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DCRA AGM Meeting Minutes 2nd Oct 2022

Agenda

- Chairman's Welcome
- Re-election of officers to the committee and election of any new officers.
- Apologies
- Bereavements
- Treasurers Report
- Membership Report
- Walking Group Report
- Secretaries report
- Brewing group report
- AOB
- Tea/Coffee and Mini Beer tasting and cocktail/mocktail

Apologies

Graham Pugh
Gloria Surridge
Mike Dams
Steve Kraus

Mary Currie
Brenda Dowdell
Dave Townsend
Mike Bullows

Diane Baker
Cynwin Vale
Linda Jones
Tony Cheeseman

Bereavements

Mike Cunnington
Phil Emeny
Fred Lees

Gary James
John Down
Derek Bowley

Doug Marl
Graham Snook
Karen Morton

We discussed memories that people had of the people above.

Re-election of the Committee

All members of the committee were re-elected for another year. Stuart thanks the committee members for their continued support.

Treasurers Report

Margaret went through the accounts.

A full report is attached.

Income for 2022 was 412.61

Expenses were 178.08

Insurance will need to be renewed soon and efforts were made to determine if we could reduce the cost, but it was difficult to get one that covered similar things to the current insurance.

Our current account balance is £3321
Savings balance is £1666
Don thanked Margaret for her work as treasurer.

Membership Report

We now have 227 members which is down from 244 in 2021. There were 2 new members this year.

12 people did not renew and 7 have died. The majority of people pay by BACS but there are still 7 that pay by cheque.

To try to attract new members Robin was in contact with Simon Upcote who has suggested we contact the new HR manager at Dow to see if there are ways to raise awareness of the group. Richard to follow up.

There was discussion about will anyone want to join if the group doesn't have many activities?

Do we want to organise a lunch or dinner limited to 30 people? Lunch was thought to be better as we will have enough members in the local area to make it worthwhile.

There was discussion about the fact that we send emails to people but don't seem to get many replies back.

Stuart asked if there were other organisations that are in a similar situation with falling membership that have turned this around and what have they done?

Barry Forum have trips with a pub at the end which seems to work.

Barry Male voice choir are in the same situation with dwindling membership.

Visiting gardens and having an afternoon tea is popular with Val's groups.

Treasure Hunts may be an option in different villages.

The newsletter gets the most positive comments about finding out what former colleagues have been doing.

There has been mention of a MidSil get together or a Brussels reunion but these may be difficult to get people to travel to.

We mentioned a memorabilia afternoon/evening at the last meeting but have had little interest outside the meeting. This will be a reunion meeting evening event with a buffet and possibly beer from the brewing group.

The date we decided on was 17th February at 7pm in the Highlight Park Community centre in Barry. Please put it in your Diary!!

We will need it to be an RSVP event so we can plan for catering.

Please RSVP to this email or phone Richard on 07814 702589 or 02920 530524 if you will be attending.

Walking group Report

Stuart went through the walking group report.

DOW CORNING RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WALKING GROUP **REPORT TO 3rd OCTOBER 2022 AGM MEETING**

The 6th July walk started at Redbrook on the River Wye and climbed steadily up to the picturesque village of Newlands (I am sure some of the readers remember visiting the Ostrich Inn in Newlands during the night-time hike in the management training week at nearby Clearwell Castle) for a coffee stop before walking along sections of Offa's Dyke path towards the Kymin for lunch. At Jamie's Farm we noted the then Prince Charles and Camilla

chatting with participants of the D of E programme undertaking their award walk. The Royal helicopter was parked in the field opposite. We dropped down to Monmouth Bridge before turning south to walk alongside the low level and slow flowing River Wye back to Redbook and then a short walk over the rusty railway bridge to the Boat Inn for a well-earned pint. Nine walkers completed the 9 mile walk in good weather.

Simon Acey was the leader for the August walk which was centred on the Bloreng hill opposite Abergavenny. Nine walkers set off from Keepers Pond to the summit of Bloreng at 559 metres before descending to the Punchbowl for a coffee (where one lady took a wild swim). A further descent took the walkers through a tunnel down to Llanfoist and a level walk along the Brecon and Monmouthshire canal. It was all uphill after this with a climb back up to the Keepers Pond along both rocky and wide grassy paths. The same lady took another wild swim in the Keepers Pond! The weather was kind with some sunshine and a cooling breeze. The walk was 8 miles, but with 670 metres of ascent, a tough, enjoyable, good days walking. The views were stunning.

