



GridLine

Newsletter for National Grid Company grantors

Spring 2002



Ian Cartledge, right, with National Grid's group head of south west wayleaves, David Warner

Shows on the road

A WARM welcome awaits grantors who visit the National Grid stand at 16 major agricultural events around England and Wales this summer.

Our agricultural relations programme was badly hit last year by the foot and mouth crisis — 12 of the 16 planned venues had to be cancelled.

Ian Cartledge, national wayleaves manager, said: "We are determined to make up for it this year.

"National Grid shared the relief felt by everyone around the country when the foot and mouth all clear was given, but we firmly believe that there is still a need for a stringent cleanliness and disinfecting regime for everybody working near livestock.

"We are aware that restrictions remain in some parts of the country and our teams are disinfecting and/or putting measures in place as agreed with the Department for Environment, Food and

Diary of events

Devon County Show (Exeter)	May 16-18
Northumberland Show (Hexham)	June 2 and 3
Staffordshire Show (Stafford)	June 5 and 6
South of England (Ardingly)	June 6-8
Cheshire Show (Knutsford)	June 18 and 19
Lincoln (Lincoln)	June 19 and 20
Winterton (Humberside)	July 6
Cotswold Country Show (Cirencester)	July 6 and 7
Great Yorkshire Show (Harrogate)	July 9-11
Kent Show (Detling)	July 12-14
Royal Welsh Show (Builth Wells)	July 22-25
Royal Lancashire Show (Chorley)	July 26-28
Anglesey (Holyhead)	Aug 13 and 14
Pembroke Show (Haverfordwest)	August 14-16
Newbury (Newbury)	Sept 15 and 16
National Ploughing Championships (Doncaster)	Oct 12 and 13

Rural Affairs and grantors. We continue to liaise with Defra to ensure that we are kept in touch with the up-to-date position and the appropriate measures that should be applied.

"Throughout the difficult times, maintaining positive grantor relations has been our number one priority and we are grateful for the co-operation and support shown when we needed to go on to their land in emergency situations.

"The wayleave teams look forward to meeting grantors at the shows — hopefully in a more relaxed frame of mind."

We have been urging grantors to come along and meet us at agricultural shows since 1996 as part of our Partnership on the Land initiative — the occasions are welcome opportunities to demonstrate our working relationship with the agricultural community.

Invited guests will enjoy our hospitality with all-British produce and there will be a free competition to win a quad bike. Swing badges issued to our visitors can be used by the grantors to enjoy refreshments at our stand at any of the other shows.

Barn owl gets des res in a new location

A BARN owl's accommodation requirements caused something of a dilemma to the National Grid team working on the major second Yorkshire Line project.

Fortunately, the problem was solved when grantors Robin and Pat Dickson came to the rescue and helped provide the bird with a new home.

Four towers are being built on the Dicksons' Upsall Grange Farm at Nunthorpe, and the access road to one of the towers runs close to an ash tree, said National Grid wayleave officer Mike Ford.

"During the project, we've been working in partnership with Barry Wright, an ecologist with ADAS. One day early last year — pre-nesting season — he was conducting a routine ecological survey and was close to the tree, when a barn owl popped out of a hole!"

Clearly, no-one wanted to disturb the site if the owl was nesting, but keeping away during the nesting season would have seriously disrupted work.

"In accordance with ADAS guidance, we found that we were allowed to block up the tree hole, but we also volunteered to provide an alternative home within 50 metres. We set about having a nesting box made to a Barn Owl Trust pattern — but at this point, the foot and mouth crisis broke, which meant we were unable to go on to the Dickson's land to fit the box.

"Robin kindly agreed to do the job for us. As it happened, we don't think the owl moved in at the time — but we are hoping it will find the deluxe accommodation to its liking this season."

Gillian Whalley, director of Cleveland's Kirkleatham Owl Centre, said barn owls were very rare in the area.

"Destruction of hedgerows, meadows and woodland edges mean they have to hunt down roadway corridors, and many are killed by traffic.

"The steps taken by National Grid to provide an alternative nest site for any potential breeding pair is a step in the right direction. However, a further one or two boxes would be an excellent move!"

Mike has already been in touch to discuss the best siting for some additional boxes.



Barn owl



Left to right: Richard Dickson, Robin's son, who put up the owl box, Mike Ford and Barry Wright

Visitor safety a priority

LANDOWNERS can do much to ensure visitors to the countryside enjoy their time — and stay safe, says the Farm Energy Centre.

In urban areas, electrical networks are mostly out of sight — cables are routed underground and transformers housed in enclosed substations. Not so in the country, where overhead lines carry high voltage electricity across fields.

The lines are no threat to people as they go about their normal business, but

accidents CAN happen when people are not aware of the dangers, or simply don't look up.

Kite flying, casting during fishing, tree climbing and moving a sailboat with a high mast are all activities that can lead to serious injury if carried out near overhead lines.

Farmers know the routes of lines and cables over their land and can help keep visitors to the countryside safe.

• If you rent out cottages or rooms, you might like to point out to visitors any potential

dangers on or around your land. A windy hillside might seem ideal for kite flying, but overhead lines will make it a "no-fly" zone.

• If you grant fishing rights to visitors and there are overhead cables, point them out. Adequate warning signs near the lines are obligatory.

• Always remember, a word of warning to someone about the potential dangers might save a life.

Landowners can call the FEC on 024 7669 6512 or e-mail info@farmenergy.com

Backing for young farmers' clubs renewed

NATIONAL Grid has confirmed its support for rural communities across England and Wales by renewing its sponsorship of the body that runs the young farmers' movement.

The company's decision to continue sponsorship of the National Council of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) reflects its strategy of building positive relationships with those in the rural community.

The National Council, which has 125

members from all over the country, is the main decision-making body within the federation and plays a key role in the leadership and direction of the NFYFC.

The funding for 2002 not only supports the meetings of the council, but also provides training for council members to enable them to carry out their duties.

There was a warm welcome for the decision from Stephen Jarvis, NFYFC's council chairman. He said: "This is

something all council members will be delighted to hear. National Grid's support enables many more members to attend council meetings, thereby providing much wider representation and improving the lines of communication."

