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Q2 Minutes



September 07 2015

APOLOGIES:

Derek Butler, Steve Kraus, Frank Maltby, Don Partridge, Ruth Beasley, Ron and Sylvia Free, Brian and Mary Currie, Margaret McMillan, Gerry Goodman, Tommy Lake, Linda Jones.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well then - that's summer over. I hope everyone had a good time at least once.



For myself, I joined the walking group on Guernsey. The first day nearly killed me as there were a couple of thousand stairs to negotiate, so I took the second day off sightseeing and got a haircut. It was cheaper than the price I expected to pay but then I realised I'd been given the pensioner rate - my first ever!

We've been investigating options for group insurance and hope to have public liability in place soon. Each event will still need to consider its own insurance needs, but we'll be covered for knock-on harm to third parties.

The next dinner is on October 30th and we're already organising the tables to make sure people who expressed a preference get to sit together. Entertainment this year is from Jellyroll Jones, an excellent 5-piece band. The usual moaners have already contacted me to ask "can we dance to the band?". Half of them saying they want to dance, the other half saying they don't want to dance. Such is life.

On a more positive note, Cycling and Nordic Walking groups are underway, so there's even more variety for our members to enjoy.

If anyone has the inclination, we're looking for some help with updating the website. Val's been doing sterling work, but it's not fair to leave it all to her.

It's been an interesting first year as chairman - thanks to all those who showed me the ropes and the rest of you for putting up with me.

Cheers, Bob

SECRETARIES REPORT

During June, July 2015, the executive committee were please to welcome the following new members:
Gail Stephenson and Peter & Diane Armstrong.



Nature conservationists have discovered a rare moth species at Dow Corning's Cadoxton Ponds nature reserve in Barry.

The Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales (WTSWW), which help maintain the biodiversity of Dow Corning's 30 acre nature reserve, recorded the species whilst carrying a regular monitoring activity. It was the first time the moth species, called *Anania perlucidalis*, was spotted in Glamorgan county and only the third time it has been seen in Wales. The species was first recorded in the United-Kingdom in 1957.

The recently spotted *Anania perlucidalis* can be found in Europe between June and August. It has a wingspan of approx. 20mm and preferably inhabits wetlands such as marshes and reedbeds, which are relatively scarce in the local area. Over fifty moth

species were recorded during this latest overnight moth trapping exercise, including this very notable one.

Since the start of the collaboration between Dow Corning and the Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales a few years ago, a range of species surveys has been carried out, including birds, butterflies, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Dow Corning's Environment Officer, Catherine Lewis, said: "These surveys have produced an already impressive species list for the site with a number of scarce or rare species having been recorded, such as bittern, harvest mice, shrill carder bees and small blue butterflies. This latest finding demonstrates yet again how wildlife and industry can co-exist".

Cadoxton Ponds is a 30 acre nature reserve created by Dow Corning on land adjacent to the manufacturing site. The reserve is also home to an Education Centre, which can be used by schools and local groups for environmental studies, field trips and science projects. Dow Corning encourages educational visits and offers various activities to support the sustainability curriculum that schools follow.

I recently sent out an email invite to our membership and their grandchildren for a talk and walk of the nature reserve with Catherine. Settling into our new home I forgot to invite members who are not on email - sorry. Both dates offered were during the schools summer recession. The above photograph for my report was provided by Dave Townsend. An additional report by Diane Baker will be included in Val's newsletter. If you have any interesting item that you would like to see added to our newsletter, please send to Val Caple this month.

Along with our chairman and treasurer we recently had discussions with Thomas Carroll brokers Limited regarding Public Liability insurance cover. Thomas Carroll having been chosen as a recommendation from Age Cymru.

Public Liability Insurance exists to handle claims made against DCRA by the public for damages from injury or property damage. If through the "negligence" of an Active Group when organising an activity some person (be they members, or the general public) suffers an injury or property damage, the committee and members of the DCRA could be held personally liable to pay compensation to the victim(s).

