

Chairperson:
Don Surridge
7 Hellas Drive

Barry
CF62 8AW

Tel: 01446 735437

Email: don.surridge@ntlworld.com

Secretary: Robert N. Wardle
Tel: 07762 126533
Email: robert.n.wardle@tesco.net

Treasurer:
Richard J. Thomas
Tel: 01446 737218
Email: rjthomas@maintop.co.uk

Q1 MINUTES

Quarter 1
March 04 2013

Time- 14:00 Held At The: *Dow Corning Training Centre*
(TrainC02) W109

Welcome & Apologies:

Val Caple, Dilys Smith, Jim & June Madge, Gloria Surridge, Margaret McMillan,

Chair's Report:

Good afternoon and thank you for attending these very important meetings.

The past few months has seen a lot of activity with the Association and your new committee.

We have just returned from a very enjoyable trip to Paignton at the Palace Hotel.

Apart from the cold weather we were treated to fine food, comfortable accommodation and the best coach we have ever travelled in. The only regret I have is that Brenda and Bert Dowdell have decided to stand down from arranging these trips. Our thanks go to both of them for the outstanding work they have done for so many years.

We must now seriously consider finding some one who is prepared to tackle and take on this very important role. These trips are an essential part of what the Association is all about and I feel it would have a detrimental effect on the long term running our group. I am sure we will talk about it later in this meeting.

The Social group committee has met and we now have a sub-committee to look into the possibilities of an annual dinner and any suggestions will be most welcome.

We look forward to any progress that may have been made.

Dow Corning is stepping up security of the Car park and have new barriers and pedestrian gates fitted. Once in operation you will only gain access with a security card. Anyone wishing to use the car park for access to the Dow Corning shop or gymnasium will need a pass. A pass can be issued at reception or if you would like a personal one please let me know and I will organise one for you.

It is important that we adhere to Dow Corning rules and when using the car parks please use the crossings and do NOT cross in front of the entry and exit roadways.

Also remember that when on site please leave matches, lighters, mobile phones and any electrical items at reception.

Suggestion

If you would like to see a particular topic covered in future minutes please contact Don, Rob or Richard on our phone numbers as shown. We would love to take your call.

Many thanks...Don Surridge.

With cash ISA rates low, is it time to switch to shares?

Normally at this time of the year savers start thinking about using their cash ISA allowance.

By Rosie Murray-West



At this time of the year savers start thinking about using their cash Isa allowance Photo: Alamy

Is the Government killing off the "ISA season"? Between the Bank of England's Funding for Lending Scheme – which has hugely depressed savings rates – and the fact that the Isa allowance has not kept pace with inflation in recent years, savers could be forgiven for giving up on the whole tax-free business.

However, figures this week show that many of us are approaching the end of the tax year with open arms, desperate to make the most of one of the few tax breaks still open to us.

According to uSwitch.com, the comparison service, savers plan to put an average of £3,723 into cash ISAs this year, up from £2,784 last year, and 77pc of Britons are willing to make sacrifices to max out the allowance on these accounts, which allow you to receive interest on your cash without paying tax on it.

But figures from Moneyfacts paint a bleak picture of the prognosis for cash ISA savings. The average ISA rate was 5.29pc five years ago. A year ago it was 2.55pc; today (23/02/2013) it is 1.79pc, far below inflation. "It will be harder this year to get an account that gives you a substantial return on your investment," said Charlotte Nelson from Moneyfacts. She blamed the Funding for Lending Scheme (FLS), which allows banks to get cheap cash from the Bank of England, giving them little incentive to attract ordinary savers with high rates. "Providers don't have the same appetite for savers' money," she said. "Normally we would see the Isa market heat up, with fierce competition to gain new customers; however, currently we have seen only a handful of rate increases announced." Michael Ossei of uSwitch agreed: "Savers are having to make do with the lowest returns in years," he said.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. While returns from cash ISAs look poor, and it is becoming harder than ever to find somewhere with a good rate for your old ISAs, the stock market has been enjoying something of a renaissance, with an exceptionally strong performance in January.