Trevor Seeley, National Grid's community involvement manager, said: "This sponsorship is about continuing to strengthen our relationships with the rural community."

All-round team effort on repairs



Overhead line refurbishment work near Hackney Marshes, north east London

A TREMENDOUS team effort by National Grid engineering staff made sure that 12,000 worn insulators on overhead lines in London were replaced in super-quick time.

Linesmen discovered some deterioration of the porcelain tension insulators on the 7.4km West Ham to Hackney route during routine testing. Their replacement became a top priority.

A three-week outage for each circuit was required and the wayleaves team at Rayleigh made contact with grantors along the route to agree access dates.

Meanwhile, the glass insulators were manufactured and delivered to site well before the outage dates.

Scaffolding working platforms at towers on steep embankments also had to be put up.

Teams of linesmen from all over the UK completed the work within the outage period.

Working in busy north east London posed its own problems. Installation over a section of London Underground track had to be done at night under floodlights.

Operations manager Steve Staines said: "To plan and complete the work in 16 weeks was a tremendous effort. Staff were more than a match for any technical problems encountered.

"The project was a success thanks to a great team effort and I would like to thank everybody involved, including our grantors and local residents without whose help and co-operation completing the work within the 16-week outage would have been very difficult."



On site... NG substations manager Les Adams, left, and VA Tech managing director Charles Overstall

Newcomer plugs in to meet rising demand

A NEW 400/132kV substation is helping to meet the rising electricity demand in the developing area of north-west Kent.

Northfleet East is a gas-insulated switchgear substation incorporating four 400/132kV supergrid transformers. These connect to Seeboard's neighbouring 132kV substation.

Many of the people involved in the £45 million scheme attended the substation's official opening.

National Grid's project team leader John Coughlin praised all the parties involved in the development, including staff from National Grid, Seeboard and VA Tech Reyrolle Projects.

"It has been an excellent team effort," said John. "There were obviously some critical issues to resolve along the way, but all challenges were jointly met and we delivered the project to all the relevant timescales."

Originally, it had been planned to remove about 27,000 cubic metres of soil from the site during the preliminary works in 2000.

But the subsoil was tested and found to be mainly sand and therefore suitable for use for compacted backfill to the retaining walls that had to be installed.

This meant the company could minimise the number of lorry trips to and from the site by re-using the sand — a solution much appreciated by the local community.



Back to the beginning... John Coughlin, with National Grid engineers' representative Russell Watkins and Howard Oley from VA TECH Reyrolle during the early days of the project

They're perfect partners

NATIONAL Grid undertakes to minimise the effects of its operations as it maintains and develops an efficient and economical system of electricity transmission.

This involves working closely with our contractors — the people who work on grantors' land on our behalf.

Contractors are required to operate to our very high standards of safety and care, and engineering, wayleave and line maintenance staff liaise with and monitor their progress to ensure there is minimum disturbance during maintenance, refurbishment or new construction work.

Here, GridLine looks at the partnership between National Grid and one of its contractors...

IT'S SIGNIFICANT that the National Grid and Eve Transmission teams working on a £20 million refurbishment programme in North Lincolnshire should share the same site office at Brigg and not have separate offices there — or even on different sites.

It's noteworthy because it highlights teamwork — that essential ingredient in any successful partnership.

"In the past it has been unusual to share facilities, but we find it greatly encourages two-way communication and team spirit, which is important if a scheme is going to run smoothly," said wayleave officer Mike Rockett,

Refurbishing the 45km Keadby-Killingholme-Grimsby West 400kV overhead line is a complex job, involving about 156 towers. The line is only the second to be fitted with the latest triple conductor — a sort of modern equivalent of the quad conductor. Some steelwork is being replaced as well as the concrete copings (commonly called muffs) at the tower bases.

The line crosses some of the finest farmland in England belonging to more than 40 grantors.

"The majority of our expectations of contractors are built into the contract document, and these cover not only National Grid's safety requirements when working on our systems, but cover the standards we have set ourselves in the Grantors Charter," said Mike.

But a long time before any work started, Eve Transmission had submitted its method statement and risk assessment, which set out the way the works will be undertaken and are part and parcel of the health and safety documentation on which National Grid is asked to



Working together... Mike Rockett, left, and Dave Mellor at the Eve yard in Brigg

comment. Eve's project manager Alan Leitch said: "We use National Grid's standards as our benchmark.

"As contractors, we aim to stick to the guidance laid down by the company and we make every effort to interpret the Grantors Charters as reasonably as we can."

Before the scheme could start, Mike had to agree access with all the grantors concerned, and issue access notes to the contractors. But things can change as the scheme proceeds, so there has to be a continual process of liaison to review access arrangements.

Work started in 2000 with tower painting, and the main project got off the ground early last year.

Mike said: "Although the foot and mouth crisis disrupted work in March last year when National Grid halted all operations throughout the country, together we were able to reschedule the planned work programme and switch operations to sections of the line where there were no farms with animals. This, along with the joint

development and implementation of stringent disinfecting routines enabled this project to be the first in the country to continue.

"Now we are almost 12 months on and the delays to the programme have been recovered.

"From the start of the project, we have worked closely with Eve's. There have been weekly and monthly progress meetings, and also a separate weekly meeting for wayleave staff."

Eve Transmission has its own wayleave officer on the project. Dave Mellor, who is actually a former National Grid linesman, helps to monitor and deal with grantor issues.

Alan said: "It's now common practice at Eve's to appoint our own dedicated wayleave officer to ensure that we meet our responsibilities to the grantors.

"As a company, we believe in the hands-on approach and having our own wayleave staff to liaise with our engineering teams and customers like National Grid can do much to promote teamwork."

The project is due for completion in November.

Making SENSE of sustainable approach

NATIONAL Grid's determination to make a practical and meaningful contribution to sustainable development is highlighted in the company's website-based Social and Environmental Performance Report For 2000/2001.

It has also unveiled its new SENSE model (Stakeholders, Environment, Networks, Statistics, Employees) which captures the company's performance in the UK, while National Grid Environmental Performance sets out the environmental and social aspects of the company's US business for the first time.

