entrants – one dressed as a 'Nun'.

## Water Aid

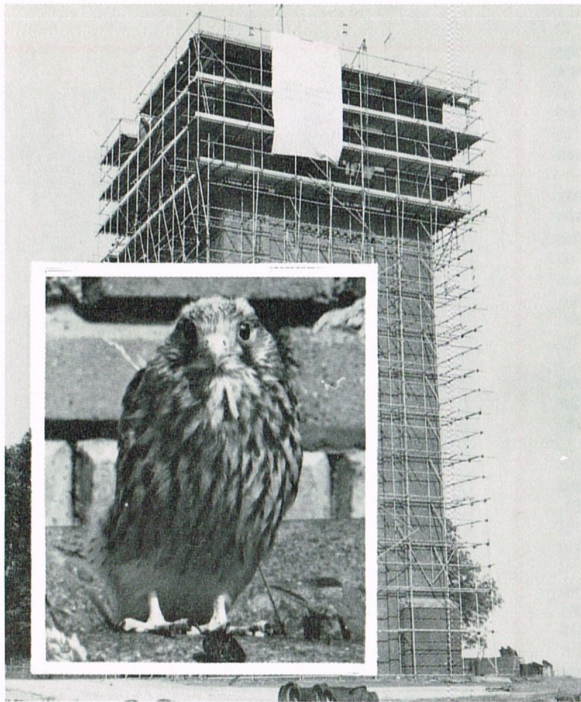
A few employees got together recently to chat about raising money for Water Aid. Remembering that from the start the main supporters of Water Aid have been people in the British Water Industry we felt that we should increase our effort. It was decided to set a target for fund raising this year with a view to sponsoring a particular project in a Third World Country.

What we need is help in the following two ways

- a) **SUGGESTIONS**  
can you suggest ways of raising money. This could be a Company wide venture or perhaps local to your own workplace.
- b) **SUPPORT**  
When the fund raising activities begin, don't ignore them and leave it to other people. We can only help if individuals, (that means you) are willing to dip into their pockets once in a while (or into their pay packets regularly).
- c) **PRACTICAL HELP**  
We will need volunteers to act as a focal point at each workplace. e.g. One person in each section, two at an Area Office (one manual, one staff). If you are willing to help, it will only take a few odd moments of your time each month.

Give Mike Lewis H/O (Ext. 207) or Angi Robson, Green Lane (Ext. 345) a ring.

## THE WATER TOWER THAT GOT THE BIRD



They built them to last in 1907, as you can see from the photograph, Winhill Water Tower located 1 mile to the east of Burton-upon-Trent town centre is a massive brick built tower with a 50,000 gallon tank situated at the top to serve the higher properties of the area.

However, the old lady is showing signs of her age with loose and cracked bricks, wind eroded mortar joints and grimy appearance. Contracts were awarded in June 1984 to carry out the necessary renovation and when the scaffolder (J.F.E. Attridge Ltd., Rugeley) reached the corbelling detail above the top window, they discovered a family of four 1-week-old kestrel chicks in one of the air vent holes.

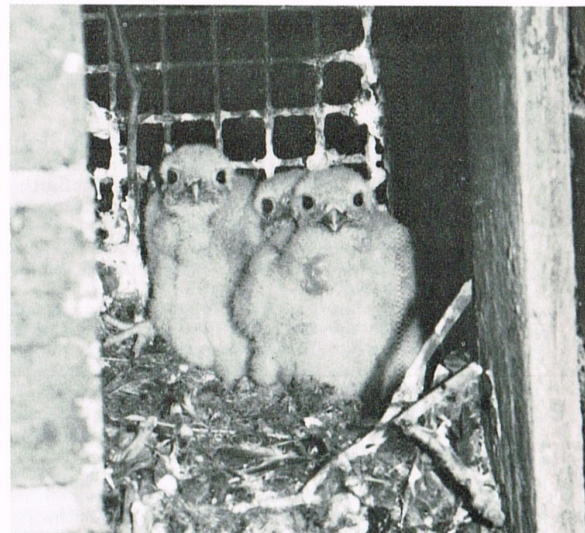
Knowing that they are rare, valuable and protected, we kept quiet about their presence to protect them from possible theft but we contacted the West Midland Bird Club for advice on how best to proceed with the renovation work without disturbing them.

Although he was busy making final arrangements for his daughter's wedding, Mr. Charles Brown, Committee member for the West Midland Bird Club and who also serves on the Blithfield Recreation Users Committee, visited the site climbed the scaffolding and inspected the chicks. He considered that one of the chicks being extremely small was not receiving its fair share of food and would not survive, so he removed it to another kestrel nest, which he was aware of in the area, where the mother only has two chicks to look after. He also felt that the mother was not feeding the young as often as



Andy Wachnianin's engineering career takes on a new aspect when he was called on to feed the birds.

she should due to the disturbance of the scaffolding and so he returned on the day before the wedding to feed them with a supplementary diet of steak and dead blackbird (rare of course!) mixed with some hair from his labrador dog, to give roughage.



Three frightened little birds stare out amazed by the intruders.

We were advised that it would be 3 weeks before the chicks would learn to fly and 4 weeks before they left the nest, and so the Company incurred additional costs to arrange for the scaffold boards on that face to be removed and re-erected on the far side of the tower, enabling work to proceed without disturbance to the birds.

3 weeks later, further photographs were taken by Andy Wachnianin, the engineer working on the project, and what a transformation, the ugly ducklings had changed into beautiful birds of prey. The birds having now flown, the project can be completed and the story told.

ALAN EVERS.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY S. CHARLES BROWN A.R.P.S.  
of the West Midland Bird Club

# THE WATERMEN OF

Turncocks or watermen to state the modern term have been employed by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company since 1861. In November of that year it was decided by the Directors at a Board Meeting that a man should reside in each town supplied and be equipped with keys for turning of water supplies. No uniform was supplied but Hatbands inscribed TURNCOCK were to be provided.

An effort to supply Dudley with an organised water supply began in 1791 with the passage through Parliament of the Town of Dudley Act. It was not until 1834 with the formation of the Dudley Waterworks Company that an organised scheme came to fruition. Shavers End Nr. 1 reservoir constructed to store water pumped from Parkes Hall district is the last remaining link with that era. Dudley Waterworks Company, never a viable venture, was overcome by financial problems which forced a takeover by South Staffordshire Waterworks Company in 1862.

The minute books of the Dudley Company have not survived from the sparse information available it appears all their works and repairs were carried out by local plumbing contractors supervised by the Engineer and Directors of the Company.

With the arrival of Lichfield water at Shavers End in 1862 the first Dudley turncock was employed. Sons of George and Margaret Perks of Portersfield figured prominently, as the first. Adam at the age of 17 years was number one. Prior to his employment with South Staffordshire Waterworks Company he followed his trade of blacksmith at the local works.

Adam's twelve hour working day started at six a.m. after his walk to Tipton Office where he received his orders for the day. Apart from walking along the line of the mains laid, he was expected to make himself familiar with the positions of pipes, valves and other apparatus installed, to search for waste water and to repair any burst pipes he found. Wages, which were paid fortnightly amounted to a staggering £2-2s-0d for the two week period.

George Perks aged 20 years and Joseph Perks aged 14 years, brothers of Adam, entered the Company's service as turncocks in 1864. For carrying out supervisory duties over his brothers, Adam was remunerated an extra three shillings per fortnight.

David Perks, a fourth brother, joined the Company as a plumber's boy in 1864 at a rate of pay of one shilling per day, at the age of ten years he must surely rank as the Company's youngest employee.

Following a short spell as Netherton turncock Adam Perks, was installed as plumber in the Dudley district in 1865.

George and Joseph Perks terminated their employment with the Company in July 1865, and were succeeded by the last of the short say men, Thomas Nicholls, who was born and resided in Tipton. Originally working as a labourer for the Company he became Dudley turncock for ten months terminating the position in May 1866.

Turncocks were responsible for carrying out plumbing inspections and attended court to give evidence in cases when required. At Dudley Magistrates Court in 1867 George Perks, then employed as a plumber by a local contractor, was charged with connecting a pipe from the Wesleyan Chapel, Mamble, Dudley on to the Company's main without obtaining the necessary consent as required by Regulation five of the 1862 Regulations (today Byelaw 59) Perks was convicted and ordered to pay all the court costs. The object of bringing the case to court was to direct the attention of the plumbing trade in general to the Company's Regulations.

Evidence in the court case was given by John Scott who was Dudley turncock from June 1866 until his retirement through failing health in 1895 at the age of seventy three years. Scott was born in Shenstone, Lichfield in 1822. On his appointment as turncock he moved to 75 Oakwell Street, Dudley.

In addition to his normal duties he supervised mains and service layers in Dudley and other areas when requested. When carrying out this duty at Burton-On-Trent he was paid a lodging out allowance. A most respected employee, Scott received half pay for sickness periods, of which there were many, during the later years of his working life. On retirement he was paid a gratuity of 14 shillings a week. Died January 8, 1900.



Turncocks wages were augmented by the one shilling commission paid by the Company for obtaining orders for new services, many of the population financially preferred to rely on water from private wells.

