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Don Surridge
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Secretary: Robert N. Wardle
Tel: 07762 126533
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Treasurer:
Richard J. Thomas
Tel: 01446 737218
Email: rjthomas@maintop.co.uk

Q3 AGM Minutes

S E P T E M B E R 0 2 2 0 1 3

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

Welcome and Apologies

Derek Butler, Frank Maltby, John Evans, Robin Pitcher, Steve Kraus, Muriel Longden, Mike Bullows, Jane Wardle, Diane Doble, Kaye & Russ Incledon, Bob Griffiths, Dell Smith, Shirley Benton, Ruth Beasley, Brian Rich, Brian Currie, Mary Currie, Dilys Smith, Des Holland, Joan Holland, Tommy Lake, Margarret McMillan, Mike Dams and Anne Dams.



1. Chairperson's Report

A very warm welcome to our 31st. Annual General Meeting and thank you all for attending and supporting the Retirees Association.

The committee has been busy over the past twelve months and the forming of several sub committees has certainly helped to spread the load.

We have now formed a Welfare group, a group looking at our annual dinner, a walking group, skittles and Ken Doble and Robert Wardle organising trips. I thank them all for the time and effort they put in and look forward to their individual reports.

With regards entry into the car park the following has been agreed by site security. The car park gates will remain open during the day and will only operate during evening and weekend times.

However any pedestrian will need a pass or visit reception if they wish to visit the gymnasium or site shop.

My thanks go to all those who are assisting us with the running of our Retirees Association and in particular to Richard Thomas and Robert Wardle for accepting the roles as treasurer and secretary and what a grand job they are doing.

On a sad note I have recently been handed a resignation letter from our secretary Robert Wardle who wishes to stand down with immediate effect. I am hoping that some of you will join me in persuading Rob to change his mind and stay on committee.

Many thanks

Don Surridge - Chairman

2. Secretaries Report



Loyal Savers See £850m Chopped Off In Six Months

Banks and building societies have since January knocked nearly £850m off the annual interest paid to savers, The Telegraph can disclose. The cuts coincide with banks making billions of pounds in profit in the first half of this year.

The clawback, buried in the details of a report published on Monday 30 July by the Bank of England, affects existing customers who hold easy-access savings accounts. More than 750 cuts have been made to these accounts in just six months, despite the Bank of England Base Rate remaining unmoved at 0.5pc.

The sharp reduction in interest handed to savers coincided with Britain's biggest banks making billions of pounds in profits for the first half of this year.

Cuts to rates used to lure new customers in the wake of the Government's Funding for Lending Scheme - which a year ago gave banks access to £80bn of cheap capital - have been well documented.

For example, High Street giant HSBC used its access to market data to calculate that savers with fixed-term bonds maturing in 2013 will see their incomes reduced by a combined £1bn. This is simply because the rates on new fixed-term products are so much lower than the returns on their existing deals.

The Bank of England figures released w/c 29 July were backed up this analysis, with the Telegraph reporting that the interest on longer-term savings products has fallen to a nine-year low. For example, the average interest paid on one-year bonds has fallen from 2.06pc to 1.85pc in the month of July alone. It is the first time the figure has dropped below 2pc since records began in 2004.

However, deeper analysis of the report exposes banks for hacking back the rates paid to loyal savers as well. These movements are made behind closed doors, never publicised and therefore rarely scrutinised.

The average rate on all easy access accounts is now just 0.97pc, down from 1.14pc in January, the figures show.

This is equal to a miserable £485 a year on each £50,000 of savings, compared with £570 in January - a reduction of around a sixth.

By shaving 0.17 percentage points off the return they pay loyal savers banks have been able to swell their coffers, as the lower outgoings free up cash to use in more profitable parts of the business. This is typically lending arms, where banks are taking advantage of renewed enthusiasm in the property market.

Based on the total amount of money in easy access accounts - £496bn according to the latest Bank of England report - this amounts to £843m in lost annual interest.

In-depth research for the Telegraph by rate monitoring website Savingschampion.co.uk found that banks have significantly increased the number of rates chiseled away each month since the turn of the year.

Between January and July 2012 an average of one bank or building society each month cut the rate on an account held by existing customers.

The figure jumped to 24 during the first half of 2013. A total of 750 rates cuts were made in the six month period. Just 86 cuts were made during the entirety of 2012.