Chief executive Steve Holliday explained: "Through our efforts to be a good corporate citizen, we recognise that our commitment to sustainable development will be achieved only by successfully balancing our economic success with our company's environmental and social responsibilities.

"We looked closely at how we could demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development by understanding what it means in practice to our operations. To help us embed this

within our UK business, we have developed our model 'Making SENSE of sustainable development'."

The presentation of the SENSE model aims to keep stakeholders well informed. It highlights and illustrates a number of important issues. These are:

- a sense of responsibility and commitment to maintain positive, open relationships with all stakeholders
- a sense of balance to illustrate the company's commitment to reducing its environmental impact
- a sense of ownership, outlining how the company is improving its performance by investing in its network infrastructure
- a sense of direction — measuring performance and direction against objectives
- a sense of commitment — reviewing the company's efforts to provide a rewarding work environment and secure real engagement with all employees.



To find out more, visit:
www.nationalgrid.com/uk/social&environment

- National Grid would like to know what YOU think about its new system of reporting its social and environment responsibilities and commitments. There is an opportunity on the website, pictured right, to give us your feedback.

DID YOU KNOW?... some facts from the website

- The company has an Environmental Management System certified to the ISO14001 standard to help it direct its effort to the most significant environmental issues
- National Grid owns and operates the high-voltage transmission in England and Wales comprising 300 substations, 7,000 kilometres of overhead transmission line and 650 km of underground cable. Rather than building new overhead lines and substations, the company tries to obtain more capacity from the existing system. In 2000/01, it invested £343 million in the development and refurbishment of the transmission system
- Nearly £41 million was invested during the year in underground cable systems, contributing to a 27 per cent reduction in the amount of oil that leaked from our cable systems into the ground
- The company is 24th in the FTSE 100 table in the latest Business in the Environment Index, up from 44th place
- Levels of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use at National Grid operational sites were reduced, despite increased energy demands on the transmission system
- National Grid values its staff — it achieved Investors in People status in November 2000
- The number of Lost Time Accidents for 2000/20001 was 19, lower than the average for the electricity industry and our lowest ever annual figure.

Ted has enjoyed every minute...

COMPLETING the paperwork is all part of the job for some people.

But it's not usually done while standing on top of a 21-rung ladder propped against the side of a Dutch barn — and with a roof for a desk!

That was the scenario faced by National Grid wayleave officer Ted Yates when he had to get a damage claim agreed and signed by a farmer who was determined to finish painting his barn roof before the light faded.

"It's all in a day's work!" he said.

Ted should know, he's just retired after 13 years in wayleaves — and 33 years in the electricity supply industry.

One of his last projects was getting new wayleaves signed for the five line diversions on the Birmingham Northern Relief Road.

"Joining wayleaves was the best thing I have ever done," he said. "I have enjoyed every minute of it.

"There have always been challenges and problems to overcome, but it's never been boring and there has been a great deal of job satisfaction along the way. I know I will miss the work very much."

Ted, 65, says that farmers are very special people.

"They have a language of their own, and it's important to understand that language and their way

of thinking," he explained.

Fortunately, he comes from a farming background, so was able to understand their problems.

"It's easier when you have been there yourself," he said.

Ted was brought up in Derbyshire, leaving school at 15 to join his father and older brother on the family's mixed farm. "I never considered any other job," he said. "Working on the land was what I always wanted to do."

The farm was on the Sudbury Estate near the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border, where Ted eventually met and married Sylvia.

When he was 31, his father retired — so Ted decided on a change direction in life. "Away from farming, but still working outdoors — an office job was not for me," he said.

He joined the CEGB as a landscape assistant with the Midland regional landscape unit based at Drakelow power station.

Ted Yates has just retired after 13 years as a wayleave officer — and 33 years in the electricity industry. Here he looks back at some of his career highlights... and looks forward to spending more time in his garden and with his vintage tractors

His work involved assisting in a wide range of tasks — from keeping the sites tidy to completing major land reclamation and environmental projects. He became a shop steward and the local safety representative.

During this time, he often worked with wayleave officers and decided that was the job he really wanted to do. "Unfortunately, there were no vacancies at the time," said Ted.

In 1984, he was promoted to landscape foreman based at High Marnham power station in Nottinghamshire, where he and his small team worked on the ground maintenance of High Marnham, Cottam, West Burton and Staythorpe Power Station and substation sites.

During that same period, the team successfully completed a major land reclamation project near Sutton-cum-Lound, which involved reclaiming about 250 acres of former gravel pits which had been filled with "fly-ash" from Cottam power station, the planting of around 8,000 trees and the erection of four miles of fencing.

"In 1988, there was finally a suitable opening in wayleaves — it was the opportunity I had been waiting for, for many years," said Ted.

He was originally based in Birmingham, but after privatisation of the electricity industry, he moved to Hams Hall, covering the West Midlands from Macclesfield/Shrewsbury in the north, the whole of Birmingham across to the Welsh borders and down to Cheltenham in the south.

"They have been happy years," he said. "I was fortunate to have a very good relationship with the grantors I came into contact with.

"Obviously, there have been times when there have been major problems to overcome — but it has always been a challenge to work through those problems, build a relationship with the grantor and get the contractors back doing the job."

In retirement, Ted and Sylvia, who have two sons, one daughter and a granddaughter, are enjoying more time to walk in the countryside and care for their garden.

Ted's particular passion is vintage tractors, and for years he has arranged National Grid sponsorship for the North West ploughing matches run by Lichfield and South Staffs ploughing societies and also Chaddesley Corbett District Farmers' Club.



Ted Yates talks to grantor Maureen McKenna about the line re-routing caused by the Birmingham Northern Relief Road

Jill to the rescue of farm refugees

The cull of sheep in the foot and mouth outbreak ended the working lives of many sheepdogs. However, National Grid grantor's daughter Jill Bullock has been doing her bit to find them new homes...

FOOT and mouth disease is no longer on the rampage in the countryside, but its repercussions will last for a long time to come.