Another "perk" was the half a crown reward for reporting water stealing considered a serious misdemeanour by the Company during the period 1865 - 1885. Men were apprehensive about reporting culprits fearing possible reprisals being taken against them by acquaintances of the offenders.

Many cases of water stealing were brought before the courts under Section 20 of the Water Clauses Act of 1863 which usually resulted in guilty parties receiving fines ranging from one shilling up to five shillings.

In 1869 an eight year old girl appeared in court charged with stealing a bucket of water. The bench strongly criticized the Company for bringing children into court knowing full well that it was impossible to punish them, this case was dismissed.

John Scott's assistance during the 1880's - 1890's was John Tucker who was born in Dudley on the 2 July 1854, and entered the Company's employment in April 1877 living at that time with



## DUDLEY 1862-1984



3



5

- 1 John Taylor 1923 at Cawney Hill.
- 2 John Taylor (left), John Tucker (right) taken at Abberley Street, Dudley 1925.
- 3 Ken Rogers Snr. – Today's Dudley Waterman.
- 4 John Taylor Dudley 1926
- 5 J. Stevens, Waterman from 1933-1965.

his wife Emma at 22, Smith Street, Dudley. Employed initially as a plumber he became plumber-turncock in 1883 at a rate of pay of One Pound Three Shillings a week. Wages at the time being paid weekly on Thursdays.

Tucker occupied the first of the houses in Dudley rented by the turncock from the Company at Number 10 Tower Street, part of the site today housing the Dudley Police Stations.

Orders for the days work were still obtained after the morning walk to Tipton Office. Urgent communication resulted in telegrams being despatched by the Engineer Mr. Vawdry direct to the turncocks home.

John Tucker became a familiar figure with Dudley consumers so much so he accompanied the district collector Joseph Porter on his rounds.

Turncocks were subject to fines imposed as a disciplinary measure by the Company for a variety of offences including – absent without permission, bad workmanship, not reporting burst pipes and failing to report reservoir readings. Penalties to guilty parties ranged from one quarter of a day to three days pay stopped from their wages.

Uniforms were issued to personnel in 1887 and consisted of a single breasted jacket with brass buttons plus a hard hat. The jacket was replaced every two years, the buttons and lettering being transferred from the old to the new uniform. Overcoats were issued every three years. Trousers were not standard issue until 1924.

With the deterioration of the houses in Tower Street because of dampness the Board of Directors decided to purchase Number 39 Abberley Street, Dudley in 1894 at a cost of £320.00 the house, later renumbered 44, was to be occupied by the Dudley turncock until 1965 and finally sold to a metal merchant in 1967.

When purchased in 1894 the house was luxury for that time, previously occupied by a doctor. It was a double fronted building with bow windows. It contained eight rooms, was gas lit and had a water supply laid into the house. Alongside and at the rear of the building was a blue brickyard where pipes and other equipment were eventually stored having become a "Dudley Depot". A hut at the rear of the house was used by workmen on the Dudley district for lunch breaks.

After 38 years service as Dudley turncock John Scott retired and the district was taken over by John Tucker who had worked with Scott for many years previous and had taken over the tenancy of 44 Abberley Street in 1890. Tucker remained as turncock until his retirement in 1925 after 48 years service. He moved to Number 3 Abberley Street where he spent his retirement. He died in the 1940s.

John Taylor, Tucker's successor was born in Hurst Lane, Tipton in May 1869. After leaving school at 12 years of age he found employment on the local canals and Holcrofts Iron Works, Tipton. He successfully applied for a labourers job at Tipton Depot in September 1899 at a rate of pay of One Pound Thirteen Shillings a week, this was a drop in wages compared with his previous employment but he considered the job more secure and regular.

After receiving plumbing tuition from Moses (Mo) Baggott he became efficient with the "tools" and progressed to plumber.

Other duties carried out during his earlier years of employment with the Company included rowing a boat, accompanied by John Tucker, across Shavers End Reservoir in the early hours of the morning scraping a green scum off the water surface. The reservoir was open to the elements at that time and was creating problems on the district.

Jack Stevens, whilst still in the Company's employment died on the 7 April 1965 after 37 years service. During his last three years service he related his knowledge and skills to the present Dudley waterman, Ken Rogers.

Ken Rogers who was born in Vauxhall, London 21 March 1931 and found himself a victim of the 2nd World War being evacuated to Kegworth, Leicestershire in 1941. His father, a railway worker, and brother, a fireman, stayed in London to face the Blitz.

Rogers stayed on in the village after the end of the war and was employed in the engineering industry. As the result of meeting a girl from Dudley visiting relatives in Kegworth and his later marriage to the young woman he moved to Dudley in 1961.

On the recommendation of Jim Owen the Netherton Waterman, Rogers applied for a vacancy and began work at Tipton Depot as a waste Inspector. Within two weeks he progressed to trainee waterman.

Today Ken Rogers, "the little chap with glasses on" has greater mobility covering the area, now enlarged, by van, is in direct contact with Tipton Area Office by radio with a call sign of Aqua Lucy.

Included in his workload are shutting off washing out, locating and chlorinating mains waste inspection, meter reading, waste meter charting and dealing with consumer complaints.

Last link in the chain of supply from catchment area and borehole through to consumer but the Company's first line of defence, in direct contact with the consumer everyday he sets the Company image depending on circumstances he is either an angel or a monster.

Ken Rogers carries on the Dudley waterman's tradition, like his forerunners, not just a job, more a way of life but during the past 122 years, working conditions, pay, mode of travel and the scenery have changed considerably.

B.J. WILLIAMS  
J.V. LEERZEM

# PENSIONERS OUTING

RETIRED MEMBERS  
ANNUAL OUTING  
WEDNESDAY 4th JULY  
1984  
Visit to Newstead Abbey

The 1984 annual pensioners' outing took place this year on Wednesday 4th July on a beautiful summer day, the venue being Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire, at one time the home of Lord Byron.

The Abbey was founded in 1170 and was an active religious community until 1539 when it was dissolved by Henry VIII. It then became the family home of the Byrons until Lord Byron, driven by debt, sold it in 1817. It was eventually presented to the City of Nottingham in 1931. The Abbey contains many works of art and possessions of Lord Byron and is surrounded by beautiful grounds and gardens. These, and the splendid lake, were seen to very best advantage in the warm, sunny weather.



Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Young with Mr. W. Arms & Mr. H. Woolaston.



Mr. & Mrs. H.F. Crowe & Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Anderson.

This splendid occasion, now in its 39th year, is generously provided by the Board of Directors and is very much appreciated by the pensioners, some 400 in number (the oldest being 92) and gives them a chance to meet with others and discuss old times. 10 coaches carried us all to the Abbey from various points in the Company's area, and very welcome cool drinks and ice-cream were provided during the journey.

The Chairman of the Company, Mr. E.J. Thompson, met all the guests, also the Sheriff of Nottingham and the Shirebrook Miners Welfare Band. The new Managing Director, Mr. James Carter, was unable to

attend because of a prior engagement in America, on world-wide water problems, but, owing to the wonders of new technology, he was able to leave a recorded message of welcome and a film on video which was put on screen during a splendid tea which was served in a marquee and during which band played. Mrs. Carter was able to attend, along with the recently retired Managing Director, Mr. W.A. Markham, now resident in Lincolnshire, and also Mr. Lamont, formerly General Manager



Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Markham greeting the Sheriff of Nottingham, Councillor Frank Bennett and the Sheriff's Lady.



Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Stock and Mr. & Mrs. A.R.W. Waddington.

and Engineer-in-Chief. After tea, the Chairman made a short speech of appreciation of the pensioners' hard work and loyalty, many of whom were now over 80 years of age, but looking very youthful. Mr. Tom Wall responded in suitable terms. The Sheriff then got up, thanking Pat Rea and the organisers for all their efforts.

After a very enjoyable day, the guests had a drink in the restaurant bar before joining their coaches for the journey home.



Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Looke, Mr. & Mrs. N. Round.

Many thanks to the Retired Member who compiled this account of the outing, who wishes to remain anonymous.

PAT REA.

## THE DIRECTORS VISIT TO WORKS 26.7.84



This year the itinerary was as follows: -

Starting at Central Office at approximately 9.30 a.m., on to Barr Beacon, Bourne Vale & Little Hay to inspect sites and talk to personnel.

Lunch at the Angel Croft Hotel in Lichfield followed by a Board Meeting and finally terminating at Seedy Mill and Hanch Reservoir at approximately 16.30.

The Board Meeting proved to be longer than anticipated and the tour was running approximately 1 hour late as it continued on to Seedy Mill and Hanch Reservoir and it was anticipated that time would curtail this last visit. However because of the stimulated interest of the Directors this was not so and Ron Bloodworth the Site Manager informs of how the visit to Seedy Mill was conducted.

Seedy Mill was the last location of this yearly visit to Works by the Directors.

After arriving at approximately 16.30 hours, the Directors viewed a number of water quality based projects including the bulk aluminium sulphate installation, the recently completed installation designed to administer potassium permanganate and the proposals to improve the existing chlorine gas storage facilities.

This was followed by a description by myself, of the Micro-processor based Automation Programme of the development, in the newly constructed Control Room.