Anna Bowes, director of Savingschampion, said: "These figures show how much Funding for Lending has hurt savers. Not only has this removed the need for providers to attract new customers, but it has had a knock on effect on the back-book business of existing customers.

"This is highly unusual and a very unexpected development. Traditionally, back-book easy access rates have only changed when bonus rates fall off or Base Rate is reduced."

The figures come just as banks enter their reporting season at the end of July. Barclays reported profits of £3.6bn on 30 July, while Lloyds Banking Group, which includes Halifax, is expected to deliver profits of £2.3bn.

Source: Dan Hyde Daily Telegraph 31 July

Company News: Dow Corning Sees Collaboration in Materials and Processing Technology as Critical to the Semiconductor Industry's Recovery

MIDLAND, Mich. – Semiconductor sales appear to be finally emerging from the red this year, with moderate but steady growth of 5.1 percent projected through 2014, according to World Semiconductor Trade Statistics' Spring 2013 global semiconductor sales forecast. While a revival in end-market demand is sparking much of

this growth, Dow Corning, a global leader in silicones, silicon-based technology and innovation, sees collaborative advances in materials and processing technologies as a sustaining force in the industry's recovery.

"The pace of innovation across the semiconductor processing and packaging value chain has never been greater and, while the industry hasn't reported any insurmountable challenges ahead for advancing such promising technologies as 3D IC integration, several critical needs are emerging among our global semiconductor customers that we are addressing head on," said Andrew Ho, global industry director, Advanced Semiconductor Materials at Dow Corning. "Among these needs are the steadily accelerating demand for high-performance silicone solutions to help collaborators along the value chain to manage the impact of heat and stress, while reducing overall systems costs wherever possible."

Specifically, Dow Corning sees growing demand for innovative new silicone solutions able to address the following industry-wide challenges:

Improved heat management: The trend toward ever-smaller devices with more densely packed electronic components is coinciding with the expanding use of flip chip and stacked die architectures. As a result, the industry is seeking improved thermal management from advanced silicone technologies that effectively dissipate heat and deliver greater device reliability and longer life.

Enhanced stress passivation: The rapid growth of wafer-level packaging and power electronics is posing new manufacturing challenges for stress mitigation. At issue is thermo-mechanical stress failure caused, in part, by conventional organic passivation materials. This has prompted new explorations in photopatternable silicone solutions that help minimize thermo-mechanical stress during processing, and deliver higher thermal stability and low temperature cure.

Lower systems costs: Minimizing total cost of ownership is essential for all semiconductor manufacturing applications. But it is a key enabler for next-generation technologies, such as 3D IC integration built on ultra-thin active wafers. These wafers are temporarily bonded to a carrier wafer before being thinned; yet most temporary bonding solutions require costly pre-treatment and specialized chambers. Recent industry collaborations, however, have successfully fielded a simpler, more cost-effective temporary bonding solution based on silicone adhesive and release layers. The breakthrough technology now enables room-temperature bonding and debonding of active and carrier wafers using conventional manufacturing methods.

"After decades of serving the semiconductor manufacturing industry, Dow Corning recognizes that few if any companies can single-handedly anticipate the next-generation of semiconductor solutions," said Ho. "Our strong leadership position in this industry is directly linked to our long history of close collaboration with semiconductor manufacturers to develop breakthrough silicone technologies, and we are committed to continuing our history of proactively collaborating with customers to solve their most pressing challenges and help drive the industry forward."

Source: Dow Corning 09/07/2013

Dow Corning Reports Sales and Profits for First Half of 2013

Dow Corning Corp. On 31/07 announced sales of \$2.69 billion and net income of \$149 million for the first half of 2013. Dow Corning's year-to-date sales and adjusted net income were down 13 percent and 9 percent, respectively, compared to 2012. Adjusted net income for 2013 excluded restructuring expenses.

	Q2 2013	Q2 2012	% Change	2013	2012	% Change
Sales (in billions)	\$1.43	\$1.57	-9%	\$2.69	\$3.09	-13%
Net income (in millions)	\$87	\$121	-28%	\$149	\$192	-22%
Adjusted net income (in millions)	\$107	\$121	-11%	\$174	\$192	-9%

Source: Dow Corning 31/07/2013 (Abridged)

Our website that Val Caple launched back in January (see January minutes for details) is well worth a visit. For those who have yet to click onto it. There is photo base of past service awards and events etc which is owned and maintained by Robin Pitcher, there is useful information including past minutes. Now you can also look up information while on the move that is if you own a smart phones by simply clicking on the QR code below.