Perhaps the least obvious is the plight of sheepdogs.

Farmers — some of whom gave up farming altogether — faced having their dogs destroyed along with the sheep, or finding them new homes. Not easy as the temperament of the working collie is unsuited to being a pampered family pet.

During the crisis, the Border Collie Rescue Society in North Yorkshire took in more than 200 working dogs and thanks to people like Jill Bullock, one of their fosterers, many of them have been given the chance of a new future.

Jill, 35, works with her parents Janice and Ronnie, a retired ICI warehouse controller, on the 300-acre Old Hall Farm, close to National Grid's Lackenby substation on the fringes of Middlesbrough. The mixed arable and livestock farm has been in Janice's family for seven generations and has recently had two new towers built on the land as part of the new 400kV second Yorkshire Line project.

Jill has always had a passion for dogs and currently owns five border collies — Tigger, Chance, Nell, Laddie and Jake — and a labrador called Jess. "They are all working dogs — although Jess does as little as possible — but very much part of the family," she said.

"My first association with the society came two years ago after Tigger had to be semi-retired — she was badly injured in a traffic accident while chasing a fox away from our sheep. While I was waiting for the right dog to turn up at the society, I agreed to foster Chance who desperately needed a home — his owner couldn't look after him any more. Of course, I ended up adopting him myself and

agreeing to continue fostering.

"Towards the end of 2000, I took on an adult dog, Flint, and seven pups so that I could assess them for suitable homes. When the foot and mouth crisis hit, they were all stranded here because they couldn't be rehomed on new farms — so they had to stay with me rather longer than expected. Needless to say, I ended up adopting two of the pups, Nell and Laddie!"

At the moment, Jill is caring for 12 dogs — six of her own, Flint and the five remaining pups, all border collie/huntaway cross breeds.

The society says there is an increase in demand for sheepdogs as more and more farms are restocked; hopefully Jill's fostered friends will soon have new homes.

● The Border Collie Rescue Society is the only registered voluntary group dedicated to caring for unwanted border collies and working sheepdogs.

It was founded — officially — in 1995 when it was registered as a non-profit distributing charitable company. It had operated unofficially for the previous 19 years. The society is run by volunteers and has about 400 members — Jill is one of the 25 most stalwart members.

To find out more about the society, please visit its website www.bordercollierescue.org. You can also contact the society at 57 Market Place, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4JQ. Tel: 01748 850025 or e-mail hq@bordercollierescue.org.

The International Sheep Dog Society, of which National Grid was a major sponsor between 1996 and 1999, has an ancient motto: "There is no good flock without a good shepherd — and there is no good shepherd without a good dog."



Jill Bullock, fostering sheep dogs



Stewart Bunting, left, and Adrian Brewer

Pair go on to world ploughing contest

CORNWALL'S Adrian Brewer and Stewart Bunting from Norfolk will represent the UK's Society of Ploughmen at the 2002 World Ploughing Contest in Switzerland in September.

The two men emerged as the worthy winners — Adrian in the conventional class, and Stewart for reversible ploughing — at a selection match at Hatfield Woodhouse, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

The match was organised after the cancellation of last year's British National Ploughing Championships due to the foot and mouth crisis. Only the competitors who had entered to compete in the cancelled event were invited to plough.

Stewart, 36, farms near Norwich and is a relative newcomer to the match ploughing scene. He marked his arrival with a 13 point lead over his nearest rival Peter Alderslade from Tyne and Wear. Adrian, 47, from St Issey, Wadebridge, a many-times British ploughing champion had a seven point lead over David Chappell, the competition's host farmer.

The society's executive director Ken Chappell said: "Special thanks go to our sponsors National Grid and Total Butler for their continued support and help throughout a very difficult year."

● The 2002 British National event is due to be held on October 12 and 13 at Wilsic, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

NATIONAL Grid has reinforced its commitment to its 19,000 grantors by strengthening the wayleave teams with the appointment of wayleave wardens.

The wayleave function was originally an Area and Projects responsibility. When it became a single independent function in the late 90s, a review was launched to identify the way ahead.

National wayleaves and public acceptance manager Ian Cartledge said: "We looked at the type of work undertaken by the wayleave officers, and at the business systems which supported them as well as many other aspects of the way we operated.

"Many changes and improvements were identified, and these have been gradually implemented — the introduction of wayleave wardens for example, and the development of a wayleave information management system to help us better plan and manage work activities which impact on our grantors.

"It was vital that we looked at what wayleave officers actually do, the skills and training required and the demands and challenges they were likely to face in the future."

He said a clear need for wayleave wardens to support wayleave officers emerged.

"We could see that this new role would also offer a potential development opportunity for staff — from overhead lines for example — and the chance to progress to wayleave officer. This would be enormously helpful in the succession planning of the wayleave team."

The subsequent selection process for the wardens was rigorous

"I believe they felt they had earned their success!" said Ian. "Having successfully completed their training, much of it 'under the wing' of an experienced wayleave officer, the wardens can be rightly proud of their achievement as they are making a real contribution to Wayleaves and our commitment to grantors."

Now meet the wardens...

Wayleave team

● **Lucy Williams**, our joint longest-serving wayleave warden, has been with us since November 1999 and we have wayleave officer Robin O'Brien to thank for Lucy joining the team.

Lucy said: "While I was a student at Harper Adams Agricultural College in Shropshire, I did a year's placement at the Farm Energy Centre. I heard about National Grid's wayleave operation during this time, and got really interested.

"I spent a day's work experience with Robin — and got hooked!"

Lucy, 25, born and brought up in Hertfordshire, graduated from college with an HND in Agricultural Marketing in 1998. She had a job lined up for a couple of months helping to organise an international company's transport exhibition in Russia.

"Two months turned into a year — not what I had planned, but a fantastic experience nonetheless as it meant working in Moscow for a time and sampling a different culture. But I kept in touch with National Grid because I was still keen on a career in wayleaves. Fortunately when I returned, an opening came up in the South East — I didn't have to think twice!"