A talk by Terry McAllister, Northern Area Manager, on behalf of the Company, proceeded refreshments.

The visit was concluded by viewing a number of presentations, demonstrated by Distribution Unit personnel outlining the use of technology advances in equipment in the distribution function.

These demonstrations comprised of: -

- 1) Fibre Optics for internal inspection of mains.
- 2) Ground-o-Mat thrust-borer for underground laying of ducts.
- 3) The leak correlation unit for waste detection.
- 4) Air scouring techniques.

RON BLOODWORTH

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# technological takeover

Over the last nine months, two people have been seen so often at Green Lane they have each been accepted as 'one of us'.

Sam Campbell and Haleema Ahmed (Toccat Computer Services) have worked literally day and night producing the new system known as SWIMS.

'SWIMS' (South Staffordshire Water Incident Management System) is the computerised handling of customer complaints in a manner which necessitates action, by virtue of the fact that no complaint can be overlooked or forgotten because the system will not allow it to be 'shelved'.

Because all complaints are computerised, they are quickly comparable and identified and successful actions can be repeated without the long analysis that was always previously necessary when each problem was dealt with separately.

The Response Centres (i.e. where the customer's complaints are received) are fitted with VDU's and printers and various offices throughout the area, Head Office and Central Office are also linked by use of VDU's to the main computer. Our quick response to the consumer must improve our customer relations, our service and efficiency.

The gradual and continual improvement of this system will soon enable a consumer to be so informed that they will be able to telephone direct to the Response Centre from any area within our distribution and yet not incur telephone charges greater than a localised call.

Although the Response Centre only operates between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday, all 'out of hours' calls that are received by the Control Office are immediately logged into computers the following morning.

There are many other varied advantages of the system, some are as follows: -

- a) Dual complaints (i.e. monetary and poor supply) can be immediately separated and diverted to the required offices for action.
- b) Daily on-going 'HIT' Lists of complaints are produced and up-to-date data of action taken is immediately available.



c) Complaints can be segregated into genuine Complaints or Incidents

e.g. BURST MAIN (Wear and tear)	Complaint
BURST MAIN (Damage by other utility)	Incident

d) Management and Board have continual access to statistics and all problems arising and can formulate action quickly should Board Approval be necessary.

It is anticipated that eventually there will be up to 150 VDU's in use within the Company in the foreseeable future.

This is only the beginning of the new Computer Technology within the Industry. Already a digital mapping system has been started in conjunction with the other Utilities.

Once all the problems are analysed and overcome, the day is not too distant when all roads within our area, and, in fact, most probably throughout Britain, will be so well documented that any services that are beneath their surfaces will be pinpointed and any work that necessitates excavation will be completed jointly by all Utilities at the same time to prevent as little disruption of traffic as possible and also to enable shared Capital Expenditure throughout these Utilities.

C. TURNER

## A COMMENDATION

By THE INSTITUTION OF WATER ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS



Chris Pattison of Technical Services received a letter from B.J. Dangerfield, the Editor of The Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists Journal in which he was informed that a paper he had written and presented at a meeting of The Institution's Midland Section had been so well received that the IWES Editorial Panel had decided to publish it in their August Issue.

### Paper 483: Electric drives - types and choices

All papers that are published also qualify for being considered for an annual award presented by The Institution so let us hope that Chris has success in this selection also.

# A light hearted look at a weekend in Holland



When John Morrall organized a trip to Holland in June, the initial response was poor, but thanks to John's persuasion and persistence the trip finally went ahead on Friday, 8 June.

The coach left Birmingham at 6.30 p.m. destined for Dover via the M6/M1.

When everyone had settled down, the Courier introduced himself and the driver and went over the itinerary. He was a friendly and helpful little chap, who kept us amused with rather obvious jokes. Some of his information was a bit sketchy and one of his failings was that he was prone to errors in his sense of direction.

Later in the weekend he did seek the assistance of John S. Morrall in navigating the streets of Rotterdam.

Unfortunately, John was one of these blokes who follows his nose, which means he usually ends up in the nearest curry parlour.

The journey to Dover was uneventful. It was a modern coach, with reclining seats and a television set fitted at the front by the door where boarding passengers could conveniently bang their heads. It was Len Jackson's job to warn us of this hazard, but he seemed much more interested in watching the various expressions of shock, surprise and pain as one by one we nutted the corner of the set. There was even more anguish when we had to sit through another two hours of "The Dirty Dozen" starring Lee Marvin, Telly Savalas and every other Hollywood star you can think of all the way down to Trini Lopez (who?). Additionally the coach had a drinks machine, suitably complemented by a toilet. There's nothing worse than having to suffer a couple of hours of red face and crossed legs, cursing the fact that you didn't have the willpower to refuse that last pint. Having said that, I think I only used it once, but it's such a comfort knowing it's there.

Arriving at Dover at about 1.30 p.m. and moved onto the midnight ferry to Ostend without any undue fuss. People dispersed throughout the boat and started to do their own thing. Mike Geraghty and his mate adjourned to the nearest bar and spent the next three days trying to drink each other under the table. Funny, I always thought of Management Accounts as being upright and sober. Pat Rea and her husband were also knocking them back and the unsteadiness in their legs wasn't entirely due to the motion of the boat.

Up in the duty-free shop we came across Geoff Wilde and his Missus fulfilling a promise of a large box of Churchillian cigars for Keith Hodson. Some of the polish and finesse of Harry Bradley and Joe Simpson must have rubbed off on Keith. I remember the time when he would have been happy with five Woodbines. Alan Atkinson and his mob kept a very low profile during the crossing. Someone did suggest that he was the sort of chap who might have Captain Webb type aspirations, but the thought of him doggie-paddling it to Ostend is a bit much.

Travelling by boat at night with a myriad lights twinkling in the distance is a most romantic setting for young love. Claire Lowe and Graham Dutton wandered around, hand-in-hand, gazing intently into each others eyes. Lucky s-d (I'm referring to him).

After about an hour the lager was becoming even warmer and more horrible so I went down the blunt end for a breath of fresh air. A familiar female stern hovered into sight, draped across the rail, with peculiar guttural noises emitting from the head end. It was Pat Edwards, gripped by the dreaded mal-de-mer, busily feeding her tea and/or supper to the greedy little fishes. Her husband was hovering in the background pretending to look concerned, but the way he was sipping his drink and puffing at his cigar suggested he was really enjoying it. She quickly recovered, and for the rest of the trip was her usual charming self.

One of the other lasses, Lisa, had a real bad time with sea sickness and spent the last part of the voyage on the floor. John and the courier had to virtually carry her down to the coach when we arrived at Ostend.

The promised English style breakfast at the first stop in Belgium proved disappointingly to be a very modified form so we were soon on our way across the border to Holland arriving at about 11.00 am on the Saturday.

The Novatel at Schiedam is a well-appointed modern hotel on the outskirts of Rotterdam. It has an outdoor swimming pool (unfortunately not heated), a pleasant bar and good dining facilities. All rooms have a toilet, bath, shower and television sets, and with double glazing as standard, they were very comfortable.

For those who didn't want to catch up with lost sleep, the rest of Saturday was free to do your own thing. It was about ten minutes into the centre of Rotterdam by train. We wended our way from the Central Station across the city to the space tower. My wife chickened out and wouldn't go up. From the report we received from our son, it was just as well - I have



A trip along the canals is a must in Amsterdam.

no head for heights. We then had a **free** trip on a very speedy tram (they have some peculiar system for purchasing tickets).

On Saturday evening, the courier with the aforementioned assistance from John, tried to navigate the coach into the centre of the city. We did eventually arrive there without actually driving through the front door of an Indian restaurant.

If you are not keen on foreign food, it is a bit of a problem finding somewhere. We found a decent place in the centre, but the Alan Atkinson group were finishing their meal as we arrived, so all the cheap wine had been consumed. After the meal we found a pub where they sold a reasonable facsimile of Double Diamond, and spent a very convivial evening there.

Around the hotel the area was very rural and I was up at 6.30 a.m. on the Sunday pounding the roads and cycle tracks. Back in time for breakfast with a load of French trippers who had arrived the previous evening. My knowledge of the French language is very basic, and as none of them seemed keen to talk about their Aunt's pen or the desk of their uncle, the conversation did flag.

At 10.00 a.m. we set off for a day to Amsterdam, turning right instead of left onto the motorway but fortunately the driver realised his error before we crossed the border into Germany. The Dutch countryside is very flat, unattractive and boring, but with very good flat, straight roads, which one would expect from such excellent civil engineers.

We passed the airport at Schiphol where the road runs under the runway which is 15 feet below sea level at high tide and there was a feeling we should have been issued with snorkels in case of an emergency.