Rob Wardle - Secretary

3. Treasurers Report



1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance	4433.55
Cheque's not presented from 2013	-31.00
Savings account balance	1660.21
Float totals	350.70

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Net Assets YTD = £ 6413.46

Any cheques not presented from 2011 and 2012 have been cancelled and detailed in the 2013 accounts.

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2013 up to the end of August) 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 successfully been audited and are now being submitted to the members for approval (see AOB). Many thanks again to Dave Edwards for conducting the audit and for giving his services free of charge.

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

3. Proposal to change the annual subscription date from October to January 1st:

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 and if accepted it would mean that this year's membership will run for an extra 3 months i.e. until December 31st.

See AOB for further discussion.

4. Friendship Charter:

A concept document has been drafted by a small team wishing to introduce a "Friendship" element to the benefits provided by the association, the purpose being to provide specific support to worthy (in need) DCRA members. The group currently consists of myself, Stu McMillan, Val Caple, Bryan Clements and Derek Butler, but would need additional volunteers to be successful.

See AOB for further discussion.

Richard J. Thomas - Treasurer

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2013 (End August 2013)					
2013 Income			2013 Expenditure		
Members Subscriptions	36.00		Welfare	60.00	
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	311.00		Xmas cards/gifts	65.83	
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	3225.96		Manning DC Shop	243.56	
DC Shop Takings	2775.00		DC Shop Takings	2775.00	
Admin	0.00		Admin	429.98	
Coach Trips	770.00		Coach Trips	1088.00	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	0.00		Annual Lunch/Dinner (inc. coach hire)	0.00	
Interest earned (end April 2013).	0.49		Skittles Group Expenses	31.94	
			Walking Group Expenses	160.83	
			Secretary's Expenses	15.07	
			Treasurers Expenses	3.81	
	Total Income	7118.45		Total Expense	4874.02
Surplus year to-date 2013					2244.43
Balances -End of Dec 2012			Balances – End of Aug 2013		
Current Account	2347.84		Current Account	4433.55	
Un presented Cheque's at end Dec. 2012*	-140.00		Un presented Cheques year to-date	-31.00	
Savings Account	1659.72		Savings Account	1660.21	
Previous Treasurers Float	-2.38		Previous Treasurers Flt	0.00	
Current Treasurers Float	-3.53		Treasurers Float	-7.34	
Secretary's Float	8.63		Secretary's Float	0.00	
Skittles Float	39.99		Skittles Float	8.05	
Walking Group Float	-65.06		Walking Group Float	39.17	
Coach Trips Float	23.82		Coach Trips Float	10.82	
DC Shop Float	300.00		DC Shop Float	300.00	
			Net Assets year to-date 2013	6413.46	
			Minus Surplus year to-date 2103	2244.43	
		4169.03			4169.03
* Includes 2 un presented cheque's 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	
Un presented cheque's at end of Dec. 2011	-675.00		Un presented Cheque's 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 un presented cheque's from 2011.					



DCRA "FRIENDSHIP" CHARTER – Concept Document Rev 03

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the DCRA Friendship Group would be to provide specific support to worthy (in need) DCRA members, primarily in response to a request direct from a member requiring support, or reference via the close family, or a friend. In other cases the Friendship Group may contact a member directly and offer a service. The provision of the DCRA Friendship services is not to substitute or replace the state or local authority service, but it may compliment some state or local authority services.

SCOPE OF FRIENDSHIP PROVISION:

The scope of Friendship provided by the DCRA Friendship Group is primarily “assistance in kind” but not financial assistance.

The “Assistance In Kind” may include, but not be limited to:

- Hospital visits
- Home visits
- Running errands
- Short transport journeys (up to 30 miles)
- Point of contact if no other local supporting family or friends available

The decision to provide or not provide support would rest with the group member attending the person in need of support.

There may need to be some restriction on area serviced (30 miles max from impacted member to support worker) in which such support can be effectively administered if a house visit is required. However, if support request/s can be resolved by telephone or e-mail, then the support worker may decide.

FORMATION OF FRIENDSHIP GROUP:

The DCRA Friendship Group would require the following membership to function effectively

- DCRA Friendship Group Coordinator, plus a deputy to cover absence
- DCRA Friendship Group Support workers with a wide range of attributes contained in a register.
- Note – due to the potential one on one interaction with vulnerable people, support workers will need CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks carried out.