Lucy, who got engaged at Christmas, works more with new projects than maintenance schemes, and says she loves the variety. "I enjoy working on the computer in the office — but I also love the opportunity to get out and about meeting people. I'm lucky to have the best of both worlds. My job expectations have been totally fulfilled."

● Former overhead linesman Phil Burgess joined Lucy last summer.

Phil, 43, was born and brought up in Essex, and left school to embark on a college course for building construction technicians.

He joined the CEGB in 1978 as an electrical fitter's mate before transferring to the Eastern Electricity Board as a linesman's mate, working on 132 kV lines and wooden poles. He completed his overhead line training and returned to the CEGB as a linesman in the mid-1980s.

"A few years ago, I was seconded to a wayleave team to help out with access work. It was my first real experience of the wayleave function and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I thought it was something I would like to do permanently — I am a rural sort of person and always happier when I am out and about in the countryside.

"When the wayleave warden's job came up last year, I decided to go for it.

"It has certainly proved to be quite a change from being a linesman. For nearly all my working life I dealt with electricity on a daily basis. Now I am dealing with grantors



Lucy Williams



Phil Burgess



Bob Tute

is here to help YOU

and the agricultural scene — quite a challenge at times!"

Phil, who is married with a son and daughter, is based in Wickford, Essex.

● **Bob Tute** joined the wayleave team last July, and he, too, has a long association with National Grid. He was an overhead linesman for 23 years.

Bob, married with one son, grew up in Cheshire and worked in the building trade before starting his training as a linesman when he was in his mid-20s.

He came down to earth in 1993 when he was made overhead line team foreman, a ground-based role.

Bob said: "A big part of the job involved dealing with grantors on a regular basis. I really enjoyed this aspect of the work and was delighted when the opportunity arose to join the wayleaves team."

Bob, who is based at Daines substation near Manchester, says he has never looked back — he's found his ideal job.

● **Janet Clarke** — who shares the honour of being longest-serving warden with Lucy — was already a vital member of the wayleaves team when she became a warden in November 1999.

She said: "I was an office-based wayleave administrator for 18 years — and all that time I wanted to be out there doing what my wayleave colleagues were doing! Unfortunately, there was no opportunity until the introduction of the wayleave warden role to the function.

"When the role was introduced in 1999, my application must have been one of the first! After an enjoyable first year, I have spent the past 12 months seconded to an office-based role, working on the new wayleave information management system to establish a new grantor database.

"The job will be finished in the next few months and, although it's been enjoyable, I am looking forward to getting back into the field this summer."

Janet, 39, who has two sons, was brought up in Manchester and left school to undertake a secretarial course at a college in Stockport.

Her first job was in the secretarial department of the CEGB at Europa House in Stockport. After completing two years' training, she moved over to join the wayleave team.

Janet is also based at Daines.

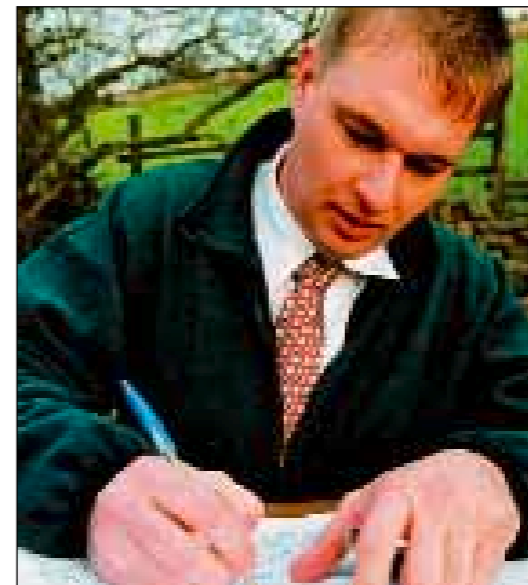
● The worlds of art and sport may have



Janet Clarke



Martin Bretherton



Simon Booth

lost **Martin Bretherton** — but he's been National Grid's gain!

Martin, 27, who is based at Penwortham substation, left school in Preston to study art at a local college.

"I did it because I could draw nice pictures and my mother made me! But I thought it was all a waste of time!" he said.

"Instead, I decided to take an A-level in sports studies, and subsequently started a degree course in the subject. But the penniless university life wasn't for me!"

So he took a complete change of direction — he joined National Grid, trained as an overhead linesman and became part of the team at Penwortham.

"Now that I did enjoy!" he said. "But as I was going out and about, I got to know more about the work of wayleaves, and felt it was something I could — and would like — to do, my overhead line experience being a positive advantage.

"I managed to get a warden's post and I'm delighted to say that I'm thoroughly enjoying it!"

● The only wayleave warden in the North East is **Simon Booth** — and yes, he's a former overhead linesman.

Simon, 30, worked with the company's Staythorpe section for about 13 years — but he got a taste for wayleaves work a few years ago when he was on light duties.

He said: "I had a temporary wayleave role because I was involved in tree management in our section — ensuring safety clearance under the overhead lines. This involved liaising with grantors — something I found I really enjoyed."

Simon, who is married with a son and daughter, was brought up in Nottinghamshire. After leaving school, he had a brief career as a trainee motor mechanic.

"Then the local careers office contacted me about an apprenticeship with the CEGB, to train as an overhead linesman.

"To be honest, I didn't know much about what the job entailed, but it sounded interesting and so I applied — and the rest is history.

"Moving into wayleaves seemed like natural career progression. I enjoy variety, and the job certainly provides that. You meet a lot of real characters — and no two are ever alike!"

Green-fingered gardeners dig their new club!

GORDON Haycock, head of National Grid's environment education centre at Penwortham substation, has launched a club for local gardeners.

"We call it Green Growers and now have about 12 regular members and up to seven staff who meet for four hours every Friday afternoon," said Gordon. "They either work in the garden next to

the centre or in the polytunnel if the weather is bad.

"The group has already produced crops of organic swede, runner beans, onions, beetroot, courgettes, garlic, sunflowers, tomatoes, aubergines and some quite impressive pumpkins.

"Everything is grown strictly organically — which means we compost

all our vegetable and organic waste to create a soil full of nutrients. This in turn grows strong, healthy plants."