With a buzz of excitement we arrived in Amsterdam. If I had a lot more time and a lot more talent, I might make a reasonable stab at describing this cosmopolitan town. As I'm a bit short on both it will have to be a very abridged description. First thing is a statutory trip by boat

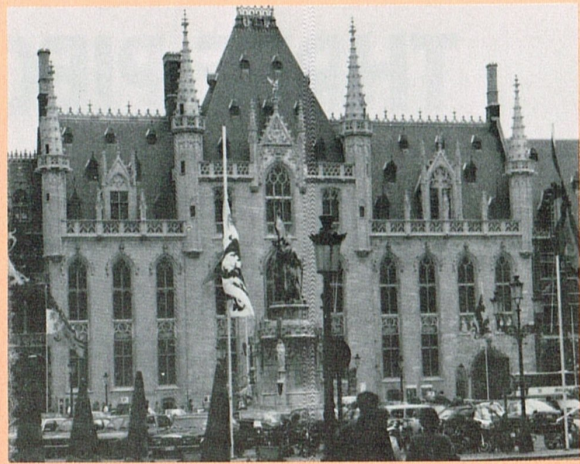


The weather allowed some of our party to sit outside the cafe's enjoying the sun.

along the canals, with a running commentary in four languages of the places of interest. For students of architecture and design, the place must be a veritable gold mine. For the more aesthetic, the museums and art galleries present a wonderful opportunity to get to grips with the works of Rembrandt and the bloke with one ear, Vincent V.G. Being a bit of a Philistine, I thought all the pictures of Franz Hals looked like the laughing cavalier. In more mundane realms, the Dutch seem to have a very uncivilized attitude towards public toilets. You need to be a Sherlock Holmes to find one, then you have to pay for the privilege of sharing it with the fairer sex. My wife got quite excited having to walk through the men's section – I never have that affect on her.

After an arduous day, another "tourist must" in the evening is the red light district. Having led a very sheltered existence, I wasn't sure what to expect or where to expect it. Help came in the form of Len Jackson, who saw us searching and proceeded to give us a very comprehensive verbal tour of the place. His knowledge of such matters does much to explain how he spent his mis-spent youth when playing truant from West Bromwich Grammar School. After his lurid description, the naughty quarter turned out to be a fairly innocuous affair, even by Mary Whitehouse standards.

Safely back on the coach, Pat Rea was recounting the exploits of John Morrall in a Chinese restaurant. It appears he started off by trying to teach one of the girls to devour her soup with chopsticks. Later in the meal he was confronted by a ball of banana fried in batter and characteristically likened it to a Yak's testicle (the editor wants to retain her position, so I have had to euphemise the word he actually used). In the course of normal conversation, John speaks at a noise level somewhat in excess of 90 dba. When he gets an appreciative audience the tone goes up two octaves and the decibels correspondingly increase.



This very ornate building is the Main Railway Station.

There was a Chinese lad sitting a couple of tables away, and he was translating John's ramblings for the benefit of the remaining clientele, who were falling about laughing.

Monday morning, time to say bye bye to Rotterdam. Down the motorway to Bruges: a delightful little place, medieval and full of character and giving us the opportunity to spend left over foreign currency.

In addition to lace, Bruges is famous for its chocolates and Pat James and family were so busy stocking up, they almost missed the coach.

On the journey across France to Calais, we had an opportunity to listen to a Jim Davidson tape. Although I have never rated him as a comedian, it kept us all very amused.

The ferry crossing to Dover was short, sea-sick free and uneventful. Mike and his mate sat in the bar, while the rest of us did last minute shopping in the duty-free shop, and there was some negotiations on getting staff back through the customs, but as it turned out, we sauntered through the customs, and we all left Dover very happy.



Alan Lander and his wife.

The last part of the trip was a re-run of the first part, and we arrived back in Birmingham before 10.30 p.m.

It had been a tiring, but extremely enjoyable weekend, and we owe a vote of thanks to John for the effort he puts in to organise these events. Thank you, John.

This has been a light-hearted look at the trip, so please make an allowance for licence if you think there has been some slight distortion of the facts. If you still feel your character has been blackened or stained, don't see me, I've got no money. Put your solicitor in touch with the editor, she's loaded. (Editor's comment – I only wish that was true).

A. LANDER

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# TULIP MANIA AT MAPLEBROOK

The Tulip is the peacock among flowers, one has no scent, the other no song, the other glories in its gown and the other its train.

"Oh Dad, you are so old fashioned!" If this means I take an interest in antique flowers, then this must be so.

Maytime brings an atmosphere of expectation as it is at this time the fickle tulip prepares to show its beauty.

English Florists Tulips started in the Industrial Revolution, but the main period of cultivation and enthusiasm came between 1850 and 1930.

Several varieties from that period are still with us to-day.

The Tulip has only six petals, the three outer ones were originally sepals, and one judges it from the inside of the bloom.

Seeing as it also lacks fragrance, it must be the colour and the markings that fascinate and catch the imagination.

Most carry a virus, which is not harmful to the plant, but makes the bloom 'break' or to give it the correct term 'rectify'.

If you are lucky it is this 'breaking' that gives the petal the pattern of a flame or the edging of another colour, the base colour being white or yellow.

The quantity of virus present in the plant, will determine how good this effect will be.

It is at this time of year you will see me continually checking and faulting the tulips as the bed comes into bloom.

The Tulip came to England from Turkey in 1577 via Austria and the Turkish Sultan in those days celebrated by having a most intimate kind of Tulip Show. For this purpose a great amphitheatre was erected housing wooden stands which were fitted on both sides with shelves to support vases of cut flowers.

Among the vases were placed lamps, glass globes filled with different coloured water and cages of canaries and here and there the flowers were grouped into pyramid of towers and archways such as you would see at the SPALDINGS TULIP FESTIVAL.

At sunset a state of complete privacy was announced and the outer gates of the courtyard were closed. Then as the fortress cannon fired a salute the doors of the Harem were flung open and in the sudden light of a thousand sweet smelling torches carried by the eunuchs, the women rushed out on all sides.

Sometimes one of these women jealous of the beauty of the blooms and half maddened by the long confinement would fall upon the flowers and tear them to pieces. For the most part, they had but one object to accomplish and that was to attract the attention of their regal master.

When it grew late the mistress of the Harem presented to the Grand Seigneur the girl who had most taken his fancy and a handkerchief which he threw signified his wish to be alone with her.

The court was emptied and her less fortunate sisters withdrew to beguile night after night the intolerable tedium of the harem with memories of that unforgettable evening.

In total contrast, the show at Blakefield displays its Tulips in Beer bottles rather than conventional vases. It is the only show of this type in the world, originally beginning with a few enthusiasts in 1836.

In those days a salt glazed vase was an existence with the exhibitors number fired into the making.



To make it more fair and even, in respect of winning one of the worthwhile trophies, all the entries to a particular class are put on the table together so that you have no idea of the opposition.

The glory of the show more than anything, is to be appreciated by ones fellow members of the Society for producing a Tulip that attains the standard that was set so many years ago.

This is when Tulipmania rears its head again for it is on record that at times guards were even employed to secure ones right to a certain bulb.

Nature does have the last say in the matter, as the premier bloom one year, can be a total failure the following year.

At the end of the day, satisfied with your effort, your thoughts turn to greater things in the future and all good gardeners are optimists.

Some gardeners will not grow anything that cannot be eaten but please note, it was in 1944 and 1945 during the German occupation of Holland, that the Dutch were reduced to eating Tulip bulbs.

The Tulip is captivated in many ways and a series of paintings of Old English Florists' Tulips were completed by Roxy McEwen and one of these paintings hangs in the White House, Washington, America.

It is ironical that the parentage of the Tulip is far more documented than that of the present President's family.

Tulips are lifted during July to be committed to the Tulip cabinet and are planted again in October to go through the cycle again the following year.

Hoping one day my children will see that:

'Ladies like variagated Tulips show. It is to their changes, half their charms they owe.'

**Trevor Mills  
Maple Brook**

## Editors Note

Trevor's interest in Tulips was enthused by an article he read in 1966 but it was nearly ten years later in 1976 that the first began to grow them and was soon a captive to their charm and beauty and became an exhibitor. He is now a well known expert among fellow Tulip growers and it is his love of the English Tulip that determined him and a few other dedicated colleagues to work to keep the English Tulip going.

# SOCIAL CLUB

## THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS SOCIAL CLUB

This new club formed this year is the amalgamation of Birmingham Social Club and Walsall Social Club.

There has been some teething problems and the collecting of subscriptions in a variety of ways perhaps the greatest problem to our Committee Members but hopefully soon, when we are able to programme the computer, all subscriptions will be collected at source.

A great new development is the creating of a "Bar" in the new restaurant and recreational area of the new office block. The Bar, which the Company have generously agreed to install for us, is of a professional design and fully equipped with chillers, grids and optics. Some of the equipment is provided by the Company and the rest by Banks Brewery with the generous help of our Chairman of the Board Mr. E. Thompson.

Our members will be able to enjoy these facilities at future events providing of course we conform to licensing hours.