ADMINISTRATION PROCESS:

A member (directly or via a representative) in need of support would contact the DCRA Friendship Group Coordinator and request type of assistance required. The Coordinator would either e-mail or telephone group members making a request for attendance to impacted person, type of assistance required, geographical location and some indication of level of urgency. (It may be beneficial to name the impacted member as past friendships may have a bearing). The supporting Friendship Group Member would indicate willingness to attend and would then receive the contact details. On completion of assistance the supporting Friendship Group member would communicate to Coordinator that the request/s have been executed, (or that some are still outstanding and outside of the support worker’s capabilities) and submit any agreed incurred expenses to Coordinator.

In the situation of a DCRA member not requesting support, but that others are aware that assistance is required, the Coordinator could contact the relevant member to establish if assistance was required.

(The above may be better illustrated on a flow chart).

A record of impacted members requests and task undertaken might be retained by DCRA Friendship Coordinator to allow measurement of services given and potentially prevent abuse of the system.

INCURRED EXPENSES:

Expenses incurred directly associated with the support function by Coordinator or support workers should be recompensed from DCRA Treasurer. Travel expenses to be from support workers home to the home of the member receiving support and/or during tasks requested by the member. Travel expenses would be paid at current AA rate (44p/mile in 2013). It is envisaged that expenses would be limited to travel expenses only. Expense claims should be directed in the first instance to the DCRA Friendship Group Coordinator for review and approval with subsequent payment by DCRA Treasurer. All material content and costs are to be borne by the member receiving support.

DONATIONS:

Should the impacted member wish to make a donation for assistance given, these monies should be directed to DCRA Friendship Group Coordinator or DCRA Treasurer.

DATA PROTECTION:

All participating members must respect the Data Protection Act and the privacy and confidentiality of the individual member receiving support, the support worker and their contact details. Once the support worker has

completed the task for the member, all confidential information should be destroyed, although it may be retained by the DCRA Friendship Group Coordinator.

As part of the implementation of the Friendship Group, additional membership information to that that currently held will be sought during membership renewal time, i.e. Date of Birth, Next of Kin name and contact details.

DCRA Welfare Charter: Rev 0: 15:03:2013 HSM

DCRA Welfare Charter: Rev 1: 14:04:2013 RJT

DCRA Friendship Charter: Rev 2: 10:07:2013 RJT

DCRA Friendship Charter: Rev 3: 16:07:2013 RJT

Richard J. Thomas - Treasurer

4. Shop Report



For the period 1st. January to 31st. August 2013 sales show a slight drop of 5% over the same period in 2012.

We have been trying new products in our Pyrex range including “Pyroflam” and “Ovenware” and we are expecting a visit from our supplier and hopefully getting some more new items and bargains. My thanks as always to Ruth Beasley and the helpers for their much appreciated assistance and support.

Don Surridge - Chairman

5. Social Committee Reports

(A) Day Trips / Short Breaks



Ken Doble organised a day trip to Forde Abbey in Dorset on Friday June 21, Forde Abbey is a treasure in an area already known for its outstanding beauty. It is also a family home, and a living and breathing working estate. They do have a small tea room, gift shop and plant centre. This treasured abbey is NOT part of the National Trust and somehow you can sense the difference when walking around this fine property and grounds. Our thanks to John and Jean Harvey who recommended the visit to the Abbey last year. The trip was open to members, friends and family because there were fewer members than normal booked onto the day trip.

Several members who went on the day trip made suggestions about a short break to Liverpool. As result of the request, a A four day break has been arranged with Edwards coaches departing on February 03 and returning 06.

Members, family and friends will stay at the Atlantic Tower Hotel on the quay which includes a guided tour of where the Beatles lived and regularly performed. There is also a ferry trip across the Mersey. This short break just like the day trip has had to be opened up to family members and friends.

Ken Doble & Rob Wardle - 2013 Trip organisers

(B) Skittles Evenings



A skittles evening was held on Saturday August 3 at the Barry Rugby Club. Our organisers said that due to holidays, other commitments and illnesses only 13 members attended.

All who attended enjoyed the evening with a relaxed atmosphere catching up with friends during the refreshment break. There was also the usual banter as members took their rolls. In their report, Sue and Jim mention that the skittles evenings are open to new retiree members as well as existing members and they would be more than happy to welcome some of the recent association members. Finally we hope to arrange two or three skittle events before Christmas.