● Iver Nature Study Centre in Buckinghamshire has launched a Saturday morning gardening club for children between the ages of six and 10 and is also hoping to start a club for those of more mature years.

Centres play a vital role

GARETH Llewellyn, National Grid's group director, safety and environment, has highlighted the vital role played by the company's network of environmental education centres.

Speaking at the national conference of the Council for Environmental Education (CEE), Gareth said that National Grid had set out to work with partnership organisations to give schoolchildren the opportunity to learn about environmental issues and biodiversity.

"The principal reason for doing that is we believe that giving people the skills at that very early age makes absolutely sure that for them, sustainability becomes second nature," he said. "What we hope is that the workforce of the future treats sustainable development as simply the way business is done."

National Grid was the main sponsor of the conference in London, which was attended by 160 delegates from around the country and overseas — including Ghana, Taiwan, Jordan, Japan and Venezuela.

CEE is the umbrella organisation and charity that provides a national focus in England for those committed to education for sustainable development, and its other conference partners were



Gareth Llewellyn speaking at the CEE national conference

The Countryside Agency, Field Studies Council, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Gareth told delegates that one often

heard from industry that the business case for sustainable development simply has not been proven. National Grid, on the other hand, was currently experiencing situations where demonstrating its activities are sustainable was having a real benefit for its business.

"For example, we had to prove our credentials to win a major project in Tasmania," he said.

"The word sustainability there is not our word. It is actually written in legislation and it is something we have to do extremely vigorously. As we go through this process it is very easy to find people who have got good environmental expertise, good social expertise, and as for the economist, they are everywhere! But one of the biggest challenges for us is to find the staff who have got the vision to look across all three elements and make a balanced judgement."

Gareth added: "It would be very easy for us in industry to sit back and say we've identified this need, it's up to the Government to make sure it delivers the education and skills to the current school children who effectively are going to become our workforce of the future.

"But the reality is somewhat different, and as with many parts of industry, we much prefer to work in partnership with others."

A keynote speaker was Baroness Ashton of Upholland, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Early Years and School Standards. She commended the Growing Schools Initiative, which aims to encourage more teachers to make use of the outdoor classrooms.

The Minister said: "Young people need first-hand experience of plants and animals if they are to appreciate the place of farming and the countryside in our society and economy and we have made available half a million pounds to encourage schools to participate. The steering group will be inviting schools to consider being part of flagship projects we are developing."

● To find out more about CEE, visit www.cee.org.uk

Placement scheme places available

APPLICATIONS are now invited for National Grid's 2002/2003 environmental placement scheme.

Each academic year we offer students or graduates the opportunity of valuable first-hand experience in environmental education and conservation with placements at each of our 12 environmental centres in England and Wales.

Applications close by mid-April, and interviews will be held at each centre between May and July.

Placements receive a bursary of £7,300 from National Grid, along with travel and accommodation expenses to enable placements to attend a number of seminars and training opportunities.

To find out more, visit

www.nationalgrid.com/uk/social&environment and pick up a link straight to the applications page from the front page of the Social and Environmental Performance report for 2000/2001.

Or you can write to National Grid Environmental Placement Scheme, c/o FSC Head Office, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1HW.

● The 12 centres are: Amersham, Buckinghamshire; Legacy, Wrexham; Bishops Wood, Worcestershire; Ninfield, East Sussex; Bramley Frith, Hampshire; Pelham, Essex/Hertfordshire; Canterbury, Kent; Penwortham, Lancashire; Cellarhead, Staffordshire; Skelton Grange, Leeds; Iver, Buckinghamshire; West Boldon, South Tyneside.

Environmental policies recognised by award

SKELTON Grange and Pelham have become the latest National Grid environmental education centres to gain their “green” credentials — the Eco-Centres Green Flag Award.

The awards scheme encourages centres to apply environmental issues to their day-to-day running and winning the Flag confirms a centre’s commitment to the environment.

Skelton Grange at Stourton, Leeds, has already received its award and a presentation ceremony is being planned for Pelham in Hertfordshire.

At the Skelton Grange ceremony, the centre was described as a “shining light in Leeds” by Deborah Bell, the regional director of ENCAMS — formerly known as Keep Britain Tidy — which manages the award scheme.

“The centre not only applies the principles of Eco-Centres to its buildings, staff and visitors, but actively knits into the community,” she said.

Skelton’s Eco-Centres committee has been busy encouraging the staff, volunteers and visitors to be more environmentally friendly. Some of the ways children have been helping have included bringing a waste-free lunch to try to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill sites. Some schools have travelled to the centre on public transport.



Proudly displaying Skelton Grange’s award are, left to right, centre manager Caroline Crossley, project officer Jennie Holt, Deborah Bell from ENCAMS, National Grid environmental placement Rachel Ibbotson, new deal placement Paul Turner and part-time volunteer official Stephen Clavering

Centre manager Caroline Crossley said: “Staff and volunteers have been working hard to reduce the centre’s impact on the environment and to monitor use of resources, such as

rubbish production, water use and vehicle mileage.

“Hopefully, when we have our new building with its energy saving and some renewable energy generation features we will be able to make an even greater contribution to reducing our environmental impact. Rachel, our National Grid environmental placement, has put a lot into securing us the award as part of her placement project.”

Pelham centre head Richard Wren said: “Feedback from the judges has proved really helpful. They made a recommendation that we explore the possibilities of a water meter to improve our water monitoring. Up to now, we have been doing estimates of water use — in the early days, this involved our environmental placement Anna Creed doing some research into how often children need the loo!

“The process of going for the award has made us examine our own green policies and has generated a lot of exciting ideas for the future. I would recommend it to any environmental centre.”

Our Bishops Wood, Penwortham and Amersham centres all have Eco-Centre status and many of the other centres in the National Grid network are working towards the award.



The group takes in the sights of Skelton Grange

THE Farm Energy Centre, which works in partnership with National Grid, is the UK's leading agricultural energy service provider and plays an important role in the electricity industry.

It is concerned with energy use and energy-saving technologies in farming and horticulture, and it embraces both research and development and communications about the energy-efficient techniques available to farmers and growers.