The 15th September walk was part two of the ‘Penrhys Pilgrimage Way’ walk that starts at Llandaff Cathedral and finishes in Penrhys, a pilgrimage walk of 20 miles. This month’s walk was 6 miles linear route from Tonyrefail to Llantrisant, across farmland, through woods and along lanes plus quite a few stiles. 10 walkers turned out but although Stuart appeared at the start and finish he was unable to take part owing to an injury sustained whilst walking the Offa’s Dyke path a week earlier, so the walk was championed by Mike and Anne Dams. The group initially walked from Llantrisant Common down through Llantrisant to Talbot Green bus station to catch the bus up to Tonyrefail and then walking back to Llantrisant. A good days walking in good weather and good company. Mike’s photos were good too!

Upcoming walks are;

5 Oct	Brecon Beacons South Horseshoe (Pen Y Fan, Cribyn, Fan Y Big)	8	C
	Meet 1030 Lower Neuadd Reservoir approach road car park.		
2 Nov	Pontarddulais, Pen y Cwar, St Illtyds Walk, Graig Fawr, Pontarddulais	6	E/M
	Meet 1030 Goppa Rd Pontarddulais off A48 SA4 8JP nr Fountain Inn		
7 Dec	Cardiff Bay stroll and Christmas Lunch at The Deck	5	E
	Meet 1000 at Plymouth Park Car Park, Penarth CF64 1SN		

Some 10 walkers visited the Minho area north of Porto in Portugal in June 2022 for our week’s walking holiday (delayed since 2020). We had a wonderful week with good walking, stunning river and coastal scenery and truly friendly locals and hotel staff.

Anyone wishing to join the walking group, 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.

Secretaries Report

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. Very little email traffic at all.

Brewing and Fermentation group Report

There was no brewing group meeting last quarter. The next meeting will be Friday 18th November. Please contact Richard on rgtaylo1@gmail.com or phone 07814702589

AOB

Last meeting we decided to have a nominated charity in memory of those DCRA members who had passed away rather than trying to find out which charity was nominated by the family, if any.

Margaret proposed that we nominate a charity and Don seconded it.

We will nominate a charity each AGM for the following year.

Nominations were (and votes) :-

Salvation army (3)

Alzheimer's Society (7)

Marie Curie (7)

British Heart Foundation (2)

We decided on the Alzheimer's Society for this year.

We discussed the Facebook group which doesn't have an awful lot of traffic on it now. We only seem to get people from the USA wanting to join. Need to post more on it. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/431322461432693>

Newsletter articles to Val (val.t.cagle@care4free.net) by the beginning of December please.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting is 16th January 2023 at 3PM at the highlight park community centre in Barry.

PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE MEETINGS IF YOU CAN AS THESE ARE SOCIAL EVENTS AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH OTHER PEOPLE OVER TEA OR COFFEE (AS WELL AS A SMALL BEER OR A MOCKTAIL!) AND BISCUITS.

Thanks to all of the committee for their continued work and support for the DCRA.

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2022					
2022 Income			2022 Expenditure		
Welfare		0.00	Welfare		60.00
Members Subscriptions		394.00	Xmas cards/gifts		0.00
Admin		0.00	Admin		69.38
Coach Trips		0.00	Coach Trips		0.00
Annual Dinner/Lunch		12.00	Annual Dinner /Lunch		0.00
Interest earned		0.21	Nordic Walking Group		0.00
			Walking Group Expenses		48.70
			Secretary's Expenses		0.00
			Treasurers Expenses		0.00
			Subs		0.00
	Total Income	406.21		Total Expense	178.08
Surplus for 2021			228.13		
Balances -End of Dec. 2021			Balances - Septembe 2022		
Current Account		3044.85	Current Account		3321.47
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2021		-20.00	Unpresented Cheques		-20.00
Savings Account		1666.29	Savings Account		1666.50
Treasurers Float		0.00	Treasurers Float		0.00
Secretary's Float		0.00	Secretary's Float		0.00
Walking Group Float		64.87	Walking Group Float		16.17
Coach Trips Float		0.00	Coach Trips Float		0.00
					0.00
			Net Assets year to-date		4984.14
			Add Loss in Year		-228.13
		4756.01			4756.01