What is covered is the legal liability of DCRA for claims made against it for injury or property damage by the general public. This gives our members peace of mind, as they know that should they suffer an injury by accident on any Active Retirement activity, the financial burden an accident can bring will be eased for them and for their families. The annual policy for the next twelve months will be £316:50.

We 'the executive committee' require your support and ideas of how best to take this matter forward today.

[News from Dow Corning](#)

Dow Corning Corp. on July 29 announced second quarter sales of \$1.42 billion and net income of \$113 million. Adjusted net income in the second quarter increased 27 percent to \$127 million. Through the first half of the year, Dow Corning's adjusted net income, which excludes unusual items, has increased 9 percent despite decreased sales impacted largely by the strong United States dollar.

[Rob Wardle - Secretary](#)

1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance:	4650.19
Unpresented Cheques:	
DC Shop Takings	-720.00
Welfare	-80.00
Manning DC Shop	-7.00
Annual Dinner (printing of flyer)	-25.40
Tesco Vouchers (cheque in lieu of a Voucher from 2014)	-10.00
Savings account balance	1661.88
Float totals	327.28
	=====
Net Assets YTD =	<u>£ 5797.45</u>

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 up to 31st August) for a summary of 2015 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 2014:



The 2014 accounts have been audited, thanks once again to Dave Edwards for providing his services free of charge.

The audited file is available during the meeting for inspection and approval by the members.

There was a deficit of nearly £800, whereas the cost of the Christmas Tesco vouchers was £3120 without which there would have been a healthy surplus, an additional cost in the year was the introduction of a £10 refreshment gift to members attending multiday trips of which there were two in this year.

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2014) for a summary of the 2014 accounts.

3. Standing Order Trial for payment of 2015 Membership Subs:

The trial was seen as successful and as such the option of paying subscriptions by Standing Order will be available to all members from next year. The Treasurer and Membership Secretary will agree on the best way to roll out the option, but members wishing to take up the option should look out for it when subscription renewal forms are received.

Richard Thomas (DCRA Treasurer).

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 (31st August 2015)					
2015 Income YTD			2015 Expenditure YTD		
Members Subscriptions	595.00		Welfare	280.00	
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	298.50		Xmas cards/gifts	0.00	
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	3253.60		Manning DC Shop	173.20	
DC Shop Takings	2870.00		DC Shop Takings	2870.00	
Admin	0.00		Admin	44.98	
Coach Trips	1112.00		Coach Trips	1241.67	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	0.00		Annual Dinner (2014)	25.40	
Interest earned (end July 2014).	0.48		Tesco Vouchers	0.00	
			Friendship Group	24.30	
			Nordic Walking Group	5.70	
			Skittles Group Expenses	14.21	
			Walking Group Expenses	176.40	
			Secretary's Expenses	0.00	
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00	
	Total Income	8129.58		Total Expense	4855.86
Surplus for 2015					3273.72
Balances -End of Dec. 2014			Balances - YTD 2015		
Current Account	819.62		Current Account	4650.19	
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2014	-275.68		Unpresented Cheques	-842.40	
Savings Account	1661.40		Savings Account	1661.88	
Treasurers Float	0.00		Treasurers Float	0.00	
Secretary's Float	0.00		Secretary's Float	0.00	
Skittles Float	18.39		Skittles Float	4.18	
Walking Group Float	0.00		Walking Group Float	23.60	
Coach Trips Float	0.00		Coach Trips Float	0.00	
DC Shop Float	300.00		DC Shop Float	300.00	
			Net Assets year to-date 2015	5797.45	
			Minus surplus year to-date 2015	-3273.72	
		2523.73			2523.73