Recent figures from the Investment Management Association show that many people are returning to the stock market, and ISA investors are no exception. A further fillip for them is that, while it's difficult to find a decent cash ISA that will accept transfers from previous years, you can transfer cash ISAs into the stock market without losing their tax-free status.

Should ISA investors switch out of cash? It all depends on their appetite for risk and how early they will need the money. Those who know that they will need the cash in the short term should not trust it to the vagaries of the stock market, but longer-term investors can find the prospect appealing.

Brian Dennehy of FundExpert said: "In a nutshell you are as good as guaranteed to lose money in the average instant-access account over the next two years. They now pay just 1.04pc, whereas the estimated inflation rate for the next two years has been raised to 2.6pc. So your prospective real return – that is, after allowing for inflation – is minus 1.56pc. This picture is unlikely to change for years, so cash ISA investors should get back into the investment Isa habit if they want a chance of beating inflation and dire deposit interest rates."

He added that picking your stocks and shares Isa well could have astonishing results. Mr Dennehy is an advocate of George Soros's theory of "momentum investing", whereby you start by investing in the top performing fund (across all sectors) over the past six months, then every six months switch into the latest top-performing fund.

The figures show that if you had used this strategy since 1987, utilising your full Isa allowance (and before that your Pep allowance), you would have turned £192,480 into £2.7m. The same amount invested in the FTSE 100 would now be worth £514,000. Picking the wrong fund, however, could be disastrous. The same figures show that if you had put the same amount into Scottish Widows' Japan Growth fund, you'd now have less than you put in – just £171,000.

Jason Hollands of Bestinvest, the fund supermarket, cautioned against just adding the latest fund fad to your Isa portfolio this year without reviewing what you already have. "If you are not careful, your portfolio can turn into an unwieldy museum of funds that were popular in the past, making the portfolio more difficult to monitor and watering down the impact of each fund," he said. Instead, he advised Isa investors to have a discipline of having no more than, say, 20 funds as a maximum.

"If you're tempted by a new fund, reassess whether it should replace an existing fund. This will force you to challenge yourself on the case for continuing to back each fund, as they will need to prove they deserve a place in your portfolio," he said.

If you are new to stocks and shares ISAs, you may wish to consider investment trusts as an easy way to invest. They have the advantage of charging lower fees than their unit trust counterparts. Most unit trusts – or open-ended investment companies (Oeics), which are very similar – charge a standard 1.5pc annual fee. In contrast, the annual fees on investment trusts are closer to 0.6pc.

Other investors may prefer to buy their own stocks and shares and hold them within an Isa "wrapper". Sheridan Admans, investment research manager at The Share Centre, which allows its customers to do this, said his ISA customers' most popular stocks this season were mainly large FTSE companies with recognisable brand names. These include GlaxoSmithKline, the pharmaceuticals group, BP and Tesco. He said these stocks, which pay good dividends, were proving popular because cash savings rates were so low. "Since the lowering of the deposit rate in 2008, FTSE 100 income stocks have proven very attractive to investors. They are very well capitalised and many have overseas activity, meaning that they are not entirely subject to the growth prospects of the UK economy," he said.

For first-time investors, tempted from the safe haven of cash ISA's by low returns, it is important to be comfortable with the level of risk. Seek professional advice if you do not understand what you are doing.

Source: The Telegraph February 23rd

Company News

February 02 2013

The company released its sales and profits for fourth quarter and 2012 year-end.

The company recorded sales of \$6.12 billion and net income of \$188 million for 2012. Dow Corning's year-to-date sales and adjusted net income were down 5 percent and 45 percent, respectively, compared to 2011 as oversupply, economic volatility and high raw material costs significantly reduced the company's profits. Adjusted net income for 2012 excluded charges for asset abandonments and restructuring expenses. Adjusted net income for 2011 excluded a gain on long-term sales agreements.