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1984

17 May	Annual Outing to Bath (Adult) (See separate article).
19 May	Gardening Club (Savill Gardens)
8 June	Trip to Rotterdam (see write up)
30 June	Gardening Club (Harewood House)
20 July	Cricket Match at Walsall Wood
17 August	Annual Outing to Weston-super-Mare (Family)
2 September	Car Rally 2 pm Central Office
22 September	Gardening Trip (International Festival, Liverpool)
28 September	Dinner Dance at Royal Hotel, Walsall
3 November	Bonfire, Green Lane (Last years Bonfire was a great success with over 300 in attendance).
15 December	Dance and Buffet, Green Lane
22 December	Children's Party

## BATH

Holidaymakers have been coming to Bath for nearly 2000 years - and today it has more for visitors to see and do than ever before. There's one of the largest costume displays in the world in the newly decorated and refurbished Assembly Rooms; you can still sit, chat and sip coffee in the elegant Georgian Pump Room to the music of the Pump Room Trio; and the unique Roman Baths and Museum contain the finest Roman remains outside Italy. But in addition to these world famous tourist sights, Bath's attractions also include peaceful riverside gardens, quaint shops and magnificent 18th century squares, terraces and crescents ablaze in summer with the flowers that have won Bath the "Britain in Bloom" title more times than any other English city.

The Annual "Adult" Outing this year was to the lovely city of BATH. Three coaches set off, two leaving Green Lane and picking up a few from Tipton and one leaving Head Office a little late.

As usual though our drivers managed to rendezvous at an eating place on route and those of us who hadn't breakfasted before could enjoy the welcome break.

Unfortunately the weather was not too great and our visit to BATH was a wet one with the occasional bout of torrential rain.

However from the thanks I received from personnel for organising



the Outing, I realised it takes more than a drop of rain to dampen the enthusiasm and determination of our personnel, and a good time seems to have been had by all.

We didn't leave anyone behind this time but it was a near thing as a couple of latecomers arrived just as we were about to leave.

The Annual 'Family' Outing was to Weston-super-Mare on the 17th August. Let us hope that the weather was better on this trip.

CELIA TURNER

## Angling Club 1984 / 85

The combined membership and Company permit fee is £2.00 which is tremendous value. The members are permitted to fish at Chelmarsh Reservoir, the River Blithe at Blithfield between Newton Road and the old chemical house and downstream from the dam to the Company's boundary. There is also river fishing available at Brindley Bank pumping station. Permits are issued to individuals who can take along one family relative. (There is NO truth in the rumour that under the new management arrangements at Blithfield Reservoir, Company Angling Club members can fish the reservoir even if they sit

at Seedy Mill Treatment Works and cast their lines up the raw water mains!!!).

There are contests to join in, the prize money for the season amounting to £140.00. There are cups to be won and even food and drink as prizes.

There is a joint contest between the club and Seven Trent Water Authority Angling Club with a single prize of £20.00.

Last season there were 69 members which included some retired members. All are welcome.

Interested? contact David Coldicott at Central Workshops - Central Office ext. 260.

## FAMINE APPEAL

Buy your own Pay Nr. . . in a raffle for 50p. Do some good for yourself and also help others. Someone will approach you!!!

# NEWS Golf Club

CONTINUED

The Severn Trent Water Authority approached us in March this year to ask if the Company Golfers would like to join in the Authority's golfing activities.

Several players not all having official club handicaps, said they were interested and as a result we have joined the Severn Trent Water Authority Golf Association.

The Association organizes individual and team events including a Divisional Knockout Championship. So for this year we have represented at the Severn Trent Annual Championship held at Kirby Muxloe in Leicestershire.

Christine Harris, Ron Perks, Keith Marshall and Peter Eccles attended the event and had a most enjoyable day with limited success. Christine won one of the Ladies prizes though she admits she didn't play too well that day.

She fared better in July, partnering Keith Marshall at Chilwell Manor where the Company's team, represented by Ron Perks, Tony Jowle, Christine Harris and Keith Marshall, Peter Eccles and 'Mac' McManns played against the Authority's Lower Trent Division in the Inter-Division Knock-Out competition. Christine and Keith won their match easily but unfortunately the rest did not do so well. Nevertheless everyone had a pleasant day on an enjoyable course.

The full result was: (handicaps in brackets)  
 lost to Ron Perks (27) & Tony Jowle (3) 5/4  
 Glen Mason (5) & John Towle (21)  
 beat Christine Harris (18) & Keith Marshall (21) 3/2  
 M. Morris (9) & B. Stevenson (12)  
 lost to Peter Eccles (15) & Mac McManns (2) 3/2  
 Trevor Williams (12) & D. Hussey (27)  
 and so Lower Trent, winners by 2 matches to 1, go forward to the next round.

The next event will be the Autumn Competition with individual prizes in handicap categories and for the Ladies.

This will be a full day event with the presentation of prizes to take place after dinner 6.30 to 7.00 pm.

This competition is also an opportunity to increase the already raised sum of £130 collected in aid of the motorised wheelchair for a disabled child.

TONY JOWLE.

**STOP PRESS.** In the Autumn competition on Thursday 6 September held at Drayton Manor Park Golf Club, the Companies Golfers won the team event. Keith Marshall, Arthur Asbury and Peter Eccles were the successful team.



Tony Jowle in full swing.



Christine Harris our only lady competitor takes aim to putt.

## GARDEN OUTINGS



### Harewood

The second outing to Harewood House, Yorkshire, was held on 30 June. Again we left Sheepcote Street in lovely sunshine. Was it going to last all day? After a stop for coffee on the motorway, we arrived at the delightful market town of Wetherby. Time was allowed for lunch and a look round the town or a stroll by the River Wharfe. It was about five miles then to Harewood, where we spent the afternoon. The house was as one expected of a royal residence and we were fortunate to see the Dining Room being laid for a function that evening. The floral table decorations were certainly something to see. We did not find out what the dinner was for. On then to the Bird Garden and Paradise Garden, where birds from many parts of the world were on view. The Tropical House had many exotic species which were flying about – not to everyone's liking.

Tea was taken at the Courtyard Restaurant at Harewood, and there was again time for a look round the shop. Another lovely day enjoyed by everyone, and still the sun was shining.

The next outing is to the International Festival at Liverpool on 22 September. We look forward to meeting our old regular garden visitors and any new ones who would like to join us.

These outings are made successful by all the people who come on them, so here's to the next time.

BETTY GREENHALL

## Savill Garden IN WINDSOR GREAT PARK

The first outing to the Savill Gardens, Windsor, took place on 19 May 1984. We left Sheepcote Street at 8.30 a.m. and after a stop in Warwick arrived at Windsor in time for lunch and a look around the town or a visit to the river. After lunch we went a short journey to the gardens which were ablaze with the colour of azaleas and rhododendrons.

The gardens were certainly at their best. Tea was taken at the restaurant in the gardens and there was time for a visit to the garden shop, where several of the party purchased plants.

The coach was a very colourful sight on the return journey. The first outing was blessed with good spring weather and the whole day was enjoyed by all. Perhaps if we go to Windsor again in the future we might be able to visit the nearby Valley Gardens which, we were told, are equally as attractive as the Savill Gardens.

BETTY GREENHALL

# SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

## BURTON SOCIAL CLUB

### Activities to Date

10 February 1984	Disco at Rugby Club
15 May 1984	Car Rally
23 May 1984	Cricket Match Burton v Head Office (Head Office won)
8 June 1984	Cricket Match Burton v Northern Area (Burton won)
24 June 1984	<b>Raft Race</b> (See separate article)
4 July 1984	Bowls Match
14 July 1984	Trip to York. Sightseeing & Races.

### Planned Future Activities

August	Car Rally
August 28	Cricket Match – Return match Northern Area v Burton
September 2	Childrens outing to Southport
September	Trip to Liverpool Flower Festival
November	Christmas Dinner/Dance at Stanhope Arms

## THE RAFT RACE

Raft Race day looked like getting off to a good start as the South Staffordshire Waterworks competitors commenced on a pre-race warm-up at the Loaf & Cheese Public House, known locally as the 'Headquarters'.

After the two hours hectic 'warming up' (mainly elbows and jaws) it was time to load up the raft on to the 'Pool Lorry' kindly loaned by Mick Brown, for the journey through the town, cheered on the way by road-side spectators who thought the Waterworks were finally leaving Burton for good.

After a hasty return to the 'Loaf & Cheese' to collect the forgotten Wally Flood, who was by now strumming his guitar under the table, the ferry bridge was finally reached.

The raft was expertly positioned in the water, (chucked off the lorry) much to the delight of the fishermen on the bank, who by then had realised the only fish they were going to get would be out of the freezer at home.

Finally the raft drew up to the starting line, the South Staffordshire Waterworks Crew looking very smart, clad in pyjamas, hats (in case it rained) etc.

Wally Flood was designated 'Frogman Duties' and was suitably attired, complete with a 9" rosco bolted to each ankle. He had been told these were for ballast purposes but actually they were to save redundancy payments.

**RIGHT THE'RE OFF!** The raft race had begun. Tomatoes, flour, apples and other objects were thrown amidst the general confusion of the start, and then two of the key men, John and Pete Stone fell overboard. Both swallowed a mouthfull of water causing the Trent to fall 3" in as many seconds, (this funny was supplied by Chris Rea) but were soon back on the raft.

The race continued in earnest with the pace hotting up. Allied Breweries raft going round in circles due to the fact that their pre-match warm up had started on Saturday night. Nevertheless the South Staffordshire Waterworks' raft was now doing really well (29th position). Suddenly a cracking noise came from the side of the raft, 'was the raft breaking up'? No, it was only Bob Lavers knee making the usual noises due to the substandard National Health parts in it (sorry Bob).



A motley crew ready for action as soon as they 'hit' water.