National Grid uses its services to help its many rural grantors who can benefit from its wide range of services, including energy auditing, energy brokering, consultancy and project management.

The FEC was established more than 30 years ago and in recent years has expanded its services to cover energy efficiency planning, climate change levy management and electricity supply negotiation.

For more information about the FEC, or any of the issues highlighted on these pages, contact the FEC at NAC, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LS, by phone on 024 7669 6512 or by e-mail at: info@farmenergy.com

Use the same numbers to obtain a list of FEC publications, including technical guides and technical notes to help farmers and growers deal with electrical applications.

Farm Energy Centre Services

Design advice

help for businesses looking to refurbish or expand and wanting to include good energy efficiency practices and equipment at the design stage

Energy assessments

an assessment of energy use to help farmers make savings and help the UK achieve its international commitments on reducing carbon emissions

The above services are free as part of the Government's Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme

Negotiation for new and upgraded electricity supplies

a complete planning and negotiation package to ensure that electricity supply work is delivered quickly and at the best rate

Safety advice

helping farmers and growers to run a safe operation

Climate change levy management

In partnership with the NFU, the FEC has launched a CCL Management service to help farmers and growers meet their energy saving targets. The new CCL tax is based on the number of units of energy consumed rather than on energy spend – so it's important to become energy efficient and cut consumption

Publications

The FEC produces a list of publications on energy use including technical guides and technical notes to help farmers and growers

Energy audits

a range of do-it-yourself auditing packages to help farmers control their energy use and save money

Lighting design and equipment supply

computerised lighting designs and the supply of high-quality light fittings for agriculture

Equipment suppliers database

who makes what. A list of manufacturers and suppliers of agricultural electrical equipment

Competitive energy deals

help for the farmer and grower to find the best electricity supplier for their particular needs

Energy systems design

advice from the experts in designing heating, ventilation and lighting systems for agricultural and horticultural businesses



Stephen Bettany, left, with National Grid's external communications officer Sean Regan

Path through the jungle

IT'S a jungle out there when it comes to choosing the best electricity supplier.

Deregulation may have brought down prices and given you the opportunity to make savings, but it's not all plain sailing – it can be positively daunting to work your way through the many options.

Prices are difficult to compare and there's a host of other issues to be considered, such as tariff type and service. You also have to talk to your electricity supply company, your electricity distributor and the meter operator.

The FEC is an expert in the field and can guide you through the minefield with

Here we take a closer look at competitive energy deals – one of the services offered by the Farm Energy Centre...

its electricity brokering service, which is free to NFU members.

The FEC's Stephen Bettany said: "We have developed software to help us help farmers make their choice – we don't promise to get them the cheapest deal, but we will get them the best value for money.

"We have obtained prices from a selection of the major electricity companies – all we need to do is feed in

details of an individual's electricity bills to come up with a competitive quote from a reputable supplier who can offer good service and back-up. Then we can guide them through the change over process."

By sending the FEC copies of your past electricity bills through the year, it will produce comparison figures from a group of leading electricity suppliers and, if you want to make a change, will initiate the transfer process for you.

"We'll even make sure you continue to get the best deal by comparing prices every year and advise whether you need to change supplier," said Stephen.

Don't be caught out by a time switch hitch!

TIME after time on their farm visits, FEC staff find that the time switch attached to the electricity meter is out of synchronisation and cheap rate hours are not where they should be.

If this is the case, they say, you should call your electricity company and have it reset.

In the meantime, to make the most of cheap electricity rates, make sure that your time switches are set to take advantage of the cheap night rate and line up with the cheap rate times on the meter.

And remember — the switching times might change as the hours

change from GMT to BST and back.

Hopefully, with the increased use of fully electronic metering, this problem will become a thing of the past. But whatever type of metering equipment is used, it is always worth making a regular check, just to make sure things are as they should be.

Fans clear away threat of disease

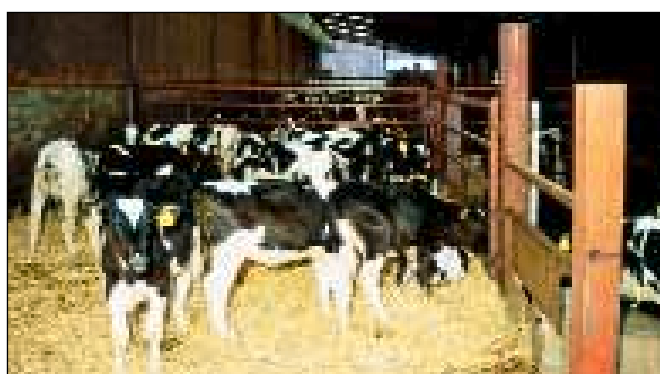
GOOD ventilation is essential to keep calves and cattle healthy.

That is the reminder from the FEC's livestock specialist Stephen Bettany who says that stagnant, saturated air can become a real problem at this time of year.

"Damp, still days mean that the air within a building becomes saturated and provides an ideal breeding ground for all sorts of diseases — pneumonia being the most common problem," he warned.

Natural ventilation may work some of the time, but fan ventilation for buildings ensures that clean air is continuously introduced to keep the animals healthy.

Stephen said: "Cold air has only a limited potential to absorb water, so at this time of the year the air in a building soon becomes saturated, resulting in damp bedding, condensation on the animals' backs and water dripping from the structure. Fresh air introduced into the building will help to carry away this moisture, creating a much healthier environment for the animals."



The method of ventilating the buildings is extremely important if the system is to work. Some points to remember:

- Extracting air from a building rarely works properly, as the replacement air will always find the easiest route into the building, often short-circuiting large areas that remain stagnant.
- By forcing air into a building down a duct you ensure that clean air is getting to all areas.
- Running costs for a fan ventilation system can easily be recovered by lowering medication costs. An 18 inch (450mm) fan, which could typically ventilate a shed of 50 calves, will have a maximum running cost of 87p/day or 1.7p/calf/day.

- As most fan systems are fitted with a manual speed controller, they rarely have to operate at full speed to have the desired effect.

