

Q4 Minutes

Chairperson:
Vacancy Exists

Secretary:
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Treasurer:
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Membership Secretary:
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APOLOGIES:

Ruth Beasley, Jane & Rob Wardle, Stuart & Margaret McMillan, Mike Bullows, Krista Thomas, Kaye & Russ Incledon, Don & Gloria Surridge, Paul Price, Bob Connell, Bert & Brenda Dowdell, Brian & Mary Currie, Tommy Lake, Sue Sugden

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Apologies for missing the annual dinner, not going to lunch with the walkers and not being at the meeting!

Plus many thanks to everyone for being so supportive in my, albeit short, time in office.

Maybe I'll catch up on the bus trips or get down for next year's meal. Crete with the walkers is still on the calendar.

Cheers, Bob

The association is seeking to appoint a new Chair to succeed Bob Connell who has relocated to Scotland. This vacancy provides a rewarding opportunity to play a key role in building on the associations recent successes and positioning the organisation for future strategic development.

For further information, including how to apply, please contact either Richard Thomas 01446 737218 or Rob Wardle 07762 126533.

SECRETARIES REPORT

Mid September we received an invite from Catherine Lewis. Catherine is the Education Officer working in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust. The invite for December 03 offered a Music and Mince pie evening with the Barry Brass Band. Thirty eight names were submitted for the 'Christmas Celebration' and on the night five did not turn up. Two members did send their apologies in advance.



During October the Association received an invitation to a free financial planning seminar being held at the Village hotel Cardiff on October 20. The seminar was titled 'How To Protect Your Wealth For Your Family' and delivered by Certified Financial Planner Craig Palfrey, a board member of the Institute of Financial Planning. Ten members accepted the offer of Penguin Wealth but unfortunately four had to cancel for health / other reasons. The six members that did attend

News from Dow Corning

Dow Corning Corp. announced on October 28, their third quarter sales of \$1.39 billion and net income of \$72 million. Adjusted net income in the third quarter decreased 1 percent to \$108 million. Through the three quarters, Dow Corning's adjusted net income, which excludes unusual items, has increased 6 percent despite decreased sales impacted largely by the strong United States dollar.

Adjusted net income for 2015 and 2014 excluded the impact of a derivative contract and gains on long term sales agreements. Additional information about Dow Corning's financial results:

Third Quarter Results

Sales were \$1.39 billion, 9 percent lower than last year's third quarter.

Despite the headwinds caused by the strengthening U.S. dollar, Dow Corning continues to grow its most profitable Silicones segment product lines.

Dow Corning continued to grow particularly in North America, Europe, the Middle East and India.

Year-to-Date Results

Sales were \$4.18 billion, 8 percent lower than the same time period last year; the decrease is largely driven by the strong U.S. dollar.

Adjusted net income has increased 6 percent to \$336 million.

Sales from Dow Corning's Polysilicon segment continued to decrease as the timing of customers taking product under long-term contracts resulted in fewer shipments.

Other News

Dow Chemicals top official says the 72-year-old partnership with Corning Inc. may soon come to an end. Dow Chairman and CEO Andrew N. Liveris said Oct. 22 that Dow is in talks to buy Corning's stake in Dow Corning.

"Our joint venture of 72 years, Dow Corning, is a tremendous asset with a focus on specialty materials and specialty chemicals and, of course, polysilicon, via the Hemlock joint venture," Liveris said during the company's earnings conference call.

"Dow and Corning are in discussions around a potential transaction involving Corning's ownership in Dow Corning. We will have more to say on this in the not-too-distant future," he said.

Dow Corning represents a small part of Dow Chemical's operations and a larger, though still relatively small, part of Corning Inc. In 2014, Dow Corning had annual sales of \$6.2 billion, compared to Dow's annual sales of more than \$58 billion and Corning's annual sales of \$10.2 billion. Profits at Dow Corning — \$513 million in 2014 — are shared by the two companies.

Dow Corning employs about 12,000 people globally and about 4,000 in Michigan USA.