The race continued with some of the rafts now neck and neck, (not ours). A jabbering was heard from the rear of the raft but it was only Ian Woodward talking to himself about moving house and making friends with the new neighbours.

By now the raft was down to 28th position, so drastic measures had to be taken – **IAN WOODWARD WAS THROWN OFF!** This had the effect of lightening the load and making the raft a lot quieter, but still not much improvement, so Wally Flood decided to swim from behind pushing the raft with his hands. This worked well, but suddenly, owing to the pre-match warm up in the 'Loaf & Cheese', Wally let rip an almighty F. . . . into the water which propelled the raft at tremendous speed to the finishing line, to come into 11th place out of the total field, to which John King replied 'I knew we would', but he knows everything anyway doesn't he?

Well, that was the end of a glorious day. All that was left was to load the raft back onto the lorry and to hold the inquest back at the local – to return again another year.

Report by **KEVIN RICHARDS** (who wasn't there) and **CHRIS REA** (neither was he)

# GREEN LANE AWASH!

A freak storm at around 5.00 pm on Thursday August 2nd flooded Green Lane and this was the amazing sight that greeted Personnel as they left work.



## DROUGHT AND THE DEVOUT

Bless the Vicar who telephoned Consumer Service to enquire if it was alright to use water during the baptisms.

**HELP!** WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD UP A PICTURE OF OUR COMPANY AS IT WAS, SO IF YOU HAVE ANY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS TUCKED AWAY, COULD WE BORROW THEM PLEASE. THEY WILL BE RETURNED.

Contact Angi Robson  
Green Lane Ext. 345.

Ricky  
Review

RICKSMANSWORTH AND  
UXBRIDGE VALLEY  
WATER COMPANY

## TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING!! "WATER ON THE BRAIN"

A 45 year old Luton man who was terrified of being poisoned drank himself to death with up to 35 pints of water. In an attempt to cleanse himself he drank so much that he died of water on the brain and water intoxication.

A University College Hospital doctor said of the bizarre case "Although water seems an innocuous substance, taken to excess it can be dangerous. The body contains between 60 and 75 pints and if this is diluted by drinking 20 or more pints it could have serious repercussions for the heart and brain."

## THE STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to consider internal layouts, furnishings and the arrangements for the move to Central Office and to consider the impact of the move on staff all ready at Central Office.

It is most important that the meeting is used as a two way communication vehicle, and as such all employes are encouraged to contact the Staff representatives on the Committee.

These are:

- Administration - Central Office
- D. Hinde - Administration - Central Office
- C. Tennant - Financial Accounting - Head Office
- M. Kieley - Personnel Services - Head Office

Two Trade Union representatives are also on the Committee:

J.P.N. Dunne

H. Fryers

Other Members are:

J.A. Willmott - Chairman

R.A. Jowle - Secretary

A.R. Griffiths - Architect

A. Evers - Company Representative

J. McPherson - Company Representative

## a Weekend in London 2 Nights in December

Cost approx £45-00  
to include travel, hotel  
and breakfast

Contact Celia Turner  
for details. Central Office 248.

# I KNOW WE ARE MISSING THE 'BOAT'

In the Review dated November 1983, I produced an article headed 'Water... £2.80 a gallon!'

It had been compiled from an article by W. Campbell in the 'Honey' Magazine and it described how bottled water was now one of the greatest developing industries in the British Isles.

The article stated that the British Public had spent in 1981 £10,000,000 in bottled water, despite the fact that they moan with increasing vigour about the cost of tap water.

The article finished with the sentence "Mineral water is big business," as one excited publicist exclaimed "and we are prepared to spend £20,000,000 on it next year," and my comment was "Where are we (The Water

## Industry) going wrong?

Two years later I am as convinced as ever that we are missing the 'boat' in this continually developing Industry, which seems amazing, when we have the commodity to hand.

Even I who should be supposedly educated to totally disregard the sales jargon have found it difficult to ignore information (see article shown) given in the Company Magazine May 1984, especially the note about fluid retention and I believe thousands of women throughout the British Isles will be convinced by this article.

'Evian Water' has now been 'atomised', to keep your skin dewy fresh all day long!!!

Just read the description given by these experts in advertising.

### DRINKING FOR HEALTH

Water: the staff of life.

We take water for granted, but we can't live without it. You should drink a *minimum* of a pint a day. Tap water is fine, if it is good, but better to develop a taste for bottled mineral water. Running water exposed to the sun has special curative powers due to absorption of solar energy, and the great spas in Europe were based on the belief of the power of water.

Contrary to what may seem logical, mineral water drunk in quantity can actually reduce fluid retention because it swills away the excess toxins that hold fluid in the body. If you have drunk too much alcohol, glasses of mineral water next morning will perk you up better than anything else. However, make an effort to include mineral water in your daily diet - drink it on its own or add it to juices.

'COMPANY' Magazine May 1984

DAILY EXPRESS 14.8.84

### Why we're walking on water

AS the companies which sell bottled water are happy to admit, there can be a silver lining even without a cloud in the sky.

Partly as a result of two long, hot summers in a row, we're now drinking well over 60 million litres a year - nearly four times as much as we did in 1979.

Now it is proving difficult to keep up with demand in drought-hit Britain. But even without the drought, the industry was heading for another record.

Perrier is not expected to benefit from the drought as much as its rivals because its advertising has always suggested that it's a cut above what comes out of the tap.

For all that, officials, claim that sales in the early part of the summer were up by 75 per cent on the same months of last year.

Schweppes Malvern sparkling water sales are also said to be up 75 per cent, and those of the still variety by 50 per cent.

Ashbourne's Allen Allbeury said: "Our business doubled last month in the South, West and Midlands. For a time it looked as if we wouldn't be able to meet the demand."

But we'll need a lot more heatwaves before we catch up with the French. Each of them drinks about 70 litres a year. We drink only one litre each.

ROBERT MILLAR

## IT HOLDS WATER.

For many years Evian has been used in dermatology for its benefits for the skin. Because water is the one essential thing your skin needs.

All we did was present Evian in a form that your skin could use.

And because of Evian's natural purity and almost neutral pH it is a uniquely constituted water. When atomised into millions of microdroplets, each tiny enough to be absorbed by the skin, it reproduces the ideal climate for a perfect complexion.

The best way to use the Evian Mist Spray is to incorporate it into your daily routine.

Cleanse and tone night and morning as usual, then apply a light mist of Evian Spray and seal it with a protective layer of skin care cream.

After you've made up your face a gentle spray of Evian Mist from arm's

length will set your foundation and keep it looking fresh longer.

During the day, too, a quick spray is always refreshing and imparts an instant healthy glow.

As far as your skin is concerned water is very valuable indeed. Try it, and you'll soon see everything we've said holds water.



evian mist spray

Available from department stores, beauty salons and chemists. Dist: JICA Products, Island Farm Avenue, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0UZ.



I must say that what is nice about bottled water (I confess I have been buying it) is the fact that it can be chilled in the fridge and this does make it seem more refreshing and cool, but the old tap water jugged and put in the fridge gives pretty much the same effect.

Another field in which we seem to be lacking is in the 'Export of Water'. This may seem a ludicrous statement to make at this moment in time with the Drought taking hold and with the impending necessity to put into force further restrictions in the use of water, but normally we do have an excessive amount of rain in England and it could well be worth developing new reservoirs if the outlay could be supported by an Exporting Industry and surely the E.E.C. and our own Government would support financially such a worthy endeavour to bring water to those countries less fortunate climatically than ourselves.

The Northumbrian Water, a forerunner in this field, started negotiating to export water early this year and have now signed a contract with Gibraltar and at present five ships of some 30,000 tonnes are transporting water to Gibraltar from the North Tees where equipment costing £80,000 has been installed at the Phillips-Imperial Petroleum Refinery especially for this purpose.

The drinking water is suitable to be put straight into system for distribution and it is only the size of Gibraltar's harbour that restricts the tonnage of these ships as the Tees is quite capable of coping with vessels up to 80,000 tonnes.

Mr. Rainbow of the Northumbrian Water sees this first contract as only a start and hopes that other contracts will be forthcoming especially from Arab countries.

CECILIA TURNER



## Information on Tap



### Who gives the cheapest repayment mortgage...

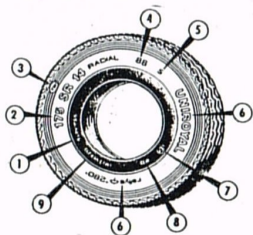
The mortgage rate is up and here is MONEY MAIL'S unique guide for new borrowers. It shows which building society or bank is cheapest at each level of mortgage. The bank interest rates have been converted to the same method used by building societies - the rates they actually quote you may be higher. Banks also charge a £100 fee. The rise in the mortgage rate combined with the abolition of tax relief on new life policies in the Budget makes all types of endowment mortgages

unattractive. You have to pay 1/2 or 1 per cent. extra interest (none at Cheltenham & Gloucester for loans of £30,000 to £60,000 up to 75 per cent. of valuation) and 1/4 per cent. extra at Abbey National. For each interest rate, the higher up the list, the more money they have to lend. Lenders marked with an asterisk (\*) allow a 'low start with rising payments' mortgage or as an option.