The accounts were approved before the meeting by:
Jane Wardle & Diane Doble

Dow Corning Retirees Association

Income and Expenditure Account for 2014

2014 Income			2014 Expenditure		
Members Subscriptions	627.00		Welfare	460.00	
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	308.00		Xmas cards/gifts	103.97	
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	4292.92		Manning DC Shop	152.92	
DC Shop Takings	4275.00		DC Shop Takings	4275.00	
Admin	154.50		Admin	1121.22	
Coach Trips	70.82		Coach Trips	974.35	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	1413.00		Annual Dinner (2014)	1402.24	
Interest earned	0.84		Tesco Vouchers (plus cheques)	3120.00	
			Friendship Group	36.00	
			Skittles Group Expenses	39.66	
			Walking Group Expenses	227.93	
			Secretary's Expenses	20.08	
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00	
		Total Income		Total Expense	
		11142.08		11933.37	
Deficit for 2014					-791.29
Balances -End of Dec. 2013			Balances - End of Dec. 2014		
Current Account	2146.61		Current Account	819.62	
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2013	-790.00		Unpresented Cheques for 2014	-275.68	
Savings Account	1660.56		Savings Account	1661.40	
Treasurers Float	-7.34		Treasurers Float	0.00	
Secretary's Float	0.00		Secretary's Float	0.00	
Skittles Float	8.05		Skittles Float	18.39	
Walking Group Float	-13.68		Walking Group Float	0.00	
Coach Trips Float	10.82		Coach Trips Float	0.00	
DC Shop Float	300.00		DC Shop Float	300.00	
			Net Assets year to-date 2014	2523.73	
			Plus deficit year to-date 2014	791.29	
		3315.02		3315.02	

Site Shop Report

The shop opening times are now 11.30 a.m. To 1.30 p.m.

If anyone find it difficult to make a Wednesday or the new times they can contact me and hopefully an alternative arrangement will be made.

As many of you know that has always been available to you.

Contact details are given at the end of this report.

The cost of purchasing sealants is £1.60.

The small sealants remain at £1.00



We have a comprehensive range of Pyrex goods, arguably the best in South Wales. There still have some promotional items at very competitive prices and we are always looking to purchase new lines.



I have introduced some new items namely;

Saucepans

Frying pans.

Saute pans

We have a stock of “Bolle” safety glasses in clear and dark lenses. Ideal for sporting activities e.g. cycling etc.



Sealants remain our best seller and are still a very good buy.

Vicky Edwards has moved into a new position on site and has been replaced by Ryan Howell as our site contact. Ryan visited the Gym and also showed a lot of interest in the shop and may invite his wife Malinda to visit us.

My thanks go to the Retirees committee for the support they are giving to the shop and hope to see many retired members in the near future.

Finally my thanks as always to Ruth Beasley and those that assist in shop duties.

Regards... Don Surridge.





Volunteer activity:

To-date this year we have carried out 25 volunteer trips (24 of them were return trips) to either the Heath or Llandough hospitals, we have also made the occasional home visit and have received several enquiries related to potential trips for future hospital appointments.

We currently have 12 volunteers and as yet have not missed a requested trip, however, it has been close at times due to non-availability of volunteers. It would be good to have more volunteers on the books to increase availability especially in the Barry area. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact me

(Richard Thomas) on 01446 737218.

As mentioned at the last meeting, there is still a need for a Friendship Group Coordinator. For this position it is not necessary to undergo the DBS security checks that trip volunteers have to unless the person wants to be a trip volunteer as well. The tasks involve taking the calls from members in need, validating the need, entering details in a call database and liaising with volunteers to find someone to carry out the trip etc. The position requires someone with good telephone and email communication skills. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact me on the number above.

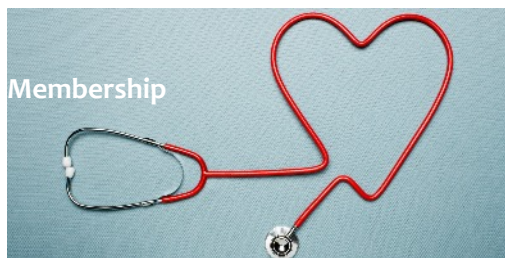
Heath Parking Permit:

The initial permits have been issued to most of the volunteers and have successfully been used on several occasions. The permits had an out-of-date expiry date, but we were told they could still be used. I have now received new permits with October 2018 expiry dates and they are in the process of being distributed to the volunteers.

First Aid Course for Volunteers:

The idea of making Basic First Aid courses available to the Friendship Group Volunteers is still on hold until the issue of insurance cover of DCRA in general has been resolved.