The overwhelming success of calf fan ventilation systems has meant that the technique is now being used to improve the conditions in beef and cow sheds. Producers are realising the benefits of having drier lying areas and healthier, cleaner air in the building," said Stephen.

Information on sizing systems and a list of suppliers is available free of charge to National Grid grantors. For your free copy of *Dairy Ventilation* (Technical note 51), phone the FEC on **024 7669 6512**, or e-mail your request to info@farmenergy.com.

CHP set to put down deep roots in farming

IT SEEMS that energy-efficient combined heat and power installations are getting a hold in agriculture.

With the proposed exemption from climate levy tax for CHP users, the FEC predicts a rise in both interest and installation of the technology — in fact, many large glasshouse growers have already invested in CHP installations.

This particular business has a high demand for both heat and lighting. As a bonus, the carbon dioxide produced from the exhaust of the engine can be used to improve the growing atmosphere for the plants.

With the economics for large installations proven, recent moves have been to look at smaller-scale installations.

The FEC has recently worked with BG Technology, looking at micro gas turbine technology. These engines are cheap and simple and, most importantly, they have very low maintenance costs. A pilot installation is now in operation near Stratford-upon-Avon and will be monitored for long-term performance.

Another potentially favourite application will be intensive livestock production where there is a steady demand for both heat and electricity. If you would like to know more about the market potential for CHP technology, please call the FEC.

Get wise to economical heating

TAKE an immersion heater, a time switch and a correctly-sized insulated tank, and you can heat as much hot water as you need — it couldn't be simpler!

The trick is to do it as cheaply as possible, making sure you heat water at the cheapest tariff time.

Contrary to popular belief, says the FEC, the heat loss from a well insulated tank is very

small — always go for a spray foam-lagged tank, they say!

Storing hot water for use later in the day, after being heated on cheap rate electricity, is the cheapest way to do the job. Having an undersized tank and heating it twice per day is false economy, since the second "charge" of hot water is taken at a time when electricity is more than double the price.

It's going to be a hole lot of fun

NEARLY 200 people have entered National Grid's first full grantors' golf championship.

They will now test their skills at five regional qualifying tournaments before the end of May on grantor-owned courses. The venues are Sale, Rotherham, St Mellons near Cardiff, Elton Furze, Hatton near Peterborough and Silvermere in Surrey.

The top four from each qualifier will then move on to the September 10 national final at Henley-in-Arden Golf Club, Warwickshire.

"We're very pleased with the number of entries," said Sean Regan, the company's external communications officer.

"Our trial run last year clearly showed there was a healthy interest."

Cash boost for community awards

THE countdown is on to the presentation of the latest National Grid Community 21 Awards — and this year they will incorporate a new award of £10,000 for the local authority that can highlight best practice in creating a community strategy.

The National Grid Community 21 Awards scheme helps local authorities to encourage sustainable development in their

communities by offering prizes of up to £5,000 for projects run in partnership with community groups.

The new award has been introduced in response to the Government's strategy to modernise local government and it will be spent on initiatives in the winning council's community plan.

Seven authorities are vying for top place — Blackburn, Cheltenham, Wakefield, East Riding, Kettering, London Borough of Croydon and Vale Royal. The awards scheme has a prize fund this year of £60,000 including the new award.

The company has also said it hopes to continue running the scheme for at least another three years.



PHOTO: © ERIC PEARLE/GETTY IMAGES/TCL

YOUR TEAMS

North East

For the Northern region — East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside.

1100 Century Way, Thorpe Park Leeds, LS15 8TU.

Group Head: Charles Waite, 0113 290 8242

Wayleave Officers:

Wilson Holmes 0113 290 8235
John Cunnington 0113 290 8236
Mike Ford 0113 290 8233
Ron Gilmour 0113 290 8237
Mike Hudson 0113 290 8239
Mike Rockett 0113 290 8240
Scott Stephenson 0113 290 8238
Robin O'Brien 01636 642294

Wayleave Warden:

Simon Booth 0113 290 8235/8236

Wayleave Administrators:

Judy Heaton 0113 290 8235
Sharon Naylor 0113 290 8236

North West

For Merseyside, the North West, North Wales and West Midlands.

The National Grid Company plc, Howick Cross Lane, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 0NS.

Group Head: Alan Naylor 0161 7760706

Wayleave Officers:

John Griffin 0161 7760706
Mark Thomas 01772 753267
Alan Whitmore 0161 7760706
Martin Eagles 01772 753258
Richard Evans 0121 7304046
Dominic Toft 0161 7760706

Wayleave Wardens:

Janet Clarke 0161 7760706
Robert Tute 0161 7760706
Martin Bretherton 01772 753291

Wayleave Administrators:

Gill Evans 01772 753258
Lisa Hood 0161 7760706

South East

For East Anglia, London and the remainder of the South East.

The National Grid Company plc, London Road, Rawreth, Wickford, Essex SS11 8TZ.

Group Head:

Damian Heylen, 01268 642095

Wayleave Officers:

Andrew Carpenter 01268 642028
Percy Claridge 01268 642028
Barry Cullimore 01268 642028
Brian Mead 01268 642093
Mike Gleaves 01268 642028

Wayleave Wardens:

Lucy Williams 01268 642028
Phil Burgess 01268 642097

Wayleave Administrator:

Vivien Dewey 01268 642028

South West

For the South West, South Wales, Berkshire, Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

The National Grid Company plc, Great Park Road, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS12 4QR.

Group Head:

David Warner 01454 200284

Wayleave Officers:

Jenny Schroder 01454 200211
Simon Gronow 01454 200211
Ron Hodey 01454 200208

Wayleave Administrators:

Kirsty Webb 01454 200211
Sandra Stevens 01454 200214

Emergencies only

EMERGENCY calls to report pylon damage to National Grid can be made on 0800 404090. Make a note of the tower's number — found just below the property plate — to help crews locate it.

▼ For information on electric and magnetic fields, ring the EMF information line 0345 023270 (local call rate).

▼ For information on wayleave payments telephone the payments helpline on 0121 730 4074.

▼ For all other enquiries call your local office at the number shown in the contacts panel on this page.