Up to £15,000		£15,001 to £20,000		£20,001 to £25,000		£25,001 to £30,000		£30,001 to £35,000		£35,001 to £40,000	
Lender	%	Lender	%	Lender	%	Lender	%	Lender	%	Lender	%
Alliance	12	*Anglia	12 1/2	*Halifax	12	Woolwich	12 1/2	Woolwich	12	Woolwich	12
*Anglia	12	Halifax	12	Halifax	12 1/2	Woolwich	12	Nat. West.	12 1/2	Nat. West.	12 1/2
Chelt. & Glouc.	12 1/2	Woolwich	12 1/2	*Nat. West.	12	*Barclays	12	Barclays	12	Barclays	12
York B.S.	12	*Nat. West.	12	Nationwide	13	Nationwide	13	Nationwide	13	Nationwide	13
*Halifax	12	*Barclays	12	Leeds P.	13	*Anglia	13	Midland	13.2	Midland	13.2
Woolwich	12	Northern Rock	12.8	Alliance	13	*Midland	13.2	Lloyds	13.2	Lloyds	13.2
BBB	12	Nationwide	13	*Anglia	13	*Lloyds	13.2	Abbey Nat.	13 1/2	Abbey Nat.	13 1/2
*Nat. Prov.	12	Leeds P.	13	Abbey Nat.	13 1/2	Halifax	13	Leeds P.	13	Leeds P.	13
Britannia	12	Alliance	13	*Midland	13.2	Leeds P.	13 1/4	Alliance	13	Alliance	13
Leicester	12 1/2	*Nat. Prov.	13	*Lloyds	13.2	*Nat. Prov.	13 1/4	Anglia	13 1/2	Anglia	13 1/2
*Nat. West.	12	Chelt. & Glouc.	13	*Nat. Prov.	13	Britannia	13	York B.S.	13	York B.S.	13
*Barclays	12	York B.S.	13	Northern Rock	13.3	Northern Rock	13.3	TSB	13	TSB	13
Bristol & West	12	Abbey Nat.	13 1/2	Abbey Nat.	13 1/2	Abbey Nat.	13 1/2	Halifax	13	Halifax	13
Gateway	12	*Midland 13.2		Alliance	13	Alliance	13	Nat. Prov.	13	Nat. Prov.	13
Town & Country	12	*Lloyds 13.2	13.2	Chelt. & Glouc.	13 1/2	Chelt. & Glouc.	13 1/2	BBB	13 1/2	BBB	13 1/2
Midshires	12	Britannia	13	*TSB	13 1/2	York B.S.	13 1/2	Britannia	13 1/2	Britannia	13 1/2
Northern Rock	12.8	Leicester	13	Midshires	13	*TSB	13	Bristol & West	13	Bristol & West	13
Abbey Nat.	12 7/8	Bristol & West	13 1/4	BBB	13	BBB	13	Northern Rock	13.8	Northern Rock	13.8
Nationwide	13	Gateway	13	Leicester	13	Leicester	13 3/4	Chelt. & Glouc.	13 1/2-14	Chelt. & Glouc.	13 1/2-14
Leeds P.	13	Town & Country	13	Bristol & West	13	Bristol & West	13 1/2	Midshires	14	Midshires	14
				Gateway	13 1/4	Gateway	14	Leicester	14 1/4	Leicester	14 1/4
				Town & Country	13	Gateway	14 1/4	Gateway	14 1/4	Gateway	14 1/4

DAILY MAIL 'MONEY MAIL' FEATURE

### THE WRITING ON THE WALL



This Uniroyal tyre drawing shows what each marking means:

1. Tubeless or tube tyre.
2. Tyre size; 175 refers to the width of the tyre in millimetres, S is the speed rating (here 113 mph maximum), R is for radial and 14 is the rim diameter in inches.
3. TWI stands for tread wear indicators. These cross bars show when the tread is worn down to 1.6 millimetres.
4. and 5. are new European standard. 88 refers to the maximum load per wheel and S is again the speed rating.
6. is the manufacturer and seven and eight the certificate of approval in accordance with the Economic Commission for European standards. The figure identifies where the approval was granted. In this case, 4, refers to the Netherlands.
9. is the manufacturer's coding. LM is the factory code, MEB the type code, J3 the size code, and 290 the date code. In this case the 29th production week of 1980.

### KNOW WHAT YOU ARE PAYING

Where from	True rate of interest %	Where from	True rate of interest %
<b>BANK OVERDRAFT</b> .....	14-18	National Girobank .....	19.5
<b>CREDIT CARDS</b>		Royal Bank of Scotland .....	18.1
Access .....	26.8	TSB .....	19.5
Barclaycard .....	26.8	Williams & Glyn's Bank .....	20.3
Trustcard .....	26.8	Yorkshire Bank .....	23.1
Cash advance (Access) .....	26.8	<b>SHOP CREDIT</b>	
Cash advance (Barclaycard, Trustcard) .....	27.2	British Home Stores .....	23.6 (3)
Debenhams .....	29.8 (3)	Burton .....	34.5 (1) (3)
Vantage (John Collier, Richards, Timpsons) .....	34.4 (1)	Chelsea Girl .....	28.5 (3)
<b>CHEQUE BOOK</b>		Dixons .....	29.8 (3)
'save and borrow' (2)		Hepworth .....	24.6 (3)
Bank of Scotland .....	20.9	<b>PERSONAL LOANS</b>	
Barclays Bank .....	21.8	<b>Banks</b> .....	19.7-21.1
Boston Trust .....	26.8	<b>Finance Houses</b> .....	25.3-32.3
Forward Trust .....	26.8	<b>INSURANCE COMPANIES</b>	
HFC .....	26.8	Instalment premiums .....	6.2-13.7
Lloyds Bank .....	18.1	Loanbacks .....	13.0-15.3
Marks & Spencer .....	27.5 (1)	Policy loans .....	11.0-13.0
Midland Bank .....	19.8	(1) Lower charge if monthly payments made by standing order.	
Mercantile Credit .....	26.0	(2) You also get interest on credit balances.	
NatWest Bank .....	19.5	(3) Rates go up in September.	



# mainly people...

## DIY KISSOGRAM



After four years with the Company David Weston has left to take up a new post as Distribution Engineer at Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

For David, leaving became quite a social event with celebrations extending over several days to cover his new section at Central Office and of course the Northern Area Office at Lichfield where most of David's four years has been spent.

Owing to rising costs, the Northern Area Office was not able to provide the genuine "Kissogram" farewell, but Jean Wheeler, a Clerical Assistant at Lichfield, sportingly stepped in to wish David happiness and success in his new post. By the way, Jean comes complete with fur coat and is available for similar engagements - her rates are competitive!

## Congratulations BIRTHS

To DAVID RUDDICK (Northern Area Office) and his wife Elaine (Central Office Typists) a baby boy, Stephen James, on 5 May and weighing in at over 9lbs.

To BRIAN BROWN (Plumber) and Jean his wife a baby boy, James, born on 11 May and weighing in at 9lbs.

To PHILIP HAMMOND (Tipton) and his wife Karen a baby girl, Louise Margaret, on 12 June weighing in at 8lbs. 1oz.

To JACK CARNELL (Planning, Central Office) and his wife Maria a baby girl, Sarah, born on 18 June and weighing in at 7lbs. 11oz.

To DENISE TAYLOR (Tipton) and her husband Paul a baby boy, Christopher, on 26 June weighing in at 7lbs. 5oz.

To JANE BRIERLEY (Computer Dept H/O) and Ian her husband a baby boy, Derrick Leslie Reginald, born on 2 July weighing in at 7lbs. 7½oz.

To TONY PHIPPS (Manpower Services) and his wife Helen a baby girl, Charlotte Amber, born on 12 August weighing 7lbs. 13oz.

## WEDDINGS



Sue Barker (Labs) to John Cresser-Brown on July 14th at 12.30 p.m. at St. Stephens Church, Selly Oak.

## ENGAGEMENT

Jane Bridgwood (Tipton) became engaged on March 9th to Steven Hughes who lives in Cheshire. They hope to marry in September 1985.

Stephen Colella (Revenue) became engaged to Jackie Curtis on the 21st July. They hope to marry on 1st June 1985.



# mainly people



## LUCKY WINNER!

In the last issue of the News Review, we were invited to send our name and address into the editor, who would then draw a name out and the lucky person could win a fifty pound voucher to be spent at a clothes shop in Walsall. I sent my name in and imagine my surprise when I had a phone call from Cecilia to say that I was the winner. The question was now – what should I spend it on and when.

Over the Spring bank holiday I paid a visit to Walsall, a town I had never visited and found the shop in question where I purchased a lovely navy blue jacket. I was very thrilled. I spent the afternoon then looking round Walsall and got my bearings for the move to the new offices.

I would like to thank Cecilia and whoever arranged this free voucher with the Duncan and Susan James shop in Walsall. It was greatly appreciated.

BETTY GREENALL  
Head Office



## A NATIONAL CHAMPION?



Whilst on holiday at Ladbroke's Holiday Centre in the Isle of Wight, Northern Area Waterman, Derek Sabin, and his wife Alison entered the Dominoes, Crib and Skittles Competition.