Sue & Jim Sugden - skittles organisers



The June walk was based on Llanfrynach just to the east of Brecon. Five walkers slowly climbed up the ridge and the escarpment to Fan Y Big (719 metres) having stopped for lunch in an old grass clad quarry overlooking the Cwm Oergwm valley with Llangorse Lake in the distance beyond. The walk down the Cefn Cyff ridge back to Talgarth was a delight in good weather and with superb views. This walk was 12 miles, challenging, but most enjoyable.

In June, eleven walkers visited Andalusia in Spain's Sierra Nevada mountain range for a weeks walking. We stayed in a small village in the foothills at a very comfortable, rustic hotel owned by a young British couple. The food (locally grown, local recipes and the cooks were local too) was to die for. We walked each day, sometimes all downhill! The highest peak reached was at 2600 metres or about 8500 feet. The weather was a walker's dream, no rain, cooling breezes but no strong wind and a temperature of between 22 and 28C. The walking was excellent too, mostly on good paths or grass. We all agreed that we would like to return.

The July walk started from Talgarth and took in Bronllys Castle, Llanelieu Court and Pwll-y-Wrach Nature Reserve, all worthy of a visit in their own right, before returning to Talgarth, making a very enjoyable 10 mile walk that had been proposed by Peter Davies. We had to visit the recently refurbished Talgarth Mill for tea and cake to round off a very pleasant day for the seven walkers who turned out.

In August we returned to the central Brecon Beacons for a classic walk – the Pen Y Fan Southern Horseshoe taking in the peaks of Corn Du, Pen Y Fan, Cribyn and Fan Y Big. Pen Y Fan is the highest peak in southern Britain at 886 metres or 2906 feet and is a magnet for hill walkers and being so close to the A470 is well visited by hoards of walkers throughout the year. We avoided the hoards by walking up from the Lower Neuadd Reservoir and climbing up onto the escarpment, where unfortunately one of the TA Reservists died recently undertaking a SAS selection exercise. The weather was kind to us and we had lunch just below Pen Y Fan summit and returned to the cars after climbing the last peak by walking along the Drover's road. Excellent!

Walking Group membership is steady at 42 members.

Stuart McMillan - Walking Group organiser

Forthcoming Walks

4 Sept	Rhossili Bay to Oxwich Bay (a linear coastal walk and swim!) Meet 1000 at <u>Oxwich</u> Beach Car Park (SS 501 866)	11	C
2 Oct	Hay Bluff Horseshoe including Cat's Back Meet 1030 at Picnic/Car park at foot of Black Hill (SO 288 328)	9	M
6 Nov	Langstone – Penhow Circular walk Meet 1030 at roadside lay-by on Magor Road, Langstone, on B 4245 Langstone to Magor road (ST 385 901)	7	M

Anyone wishing to join, or wanting more information may contact Stuart McMillan (Tel 029 2070 5234, or e-mail mcmillan42H@talktalk.net).

6. AOB

(A) Friendship Charter (Document Rev 03) *Proposed by Richard J. Thomas*

Sixteen members voted in favour for the team to go forward with the draft proposal and consider what the cost implications are necessary or an individuals vehicle insurance policy if used to convey people to and from hospital appointments etc. Joan Lake mentioned any association member or their wives who have previously served in the forces can contact her via the British Legion for this sort of assistance. The team now need to look into all aspects of travel, CRB checks, insurances etc. and report back at the December meeting. If satisfactorily answered, Val will put a request on the membership renewal form asking for volunteers. Richard is of the opinion 20 volunteers would be ideal.

(B) Reduction in Honorariums: Payments to committee members exceed the income from renewal fees therefore the full committee propose to reduce honorariums as shown below. Executive committee members and membership secretary currently £60:00 proposal £40:00

Committee members currently £40:00 proposal £20:00

Trip Organiser classed as committee member above however if an agreed number of short breaks/day trip were met, this payment would increase by another £20:00 to bring the total to £40:00 plus any out of pocket expenses would be covered.

Skittles organisers currently £40:00 proposal £20:00 however if the organiser is already a committee member then additional £10:00 payment would be received for providing four or more events annually.

Proposed by Richard J. Thomas

A vote was taken and the majority present at the AGM agreed with the reductions.