Additional information about Dow Corning's financial results:

Fourth Quarter Results

Sales were \$1.48 billion, 3 percent lower than the previous year's fourth quarter.

Adjusted net income was \$69 million, 10 percent lower than the previous year's fourth quarter.

Dow Corning's Hemlock Semiconductor Group joint ventures continued to be challenged by significant oversupply in the polysilicon industry and the threat of potential duties on its products sold into China.

Sales in Europe continued to be significantly lower due to continuing economic volatility.

February 02 2013

Dow Corning and IBM Scientists Develop New Materials for Board-Level Photonics

- *Scientists developed a new flexible polymer material made of high-performance silicone to create optical waveguides on printed circuit boards that can withstand extreme operating heat and humidity with no measurable degradation in performance.*
- *The materials can be fabricated into waveguides using conventional manufacturing techniques available today.*
- *Board-level waveguides will help pave the way for the low-cost integration of photonics in energy-efficient supercomputers and data centres.*

Dow Corning and IBM scientists unveiled a major step in photonics, using a new type of polymer material to transmit light instead of electrical signals within supercomputers and data centres. This new silicone-based material offers better physical properties, including robustness and flexibility, making it ideal for applications in Big Data and for the development of future exascale computers, which are capable of performing a billion billion computations per second.

With exabytes of structured and unstructured data growing annually at 60 percent, scientists have been researching a range of technological advancements to drastically reduce the energy required to move all that data from the processor to the printed circuit board within a computer. Optical interconnect technology offers bandwidth and power efficiency advantages compared to established electrical signalling.

"Polymer waveguides provide an integrated means to route optical signals similar to how copper lines route electrical signals," explains Dr. Bert Jan Offrein, manager of the Photonics Research Group at IBM Research. "Our design is highly flexible, resistant to high temperatures and has strong adhesion properties – these waveguides were designed with no compromises."

In a collaboration with Dow Corning, the scientists for the first time fabricated thin sheets of optical waveguide that show no curling and can bend to a 1 mm radius and is stable at extreme operating conditions including 85 percent humidity and 85°C. This new polymer, based on silicone materials, offers an optimised combination of properties for integration in established electrical printed circuit board technology. In addition, the material can be fabricated into waveguides using conventional manufacturing techniques available today.

"Dow Corning's breakthrough polymer waveguide silicone has positioned us at the forefront of a new era in robust, data-rich computing, especially as we continue to collaborate with outstanding industry leaders like IBM," said Eric Peeters, vice president, Dow Corning Electronic Solutions. "Optical waveguides made from Dow Corning's silicone polymer technology offer customers revolutionary new options for transmitting data substantially faster, and with lower heat and energy consumption. We are confident that silicone-based board-level interconnects will quickly supersede conventional electronic signal distribution to deliver the amazing speeds needed for tomorrow's supercomputers."

A presentation (entitled *Flexible, Stable and Easily Processable Optical Silicones for Low-Loss Polymer Waveguides*) given in San Francisco by Brandon Swatowski, application engineer for Dow Corning Electronics Solutions, reported that fabrication of full waveguide builds can be completed in less than 45 minutes, and enable a high degree of process flexibility. Silicone polymer material, which is dispensed as a liquid, processes more quickly than competitive waveguide materials such as glass and does not require a controlled atmosphere chamber.

Swatowski's presentation went on to say that waveguide builds based on the silicone polymer showed excellent adhesion to polyimide substrates. It also discussed how optical characterization of the new polymer waveguides silicones showed losses as low as 0.03 dB/cm, with environmental stability extending past 2,000 hours exposure to high humidity and temperature, and good performance sustained over 500 thermal cycles between -40°C and 120°C.

February 13 2013

Silicone Antifoams Help Satisfy the World's Sweet Tooth

Industry researchers say the global market for confectioneries is projected to reach US \$208.5 billion by 2017, up from \$141 billion in 2007. New flavours, novel ingredients, healthier choices and aggressive marketing will certainly play a large role in generating demand, but it will be silicone antifoams that help create supply.