Richard Thomas (Friendship Group Coordinator / Secretary).



There are currently **365** members subscribed to DCRA.

Activities during 2015 - 16 will include:

GYM Exercises at the Dow Corning Fitness Centre - Contact the medical centre on site for details of how best to join these sessions or to work out on your own.

Nordic Walking - not stressful, weekly programme lasting approximately one hour. Good for upper body exercising as well as your leg muscles.

Cycling - you must own or have access to a bicycle.

Walking - Regulars meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Walks are graded from easy to challenging. Fresh air, walking, what more could you ask for.

Skittles - good social gathering.

Coach day trips and short breaks - guaranteed walking exercises at some point.

Annual Dinner - is a social gathering of our members.

Friendship Group - See earlier report, could we offer assistance?

Jointly with the treasurer, other activities included improvements to the administration of the membership database and introduction of the standing order payment. The trial was successful and now we would like to roll the programme out to our members.

Val Caple - membership secretary

Out & About with our Groups

Day Trips / Short Tours

Thirty-six members and their guests travelled to Marlow and joined a Salters cruise boat travelling to Henley on Thames on June 17. The ferryboat captain was keen to point out to us a house on the riverside. It could be yours since it is on the market for four million pounds (see photo by Ken Doble). The river cruise boat was open on the sides on what turned out to be very breezy. Adjacent to the River Thames, Henley is overlooked by a beautiful Chiltern landscape of wooded hills and green fields. Its historic church, Town Hall, market square, many local shops, plus its own theatre/cinema, mean Henley is a delightful place for mooching about. We enjoyed the comfortable drive which was contracted out to Leisuretime because they were able to offer their coach at a more reasonable cost than Edwards.

Forty four members and their guests will be taking a five day break commencing October 12 to Morecambe and the Lake district with a night time cruise to see the Blackpool illuminations. We are all hoping the weather will be kind during our visit.

More on this visit in the December minutes.

[Ken and Rob](#)

Nordic Walking



A small number of members who can be a mix with other public members meet with Geoff our instructor provided by Age Cymru most Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. usually in Cosmeston Country Park. The varied walks through the park last about one hour. After a short cooling down period, the walkers adjourn to the comforts of the cafeteria. We hope more members will join to swell our numbers. The instructor keeps our walks simple and very relaxing for all.

[Rob](#)

Skittles



We held a skittle match on 20th June with a turnout of 22 members. Everyone who attended said they enjoyed it, so a good night was had by all. We were hoping to hold another skittle night at the end of August, beginning of September, unfortunately this will have to be put on hold because of Jim's most recent hospitalisation.

[Jim and Sue Sugden](#)

Walking Group

Our June walk was the classic Northern Pen Y Fan horseshoe, 9 miles and challenging, starting from Cwm Gwdi. It



incorporates climbing Cribyn, Pen Y Fan (886m – the highest peak in southern Britain) and Corn Du, before descending into the beautiful Cwm Llech with a lake, woods, pastureland and a gurgling river. Five walkers took part in cloudy, breezy weather. We stopped off at the Drovers Arms on the way home to celebrate Anne Dams re-joining the group after her injury in March.

In June, sixteen walkers travelled to Guernsey for a week long walking holiday. We walked around the coast paths of Guernsey, Herm and Sark, a total of 55 miles with over 8000 foot of ascent, most of it felt like the first two days in Guernsey. Weather was



mixed, three days of sunshine, two days of wind and one day of rain, unfortunately this whilst we were on Sark. We were based in St Peter Port.

Grwyne Fawr Valley, Blacksmith's Anvil, Twmpa (also known as Lord Herford's Knob), Rhos Dirion and Grwyne Fawr reservoir were all feature points for the July walk above Abergavenny. It was a 13 mile, challenging walk undertaken in cloudy conditions with rain later forecasted. All was going swimmingly well until a squirrel ran up Robin's leg, disappeared up his shorts, but rapidly retreated muttering " wrong sort of nuts" and ran off very disappointed. What a laugh was had by fellow walkers!