(C) The full committee proposed a change to the month the annual subscription payment is normally due moving from October to January that will be in-line with the annual audit of accounts. The change will mean a word change to item 8 of the constitution from October to January. *Proposed by Richard J.*

Thomas / Val Caple

Accepted by all 22 members present.

(D) Full committee proposal to alter the wording from half yearly to quarterly within item 15(b) of the constitution. Shop staff will now be paid quarterly in April, July, October and January as opposed to half yearly which is far too long to wait for payment. *Proposed by Don and Gloria Surridge*

Accepted by all 22 members

(E) Committee propose a word change to item 4 to change from Treasurer to Membership Secretary.

Proposed by Richard J. Thomas / Val Caple

Accepted by all

(F) Re-election of committee members, Ruth Beasley, Sue & Jim Sugden, Derek Butler, Bryan Clements, Bob Griffiths, Val Caple and Richard J. Thomas are all willing to stand for another twelve months if proposed and accepted.

Everyone was in favour of the proposal and retaining Don as Chairperson for another 12 months which Don accepted. However a new secretary will need to be found after the December meeting.

(G) Annual Dinner 2014 (May Period)

The social team led by Derek Butler have considered various locations and have decided that the Masonic Hall will be the venue for this event. It can cater for 80 plus and entertainment will be provided. Tickets will state 'Dinner/Entertainment' there will be NO dancing. Derek will continue discussions with the caterers et al and the social team will offer full details / costs at the December meeting.

(H) The Equitable Life Payment Scheme has been set up by the Government for just under a million policyholders who lost £4.3 billion through the poor regulation of Equitable Life.

In October 2010, the Government announced, given the strain on public finances, it would pay out £1.5 billion to these policyholders.

In the near future, you will receive a letter informing you of the compensation payable to policyholders within occupational pension schemes who previously held With-Profits AVCs with

Equitable Life. The Government has appointed ATOS Consulting to coordinate the payment of compensation to eligible individuals on its behalf.

However, you should note that not all individuals will be eligible. If you currently hold or previously held AVCs with Equitable Life you should be contacted by ATOS Consulting directly in the near future.

Source: Dow Corning Pension Plan (Newsletter)

- (I) Ken and Rob have noticed support from DCRA members has been dropping off for various reasons throughout 2013. Both day and short trips which includes the trip to Liverpool in early February have had to be opened up to family members and friends to help fill the places. If this pattern continues in 2014 regrettably day trips and short breaks will become a thing of the past.

- (J) Approval of the 2012 Financial Report *Proposed by Richard J. Thomas*

Accepted by Bryan Clements and Jim Sugden



Craig Palfrey (Certified Financial Planner) who was our guest speaker and gave a talk on Wills, Trusts etc. at the June meeting would like to thank the members who have since contacted his company. If there are other members who would like to contact Craig (Initial meeting is FREE) please see details below:



Address: Raleigh Walk, Brigantine PI, Cardiff CF10 4LN, United Kingdom

Phone: +44 29 2045 0143

Hours: Friday hours 8:30 am–2:00 pm

Rob Wardle - Secretary

Welcome to our newer members.

Bob Connell

Mike & Valerie Knight

Steve & Helena Kraus

Sadly since the AGM of 2012 we must not forget the passing of :

Jim Anderson

Carwyn Morgan

Alan Taylor

Barbara Davies

Finally a quiz, there are no prizes for guessing the right answer. Look at the picture on the right of the ancient Celtic Cross. Where in Wales is it and what is the connection with January 25th. The answer is given over the page.



The Celtic cross is on the island of Llandwyn off the west coast of Anglesey. The tiny island is thought by many to be a magical place, whether on glistening summer days, in autumn mists, or when the exhilarating winter winds stir up the waves. Dwynwen arrived there 1,500 years ago? St. Dwynwen's day (Welsh equivalent of St. Valentine's Day) is celebrated on January 25. In the centre of the island are the ruins of St. Dwynwyn's church, with its holy well, which are currently being restored. Dwynwyn was a daughter of Brychan Brychieniog, king of south Wales (Brecon). She ran away from home to prevent her father from making her marry for power and greed. She devoted her life to being a nun and helping other lovers find happiness.

A search is underway for a replacement secretary, interested parties should contact Don Surridge for a position description and information about the role. Don can be reached on 01446 735437.



DONM

Dec 02