"Foaming issues in food and beverage processing applications can create spillovers that negatively impact efficiency, productivity and cost," said Don Buchalski, global marketing manager for Dow Corning's XIAMETER® brand, which offers high-quality. "Silicone antifoams destabilize and collapse bubbles, allowing confectioners to avoid having to stop production to clean up spills."

XIAMETER brand silicone antifoaming agents are designed to safely and effectively reduce problems with foam under the numerous conditions encountered when processing foods and beverages. And whether used as pure liquids or powders or in a compound or emulsion, silicone antifoams are more effective than organic antifoaming agents.

Source: Dow Corning News

Social

Brenda and Bert, your leaving marks the end of a 17 year era with this association. We will all come to appreciate you even more when we try to fill the void you have both left. Both of you have taken us on many memorable day trips and short breaks throughout those years and we thank you for that.

Members who recently joined the short break to Paignton which is reported elsewhere within these minutes will know Ken Doble (member) handed around Edwards day trip leaflets following an announcement from Don during the return journey home. Both Don and Ken invited regular day trippers to make their selection of possible day trips from off the list. Ken has since produced a spreadsheet of the most popular day trips selected by members on the day. This spreadsheet will be passed onto any volunteer who is willing to step up as organiser for 2013. Worth noting that whilst collecting in the forms, several members suggested that they would like to return to the Palace Hotel in Paignton in 2014 which would suggest that if there is a volunteer, at least one short break is almost certain to run.

Website

For anyone who is interested, Val Caple (membership secretary) with the help of other committee members has now set up an association website. Here you will find drop down menus which include Robin's photographs, Dow Corning up to date news from their website, current and past minutes, forthcoming walks etc. We hope to expand the website in the near future by including possible day trips, short breaks and skittles events and many other interesting topics. If you would like to see a particular topic added, please contact one of the committee members or Val direct via her email address. The website can be found at www.dcretirees.org.uk

Future minutes will be recorded within the website and will not sent out as an attachment as is the current situation. Of course you will receive an email to let you know that the minutes have been posted to the web. Members who are not on email will still receive copies of the minutes in the normal manner.

Thanks must go to Val for setting up the website.

Passings

Sadly we report since our December meeting, three members have passed away:

Jim Anderson - 05/12/12

Carwyn Morgan 10/12/12

Alan Taylor 04/02/13

Rob Wardle

Treasurer's Report

1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance 2604.03

Cheques not presented from 2013 -80.00

Cheques not presented from 2012

2354 – B. Davis (Hospital) -10.00

Cheques not presented from 2011 (will be cancelled)

2245 – A. Davies (Hospital) -10.00

2272 – C. Prew (Hospital) - 10.00

Savings account balance 1659.79

Float totals 288.78

=====

Net Assets YTD = £ 4442.60

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2013 up to the end of February) for a summary of 2013 accounts year to-date.

A further breakdown is available during the meeting for those members wishing to see it. Any further queries please contact the treasurer.

2. DCRA accounts for 2012:

The 2012 accounts have been prepared ready for audit. Dave Edwards has kindly agreed to audit the accounts again and files have been sent to him to review. He will get back to me soon with a list of additional supporting documentation required.

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2012) for a summary of the 2012 accounts.

A further breakdown is available during the meeting for those members wishing to see it. Any further queries please contact the treasurer.

3. Bringing the Membership Year in line with the Financial Year:

This is a “heads-up” for a proposal I plan to put forward at this year’s AGM, i.e. that the membership year runs from 1st January through to the 31st December. If accepted it would mean that this year’s membership would run for an extra 3 months until 31st December 2013.

On occasions the association passes on benefits to members at Christmas time (if funds are available), with the current membership year this adds on an additional administration burden to establish that memberships have been renewed and that members are entitled to the benefit. Changing the membership year will eliminate this administration burden plus it will be good practice to tie the finance reporting directly to the membership year periods.