The August walk was scheduled to be a ten mile walk around the Carmarthen Fans and seven walkers turned out. The weather in the morning was cloudy and cool, but as we stood up from our sheltered lunch spot, the wind blew the rain horizontal straight into our faces for the first part of our return journey. The Beacons Way path at low level was very muddy but we happily made it back to the cars OK.

The September walk was another of the group's favourites, an 11 mile linear coastal walk from Rhossili to Oxwich. The weather was favourable, sunny all day, but too cold and breezy to swim on our arrival at Oxwich Bay. A great walk.

Upcoming walks are;

7 Oct	Speech House, Cannop Ponds and Edge End (Forest of Dean) Meet 1030 at Forestry car park 500m east of Speech House on B4226	8.5	M
4 Nov	Llangorse Lake, Mynydd Llangorse and Mynydd Troed Meet 1030 at Llangorse Lake Visitor Centre (SO 128 273)	10	M
2 Dec	Garth and Gwaelod y Garth Inn for Christmas Lunch Meet 1030hrs at Gwaelod y Garth Inn car park (CF15 9HH)	5	E

Membership stands at 45 persons, with 20 active walkers.

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

We thank the Retiree's Association and the Executive for their continued support.

Cycling

Currently there are eight regular cyclists, their first outing was to Caerphilly as recorded in previous minutes. For their second outing, the group caught a train from Cardiff to Bristol Temple Meads. From here they cycled along an old disused rail track now used for cycling. The group then caught a train home to Cardiff.

[Stuart McMillan](#)

AOB

There will not be any changes to the committee for 2015/16. All were re-elected for another term of office.

Chairman - Bob Connell

Secretary - Rob Wardle

Treasurer - Richard Thomas

Membership Secretary - Val Caple

Bob Griffiths

Derek Butler

Sue Sugden

Jim Sugden

We do have committee vacancies especially for a Friendship Group Coordinator (see Richard's report for role duties.) Please contact Rob Wardle if you are interested in joining the committee.

Public Liability Insurance

The chairman asked for a show of hands as to whether we should:

- Agree to the cover and cost currently offered by Thomas Carroll at £316.50 (in favour 8)
- Try to seek an alternative policy offering the same cover, whilst allowing the executive committee to sign up before the December meeting to the cheapest quotation. (in favour 13)

We often have queries from members asking who to contact regarding pensions, notably when a family member has passed away. Please contact Aon Hewitt (Hillary Fitzgerald) on 0117 929 4001 who are responsible for the Dow Corning Pension Plan.



Robin Pitcher attended a US retiree meeting in June this year and gave an interesting 20 minute talk detailed below.

DC US Retirees Association

Membership

- Estimated to be +/- 2000 retirees living in the Tri City area
- Membership of Retirees Association is 563.....maybe 25 % (have to have been a DC employee)
- Of those the number attending meetings is 100 to 20025 to 50 % (can include spouses of members who've died)
- Tends to be R&D and Production – very little management

Meetings

- 8 meetings a year – 3rd Wed of each month except Jan, Feb, July, Aug
- All are lunches in Ramada Inn
- June (picnic) and December (Xmas party) have prizes
- One mtg will include DC Management address
- One mtg will have DC Benefits address
- Four mtgs with outside speakers (occasionally visit elsewhere)
- Retirees in Florida one golf mtg which DC Mgr attends.

Activities

- Used to have bus tours – not now
- Two golf meetings

Structure

- 12 directors, one of them chairman with other appointed posts
- Board meets once/month (hour) usually prior to lunch mtgs (8 in total)
- Business typically minutes, critique of last lunch, future planning
- No AGM
- If someone wants to stand down and have replacement, arranged at meeting and approval at next lunch

Pension/Benefits

- No annual increases to US pensions
- Fixed pension company provides on retirement
- “Cap Plan” is a bit like AVCs – company would match \$5 for \$8 employee invests. DC manages plan. DC argument this investment grows.....bit like scheme now introduced for employees at Barry
- DC Healthcare – this used to be provided through DC. This has recently changed with company saying it could not afford – each individual given sum to make their own arrangements (2000 USD/person/yr)

Robin Pitcher



DONM
7 Dec.