They obviously proved to be a very skilled pair ending up in opposition to each other in the finals. As the prize was a holiday in September they couldn't really lose whichever one of them won, but Derek won and became Champion of the Week.

As well as the holiday in September he now takes part in the National Finals, so Good Luck Derek.



### COMPANY TIE

The tie is available to all personnel in employment or retirement at a cost of approx. £3.00 (cost dependent on demand).

Please send order form to:  
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE  
WATERWORKS COMPANY  
B. Walker  
Purchasing and Inventory Dept.  
Green Lane,  
Walsall WS2 7PD

### TIE ORDER FORM

Name.....

Location .....

.....

.....

Amounted required .....



# mainly people

## RETIREMENTS

### Reg Onions

Reg Onions started his employment with the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company in 1941 at Walsall Depot in Bridgeman Street as a Clerk.

He became Chief Clerk and finally Administration Officer at the new Area Office in Green Lane, Walsall.

His 43 years service also includes his war service with the Royal Navy during which he served on Corvettes working in conjunction with the Canadian Navy.

He has an excellent record of attendances but unfortunately in the last few years he had serious problems with his eyes and eventually was compelled to retire on medical grounds.

### John Deakin

John Deakin was a man that few who had encountered him could forget, his friendly sometimes risqué character endeared him to many of us and it was with a tinge of sadness that we met to say farewell to him.

John joined the Company in September 1941 as a Temporary Laboratory Assistant at Sandfields at the amazing salary of £58.10 per annum.

When old enough to serve his country in its war effort he joined the Fleet Air Arm as a Sub-Lieutenant and as a pilot flew Swordfish from Carriers.

At the end of the war he returned to the Company as a Laboratory Assistant.

In 1976-77 he was selected on a sub-contract basis by Metcalf and Eddy International Inc. to go to Egypt to assist with resolving of Operational problems of Water Treatment Plant in Cairo or Alexandria. Unfortunately the firm was not selected to take part in this.

John loves gardening and making wine but I'm sure he'll find time to drop in to see his colleagues especially when he comes to work on his dry!! allotment.

We wish him well in his retirement.

D. TURNER

### Mr. E. Gavan

Known as 'Ted' to his friends, retired in April this year due to ill health after serving 42 years with the Company. He came to the Water Industry in 1942 at the age of 14 years. Starting in the Waste Department, where the work in those days was done on a bicycle carrying bar and keys and waste clocks for meters.

He entered the Army and spent most of his time in the Middle East.

On returning to South Staffordshire Waterworks he was transferred to assist in the Control Office as a Shift Driver and carried out turncock duties until this work was finished. He then returned to the Waste Department where he remained until his retirement.

He is now looking forward to a well earned rest carrying out a new found Hobby of Stamp Collecting and is able to put his hand to almost anything now that he has the time.

R. ARBLASTER

	Date Retired	Start Date with Company	Place of Employment
Mr. R.R. Onions	31 1 84	3 2 41	Walsall
Mr. E.D. Cole	31 1 84	9 11 59	Blithfield
Mr. C. Holt	31 1 84	19 7 56	Blithfield
Mr. L.R. Jones	27 1 84	4 6 51	Workshops
Mr. A. Kellar	29 2 84	1 5 72	Central Office
Mr. F. Brookes	29 2 84	9 3 64	Walsall
Mr. H.G.W. Hammond	15 3 84	2 8 70	Hampton Load
Mr. T.H. Wall	30 3 84	8 8 47	Churchill
Mr. T.G. Marsh	30 3 84	3 2 49	Prestwood
Mr. T.H. Richardson	30 3 84	3 11 59	Somerford
Mr. W. Hood	30 3 84	19 7 54	Fradley
Mr. D.C. Drew	31 3 84	29 5 61	Central Office
Mr. L.G. Hunt	31 3 84	27 8 51	Northern
Mr. E.M. Gavan	30 3 84	27 8 42	Walsall
Mr. D.A. George	30 4 84	10 12 62	Walsall
Mr. D.H. Manyer	6 4 84	2 7 49	Hayley Green
Mr. E. Thomason	30 4 84	4 9 61	Walsall
Mr. R. Beamond	30 4 84	19 3 73	Walsall
Mrs. S.M. Rudge	30 4 84	11 12 78	Head Office
Mrs. J.M. Billingham	30 4 84	15 8 66	Head Office
Miss D.M. Clark	31 5 84	19 8 68	Head Office
Mr. H.P. Darby	31 5 84	10 9 56	Head Office
Mr. E.E. Lee	31 5 84	14 3 66	Central Office
Mr. W.A. Markham	18 5 84	1 9 58	Head Office
Mr. S. Leeke	18 5 84	24 10 77	Head Office
Mr. J.R. Deakin	15 6 84	1 9 41	Hampton Load
Mr. R. Rainbow	30 6 84	9 8 48	Central Office
Mr. P.G. Bosley	30 6 84	14 10 74	Central Office
Mr. G. Webster	29 6 84	15 9 58	Hampton Load
Mr. E. O'Connell	30 6 84	9 10 78	Workshops

## 1984 ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

To be held in Walsall for the first time, at the Royal Hotel on Friday 28 Sept.

MEMBER - £7.00  
NON-MEMBER - £8.00  
(Ticket price inclusive of wine at table).

ALL WELCOME - LOOK OUT FOR NOTICES OR CONTACT J. MORRALL AT HEAD OFFICE - EXT. 207.

### DEATHS IN RETIREMENT. . .

Our sincere sympathy goes to all the families of our ex-employees in their grief. We endeavour to publish all known bereavements and regret any notification that has been or will be omitted owing to ignorance.

	Retired from Company	Died
H. Tapper	16 6 73	13 4 84
R.D. Waller	24 10 67	4 2 84
R. Bayley	14 7 69	13 6 84
E. Severn	14 9 70	2 6 84
A. Hollowood	9 6 78	1 7 84

### DEATH IN SERVICE. . .

	Started with Company	Died
C.S. Rudge	24 9 73	11 4 84

# INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD

In December 1978, "The Crown Life Managed Fund" was launched and since then the average interest return for investors has been **15.2%, net twice** the return you could have obtained through a Bank or Building Society account. Your £1,000 would now be worth £1,935 - 87p and you would have been able to take a **tax free** income or reinvested your interest. At the same time your money would have been available to you at all times on demand without penalty.

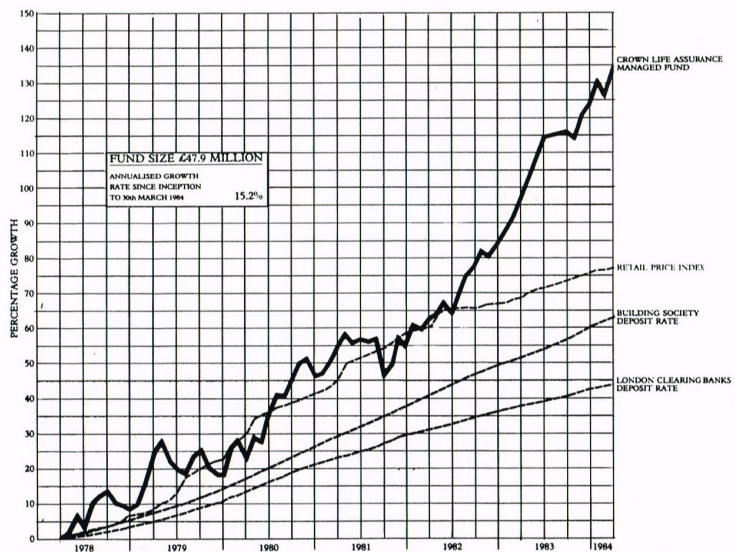
## CROWN LIFE ASSURANCE MANAGED FUND

However the Crown Life Managed fund is only one of the many funds we have access to as we are agents for

- Albany Life Assurance Company
- Crown Life Assurance Company
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The above companies handle multi billions of client's monies and we are proud to be associated with them. We are able to give impartial investment advice as we do not represent one particular company.

**WE CHARGE NO FEES.**



### A SAFE HAVEN IN CROWN LIFE INVESTMENT BONDS

*WHEN things look uncertain some investors panic and sell their investment bonds.*

*This can prove a costly exercise, particularly when the Crown Life Investment Bonds have a Money Fund which offers a safe and profitable haven in difficult times. It costs little or nothing to switch into this fund which is one which is always going up and can 'only' go up. The money in the Fund is all put on deposit and because of the size of our operations we can get better rates of interest than any individual.*

*When the market starts rising again another simple switch puts the investor back in the fund or funds of his choice, with nothsing more to pay.*

*The alternative can be expensive - cashing the bond, putting the proceeds on deposit elsewhere and then buying another bond later on. A switch into the Money Fund would save the 5% cost of re-purchase and would provide a yield similar to that to be obtained from a building society.*

*Current gross yield of the Money Fund: 11%; net approximately 7%.*

### Don't let retirement mean the end of you

When you have been used to a living wage, learning to live on State hand-outs can be difficult. Most people think the answer is to put their hard earned capital into the bank or the building society and let someone else dictate how much interest they will receive. And accept the fact that this can be less and less as the cost of living goes up and up!

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