Dow Corning recently opened a five-story, approximately 100,000-square-foot office building at Uptown Bay City and relocated more than 300 employees there in August 2014.

Source: [MLIVE Michigan 19/11/2015](#)

Please note: The above report has NOT been issued by Dow Corning neither have they commented on the report.

Notable dates for your 2016 diary:

Monday March 07 2016 2:00 p.m. TrainCo2 Dow Corning

[Monday June 06 2016 2:00 p.m. TrainCo2 Dow Corning](#)

Monday September 05 (AGM) 2.:00 p.m. TrainCo2 Dow Corning

[Monday December 05 2:00 p.m. TrainCo2 Dow Corning](#)

We can all cope with getting older as long as we keep reacting and interacting with other people, come and join in our quarterly meetings, day trips, short breaks, skittles, walking and Nordic walking, cycling. Company is very important. [Rob Wardle - Secretary](#)

1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance:	5248.20
Unpresented Cheques:	
Tesco Gift Cards	-2975.00
Welfare	-40.00
Xmas Cards	-17.00
Annual Dinner (catering)	-708.00
DCRA Insurance	-316.49
Tesco Vouchers (cheque in lieu of a Voucher from 2014)	-10.00
Savings account balance	1662.09
Float totals	360.48
	=====
Net Assets YTD =	<u>£ 3204.28</u>

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 up to 1st December) 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 and were approved by the members at the September AGM Meeting.

The audited file is again available during the meeting for inspection by the members present.

3. Standing Order payment option for 2016 Membership Subs:

The option of paying subscription via Standing Order has been included on the 2016 Membership Subscription Renewal Form.

Richard Thomas (DCRA Treasurer).

Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 (1st December 2015)					
2015 Income YTD			2015 Expenditure YTD		
Members Subscriptions	595.00		Welfare	340.00	
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	298.50		Xmas cards/gifts	17.00	
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	4487.68		Manning DC Shop	242.48	
DC Shop Takings	3490.00		DC Shop Takings	3490.00	
Admin	0.00		Admin	378.44	
Coach Trips	1119.50		Coach Trips	1681.67	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	1386.00		Annual Dinner (2014)	1323.82	
Friendship Group	30.00		Friendship Group	64.80	
Interest earned (end July 2014).	0.69		Tesco Vouchers	2975.00	
			Nordic Walking Group	5.70	
			Skittles Group Expenses	14.21	
			Walking Group Expenses	193.70	
			Secretary's Expenses	0.00	
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00	
	Total Income	11407.37		Total Expense	10726.82
Surplus for 2015					680.55
Balances -End of Dec. 2014			Balances - YTD 2015		
Current Account	819.62		Current Account	5248.20	
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2014	-275.68		Unpresented Cheques	-4066.49	
Savings Account	1661.40		Savings Account	1662.09	
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	56.30	
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	3204.28	
			Minus surplus year to-date 2015	-680.55	
	2523.73			2523.73	



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	11142.08		Total Expense	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 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.

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, Dianne and Ken Doble and Gloria while I was in hospital and convalescing after my operation.

Regards... Don Surridge.





Volunteer activity:

During 2015 (our first year of “active” service) we have carried out over 30 volunteer return trips, mainly to hospitals such as the Heath and Llandough, we have also made the occasional home visits. Members using the service have fed back a high level of satisfaction with the service provided.

We currently have 12 volunteers and to-date have only missed one local trip (to a doctors surgery). Unfortunately, we can continue to expect problems with local trips (say 5 miles round trip) as we cannot expect volunteers to come forward when the distance to the member is greater than the overall trip distance. This limits the number of volunteers to those in the local area (other volunteers can volunteer if they wish to, but it is not expected) and in the Barry area in particular where we have a high percentage of members, the local volunteer availability is low. We need more volunteers to maintain a high level of satisfaction and provide sustainability for the service, if we can't replenish volunteer numbers, they will eventually fall to a level that will make the service unworkable. No new volunteers came forward this year, so again I will be asking at every opportunity for members to consider becoming a volunteer if they can spare some time occasionally (primarily as a driver) to help DCRA members in need.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact me (Richard Thomas) on 01446 737218, email rjthomas@maintop.co.uk, or tick the relevant box on the DCRA Subscription Renewal Form.