Both treasurer (myself) and the Membership Secretary (Val) support this change but we would like to know if anyone has strong feelings against it before the proposal is put forward at the AGM.

4. Welfare (Sickness and Bereavements):

The benefits to members are currently:

- £10.00 to a member for the first visit to hospital (which includes at least one overnight stay) of a particular illness. The value of this benefit has been questioned by several members and it can be difficult to administer in a timely fashion if the hospital stay is not communicated well to the treasurer.
 - o No payments have been made to-date in 2013.
- Flowers to the value of £20.00 or a £20.00 donation to the charity of choice on the passing of a member.
 - o There has been one donation to-date in 2013.

Marie Curie Cancer Care in Memory of Alan Taylor

As treasurer I am the administrator of the above benefits, I find the process cold, lacking and in need of an overhaul. Generally the welfare side of the association is in need of a review, I personally would like to see a welfare committee established similar to the social committee and a charter of activities created. I am looking for help with this and would urge those interested to contact me so that we can make a start. My contact details are:

Telephone: 01446 737218

Email: rjthomas@maintop.co.uk

I will discuss this further with the secretary with regard to reaching more of the members.

The next two pages shows the breakdown of expenses.

Richard Thomas (DCRA Treasurer).

| Dow Corning Retirees Association | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Income and Expenditure Account for 2013 (End Feb. 2013) | | | | | |
| 2013 Income | | | 2013 Expenditure | | |
| Members Subscriptions | 22.00 | | Welfare | 20.00 | |
| Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions | 0.00 | | Tesco Vouchers | 0.00 | |
| Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning) | 1065.68 | | Manning DC Shop | 118.28 | |
| DC Shop Takings | 465.00 | | DC Shop Takings | 465.00 | |
| Admin | 0.00 | | Admin | 420.00 | |
| Coach Trips | 0.00 | | Coach Trips inc. float. | 188.00 | |
| Annual Dinner/Lunch | 0.00 | | Annual Lunch/Dinner (inc. coach hire) | 0.00 | |
| Interest earned in 2012. | 0.07 | | Xmas cards/gifts | 65.83 | |
| | | | Skittles Float | 0.00 | |
| | | | Walking Group | 0.00 | |
| | | | Secretary's Float | 2.07 | |
| | | | Previous Treasurers Float | 0.00 | |
| | | | Current Treasurers Float | 0.00 | |
| | Total Income | 1552.75 | | Total Expense | 1279.18 |
| Surplus end of February 2013 | | | | | 273.57 |
| Balances -End of Dec 2012 | | | Balances -End of Feb 2013 | | |
| Current Account | 2347.84 | | Current Account | 2604.03 | |
| Unpresented Cheques at end Dec. 2012** | -140.00 | | Unpresented Cheques at end Feb. ** | -110.00 | |
| Savings Account | 1659.72 | | Savings Account | 1659.79 | |
| Previous Treasurers Float | -2.38 | | Previous Treasurers Float | 0.00 | |
| Current Treasurers Float | -3.53 | | Current Treasurers Float | -3.53 | |
| Secretary's Float | 8.63 | | Secretary's Float | 6.56 | |
| Skittles Float | 39.99 | | Skittles Float | 39.99 | |
| Walking Group Float | -65.06 | | Walking Group Float | -65.06 | |
| Coach Trips Float | 23.82 | | Coach Trips Float | 10.82 | |
| DC Shop Float | 300.00 | | DC Shop Float | 300.00 | |
| | | | Net Assets end Feb | 4442.60 | |
| | | | Minus Surplus end of Feb 2103 | -273.57 | |
| | | 4169.03 | | | 4169.03 |
| ** Includes 2 unpresented cheques from 2011. | | | | | |

