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DEEP FREEZE.

With Britain in the grip of the coldest weather most of us have ever known, power supplies are in constant danger. At Willeston Power Station, firemen battle against ice in the cooling towers, which threatens to bring the generating plant to a standstill. Working in two-hour shifts, they hose warm water on to the ice and chop it away before it can do any real damage.

In Trafalgar Square, few pigeons are to be seen, and the fountains are festooned with ice. Nice day for a shower.

In Piccadilly Circus, not even the hardest flower-seller wants to sit at the feet of the fountain. But Eric himself is on duty as usual. Is it cold up there?

Never mind about up there - it's cold down here 'an all.

One place where nobody minds it being cold is Cortina in Italy, where the Winter Olympics are in full swing. The event - the ladies slalom. This is Mirl Buchner, of Germany.

Anna Pelissier of Italy threads her way between the marking posts.

Sweden's Vivianne Wassdahl tries to take the posts with her - and so do one or two others. Once you start, it's not so easy to stop.

And here comes the winner - Renee Colliard of Switzerland. Out of 55 entries, she's made it without a fault. Nice going!