Friendship Group Expenses:

Thanks to member donations (currently £30) and to the majority of volunteers not claiming expenses, the current net expense of the group is £34.80, however with some promised donations from some committee members to donate part of their honorariums, I expect the final net expense for the year to be negative.

Volunteers are currently allowed to claim expenses at 0.45p a mile (the HMRC Approved Mileage Allowance Payment rate), but as mentioned above the take-up is low. This was discussed at a recent Friendship Group Volunteer meeting where it was thought that some volunteers were not claiming because they didn't want to claim so much, but might if they could just claim for fuel costs (the AMAP rate takes into account fuel plus wear and tear on the car), it was agreed that the rate should stay the same as a maximum but if volunteers wished to, they could claim for a lower cost per mile rate to cover their fuel costs.

Finally I would like to thank all of the Friendship Group Volunteers for making this year so successful.

Richard Thomas (Friendship Group Coordinator / Secretary).

Membership Report

We did receive a couple of requests to join the association from employees who have just retired. Application forms have been sent out in the post but so far there has been no response. The membership has reduced to **364** at year end.

My thanks to our members who have contributed to the Newsletter. There have been delays in printing at GVS recently so it might not be out before Christmas. It will be posted with the new renewals forms

Val Caple - membership secretary



Out & About with our Groups



Day Trips / Short Tours

Morecambe and the Lake District

Monday 12th to Friday 16th October 2015

Monday morning, 9:00 sharp, saw 42 retirees and their guests, depart for the Auckland Hotel on the seafront of Morecambe.

On Tuesday morning we had a short coach trip to Lancaster and during the afternoon we were set free to invade Morecambe. Some visited the statue of Morecambes' famous son, Eric Bartholomew (Eric Morecambe) whilst others visited the wonderful Art Deco hotel, The Midland.

The next day we went up the M6 (an excellent scenic section of motorway) just short of Penrith, to Pooley Bridge, which is at the north end of Ullswater, where we transferred to one of the Ullswater steamers and travelled down the lake (approx. 7 miles) for an hour. Back on the coach, we stopped at Kendal for lunch and a walkabout. In the evening, we went to Blackpool, just to see the lights, before arriving back at our hotel at 9:30.

Thursday we travelled to Skipton and on our return we saw the Ribbleshead Viaduct before we stopped in Settle (where we had rain for the only time on our 5 days).

Friday we left Morecambe. The only downside of our trip – on the second day, one of our female members whilst helping her husband down the hotel steps, sprained her ankle, but we found out later, that she had broken her fifth metatarsal on her left foot, so she and her husband spent the rest of the week visiting the Morecambe or Lancaster hospitals.

We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Ken Doble

Skittles

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Jim Sudgen who for many years has been an active member of this association. Jim with his wife Sue arranged the skittles matches, attending almost every quarterly meeting and always participated in the days out and short breaks. Jim sadly passed away on December 05.

Walking Group

Our October walk took us to the Forest of Dean for a 9 mile stroll among the tress – beech, oak, ash, elm, chestnut, various fir trees - hundreds of them, everywhere – that is part of the charm of forest walking, plus the three lakes we passed. We met up and walked with for a short distance with some 500 pupils from a local school that were undertaking a charity fundraising event, having loads of fun. Eventually peace and quiet returned and our 10 walkers made their way to the cars parked at Speech House. The November walk was based around Llangors Lake, although the 10 mile walk took us along a bit more of the Beacons Way and Three Rivers Ride before ascending up onto the summits of Mynydd Langorse and Mynydd Troed. The path at low level



was very muddy but the grassy ridge walk with sun shining during lunch plus much better than forecasted weather made the seven of us very happy.

The December walk is also our Christmas Lunch event, with a shorter walk (5 miles) up over the Garth, followed by lunch in the Gwaelod y Garth Inn this year. 18 persons have booked so let's hope the weather is kind – we don't want or relish having drowned rats eating at table. Happy Christmas and a good New Year everyone!