| Dow Corning Retirees Association | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------|--|---------------|---------|
| Income and Expenditure Account for 2012 | | | | | |
| 2012 Income | | | 2012 Expenditure | | |
| Members Subscriptions | 594.00 | | Welfare | 350.00 | |
| Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions | 309.50 | | Tesco Vouchers | 3090.00 | |
| Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning) | 4292.92 | | Manning DC Shop | 397.92 | |
| Admin | 210.00 | | Admin | 787.83 | |
| Coach Trips | 936.00 | | Coach Trips inc. float. | 1213.00 | |
| Annual Dinner/Lunch | 1327.98 | | Annual Lunch/Dinner (inc. coach hire) | 1494.30 | |
| Interest earned in 2012 | 0.84 | | Xmas cards/gifts | 29.35 | |
| | | | Skittles Float | 30.65 | |
| | | | Walking Group | 366.05 | |
| | | | Secretary's Float | 41.37 | |
| | | | Previous Treasurers Float | 17.27 | |
| | | | Current Treasurers Float | 29.53 | |
| | | | | Total Expense | 7847.27 |
| | Total Income | 7671.24 | | | |
| Deficit end of Dec 2012 | | | | | 176.03 |
| Balances -End of Dec 2011 | | | Balances -End of Dec 2012 | | |
| Current Account | 3237.84 | | Current Account | 2347.84 | |
| Unpresented cheques at end of Dec. 2011 | -675.00 | | Unpresented Cheques at end Dec. 2012** | -140.00 | |
| Savings Account | 1658.88 | | Savings Account | 1659.72 | |
| Previous Treasurers Float | -45.11 | | Previous Treasurers Float | -2.38 | |
| Current Treasurers Float | 0.00 | | Current Treasurers Float | -3.53 | |
| Secretary's Float | 0.00 | | Secretary's Float | 8.63 | |
| Skittles Float | 20.64 | | Skittles Float | 39.99 | |
| Walking Group Float | -159.01 | | Walking Group Float | -65.06 | |
| Coach Trips Float | 6.82 | | Coach Trips Float | 23.82 | |
| DC Shop Float | 300.00 | | DC Shop Float | 300.00 | |
| | | | Net Assets end Dec 2012 | 4169.03 | |
| | | | Plus Deficit end Dec 2012 | 176.03 | |
| | | 4345.06 | | | 4345.06 |
| ** Includes 2 unpresented cheques from 2011. | | | | | |

Site Shop Report

The first quarter of the year is always a quiet time and this year is no exception.

For the first time in many years we were pleased to meet and discuss our Pyrex range with the Arc International representative, He wanted to show some of the new products they have introduced. We will study their catalogue and will be placing an order in the near future.

My thanks to Ruth Beasley as always for her continued support.

Don Surridge

Social Committee Reports

Following our December meeting some 60 plus members of the coach group travelled to Raglan for a Christmas lunch which was enjoyed by the majority of the group. Unfortunately when it came to the last 6 diners the turkey

must have run out and it was replaced with a preformed version which was very salty and inedible, something to bear in mind if repeating the booking.

February saw 46 of us return to the Palace Hotel in Paignton, great hotel, great food, but very cold, windy weather. However we all enjoyed ourselves with trips to Dartmouth, Totnes and the House of Marbles at Newton Abbott, not forgetting time in Torquay for those interested. Quite a few members also took advantage of the nearby cinema to enjoy Les Mis, soaking many hankies in the process, with others winning more spending money at the nightly 1 1/2 hour of bingo at the hotel.

Bert and I are now signing off as coach organisers and committee members and would like to thank everyone concerned for their support over the years.

Walking Group Report to March 04

The December walk combined with the Christmas Lunch was centred on Llantwit Major. Twenty walkers undertook the 6 mile walk from the Town Hall via some fairly muddy paths to Llantwit Beach and then returned back up the valley just in time for a delightful lunch in Illtud's 216 Restaurant (can thoroughly recommend).