In 2015 the group walked a total of 158 miles, climbed over 25,000 feet with 185 turnouts. Poor weather certainly reduced the numbers attending during the year.

The 2016 Walking Programme has been compiled and will be distributed shortly. The summer walking holiday will be in western Crete. Bring out the sun!

Upcoming walks are:

16 Dec	Garth Mountain and Gwaelod y Garth Inn for Christmas Lunch Meet 1030 hrs at Gwaelod y Garth Inn car park (CF15 9HH)	5	E
1 Jan	Annual New Year's Day Pen Y Fan climb (plus maybe Cribyn) Meet 1000 hrs at N.T. Pont yr Daf toilet block on A470, 600m south of Storey Arms. Coffee and mince pies provided.	6/9	M/C
6 Jan	Kenfig Burrows Meet 1030 at Kenfig Burrows Visitor Centre (SS 802 810; Sat Nav CF33 4PT). A48 then A416 to Nottage, then minor road to Mawdlam.	7	E

Membership stands at 45 persons, with 20 active walkers.

Here's wishing a Happy Christmas and a good New Year in 2016 to all DC retirees and their families. Cheers!

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.

[Stuart McMillan](#)

[Nordic Walking](#)

Our regulars continue to meet on Monday's some have also decided to join the Age Cymru instructor on a Wednesday morning with a separate group who meet at Porthkerry Park at 10:00 am.

Age Cymru invited DCRA members on October 1st to meet Mark Drakeford the Welsh minister for health and social services. Age Cymru were holding a Nordic Walking Celebration on the day at Roald Dahl Plas Cardiff Bay. It gave members a chance to meet other Nordic walking groups from South Wales. Age is no barrier to getting involved we hope additional members therefore become involved in Nordic Walking during 2016.

[Rob](#)

[Cycling Group](#)

Despite the success of the last outing, a cycling group would only be sustainable if it was a road based activity.

The cyclists involved would prefer an off-road activity (as organised and enjoyed by the participants during the last outing up the Taff Trail to Caerphilly Castle and back). For an extensive predominantly off-road trail programme,

the group size for most outings would be very small (typically 4 max.) because of the limited bike carrying capacity of the Valley trains. A road based activity would be viable but this is not something that I would be interested in. However, it could be something that someone else might be interested in organising.

George

Security Breach Involving Personal Data

The breach occurred when two contractors working for a service company were terminated (I'm not sure whether because of poor performance or whether because the contract was up). They thought they had done good work on software that would be an example of what they could do in getting another job. They downloaded this application from SAP to a USB stick, and in doing so downloaded personnel data. (Ryan said his personal data had been downloaded but it was in a form he could not recognise anything - though I suspect that doesn't mean it could not be used). The download was detected by DC's IT security monitoring systems. DC still has no information that there was any mal-intent involved, or that any inappropriate use has been made of the data. And has taken out an injunction to prevent this.

DC engaged CSID company as a precaution to protect employees/retirees from any possible use of the data. If I interpreted correctly, about 50 % of people were affected, mainly in the US.

Because of the sensitivity, only HR Services in Midland and Belgium know who is affected. CSID were given those names and addresses by HR to communicate with - DC manages pensions in the US and I suspect did not realise that DC Europe does not hold current ex-employee and retiree addresses in the UK (because pensions here are managed by Aon). Ryan did not know who or how many people in the UK were affected but agreed after discussion that he would ask HR in Belgium to crosscheck with Aon that they (and therefore CSID) have latest addresses for ex-employees and retirees to ensure they have got the CSID letter and can benefit from the protection offered if necessary. And will bear this in mind for communication of any future issues.

He said that anyone affected was very welcome to contact him for reassurance, but the best advice is simply to contact CSID as advised in the letter.

Ryan Howell - HR Manager, Barry Site - Thanks to Robin Pitcher for providing this report.

AOB

There is an urgency within the association to back fill the role of chairperson.