Four intrepid (possibly mad) walkers braved the cold to climb snowy Corn Du and Pen Y Fan on New Years morning to enjoy the fine views and a dram of Talisker before hastening back to the cars for hot mulled wine and mince pies. We have not seen so many walkers and families previously – it was crowded like a summers day.

As a direct result of the prolonged heavy rainfall and waterlogged ground the planned January walk had to be substituted for the planned March walk. So instead of a boggy and recently flooded Peter-super-Ely, we went to Sugar Loaf, above Abergavenny. Having parked outside the Lamb and Flag inn we steadily climbed in dry conditions underfoot to Llanwenarth Breast and onwards and ever upwards past the car park to Sugar Loaf itself which at only 596 metres was cold and windy. We managed to find a sheltered spot and settled down for a pleasant lunch. The nine walkers returned via a ridge route having walked 6 miles to enjoy the warmth of a cup of coffee at the pub.

The February walk had been proposed by Mike and Ann Dams and started at the Cefn Mably Arms in Michaelstone-y-fedw, just north of M4 J30. We took a respectful minute silence for our recently deceased member, Alan Taylor, before setting off on a delightful 7 mile, easy walk along the banks of the river Rhymney, through meadows and woods. We stopped at the Hollybush Inn in Draethen for hot chocolate and again at Ruperra Castle for lunch, taken in bright sunshine with good views out over the Severn Estuary. Eleven walkers attended this walk.

The upcoming monthly walks are:

6 Mar Peterston-super-Ely, a ridge and valley walk 7 E

Meet 1030 Sportsman's Rest Pub, Peterson-super-Ely (ST 082 762)

3 Apr Ogmere to Llantwit Major Church – linear (Wales Coast Path)10 M

Meet 1030 at Llantwit Major Town Hall car park

1 May Ross on Wye, River Wye, Kerne Bridge, Wye Valley Walk 10.5 M

Meet 1030 at Wilton Road car park off B4260, Ross (SO 593 240)

AOB

We are actively seeking replacements for Brenda and Bert to organise day trips and short breaks, if any member needs further information please contact either Don, Rob or Richard. Both Brenda and Bert are willing to offer their support to anyone willing to take over the organiser's role.

Dave Townsend mentioned that Barry Library are holding an exhibition this week at looking back which is aimed at people 50+ which is well worth a visit.

South Wales Fire & Rescue service recently published a sign on their twitter feed that they recently discovered presumably it is installed in student quarters. In my time in fire safety, this sign was not needed. *Rob Wardle*



Guests

Bob Evans QPM and Bob McAllister who are both retired police officers were guests at the meeting. They have just established a business due for launch in April called 'Bobbies on Call'. The initial target area for their business will be Penarth and the Vale of Glamorgan. They offer people a unique trustworthy service and were seeking advice from those members present at the meeting. They realise their business will target people with an affordable income who need some form of trustworthy support. It would be an on-call service people could buy into with various levels of service being offered. Some examples of what services they plan to offer could range from replacing a curtain pole, moving fridge/freezers annually to enable cleaning to take place behind the units, changing light bulbs, cutting lawns, driving people to appointments such as hospitals etc.

Where trades people are concerned, they would help to obtain quotations from reputable companies that have been CRB checked and well known to be trustworthy trades people.

They recognise people of both sexes especially those living on their own might have varying levels of difficulty who might need help with various tasks such as secretarial duties for dealing with mail or form filling e.g. failing sight or not having the ability to climb ladders, cut the lawn etc. Some people are reluctant to leave home to take a holiday for fear of break in's. Bobbies on Call could provide a live in home care service.

The service would be by subscription paid by direct debit. Any client could cancel their payment by giving one month's notice.

If you would like to have further details of what this company can offer in confidence please contact me (Rob Wardle) and I will pass their email details on to you. As an association, we plan to have a link on our new website to 'Bobbies on Call'.

One final word, their unique service could also be suitable to DC employees who have concerns about relatives who live on their own or who maybe infirm.

DONM JUNE 03